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Reds looking to the future

Hockey team garners first CIAU silver medal

CHRISTINA ATKINSON

THE BRUNSWICKIAN

TORONTO—For the CIAU Championship semi-finals, three times was the charm for the UNB Varsity Reds.

In their third trip to this rarefied air (the others being 1964 and 1984) they achieved their first victory, defeating the University of Alberta Golden Bears 4-3 in overtime.

The UNB Varsity Reds men's hockey team hit the road this weekend, traveling to Toronto for the CIAU Championships. Alberta was ranked #1 in the nation while UNB was ranked 3rd.

The Reds met the Bears on Saturday March 15th at the University of Toronto's Varsity Arena. Alberta was the first to score almost 12 minutes into the game, seconds before Reds' Toby Burkitt was tossed for game misconduct on a checking from behind penalty. UNB was soon on the board when Peter MacKellar scored, assisted by Bill Lang and Scott Cherrey.

The second period began the same as the first. The Bears were once again first to score during the second at 9:12 and a few minutes later Reds' Jason Campeau scored assisted by Damien

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TORONTO—The Reds came ooh so close to making UNB hockey history. The UNB Varsity Reds hockey team came within one goal of winning the team's first ever CIAU banner. UNB has only won one CIAU banner in its history.

The Guelph Gryphons scored the only goals in the first to take a 2-0 lead into the dressing room. UNB's captain Bill Wright was forced to watch his team play from the sidelines as he received a checking from behind penalty in the second period. Reds' head coach Mike Kelly stated "As far as the Bill Wright penalty the guys took it as a bit of a challenge and a wake up call. The battle cry on the bench is this is what we needed. It's funny I've never heard a team respond like this."

The Gryphons returned in the second and scored another goal to make it 3-0 before the Reds began to battle back. Kelly noted "We tried hard, but I think our focus was a little off... This was probably due to inexperience of not knowing what to expect, the other part would be trying to hard and being a little bit too excited."

UNB got two goals from rookie Peter MacKellar in the second period to bring the Reds within one goal Guelph. Guelph came back early in the third and scored their final goal to make the score 4-2. Undaunted the Reds battled and outshot and outplayed Guelph in the final frame. In the last half of the game the Reds outshot and outplayed

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had mixed feeling about ending his university hockey career with the loss in the CIAU finals. Although he says "I will remember how hard we worked and all of the success that we have had this year."

Kelly believes that anytime you reach a national tournament it bodes well with the program. In addition he thinks "It is important to realize where it is headed, the guys achieved their goals

with 15 first and second year players so I say it bodes very well. If you are looking to raise your profile then this is the place to do it.

As for the future MacKellar says "I don't think that we are anywhere near being done. The guys who are leaving us are leaving a great tradition to follow." Burkitt believes the team is in good shape for the future and can only grow for this experience.

UNB will lose the services of Scott Muscutt, Dan Sherstenka, Bill Wright and Toby Burkitt because of eligibility. Kelly states "Muscutt was a very important part of our team. He was an emotional leader, he has the respect of the players and nobody cares more about the program than Scott Muscutt. So he'll be a big loss for us as far as the team chemistry."

"We have set a new standard for UNB hockey and we won't take a step backwards and we intend to go forward with it," says Kelly.

As for attending the CIAU's first year player Peter MacKellar believes attending the CIAU's "was a great experience for the young guys coming back."

Meanwhile 5th year player Toby Burkitt

After the game Kelly stated "I'm not frustrated. I'm proud of our guys." MacKellar echoes the sentiments of his coach saying "He was really proud of his teammates," noting that the team worked really hard and never gave up.

Kelly felt that the guys like Kyle Quinn and Damien Bloye came in and did a really good job for the team. "We have always had guys move into a new position (and be able to play), Toby Burkitt is an example he has had more linemates that Quaker has oats."

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Swimmer strikes gold

Team Canada eyes Tennent

MARIA PAISLEY

THE BRUNSWICKIAN

Tennent captured more than gold at the CIAU's.

UNB Varsity Reds swimmer Iain Tennent captured 4 medals, gold, 2 silver and a bronze medal, and he captured the eye of Dave Johnson of the Canadian National Team.

"It felt awesome!" says Tennent describing the feeling of winning his first gold medal at the CIAU's. "I felt great because I knew I won heats and I was going in (to finals) first. I knew that I could win finals if I swam the race right, so after I swam it, it was a relief of getting a monkey off my back."

He described as being "very relaxed, I had absolutely no pressure. I could have done poorly or I could have done well, it didn't really matter. No one really expected anything fantastic of me and I would have been happy however I did. The biggest thing for me was being relaxed."

The difference for Tennent this year at the CIAU's was "First of all I was more relaxed than I normally am and the second of all was that my training was so different. I knew that I was a lot stronger and a lot more mentally prepared than that is to say that I would be better in the water. I knew I had the potential to go really fast but I didn't know if it would happen."

Cole feels that Tennent "put in a phenomenal performance and he was definitely the class of the field no one else was even (to him). He had a very smart attitude about the way he approached his training. He had a phenomenal camp in Florida, a great taper and very calm and cool at the meet. He did all of the things that he should have done to prepare mental attitude in preparation of the competition and he came through."

Tennent feels "really honored about being looked at by the national team." Cole, who worked with the national

team last year, notes that Tennent is an international caliber athlete. At CIAU's Tennent came within 27 one hundredths of a second of beating world record holder Chris Renaud in the 50m free. Cole believes he would make the finals of any national championship anywhere in the world. "Although the ironic part was that he was going to retire after this year," says Cole.

As for his plans for the future they are currently "up in the air" as he will be graduating this year. Right now he has a number of options which are available to him start a career, travel or to swim.

Tennent sums up his swimming career at UNB by saying it has had its "ups and downs". He began with two great years and what he believed would be his best year turned into his worst year. The next year he took off and enjoyed UNB without swimming followed by a year in the UK on exchange and didn't swim. After that he had no plans of swimming again and this year "they just clicked together." He believes the two years off from swimming really helped nothing "I might not be at the same level as I would be if I hadn't taken the two years off, but I'm at a higher level than I was two years ago when I quit." The reason for him swimming better is simply because of a rest from the sport and the physical development.



Iain Tennent



Jason Campeau sends the U of A goalie sprawling for the puck.

JUD DeLONG PHOTO

Bloye and Lang.

Alberta was first on the board early in the third and UNB scored next at 6:45 when Daryl Rivers, assisted by Craig Minard and Cherrey shot successfully at the goal. Rivers was playing his first game since breaking his arm about a week ago in the AUAA final against Acadia. The teams were left at a tie when the clock stopped forcing them to go into a sudden death overtime.

Overtime proved hopeless for the Bears who tried desperately to hold on to their #1 position in the CIAU. Reds' Dax MacLean scored at 7:53 assisted by Bill Wright and Jeff Andrews. UNB won the semi-finals advancing to the CIAU Championships to meet the Guelph Gryphons.

UNB coach Mike Kelly commenting on Alberta, "They have a good hockey club and that forces us to play as well as we did throughout the game." He also remarked, "I thought we responded very well at critical times." Kelly had to say this about Daryl Rivers, "He's a strong character... he played outstanding."

Reds' defense man Chris Zanutto remarked on their win, "It was a good game, we worked very hard... it feels good, but we haven't accomplished anything yet" (referring to the final game). Scott Muscutt echoed Zanutto's feelings saying, "The win felt great and we're looking forward to tomorrow's game."

Files from Maria Paisley



A V-Reds fan at the CIAU tournament cheering on his team.

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