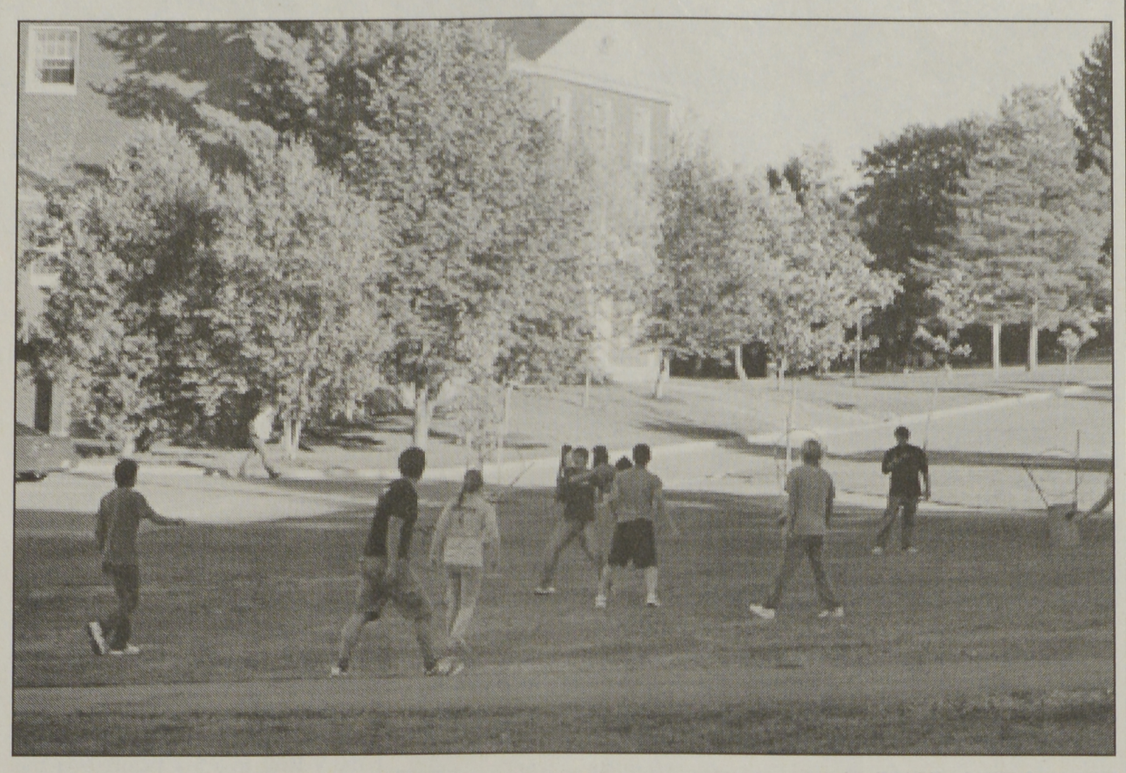
Quidditch taking flight at Harrison

by Naomi Osborne



Jennifer McKenzie / *The Brunswickan*

Growing up, I never seized the opportunity to indulge my mind in the vast world of the magic, secrets and witchcraft that is Harry Potter. Although I always wanted to read these series of books, I just never had the time, which is why my first encounter with the game, Quidditch was such a puzzling one.

Muggle Quidditch is a game that Harrison has recently brought to life from the Harry Potter books. As 'muggles' are non-wizards, and therefore do not have magical powers (essentially, they are human), this brand of Quidditch seems suitable.

For those who have not read Harry Potter, regular Quidditch is an intense, dynamic, and dangerous mutation of soccer, only played in the air with broomsticks.

Harrison House is raising money for the Children's Wish Foundation. In past years, they have always helped out the SPCA charity, but have recently switched over.

Harrison House President, Brian Koval, is excited about what this year's new ideas will bring forth.

"Last year all we did was sign sheets and collected money," said Koval "So this year we decided that we'd like to come up with the money for them because we want to make more of an impact so they know we are out there fighting for them."

The tournament was thought up by Harrison Proctor Nick Larade, who came up with the idea one night while he was working.

"I just figured it would work really well because we have The Children's Wish Foundation as our charity and Harry Potter goes hand in hand with it," said Larade.

For die-hard Harry Potter fans, it is hard to imagine how this game will be played without being able to fly on broomsticks. Both Larade and Koval have been working hard to make the game as close to the real thing as possible.

"There's no magic involved, we're still working on that for next year," laughs Koval.

The game itself is only complicated upon first observance. Once it gets going both the players and the spectators move right along with it. The game is played a lot like European hand-ball combined with dodge-ball.

It consists of one partially deflated dodge-ball, which resembles the 'quaffle', two stress balls which act as the 'bludgers', and three hoops placed at opposite ends of the field. The object of the game is to throw the 'quaffle' through any of the hoops and to score more points than the other team. Each time a player gets the ball through one of the hoops, ten points are awarded to that team.

There are two 'keepers' guarding the hoops on both ends of the field, acting as goalies. Two people assume the role of 'beaters', whose job is to protect their team's goal by hitting opposing players with a 'bludger'. Once a person is struck by a 'bludger', they must immediately drop the ball and count to five before continuing with the play.

Finally there are three 'chasers', who try to score on the opposing team's goal. They can only take three steps with the 'quaffle' before they must pass to a teammate or shoot at the hoop. All players must only use their hands to play, at any given time. Each team can only have seven players on the field at once and each game is expected to last twenty minutes.

The game comprises elements of both basket ball and dodge-ball because it begins with a jump ball in the center and throughout the game, players have to dodge the balls being thrown at them.

Larade and members of Harrison expect each residence to enter one team, so that's a dozen teams for the tournament already.

"We are also trying to get people from off-campus to participate and we are looking to put it in E-News as well," said Larade.

For teams to enter the tournament there is a ten dollar entrance fee per player, with a maximum of one hundred dollars per team. All of the proceeds are being donated to The Children's Wish Foundation.

The tournament is scheduled to be held on September 22 on the SUB Quad.

Even the Brunswickan staff has put together a team and will be playing on the Quad this Saturday. There will also be a barbeque held during the tournament, and all of the proceeds from it will be donated to the Wish Foundation as well.

"It's a whole new game to us, so we jumped on it," said Koval "We are just trying to get some excitement because people don't know how it is played or how it is going to be played."

After watching Quidditch being played I am excited to see the outcome of the tournament. The game is so very unique and interesting that it has inspired me to finally pick up the Harry Potter books and start reading. And, of course, to play.

Women's soccer earn weekend split

by Bruns Sports Department

The second weekend of UNB Women's soccer season started off at home on Saturday in rainy conditions, as the CIS Top 10-ranked Varsity Reds squared off against UPEI.

The playing conditions were slippery, which seemed to be more to the detriment of UNB's play then UPEI's, as UPEI dropped the V-Reds 1-0.

UNB started the game in its traditional 4-4-2 formation against UPEI's 3-5-2 line up. The first part of the game saw UNB come out and try to play around the back and across the field but the team struggled because of the wet conditions.

UPEI also pressured with two quick strikers that were ready to pounce on any poor first touches. As UNB tried to get comfortable with the conditions, UPEI pressured all over the park.

In the first 20 minutes, UPEI created several half chances by pressuring the UNB back line.

Approximately midway through the first half, an individual effort by the UPEI strikers to pressure the ball cost UNB's a goal from a poor clearance that deflected off of a UNB defender into the goal to allow UPEI to go ahead by a goal.

The rest of the half saw the play equalize as both team shared possession in the middle of the park.

UNB did work themselves into the game and managed some offensive chances but they were not able to put the UPEI goalkeeper under any sustained attack.

The second half saw a more consistent effort by the UNB team. Although much of the play was in the middle of the park, UNB were able to get more chances on the UPEI goal. However, much of the play was too direct and the balls were easily collected by the UPEI keeper.

For the final 15 minutes, UNB pushed another player forward to try and tie the game. This accomplished more pressure on the UPEI goal but it did not create the much needed goal to salvage a tie on the day.

UNB's best chance came ten minutes from the end when Lisa Nabuurs got to a loose ball in the 18 yard box and rang it off the crossbar. All in all, UNB had the edge during the game, but could not seem to get the job done.

UNB rebounded from this disappointing loss on Sunday, dominating the play and putting on a show as they recorded a 5-1 victory over Mount Allison.

Under dry, sunny conditions, UNB struggled to get organized at the back for the second consecutive day as a loose ball 30 yards from goal allowed Mt. A. to catch UNB's keeper Jackie Fitt out of position to go up 1-0 at the 10 minute mark.

After this mistake, UNB settled in for the day and started to push forward in numbers. Ashley McAllister, the defending UNB, AUS, and CIS Female Athlete of the Week, proved that she deserves those titles as she tallied three of UNB's five goals in the game.

McAllister's first goal came in the thirtieth minute, when she managed to get free with the ball in mid-field and let a rocket go from thirty yards to beat the Mt. A. keeper, who had no chance on the shot.

To finish off the half, McAllister battled against two Mt. A. defenders into the 18 yard box to tuck the ball past the keeper and in near the far post to put UNB up by a goal at half-time.

The second half saw UNB dominate the play, as they were able to stretch Mt. A.'s defense.

Approximately 20 minutes into the half, McAllister got free again and let a shot go that found the twine from 20 yards out, to record her third goal of the game.

UNB continued to push and they created several set pieces during the final 15 minutes to finish the scoring.

Jena Fox, who got well above everyone else to have a free header at goal, deflected in a corner kick to score the fourth goal.

Five minutes later, Jena won the ball in the air off a corner and played it to Michelle Rae, who finished the scoring play as she deflected Jena's header for the fifth goal of the game.

With the weekend split, UNB now boasts a record of 3-1, and are ranked in the CIS Top 10.

The team's next action is Saturday, September 22, against Memorial at 1:00 p.m. at College Field. The women will then travel to UPEI for a game on September 23.

Andrew Meade / *The Brunswickan*

Fantasy hockey, Brunswickan Sports-style

The Fifty Mission Cap

by Brian Munn

Fantasy hockey is pretty much the best sport ever. I know it's not really a sport, but I'm writing about it for the sports section so it must be close.

Exactly one week ago today, my fantasy hockey league had its selection draft. Twelve rounds, ten teams, and three hours of the most useless beer-induced hockey talk ever. And there was pizza, too. What a great time.

Some leagues will do an online draft, making it a little easier for guys to do it when they're spread out – like if you're doing a league with buddies at home. But for hardcore hockey poolers like my guys, it's live draft or nothing.

It just so happened that the draft day fell on my buddy Garn's last night in town before moving off to a real job on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. And by just so happened, I mean we totally planned it out.

We were going to The Capital that night anyway, so doing the draft that night seemed like the perfect kick-off to the night.

So at 7:00, we congregated in my living room to get the draft going. After taking care of all the boring stuff like deciding on league rules, the scoring system, and other junk like that, it was time to set out the draft order.

The easiest way to do that was to draw numbers from a hat, then to complain about the crappy spot you got.

The craziest part about the draft is that nobody wanted to pick first overall. Sidney Crosby is the best player in the league, and the obvious top choice.

But the dude who picks first didn't get to pick again until 20th overall, which means you get Crosby and then maybe, if you're lucky, a guy like Ilya Kovalchuk or Bryan McCabe.

So we drew, and Garn ended up with the first pick. And even though he is actually in love with Dany Heatley, he had to suck it up, and skip on his man Heater to take Sid. It totally broke his heart, and made all of us way too happy. A great start to the draft.

I pulled number nine, which wasn't great but was good enough that I could still get a solid player. Before I could pick though, the guy picking sixth, who was running late, called to back out.

Not cool. He had to stay and watch his girlfriend's rugby game.

The rest of us had blown off the girls for the night (or in my case, was lucky enough to have the most wonderful, understanding girlfriend ever who was considerate enough to let me spend some quality time with the gentlemen), but he just couldn't swing it.

So without Chris, the draft went ahead with just nine teams

Good news for me though, because it put me up to the eighth spot. So with Brian's first pick of the draft, he was pleased to select... Roberto Luongo. That pick was awesome, because if I didn't get Crosby, he was totally the guy I wanted. Best goalie in the league? I think so.

We wrapped up the first round with Ben taking Jerome Iginla. The Brunswickan's own Managing Editor (who has a solid column of his own, somewhere in this section) Tony von Richter took Alexander Ovechkin in the first round, with the seventh overall pick.

The first round, and the second after it, flew by pretty quickly because there were no bad picks. The only stretch was Steve taking Marian Hossa, but even that's not bad.

We kicked through the next few rounds, and the further we went, the more belligerent the heckling became over the other guys' picks.

There were all sorts at the draft – Brad on his laptop, taking it too seriously; Brodie, trying to pick Steve Sullivan even though he's out hurt until January; and Steve, sitting in the corner, just itching to pick Victor Kozlov.

The best part of the draft was that we didn't set a time limit for the picks, but instead we'd just heckle guys if they took too long. Then they'd crumble under the pressure and end up picking Michael Nylander. Or Mike Knuble. Or both.

Sweet draft strategy, McNamara.

As we depleted the stocks of beer, pizza, and good insults, the draft progressed into the middle rounds. Team Sutter (yeah, that's a sweet name of my team) picked up Tomas Kaberle, Mike Cammalleri, Daniel Briere and Chris Drury, putting together a pretty solid lineup.

My pick came up again. I was set to take Matt Carle, the solid young defenseman from San Jose. But in a total idiot move, Matt picked him before I could. Six picks before I did. So I was on the spot, and I had nothing. And then the heckling started.

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