SPORTS

Sports Editor: Bruce Denis, Deadline: Tuesday Noon

Sports wire

VARSITY BRIEFS

Athletes of the month



Photo by Peter Duchemin

UNB February Athletes of the Month:l-r: Terry Pomeroy (Wrestling), Ross Antworth (Valley Graphics), Carla Mason (Women's Volleyball).

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jackie Flieger, Women's Basketball

tjis week's Female Athlete fo the Week is Jackie Flieger, a Varsity Reds basketball player. Jackie is a 3rd year Physical Education student from Fredericton. She scored 14 points in the semi-final game against the St, Mary's Huskies and hit some big shots in the second half to help the Varsity reds to the win. On Saturday, March 5, in the AUAA Championship final game against Dalhousie, Jackie scored 17 points to thelp the Reds capture the league title. "Jackie had a solid weekend for us in the point guard position, displaying her leadership ability, as well as her ability to score. Her performance contributed to an AUAA Championship performance from the team" said coach Lordon. Jackie was named an AUAA second team All-Star.

Rob Knesaurek, Hockey

This week's Male Athlete of the Week honours go to Rob Knesaurek. Rob is a third year Bachelor of Arts student from Toronto, Ontario who plays for the Varsity Red hockey team. Rob was named Fredericton Canadiens Offensive player of the Game and the Player of the Game on Saturday for his performance against the Acadia Axemen in the second game of the AUAA Championship, he scored the first goal of the game and assisted on the third. Rob ended the regular season as one of the top ten scrers on the team with 11 goals and 11 assists. In the playoffs he continued to be an offensive threat, scoring 1 goal and 2 assists in a tough series against the Axemen.

INTRAMURAL HOCKEY

The Nackawic Hawks went down to the Zoo Crew in an unfortunate penalty shoot-out after a six-all tie in regulation play.

The Hawks went undefeated all regular season and the teams skills will be surely missed by all other hopefuls in the competitive tournament.

Team Captain Scott (Sally) Haines said his team was hard pressed in the third period with only five skaters on the bench after team goon Curtis Gregoire was ejected for getting three consecutive penalties. In fact, Gregoire spent no time on his own bench before his untimely dejection.

In overtime penalty shots, all five Nackawic snipers winged the puck either over the net or into the pads of the opposing goalie, while Zoo Crew's shooters managed two goals on the Hawks netminder Andrew Sutherland.

Team speed-demon Jonathan Stone was left scoreless in his last intramural game this year, and despite a great effort on his team's part, Stone felt his cohorts have been too busy drinking beer and eating Quarter-Pounders than even remotely trying to keep fit.

SWIMMING

Lukeman tops nation in Victoria

Teams haul in 1 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze, finish 8th at CIAUs

by Bruce Denis
Sports Editor has-been

How can two weeks in Victoria, BC be grueling?

Try competing in the two biggest swim meets of the year in a space of only nine days. That was the task facing the Varsity Reds swim team when they left for the West Coast earlier this month to compete in both the CIAU Championships and the Commonwealth Games trials.

Despite being disappointed at the trials, the team made the trip worthwhile by hauling in 5 medals at the CIAU's. Jason Lukeman won a gold medal and added a silver while Iona Allen captured a silver and two bronze as both the men's and women's team finished eighth overall. Michelle MacWhirter returned to Fredericton with a fifth place finish and two consolation final wins to cap her promising rookie season.

Coach Andrew Cole conceded " I'm very pleased with our performance but it was physically and emotionally taxing on everyone. The Trials were five straight days of competition, then we had a day off and began the three day CIAU Championships."

At the National Championships Lukeman won the 100 m freestyle with flair. With a strong finishing kick he powered past Canadian record holder Dean Kondziolka from the University of Lethbridge to finish with an AUAA record time of 50.45. His gold medal is the only National Championship won by UNBthis year. Lukeman trailed National Team member Stephanie Hebert by less than half a second at the end of the 50 m butterfly event netting him a silver medal. The third year science student also set a new AUAA standard in the 50m freestyle by finishing fourth in 23.25, just 4/100 of a second behind second place Luthar Schuarz of the Université de Montréal.

Allen led the women's team taking the silver in the 200 m IM in 2:17.39 behind National Team veteran Nancy Sweetnam. She also swam lifetime best times in the 100 m butterfly and the 200 m butterfly to claim a pair of bronze medals. However, Allen finished a disappointing fourth in the 400 m IM, the events which earned her a silver last year.

Both Lukeman and Allen had outstanding meets but if Cole had to chose a highlight from the championship it would be the performance of MacWhirter. "Michelle kept a positive attitude throughout the two weeks. She always raced aggressively no matter who she was competing against and out

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WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Winnipeg teaches lesson to Reds

by Mark Savoie
Brunsie Emeritus

Unfortunately for UNB's Varsity Reds, they played their best match of the tournament against the top ranked host University of Winnipeg squad, winners of twenty-eight straight. As a result, their best performance of the weekend became a simple three and out. Had they played as well against either Lava or York in their consolation matches, they may have been able to improve on their eight place seeding.

They started well against Winnipeg, remaining tied with them as late as 5-5, and keeping Winnipeg in sight throughout the game before falling 15-10. The second game started much the same, The Varsity Reds playing the Winnipeg Wesmen even until 4-4. At that point the team's passing on serve reception broke down, and Winnipeg steamrolled to a 15-5 victory. The third game now was a formality, with Winnipeg dominating throughout en route to another 15-5 win.

Despite the loss coach Al McGarvie was very pleased with the team's effort. "At least they called a timeout," he said. "Like I said to the girls, anything to make the other team squirm is raising a few concerns." In fact, the Wesmen called timeouts in each of the first two games. Coach McGarvie feels that the team definitely coined some respect for both themselves and the AUAA conference by playing Winnipeg so tough.

They started their first match of the consolation round playing hoping that the Université de Laval Rouge et Or would come out flat after their disappointing loss in the first round. Instead it was the Varsity Reds who were flat, dropping the first game 15-1. The cause was a complete breakdown of their service reception. By the time their passing efficiency returned to acceptable levels, they were down two games to nil, having lost the second 15-9. In the third game they finally captured a game 12-15, but were unable to carry this momentum into their next game, falling 15-10 for a three games to one loss for the match.

The seventh place match was probably the worst effort put forward by the Varsity Reds in the tournament. Their opponent was the York University Yeowomen, a team which they were considered to have a good chance to beat. However, once again passing efficiency was poor, and York was able to roll to a 3-0 victory (15-8, 15-3, 15-9) despite not putting forward an ideal effort.

An element of play which UNB's squad had only seen on very rare occasions prior to this tournament was the float serve. With the float serve, the server stands 15-20 feet behind the service line, allowing for a much flatter serve with less hang time. Very few players in the AUAA use this serve, and none of the Varsity Reds, so the team had difficulty adjusting to this style of play.

This made setter, Kery Maher's job very difficult, as her teammates were unable to get her the ball in good position to direct the offense. "We're going to use it next year, now that we've seen this," said Maher.

Fourth year player Monica Gaudet echoed this sentiment. "It's a different technique than we use in the Atlantic provinces," said Gaudet. "A lot of girls use it here. The good thing is that maybe we'll change our tactics, and use that strategy for next year." Gaudet blames the failure of the Atlantic Conference to use the float serve on the lesser importance of volleyball in the Maritimes as compared to the rest of Canada.

Monica Gaudet is the only player on the team who will definitely not be back next year, having accepted a job in Ottawa. The only other possible departure is Carla Mason, who is considering returning to university for a fifth year of her Education degree. The determining factor will be job prospects, and whether a four or five year degree is more conducive to employment.

Coach Al McGarvie has plans to increase his recruiting efforts outside of New Brunswick for next year. At present the entire team is from New Brunswick. Among McGarvie's recruitment needs will be players of height. Of the teams at the tournament, only UNB was unable to field a team with the height and leaping ability to consistently play above the net. "It's a real problem," said McGarvie following the York match. "York had some 6'2", 6'3" girls. That's their height. Then they got an arm reach of another three feet. They're able to hit the ball a lot higher above the net and bring it down, and it creates big problems defensively."

The Varsity Reds are already favourites to repeat as AUAA women's volleyball champions. With only Monica Gaudet and perhaps Carla Mason leaving the team, and out of province recruiting by McGarvie in the offing, no other team in the conference has the depth to seriously challenge. It is hoped that the experience gained at this year's tournament will allow them to improve upon their performance next year in Calgary. This year they were just happy to be there; next year they hope to make an impression.