Kyle Werner makes a valiant attempt to score



Michèle Legendre/*The Brunswickan*

Varsity Reds player Kyle Werner tries to get the puck past St.FX's Ryan Aschaber in hockey action last weekend.

UNB second best at Laval

by Joyce Slipp

Last weekend the Varsity Reds women's basketball team participated in the Laval exhibition tournament in Quebec City, against the Laurentian Lady Vees, the Concordia Stingers and the Laval Rouge et Or.

First up for the Varsity Reds were the perennially strong Laurentian Lady Vees from Ontario, whom Carolyn Plummer had played for prior to transferring to UNB for her fifth year.

Carolyn obviously enjoyed playing her old alma mater as she lit them up for 15 first half points, going 7-13 in the half. Christy McBride suffered a severe bruise and cut after taking a kick in the nose and sat out much of the rest of the game. Joanna Fox was tasked with guarding All-Canadian Cassandra Carpenter and kept her to only three offensive rebounds and four points at the half. UNB took a 31-25 lead into the locker room at halftime.

UNB pressure in the second half and a defensive strategy change seemed to unnerve the Ontario contingent as they forced 31 turnovers. UNB eventually triumphed 67-45.

UNB came out super-hot against the Concordia Stingers in their second game, hitting their first four shots including 3-pointers by Emily Murphy and Christy McBride. Concordia was reeling and called time out after just 4 minutes into the game with UNB on top 12-2. It did little to arrest the Reds; by their second time out at the 10-minute mark, Concordia was trailing 28-8.

The second half saw UNB stealing and scoring on all cylinders as they raced to a 62-33 lead midway through the half. UNB finished the game on top 75-48 with a 51.7% shooting percentage and +13 in turnover advantage, as they forced the Stingers into 31 miscues, 20 of which were UNB steals.

Carolyn Plummer once again led the points tally with 13, with Jill Rowe hauled in six rebounds

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Scores

Cross Country AUS Championships (Sunday, Oct. 30)
Men
Dalhousie, St. FX, Memorial, UNB, SMU, U de M

Top UNB Finishers: 14. Mihret Muzey, 20. Daniel Muzey, 22. Matthew Smith

Women
St. FX, Dalhousie, SMU, Memorial, U de M, Acadia, UNB

Top UNB Finishers: 33. Julia Brothers, 37. Fonya Irvine, 42. Erika Frontain

Women's Hockey
Saturday, Oct. 29
UNB 0 St. FX 0

Sunday, Oct. 30
UNB 2 DAL 2
Goal scorers for UNB: Alexis Laird and Amanda Weurth

Men's Hockey
Saturday, Oct. 29
UNB 4 DAL 2
UNB goal scorers: Denny Johnston (3), Brad Efthimiou

Sunday, Oct. 30
UNB 9 St. FX 4
UNB goal scorers: Brad Efthimiou, Rob Hennigar (2), Jean Michel Boisvert, Denny Johnston, Kyle Werner, Nathan O'Nabigon, Jesse Ferguson, Darryl Boyce

Other scores can be found at www.universitysport.ca

Schedules

Women's Basketball
Wednesday, Nov 2
Maine Machias @ UNB – 7pm

Men's and Women's Soccer (AUS Championships), Nov. 4-6

Men's Hockey
Saturday, Nov. 5
U de M @ UNB – 7pm

Women's Hockey
Sunday, Nov. 6
STU @ UNB – 2pm

Women's Volleyball
Sunday, Nov. 6
SMU @ UNB – 1pm

Men's Volleyball
Sunday, Nov. 6
U de M @UNB – 3pm

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He said, "We've got 11 coaches that are very focused on developing the whole person, and I think a program like this isn't just outreach to the community. I think it helps develop certain skills in our student athletes. I think it teaches them values, in terms of leadership, in terms of role modeling, [and] in terms of positive image."

The response to the program has been overwhelming, with eight of the 23 schools in School District 18 signing up in just the first week, for a total of about 2,560 kids. With such positive beginnings, John Richard expects to see an 80 to 90 percent participation rate.

"Ideally, we would have 5,500 children screaming and yelling, coming to a lot of our home games, and seeing the value of sport and an active lifestyle," he said.

For the Athletics Department, the Junior Reds represents only part of several initiatives geared towards the kids of School District 18 that banks heavily on the participation of the Varsity Reds.

'Heads Up with the Reds' is a program that is a few years old, and involves student athletes going into elementary schools to talk to kids about positive self-esteem issues, such as respect and bullying. As fascinating and invaluable as a program of that nature is, Kevin Dickie cannot hide his enthusiasm when he turns to talk about another program scheduled to be launched in the near future.

"'Read with the Reds' is a very, very interesting program this year where our athletes read to kindergarten kids" Kevin Dickie said. "There was a very positive meeting this week with a number of students who are going to [play] lead roles in it, and it's just a matter of being able to put the package together. We want to make sure that it's professionally ready to go, in terms of the delivery, so hopefully sooner than later."

There are several stumbling blocks in the Athletics Department's latest drive to reach out to the community, not least of which is funding. As things stand, there are no corporate sponsors for the new Junior Reds program, the membership of which will be generally non-paying. Any schools that want their pupils to participate in the Junior Reds have been asked for a nominal fee of $100, and School District 18 will be chipping in an undisclosed amount as well. This, plus the fact that the memberships will no longer include t-shirts, should keep the costs manageable, though John Richard admits it would be impossible to tell until the end of the year.

To avoid another potential stumbling block, Kevin Dickie wrote a letter for the parents of the kids in School District 18, explaining the details and benefits of the program. John Richard stresses that parents should not be dissuaded by the fact that alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed at events in the Aitken Center, though he admits it will be a challenge keeping appropriate order.

"Despite the [hockey] home opener against St. Thomas, when it was kind of a crazy circus in here, we think our Campus Police, our ushers, [and] our facility people here can manage," John Richard said. "We feel it's a family-friendly environment. It always has been, and I don't see it changing for the future."

Athletes of the Week (Week ending Saturday, Oct. 30)
Women: Carolyn Plummer
Fifth year basketball player Carolyn Plummer powered her team to a silver medal finish at the Laval Invitational, averaging 15.7 points, 5 rebounds, 1.3 assists, and 1 steal in three games. She was named an All-Star for her efforts.

Men: Denny Johnston
Third year hockey player Denny Johnston was a hat-trick hero in the weekend's home game against Dalhousie. He added another goal to his name in the rout of St. FX. He was named Irving Oil Player of the Game on Saturday.

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[1]Music capacity is based on 4 minutes per song and 128-Kbps AAC encoding. 1,000 song capacity refers to 4GB model. 1GB = 1 billion bytes; actual formatted capacity less. [2]Photo capacity is based on iPod-viewable photos transferred from iTunes. [3]Rechargeable batteries have a limited number of charge cycles and may eventually need to be replaced. Battery life and number of charge cycles vary by use and settings.

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