Red Sticks finish season in third place

by The Red Sticks



Submitted

The Red Sticks field hockey team traveled to UPEI this week to play in the Atlantic University Field Hockey Championships.

The team has been working hard all season and was determined to break into the top standings. This showed as they came out strong and hard on Saturday against first-place, undefeated varsity team, UPEI.

It was an exciting game of field hockey as the teams battled it out. UPEI put in the first goal, but that did not stop UNB from fighting back. Kathryn Caiger put in an amazing goal off a short corner with three minutes left in the game to knot up the score at 1-1.

The Red Sticks played hard defense for the last few minutes of the game to ensure the tie stood up. This was the first time a club team has ever scored against UPEI.

Riding high off their draw with the Panthers, UNB was pumped for the next game against Acadia, which led them to win the game 2-0. Kathryn Caiger and Kathryn Turner each put in a goal, while Emma Toner recorded the shutout.

On Sunday, the team faced a tough schedule with games against both Dalhousie and SMU, but the Red Sticks were prepared after attending a clinic run by the Team Canada head coach.

The first game against Dalhousie was rough and intense, but neither team was able to put in a goal so the game ended in a tie of 0-0.

UNB entered their final game with no losses in the tournament and was anxious to remain undefeated as they faced the second-place SMU Huskies.

Despite excellent defense by Lori Burgess and Morgan Levesque, SMU put in a single goal to win the game 1-0.

UNB exited the tournament with only two goals scored against them. Their 1-1-2 record in the championship tournament was good enough to solidify third place in the league to end the season for UNB.

Congratulations to Kathryn Caiger, who was named to the All-Star Team and thanks to coaches Kelly Anderson and Dawn MacIsaac for a great season, and good luck to all the graduating players.

While the team is off the turf for the winter, the Red Sticks will begin their co-ed indoor league in January. The league is open to all, and no experience is required. Anyone interested in playing is encouraged to email rsticks@unb.ca.

OT win for Reds in Friday nighter

by Bradley Conley

Friday night may have been a pre-season game between the UNB Varsity Reds and STU Tommies women's hockey teams, but it was played with as much intensity as any playoff game.

STU came out in the first, dominating the play for much of the period. However, UNB goalie Amy Howard was able to hold off the Tommies' attack until midway through the first.

STU kept pressing until 13:40 of the first when Rebekah Thompson received her first penalty of the game. The Varsity Reds' Heather Gallant would not let the opportunity go to waste, scoring a minute and a half into the power play.

STU did not back down, however, and Tommies captain Ashley Duguay tied the game 1-1 before the end of the first.

The second period stared off with the Tommies coming on strong, but Howard stood up to the pressing offence, giving her team some momentum.

UNB then netted their second goal, when Heather Gallant scored her second goal of the game to give the edge back to the Varsity Reds.

Despite STU pressing hard and out shooting the V-Reds badly, UNB played solid defense to protect their lead. The rest of the second period ended up to be a penalty-ridden affair, but no more pucks were put past either of the net minders.

Although the Varsity Reds began the third period on the power play, they were unable to convert and put the final nail in STU's coffin. Even after a couple lengthy five-on-three opportunities for both teams, the score had been untouched until the very last minute of the period.

With goalie Liette Arsenault on the bench, the Lady Tommies were able to bear down and beat UNB goaltender Teri Ryerson, who had relieved Amy Howard in the second, with only 11.8 second left in regulation.

The goal was a blow to the V-Reds, but the team did not let it get the best of them as they prepared to overtime.

When the extra frame opened, UNB got to work and finished the job quickly.

Just nine second into overtime, Christine Hartnoll, playing her first season with the Varsity Reds after transferring from McGill, fired a wrist shot from the left wing and roofed it past Arsenault to finish the game off.

After being out shot badly for much of the game, UNB was able to show some resiliency to regroup and win the game. This was recognized by Co-Coach Angie Roulston.

"I thought the girls battled hard, however in the first two periods we gave up way too many shots," commented Roulston.

The Varsity Reds open the AUS season next Saturday in Halifax, where they will play against the SMU Huskies. The team will open their home schedule on the October 27 at the Aitken Centre against St. Francis Xavier.

When women's hockey beats the Sox...



THE FIFTY MISSION CAP

by Brian Munn

I was at the STU vs. UNB women's hockey game on Friday night, enjoying a solid effort by the V-Reds as they wrapped up their exhibition season against the Tommies.

I was, however, quite distracted. As I watched UNB cling to a 2-1 lead with the minutes winding down in the third period, I couldn't seem to keep my mind on hockey.

STU had two goals called off by the referee, adding even more intrigue. Still, I was not in the mindset for hockey.

I knew that at my house, on channel 22, there was something infinitely more important than exhibition hockey. The Boston Red Sox and Cleveland Indians were playing in Game 1 of the ALCS, a game that featured the premier pitching match-up of Sox ace Josh Beckett against C.C. Sabbathia, arguably the best lefty in the game.

But then, something happened that made me totally forget about baseball. With just 11.6 seconds left in the third, STU tied the game.

My friend, equally enamored with the Sox game, offered an option. "We can jet now, and we can get the final score of the Internet tomorrow for the article."

"Not a chance," I replied. "It's overtime."

Yes, overtime. OT. Sudden death.

After spending three full periods investing in the ups and downs of this seemingly meaningless exhibition hockey game, I couldn't leave. I had to stick around to see what was going to happen.

It's like finding a seventh chicken nugget in your six pack. There is nothing to cap off an amazing effort by two teams like an extra five minutes of excitement. Or, in the case of the NHL playoffs, an extra two or three full periods.

I've heard complaints about the extra frame, of course. People saying the games are already too long. Others saying if you can't win in nine innings, you don't deserve to win.

I don't agree. Overtime, I think, is proof that the sports gods are looking down on us fans and smiling.

Take, for example, the one-game playoff between the San Diego Padres and the Colorado Rockies to decide the National League wildcard this season. As if nine innings of amazing baseball weren't enough, we got four extra innings. For free.

I remember a few years back when there was an uproar about overtime, mainly in hockey, being referred to as "sudden death." Instead, some people wanted it to be called "sudden life," which is really just another attempt to make hockey more family friendly and Americanized.

I don't think so. Sudden life is a pleasant though, I guess, but you're not dead to start with.

And anyone who has played in overtime knows that to lose is sudden death. Winning is awesome, but losing – especially in overtime – is unbearable.

Fortunately on Friday night, we didn't have to wait long. V-Reds' forward Christine Hartnoll, who just transferred to UNB from McGill, wired a wrist shot from the left side past STU goalie Liette Arsenault for the winner just nine seconds into overtime, locking up a 3-2 victory. I got home by the fourth inning, just in time to see the Red Sox light up Cleveland for four runs on their way to a 10-3 win.

So what is the one thing that can make exhibition women's hockey more intriguing, more exciting than the Major League Baseball playoffs?

Overtime.

Thank you, sports gods.



Brian Munn / *The Brunswickan*