Red Sox Nation has mixed emotions

View from the Sidelines
Tony von Richter

In last week's column we looked at some of the most tortured fans in all of sports but we left the most tortured group of all, Boston Red Sox fans, until now. There's only one problem; most Red Sox fans don't feel so tortured anymore.

"We'll have to see what happens in the World Series, but beating the Yankees is at least some consolation from complete torture," said die-hard Sox fan Nathan White.

With their stunning victory in the American League Championship Series the Red Sox became the only team in the history of baseball to come back from a 3-0 series deficit. They join the ranks of the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs and the 1975 New York Islanders as the only teams in the four major professional sports to win a series after being down three games to none.

The Yankees on the other hand become the most expensive choke artists in the history of sports, with their opening day payroll of $183 million they were the most expensive team in sports history. Heads are expected to roll in the Big Apple and while Carlos Beltran was still hitting home runs for the Houston Astros in the NLCS the Yanks were already gearing up for the off-season when they back the money truck up to Beltran's house and try to convince him to join the "Evil Empire."

Ever since their team's victory, Red Sox fans have been in something of a dream-like state; they're not really sure they've beat their hated rivals.

"It feels like a giant baseball weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I know I'm not on the team, but when you like that team for so long, and everything you hope for is always ended by the same team, it makes being a fan so bitterly frustrating. Now that they've gotten past the Yankees, it's something we can always respond to Yankees fans with," said White.

The victory was so great that some Sox fans are proclaiming that the Curse of the Bambino has been broken. Is there anything that can keep Boston from their first World Series title in 86 years?

"The Red Sox," said Sox fanatic Bill Traer who followed that statement up with "death to Buckner," proving that Boston fans never forget anything.

White was a bit more optomistic; "I don't know. I really think this is the year. I've been praying for a miracle all playoffs, and now they're so close. But, we all know what's happened in the past so it remains to be seen what's in the cards. No pun intended."

So, if the Sox do win the World Series what will happen to Beantown?

The tortured nature of Boston fans will have disappeared, the Curse will be broken, and journalists around North America will have very little to talk about the next time the Red Sox and Yankees play.

People will be calling in sick the day after the victory with some type of mysterious ailment. You think "The Phantom Flu" of 1999 was bad, wait until all of New England calls in with "Red Sox Chickenpox." Then at the biggest victory parade in the history of sports, the Governor of Massachusetts will announce that the day the Sox won the Series is now a statewide holiday.

Following the parade Curt Schilling will announce that he is running for President as an independent and names David Ortiz his running mate. On Election Day Schilling surprises everyone by sweeping the New England states with 99 per cent of the vote. He goes on to take 38 per cent of votes in the nation, splitting Bush and Kerry's votes and taking the 2004 Presidential race by a slim margin.

It's obvious that the Sox winning the World Series will have a drastic effect not only on their own fans, but on the entire world as well.

So remember, if Boston wins, Schilling's next start may open with 'Hail to the Chief' blaring out of the speakers in Fenway Park.

Women's hockey team loses first instalment of the Battle of the Hill

by Troy MacLellan

UNB came up short on the ice as the Lady Reds opened up their hockey season last Wednesday in the Battle of the Hill, falling to STU 4-3.

STU's Catherine Boudreau opened the scoring early in the first and increased the lead at the eight minute mark with a power play goal by Nicole Ernst.

Before the whistle to end the first period blew, Meghan Ward cut the deficit in half with her first goal of the season, a power play marker at 11:50.

UNB would watch as Ernst increased STU's lead with her second goal of the game just past the six minute mark of the second period.

A determined UNB side would come to within one with Ward's second goal at 11:52. Cheryl Hamilton tied the game with her first goal, unassisted and short handed, at the 14:25 mark.

The third period dealt the decisive blow to UNB as again UNB sat a player in the penalty box. A strong showing by UNB goalie Stephanie Neilson (29 saves) was not enough as STU would go ahead for good with a powerplay goal by Sarah Sollows six minutes in.

Elsewhere it was Mount Allison 5, Moncton 1; St. Mary's 3, Dalhousie 1 on Saturday. Sunday's action saw St. FX beat St. Mary's 3-1.

Up next for the Lady Reds is St. FX on All Hallows Eve and then a date with the Universite de Moncton on the 6th of November. Be sure to check out *The Brunswickan* for all the scores.

Sports Shorts

UNB is number one!

At least according to the first Top Ten poll of the CIS men's hockey season. The Alberta Golden Bears had been ranked number one for 37 consecutive rankings. Last year's CIS Gold Medalists, the Saint Francis Xavier X-Men, sit in third place behind the Golden Bears. Saskatchewan and York round out the top five by taking fourth and fifth place respectively.

Tigers make splash in AUS swimming

The Dalhousie Tigers dominated the first Atlantic University Sport swim meet of the season by defeating the UNB Varsity Reds, Mt. Allison Mounties, and Universite de Moncton Ainges et Aigles Bleu. The Tigers outscored their closest opponent, UNB, by a 93-point margin with their score of 216 points. The Reds had 123, while Mt. A came in third with 20 points. Moncton finished in last place with only nine points.

Coach wins 300th CIS game

Saskatchewan Huskies head coach Dave Adolph won his 300th CIS hockey game on the road Saturday night against the University of Regina Cougars by a 4-1 score.

Adolph is in his 16th season as a CIS head coach and has a lifetime record of 300-272-48 (with a .523 winning percentage). The win gave Saskatchewan a two-point lead over Manitoba in the Great Plains division of the Canada West Conference.

Laurier football makes history

The Wilfred Laurier Golden Hawks, ranked number two in the country, have finished with a perfect 8-0 record for the first time in team history. The team finished with an undefeated 7-0 back in 1966, when they were known as Waterloo Lutheran, in the Ontario Intercollegiate Football Conference. The Ontario University Athletic Association changed the schedule to eight games in 1995.

"There have been many good players, good teams that have come out of Laurier," said Laurier QB Ryan Pyear. "For us to be the first team to do this [finish 8-0], it's incredible."

With their first-place finish the Golden Hawks receive a bye to the semi-finals November 6 in Waterloo.

UNB Athletes of the Week

The UNB Athletes of the Week are swimmers Anna Roy and Daniel Monid and V-Reds soccer player John Fish.

Anna is a first year Civil Engineering student from Edmunston, New Brunswick. She took three silver medals in the first swim meet of the AUS season.

This past weekend at the Amby Leger Swim meet that was held at UNB, Anna was a finalist in all five of her events. She really stepped up her performances and raced with heart. Anna finished fourth in the 50 Free, fifth in the 100 Fly, sixth in the 100 IM and the 50 Fly. She was a silver medal winner in the 400 Free Relay, 200 Free Relay and the 400 Mixed Relay.

"Anna raced gutsy all weekend and was rewarded for her efforts with top six finishes and three silver medals in the relays," coach Paula Crutcher said of her rookie.

Daniel is a fourth year Bachelor of Arts student from Weston, Ontario. He took a total of five gold medals, three individual and two in the relay.

He is a very consistent swimmer and gives 100 per cent every race. This past weekend at the Amby Leger Swim Meet at UNB he won three gold medals: 50 Free with a time of 24.52, 100 Free with a time of 51.92 and the 200 Free with a time of 1:57.56. Daniel also won two silver medals in the 400 Free relay and the 200 Free Relay.

"Daniel showed great strength and conditioning for this early in the season. Dan qualified for the CIS Championships in February at the University of Alberta," said coach Paula Crutcher.

John is in the first year of his Masters Arts Degree and is from North Kilworth, England. He helped the V-Reds defeat the previously undefeated Saint Mary's University over the weekend.

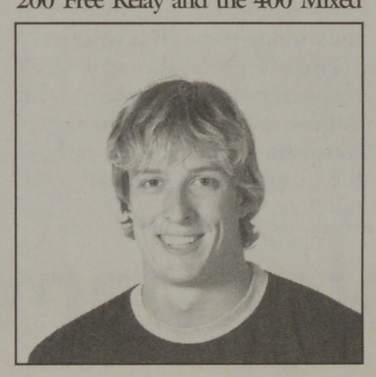
Prior to this game Saint Mary's had only allowed one goal against all season.

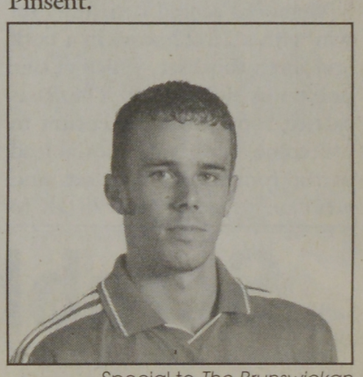
All three goals were spectacular as John scored on a free kick, a 35 yard volley to the top corner and from the penalty spot.

"John's experience is definitely an asset out on the field. He knows where to place the ball and has great distribution throughout the field.

This win puts the VReds in contention of placing first in our division," said coach Miles Pinsent.







Special to *The Brunswickan*

This week's UNB Athletes of the week are from left: swimmers Anna Roy and Daniel Monid. Soccer player John Fish rounds out the awards for this week.

The answer to all your injury questions

Your team's best player out of action? Our fantasy football guru is here to help you out.

The Endzone
Todd Spencer

After Week Seven, the big news in Fantasy Football forums is the big name injuries that happened on Sunday.

Priest Holmes was the biggest name to go down, as he left the game in the third quarter after scoring a league record four rushing touchdowns in the first half.

The question I hope to help you guys answer this week is who will replace him if he is a no go next weekend. This is an easy one too, look in your leagues to pick up Derrick Blaylock, who after scoring one rushing touchdown in the first half, went on to rush for three more in the absence of Holmes. If Holmes can't go this weekend, look for Blaylock to be the ultimate back up. Maybe this guy just needed his chance to shine.

Top wide receiver Randy Moss lasted just two snaps with the Vikings on Sunday. He aggravated a hamstring injury that has been bothering him. Some swirling rumours say that his two snaps were just a token start in order to extend his consecutive game streak to 102. Nate Burleson took most of the passes for the Vikings, finishing with six catches and 53 yards, while Jermaine Wiggins also received six receptions. Either of those two would be viable fantasy options this weekend.

In that same game against the Titans, none other than Steve McNair left in the second quarter after making 2 of 5 passes for 2 yards. He threw an incomplete pass and reinjured his chest, which he has had trouble with all season.

My pick in an earlier column, Billy Volek, came on in relief, throwing for 190 yards. Craig Hentrich also threw a pass for the Titans. Looking to this weekend, I can see McNair making the start but I wouldn't throw away Volek just yet.

That's all I have this week, if you haven't dropped Drew Bledsoe yet now would be the time.

Another horrible loss Sunday, it almost makes you sick as a Bills fan. I would rather lose to the Cowboys in the Super Bowl twice.

Remember, Cleveland, New Orleans, St. Louis and Tampa Bay are all off this weekend, so make sure you have viable options on your bench.

"My computer is going all French on me!"
- A & E Editor Alex Pope

***The Brunswickan*. Figuring out technology since 1867.**



PIZZA SHACK
454-4545
Specials
1: 2ft x 1 ft Big Deal Pizza (3 toppings) $15.99
2: 12" Works Pizza 9" Garlic Cheese Fingers & donair sauce $12.99
3: 16" Works Pizza 12" Garlic Cheese Fingers & donair sauce $16.99
4: 16" Round Pizza (3 toppings) $11.99
$1 delivery to most areas