Ironmen retain impressive showings, cop tourney



Photo by Ron Ward

The Ironmen put on another impressive show, as they went to win the Universities Tournament held in Fredericton last weekend by defeating St. Thomas 44 - 3. The win stretched the Ironmen's record to 8 - 0 for the season.

Has any UNB team ever had such a perfect season?

The Ironmen have, since you last read this column, demolished three more opponents; their record now is 8 - 0, and in those eight games they have scored 261 points while giving up 10. They have allowed but a single touchdown (that in the opening exhibition game) and two penalty kicks — and have themselves scored 51 touchdowns.

On October 17 UNB defeated St. Thomas 31 - 0 in a league match. And last weekend in the annual Universities Tournament the Ironmen rampaged over a big, scared SMU team 60 - 0 on Saturday, then won the championship on Sunday by outclassing St. Thomas 44 - 3. SMU took to the field bellowing football war-cries and left it eighty minutes later in a bad state of shock. They never threatened to score but did at least get a close-up look (mainly from the ground) at some dazzling rugby. UNB's pack of forwards stormed over them in the set scrums and rucks and took complete control of the lineouts, while our backs' moves and speed left them bewildered. Paul Thrush had four touchdowns, Trevor Morris two, and the following men one each: Bruce McLeod, Huey Dickison, Killer Kelly, Bill Sullivan, Rick Hobson and Joe Mongey. McLeod converted his own try with a drop-kick, and Bert Papenburg converted five others. While a few of these touchdowns came on fine individual efforts, most were made because the scorer was right behind a teammate who got hit and took a pass from him or because he was at the end of a sequence of good passes and had room to run when the ball came into his hands. For instance, outside centre Paul Thrush was set loose beautifully several times by inside centre Huey Dickison, who drew both SMU centres to himself before getting the ball out to Thrush. A major visual pleasure of the match was the combined play of Kelly (scrum half) and McLeod (outside half); they directed the flow of play with imagination and fire — Kelly up from the second team and McLeod just back from an injury.

The championship game was anti-climatic, since UNB had thrashed St. Thomas twice already this season. Nevertheless, for reasons we need not go into here, the team aroused themselves for the match and tore through their co-finalists in no uncertain way. St. Thomas had defeated Dalhousie on Saturday, but Dalhousie rugby does not resemble that played at UNB; and so St. Thomas, who had begun the season with great expectations, ended up clapping their hands on College Field for the Ironmen, now undisputed university champions of the Maritime Provinces. Trevor Morris, Peter Silk, and Smiler Sullivan scored two touchdowns apiece; Les Morrow, Paul Thrush, and Huey Dickison got one each. McLeod converted two, as did Morrow; these two players were outstanding on a day when every man looked too good to be true. By the way, St. Thomas earned their three points on a penalty kick — made by one of two Loyalist players borrowed for the game (a transaction that did not recommend itself to the sensibilities of the UNB team).

One other result that did not get into last week's Brunswickan: on the 18th at the Raceway the second team met The Royal Canadian Regiment for the second time and taught them a second lesson, this one to the tune of 66 - 6.

This weekend sees the last of the league games for UNB. On Saturday at 3 the Ironmen take on a strengthened Saint John Trojans club at College Field, and on Sunday at 3 they play Moncton City at the Raceway.

It is now definite: the Caledonia Cup Match for the Maritimes Rugby Championship shall be played here — on College Field — on November 10. UNB have learned that they'll be playing either Halifax City or Pictou County in this all-important game. Last year, you may remember, Pictou refused to travel here to play — they claimed it was too cold for them. That's a score UNB intend to settle on the afternoon of November 10.



Photo by Ron Ward

The Red Shirts are shown in action last Saturday, as they defeated the Mt. Allison Mounties, defending AIAA soccer champions 3 - 1.

Shirts whip AIAA champs

By ROBERT PAQUETTE

UNB soccer fans had every right to be proud of their team, the Red Shirts, last Saturday as they handily defeated the Mount Allison Mounties 3 - 1. The Mounties are the defending AIAA Champs and the first place team in the North Division again this year. It was only after previous games of misfortune, that the Red Shirts finally used the skill and talent they possessed to its advantage. The game Saturday was the last league home game for the team.

Right from the opening kickoff UNB applied the pressure to the Mount A defence causing them to blunder around their own net and consequently score on themselves. It was on a back pass from one of their fullbacks to their goalie, who ended up missing the ball. So eith the game but two minutes old, the score was 1 - 0. The Shirts moved the ball quite effectively during the entire half capitalizing twice more. "Fancy Footed" Mike Atkinson was instrumental in setting up both goals. On UNB's second, Atkinson found rookie "Sneakers" El Khoury alone out front, and after a fine pass, El Khoury beat the Mount A goaler on a lovely low shot. Then again, towards the end of the half, Atkinson took the ball into the left corner, leaving a drop pass for halfback Larry Wood who placed a perfect cross ball to a waiting John Msolomba on the far post. Msolomba put the ball in the net over the Mountie goalers outstretched arms, making the score 3 - 0. When Mount A did make some sort of offence in the first half, the UNB defence looked a bit shakey but play always made its way back up the field.

The Shirts came back into the second half with a lot more confidence and desire to play more offensive ball. Even though UNB did control the ball a majority of the time, Mount A came back with a lot more desire to play catch-up soccer. The UNB defence tightened up though and the ball rarely found its mark. Rookie goaler for UNB, Mike Smith did make some spectacular saves in the second half, replacing regular Abby Akinyemi who was shaken up in the first half. But the Swampies flog and chase type of game couldn't be stopped all the time and with about 12 minutes left in the half, they succeeded in pounding in a low shot to the corner. John Msolombia had a chance to earn himself a second goal in the half but it was called back on an offside. During the second half, the UNB squad played tough aggressive soccer, really outplaying the Swampies defensively and offensively. The game was called after regulation play expired, the Red Shirts on top, 3 - 1.

Larry Wood, who only just recently came to the team, is to be congratulated on his fine play in last Saturday's match. Coach Brown will be looking for another big win this weekend, as the team travels to the University of Moncton. Both the Red Shirts and the Blue Eagles have been eliminated from playoff positions so this will be the final games of the season for both teams.