SPORTS

Deadline for stories is Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.. Sports Desk 453-4983

SPORTSWIRE

In brief

Bloomers end season with two wins

Last weekends back to back series against the Memorial Seahawks was a must win situation for the Red Bloomers. Saturday saw the team sqeak out a 73-69 win, however they dominated on Sunday winning 69-56. Kara Palmer managed 19 points in both mathches while Bonnie Hale contributed 9 in the first and 17 in the second. the Bloomers await the outcome of two UPEI games this weekend. The Panthers must lose one game for the Bloomers to claim the League title and host the championships next weekend.

Devils head into playoffs

The Red Devils won won their final two games of the season last weekend. Both the 3-2 win over Mt. Allison and the 8-6 win over UdeM were trivial as they had already clinched first place in the MacAdam division. Trevor Boland had 3 goals and 2 assists in Sunday's game against the Blue Eagles.

Lady Reds take two

The lady Reds won both their matches against the UPEI Panthers last weekend. They took the first match with a perfect score of 3-0 while they gave up one game to the Panthers in the second match winning 3-1. Raylene Moryllot was the Player of the Gamein the first match while Carla Mason took the honors in the second.

Red Rebels fall at tourney

The Rebels suffered two more losses while hosting the AUAA League Tournament. They fell to the Dalhousie Tigers in straight sets on Friday and again to Memorial on Sunday.

This week in UNB sports

Friday, Feb. 19
Hockey @ UPEI (AUAA Playoffs)
Swimming Dalhousie (AUAA Championships, to 21st)

Saturday, Feb. 20
M. Basketball @ MUN
M. Volleyball @ Dal

Sunday, Feb. 21
Hockey vs UPEI (2:00 pm at AUC, if necessary)
M. Basketball @ MUN
M. Volleyball @ Dal

AUAA Scoreboard

Hockey
DAL 4 UPEI 1
UDM 2 STU 1 (OT)
UNB 3 MTA 2
ACA 4 UCCB 2
MTA 7 UPEI 5
DAL 5 UCCB 3
SMU 5 SFX 3
UNB 8 UDM 6

W. Basketball
SFX 58 ACA 54
UPEI 76 DAL 71
UNB 79 MUN 69
ACA 45 UCCB 27
UNB 69 MUN 56
UPEI 92 SFX 91

M. Basketball
SMU 73 ACA 70
DAL 81 UPEI 67
UCCB 94 MUN 65
UPEI 66 SFX 65
UCCB 76 MUN 52

M. Volleyball
DAL 3 UNB 0
DAL 3 MUN 0
MUN 3 UNB 0

W. Volleyball
UDM 3 SFX 0
UNB 3 UPEI 0
MTA 3 ACA 0
UNB 3 UPEI 1
MTA 3 ACA 0

UNB Athletes of the week

Bonnie Hale, Red Bloomers
Marcel Saulis, Black Bears

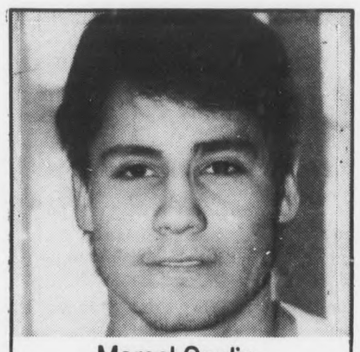
Black Bears repeat as AUAA champions

by Michael Smith

Last Saturday, UNB's Black Bears captured their fourth consecutive AUAA wrestling championship in a dominating fashion.

The Bears total of 33 points was seven ahead of Mount Allison, with St. Francis Xavier and Memorial at 23 and 21 points respectively. The visitors came to the "PIT" (as the Lady Beaverbrook Gym has been nicknamed) hoping to knock off a Black Bear team that had been proven beatable only two weeks before, at the UNB Open. However, the home squad proved it is not wise to underestimate an opponent on their own turf, and in front of a small, yet thunderous crowd, the Bears won four of ten golds, three more silvers, and qualified five wrestlers for the CIAUs (being held in Manitoba later this month).

In addition to UNB's powerful triumvirate of Stacy Desroches, Terry Pomeroy, and AUAA Most Valuable Wrestler, Marcel Saulis, the Bears received a win from Brad Scott in the 82 kg weight class. Joining these four at the nationals will be 90 kg silver medallist, Jamie Eastwood. Two rookie wrestlers, Denis Gagnon and heavyweight Sonny (the Sun God) Urquart received silvers as well, but will not travel to Manitoba because of Concordia wrestlers qualifying ahead of them. The Montreal University has a rather unique situation with regards to their qualifying for the national wrestling championships. Since they are not members of a regional association for wrestling, the Stingers use the AUAA championships as a qualifying vehicle for the CIAUs, but their results are not included in determining the Atlantic team



Marcel Saulis

champions. Therefore, although both Urquart and Gagnon placed second in the AUAA, they did not defeat their Concordia rivals, and thus not go on to the nationals.

Gagnon in particular, according to Black Bear assistant coach, Randy Smith, is a blue chip prospect, and definitely has national calibre potential. Denis was actually in control of his final match, until a tactical error caused him to lose his balance, which his opponent quickly took advantage of and pinned him. Afterwards, although dejected, Gagnon was upbeat and commended the coach, Don Ryan, for getting him involved in the sport, and he stated emphatically that he would be back.

Team captain, Stacy Desroches, had a difficult week in preparing for the championships, as he dropped two weight classes, in order to qualify in a more advantageous one for the CIAUs. The one criticism of this strategy (it is often employed) is that the wrestler may be too weak to wrestle effectively. Such was not the case for Desroches, as he won his final handily, despite injuring his hamstring on a throw early in the match. In a manner which seems typical of all the Black Bears interviewed, Stacy was more focused on the team's performance, than on his own injury. As reported last week, it is the team victory which is of paramount importance in this sport, a fact which all of the Bears emphasize, and the performances of other wrestlers, behind the big three was the key factor to the victory.

This does not mean that our top hopes did not have to give their all as well. Marcel Saulis, ranked number one in the nation in the highly competitive 72 kg weight class, had his toughest match of the day in the preliminary round, against Richard Schwartz of Concordia. These two were involved in a dramatic one point contest at the UNB open, won by Saulis with a come from behind victory in the dying seconds. This time, the match was equally close, and it took overtime to decide it in Marcel's favour.

Rookie coach, Don Ryan, was excited about the performance by his team and was looking ahead to the CIAUs, where he feels the Black Bears have "three legitimate medal contenders". The event also contained a nostalgic element, as it represented the last time that the Black Bears will wrestle in the pit. Next season, they, like every other UNB varsity sports team, will be called the Varsity Reds. Terry Pomerroy was given the honour of wrestling the final match, and did not disappoint in winning handily over his Mount Allison opponent.

Now the focus of attention is on the CIAUs and a trip to the medal podium in Manitoba would more than adequately crown the farewell performance of the BLACK BEARS. Congratulations to coach Ryan, his assistants and all those wrestlers who represented UNB this season, and good luck to the five who are carrying the UNB banner to the nationals.

Devils take lead in series

by Frank Denis

Heading into the first round of playoffs UNB coach Mike Johnston and his players realized what it would take to beat the pesky UPEI Panthers. In a word Discipline.

And that's exactly what the Red Devils had when they defeated the Panthers 8-0 on Wednesday at the Aitken Centre. With the win UNB has a 1-0 series lead in the best of three affair. Game two goes tonight in Charlottetown and will be carried live by CHSR beginning at 7pm. If a third game is necessary it will be Sunday at the Aitken Centre.

Kelly Reed, returned to the UNB lineup after a three game absence due to a nasty skate slash he received late in the season. Reed, who had four assists and was named player of the game, says that the specialty teams were a big factor in the win.

"We had 5 power play goals in ten chances tonight and that's good to see. If we keep that up we should go far. Our penalty killing unit also had a strong game killing off 11 penalties and five 2 man advantages. Against a good team we can't run into penalty trouble, but to their credit it didn't hurt us tonight."

Scoring for UNB in the game were Gord Christian, Trevor Boland with three, Todd Sparks, Forbie MacPherson with two and Jamie Colvin. UNB outshot the Panthers 42-21.

Greg Reid was in goal for the home team replacing Chris Somers who struggled late in the season.

Reed expects a chippy game tonight.

"When we were over there two weeks ago, we played two of the chippiest games I've ever seen. We have to expect some cheap shots and with the reffing over there the way it is,we have to take it as it comes." says Reed.

Todd Sparks agrees with Reed.

"UPEI is a pretty cheap hockey team and we expect that if we get up by a few goals on the island they might use some of those tactics.

"It's hard to turn the other cheek, but a fight in this league means a suspension of a couple of games and that could be your season, so it's not worth it."says Sparks.

"While it's very frustrating, we have to put it in our back pocket, stay focus and go for the win."

Wednesday's game, while chippy, was kept under control very well by referee Dan Gaudet.

In other AUAA playoff action it was UCCB 3 Acadia 2 in overtime, STU 4 Moncton 2 and Dalhousie 5 St.Mary's 3.