

brunswickansports

UNB MOVES BACK INTO FIRST

FROM HOCKEY PAGE 1

power play has been quite effective of late and Saturday was no change. Dustin Friesen scored the game's first goal on the power play late in the first. Tremblay and Cuddihy added the assists.

In the second the game opened up as both teams exchanged chances, but were turned away by the two goalies. STU finally got on the board with a power play goal off from Derek Lehr. Minutes later UNB regained the lead with another power play goal from John Scott Dickson with assists from Bowman and Tremblay.

The action heated up in the third when STU equalized off a pretty goal from Brad Gallant. The game was turned into exciting back and forth action with great saves by Yeomans and MacFarlane. The third ended with the score tied 2-2. In the opening minutes of overtime, Yeomans came up huge with a great stop on another STU breakaway. The teams trade a few more chances, but to no avail as the buzzer rang and they headed to a shootout. Yeomans again made great saves as he stopped all three STU shooters, while Decosta slid the puck past MacFarlane off a pretty move to his backhand to give the Reds the extra point.

UNB finished the first half of the season by winning six out of their last seven games, but more importantly they have caught the top seeds. With a record of 9-2-2 and 20 points, they are now tied with Saint-Mary's and Moncton with two games in hand on the Huskies and one on UdeM.

"The four points is huge for our team, especially come this time a year," said coach Gardiner MacDougall. "It's important to the keep focus." He was very pleased with his team's performance but knows that they are far from achieving their goal of



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

After a slow start to the 2008-2009 season, the UNB Varsity Reds look to be back to their winning ways. UNB topped top-ranked UdeM on Friday night at the Aitken Centre and followed suit with a victory over their rivals from STU. The win puts the Reds in a three-way tie for first place.

winning the nationals "We're taking it one step at a time, finishing strong is important, but we haven't done a whole lot yet really."

UNB's play on the weekend highlighted two of their core elements. Firstly, goaltender Derek Yeomans played some of his best hockey of this season. UNB's attack is so potent that some games he barely sees any action. However this weekend, he received fifty-two shots and only let in three goals. Also, Yeomans turned away several breakaways and was perfect in the shootout. "He continues to get better for our hockey club. He's going to be a key player for us and his confidence and performance have both spiraled up."

Secondly, special teams have been a huge factor this season and have led to the outcome of many games.

The Reds' penalty kill has been quite effective of late and the power play was red hot this weekend as four out of their five goals were scored on the power play. "The one common denominator in this league is that it's a special team's league. The penalty kill was very good on both nights" said a pleased MacDougall. "Against Moncton, the key point was the 5-one-3 at the beginning of the third period and we were successful in defending that and the 4 on 3 in overtime was another successful kill."

MacDougall gave special mention to senior forward John Scott Dickson as he demonstrated great offensive and defensive awareness. "I consider Dickson a thirty goal scorer. He'll score ten or fifteen, but he's going to save fifteen or twenty for us."

Unfortunately for the Reds, their

winning streak came at a bad time in season, but the coach isn't worried about losing their momentum. "This is a common occurrence for us. We had pretty good success in the first half and last year's crew just got better and we had an even more successful second half. The emphasis is to come back and really commit and improve our performance and to have a successful half."

Friday night was a special night for the hockey program as they shot their CIS championship bid video and held fundraisers for charity. "It was an unbelievable event. The word is that it was the place to be in Fredericton. We had a lot of people who contributed to the success of the program. It's not just a team. We got a victory on the ice, but maybe more importantly were the two

fundraisers off the ice." He thought it was a great cause to raise money for the [family of Stephanie Burkitt] and that the teddy bear toss, put on by the Salvation Army, was a success as well.

As for the bid, MacDougall was quite impressed. "The video is first rate. The people involved did a great job. We're going to go through with our best foot forward. We have elevated our program to a program of excellence within the CIS." UNB will find out the results shortly.

The Reds finished the first half on fire and now look to keep that trend going in 2009. They will be back in action as defending NCAA champions Boston College will arrive in town for a pair of games on Jan. 2 and 3. AUS play begins Jan. 9 as Acadia visits the Reds.

V-REDS RESULTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB - 1
SMU - 3

HOCKEY
UNB - 3
UDEM - 1

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB - 1
UDEM - 3

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB - 50
CBU - 83

HOCKEY
UNB - 3
STU - 2

MEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB - 65
CBU - 75

UPCOMING V-REDS EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB @ TBD
INNISBROOK RESORT INVITATIONAL
TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB @ TBD
CONCORDIA TOURNAMENT

MEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB @ TBD
U OF MONTREAL TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB @ TBD
INNISBROOK RESORT INVITATIONAL
TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB @ TBD
CONCORDIA TOURNAMENT

MEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB @ TBD
U OF MONTREAL TOURNAMENT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB @ TBD
INNISBROOK RESORT INVITATIONAL
TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB @ TBD
CONCORDIA TOURNAMENT

MEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB @ TBD
U OF MONTREAL TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB @ TBD
INNISBROOK RESORT INVITATIONAL
TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA

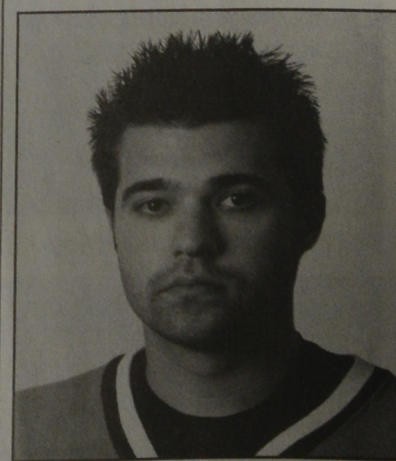
FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND

HOCKEY
BOSTON COLLEGE @ UNB
7:00 P.M. @ AITKEN CENTRE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD

HOCKEY
BOSTON COLLEGE @ UNB
7:00 P.M. @ AITKEN CENTRE

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Derek Yeomans
#31, Hockey
2nd year, BBA
St. Albert, AB



One-on-one with...

Melissa Foster



UNB Media Services

Sport: Women's Basketball
Yr: 1

Why did you choose UNB?

I chose UNB because it has a strong academic reputation and to become a V-Red.

What is your desired profession?

Medicine - however, I have not decided on which field.

What is the best piece of advice you've ever received from a coach?

You need to play everyday with passion, heart, and desire.

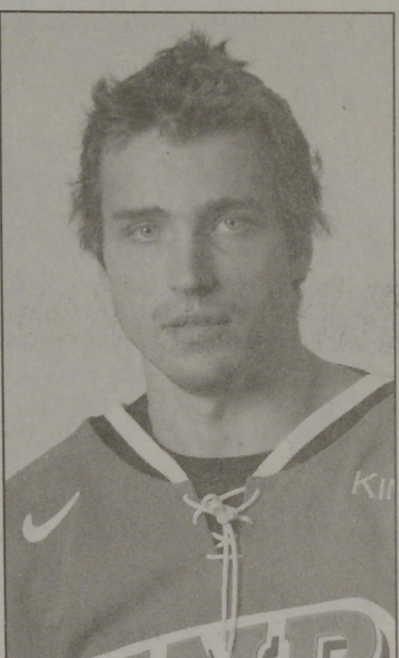
What is your personal goal this year?

To learn, gain experience, and have fun.

What is your pet peeve?

When someone is chomping on gum.

Travis Fullerton



UNB Media Services

Sport: Hockey
Yr: 1

Why did you choose UNB?

I chose UNB because they have a strong hockey program and because of their business program.

What are your pre-game rituals?

Nap, pasta, and I try to relax before the game.

What is your most embarrassing sports story?

Getting shelled for nine goals in Rimouski.

What is the best piece of advice you've ever received from a coach?

There's always a guy working harder than you somewhere.

What is your pet peeve?

Shots that go post and in.

BRANDON MACNEIL

THE BRUNSWICKIAN

It's official. This weekend signaled the end of the first half of the 2008-2009 season for the Varsity Reds. So far this year we've seen some positives and negatives in regards to varsity athletics at UNB. We've had teams overachieve and fight for the championship, but also a few teams who aren't hitting their goals.

The UNB Baseball team kicked off their season as students returned from the summer break. Defending a national title can be a hard task, however, these boys were not fazed. They continued their dominance from the season before and confidently walked into the nationals in Montreal, taking home their second straight national title.

"It's just spectacular that those boys were able to accomplish that," said Kevin Dickie, UNB's athletic director. "Winning one championship is tough enough, but to go win back-to-backs - that's saying something."

The men's soccer team was another success story from this semester. After starting (and almost finishing) the season with an unbeaten record, the V-Reds clinched a first place position, meriting a bye to the AUS semi-finals. UNB fought their way to the AUS championship game. However, the men fell one goal short of a spot in the national championship.

The women's soccer team did not have the success the boys did. The girls only managed one victory throughout the season, while finishing at 1-5-7. The young varsity club will look to rebound with a better season next year.

The UNB men's hockey club began this season after tearing up the AUS last season. Not only did they win the Atlantic division, they put together an all-time best record for the AUS, when they finished 24-2-2.

However, the beginning of this season started a little shaky. After losing a few games early on, the Reds have bounced back strongly,



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

The women's basketball squad will be looking to get back in the win column when they begin the 2009 portion of the season in January.

A pivotal come-from-behind victory over Moncton a couple weeks back may have marked the turning point for the team. They've since followed up with victories over Moncton and STU this past weekend and things look to be back on track.

Brent Baker and his men's Varsity Reds basketball team are off to a forgettable start so far. The winless Reds have struggled with opponents all season, and can't seem to find their winning touch.

"If we are to improve, we have to bring a level of maturity to our mental preparation and an effort worthy of bringing about success," said Baker. "Until that happens, this group will struggle with the consistency needed to make the playoffs."

For now, it's all about the future for the men's hardwood club. With nine rookies on the team, the talent is yet to blossom.

"There is some unreal talent on that team," said Dickie. "The thing is its young rookie talent. You have to rebuild at some point - that goes for every team. These guys have potential to be a dominating force in the coming years."

Jeff Speedy and his women's basketball team are faring slightly better than the men, however they still sit in the middle of the pack,

with a 3-3 record. The Reds will be looking to make a strong move in the new year and a final push before the AUS championships in late February.

The men's volleyball Varsity Reds are in a familiar position within their AUS division. The powerhouse team from Dalhousie has consistently been in first place over the past 20+ years. To their credit, UNB has put up a fight whenever facing DAL this season. The atmosphere when these two rivals faced off was said to be unreal.

"It was out of this world," said Dickie. "I couldn't believe the atmosphere this early in the season. It was really something special to take in."

"We've built a great rivalry with them, and this has peaked the interest of the community and student population," said Dan McMoran, the V-Reds head coach. "When these fans showed up, they were treated to a very exciting level of play in an electric atmosphere."

The women's volleyball team will be entering the break in unfamiliar territory. The Reds have dropped seven in a row as they break until the end of December, where they'll catch some rays in Tampa Bay, Florida for the Innisbrook Resort Invitational.