Football Opinion

Contd. from page 11

especially Big Johnny Sari, could squat every 45 lb. plate UNB has.

It takes several squat racks, bars, leg presses, benches and hack decks to accommodate a football team, as well as separate restricted room bookings - not many other people like to be around when the Boys are pumping). Not to mention the myriad of plates required when someone like Big Johnny is doing 6-a side. The plan is to schedule team lifts at off-peak hours. Current varsity teams do so now, e.g. Wrestling goes at it at 6:30 am. I believe. Any additional equipment needed in the future has been taken into consideration by the Friends of UNB Football. Also, it should be noted that all the teams shared the facilities when the Bombers were in existence.

C. Equipment Room

Where would the team's equipment be stored and maintained, and who would do it? Right now, the equipment storage room is as full as I have ever seen it in my 9 years here. In addition, the staff are booked full-time as it is. Apparently, however, the Friends of UNB Football are prepared to look after this space and manpower problem themselves, perhaps included in the bathroom and locker facilities they have planned.

D. Athletic Therapy Room

Where will the team's medical injuries be treated and who will do it and who will pay for the related expenses? The tiny treatment centre for varsity athletes' injuries is insultingly small as it is, and the therapist is also run off his feet. Football games and practices produce injuries, more than most people are aware. Injuries require medical supplies (I'm talking about tape here, miles of it, just for starters), and the medical implements to treat them effectively (whirlpools, ultrasounds, etc.). Again, the Friends of UNB Football indicate that they will be responsible for these requirements. As for expenses, their budget seems to take into account every last roll of tape they predict will be required.

E. Administration Centre

Where would the coaches (1 full-time and at least 2 part-time coaches plus a manager) base their operations out of? Who would be responsible for their administrative expenses (long distance, office equipment, mail box, postage, etc.)? Who would provide them with secretarial support? The varsity athletics administration area is presently fully utilized in terms of both space and support staff. I have the utmost respect for the abilities of people like Maureen Sparks, Carol Scott and Stella Keays, but surely they have been pushed hard enough. Would they be expected to pick up even more duties? According to Jim Born, Athletic Director, there is office space available to the Team at the South Gym. Also, the Friends of UNB Football have planned a support system for the coaches and support staff.

F. Travel

Who will be responsible for the teams travel? Football teams are big (I mean numbers here). Rosters are huge and they and all their equipment and baggage will have to travel the AUAA circuit. Players, coaches and support staff also have to eat and sleep. Big Johnny took up a queen size all by himself, and he ate accordingly. These would be major expenses. That doesn't even take into consideration exhibition games and post-season play. Despite the daunting financial barrier that this might appear to be, the Friends of UNB Football have allowed for all of these things in their operating budget and assert that they will assume responsibility for it all.

2. Doing It Right

Doing it right is what I believe is the biggest task facing the Team's proponents. Whatever is done, it must be done first class. There are several reasons for this. First of all, the opponents of the program must be convincingly persuaded to support the team early on in its life. I'm not talking about merely showing the naysayers that they were wrong, but proving that the football team was a good idea and a net benefit to the university community. This means running a class organization, respecting the sacrifices that other teams will have to make, being a promotional vehicle for the university, drawing high-caliber student-athletes to the program, contributing to boosting school spirit, being responsible ambassadors while traveling, maintaining a respectable academic record and being drug-free. Achieving this will go a long way towards ensuring that the Team emerges from its fledgling years and succeeds in crossing the barrier between new entry to legitimate contender on an annual basis. One slip-up, no matter how trivial, and it could be the beginning of the end.

Finally, along the same line, I must emphatically state that I believe the team *must be a winner.* This is a regrettable but realistic view. The university community (I'm including the residents of Fredericton and its surroundings here) has repeatedly shown that it will only support a legitimate contender with a winning record - I mention the Red Raiders and the Rick Nickelchuck scandal as examples. This is true of not only fan support but sponsorship as well. You simply cannot sell a losing team in this town. The team will have an enormous task ahead of it in overcoming what I will loosely call "reverse-bandwaggonism." Fans in Fredericton will support a winner, but even more so they will shun a loser. People will stay away in droves. Can anything be more embarrassing to a team and its university than when the visiting team has more fan support than the home squad?

In keeping with this topic, it must be realized that the new Team will be playing in the toughest, most competitive conference in the CIAU. There are overwhelming traditions of excellence and student/alumni support at schools such as Acadia and Saint Mary's. The university community will have to muster every resource possible to legitimately challenge these powerhouses. Mounting such a challenge will take time (5 years, tnaybe 8) and everyone involved must be prepared to weather out the first few years when other teams might consider the UNB team to be a practice squad to try out new plays on. *This must just not be allowed to happen.*

In the event that such a situation does develop, the University Community must be absolutely committed to turning things around and not allow naysayers and reverse-bandwaggoners to mount a challenge to the teams existence.

In closing, I wish to state that I sincerely hope that this article will have some positive effect on the university community and the resolution of this matter. In support of this wish, and to show concern and commitment are genuine, I would like to offer my time and energy to those presently involved in the campaign to help resolve these issues (if they so desire) and I would encourage others to do the same.

A net of their own



Karlene Bishop and Mike Green prepare for this weekend's road trip. PAT FITZPATRICK PHOTOS

HALEY FLARO
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Focused. It's the first word that comes to mind after observing Varsity Red's keepers Mike Green and Karlene Bishop during Tuesday night's practice.

From the practice field to Chapman field, the game is second nature to them. As they go through the motions during practice, one can't help but notice their commitment to the sport. You'd have to love the game to know what gives them their drive—a drive that has motivated each of them to take advantage of their remaining years of eligibility.

There was a new face at Coach Gary Brown's Tuesday evening practice as Bishop shared netminding duties with Green, in preparation for their three-day road trips this weekend. Bishop made some impressive stops after the men's offense directed blasts at both Bishop and Green during five minute intervals in one of Coach Brown's practice drills. Bishop hasn't allowed a shot through her crease this season and Green's efforts have earned him UNB's Athlete of the Month for September.

The stats are not entirely indicative of the netminding. Out of five goals scored against keeper Mike Green(UNB offense has also mustered five), two of them have been deflected off a UNB defensemen. Green is confident that his team will land a playoff berth in one of the top six available slots. Despite the large turnover from last year's squad, he feels that UNB has fielded some promising rookies this season.

"We have a strong back four...," stated Green during Tuesday's practice. He also feels his team has a shot at the playoffs if the team's offense can achieve the same consistency.

Evidently, it's Green's committment to the game that Coach Gary Brown admires.

"I've talked to him about the possibility of a career in coaching...he's a natural," commented Brown, who has also referred to Green as being the best goalie in Canada.

"Goalie coaches are extremely rare...your goalie has to be your best player."

Brown sees that in Green, who he feels has brought a fresh scope to this Varsity sport: "When you get internatinonal players it brings dimension to the game." Despite his dread of our cold Canadian winters, Green, a native of Perth, Australia, feels that living in Canada has been a positive change for him. Having grown up in a warmer climate Green didn't have the opportunity to get involved in winter sports like hockey and skiing and finds Canadian winters long. Green is presently completing his Education degree and hopes to return home to Perth by the year 2000.

Strengthening the women's side is a 22 year old Education student from Moncton. Karlene Bishop has completed her Bachelor of Education in Secondary Phys. Ed and is presently enrolled in the Daus program in the department of Education. Bishop is very dedicated athlete who her energy into improving aspects of her game. The Varsity women's team is extremely confident in their keeper who is expected to be a key figure in their attempt to capture an AUAA championship title this fall.

Just by speaking with her, the importance of reaching the AUAA's this year in particular is clear. Bishop is extremely pleased with her team's efforts this season.

"We're clicking well and as a result we are getting good results on the team. We have a lot of winning attitude." Heading into this weekend's tight three game schedule, Bishop chooses to forget about the recent blowout victories the V-Reds have walked away with against two of these teams. "We can't take any team for granted...that's what happened to us last year" said Bishop, prior to Tuesday night's practice.

Both soccer teams begin their three day weekend on Friday afternoon when they meet Mount Allison and with Mike Green and Karlene Bishop as the foundations of Reds defense, the prospect of an AUAA championship may well become a reality.

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