

NCAA opens membership to Canadian schools

by Hunter Gavin

In a landmark decision, NCAA Division II paved the way for Canadian institutions to seek active Division II membership when they approved a 10-year pilot program at the 2008 NCAA Convention in Nashville, on January 14, with the council voting over 97% in favor of the program.

The program takes effect immediately and Canadian schools may apply for membership as soon as June 1, 2008. Schools that meet the June 1 application deadline could start the process of joining Division II as soon as the 2008-2009 academic year.

Several schools in Canada have expressed interest in membership, including Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Alberta, and Ontario's St. Claire College.

Schools must apply for membership by June 1.

Any school looking to make the move would have to deal with substantial changes in recruiting of athletes, with the major difference between membership in the CIS and the NCAA being the way athletic scholarships are awarded. In the NCAA, a Canadian university would be able to award a full scholarship, while in the CIS first-year students are able to receive a maximum of having tuition covered – but only if their academic



After a landslide vote, it is only a matter of time before Canadian schools join NCAA Division II competition, and their athletes are represented in the NCAA Hall of Fame

averages are high enough.

There would also be eligibility issues with hockey teams, as any player with past major junior experience would be ineligible to play in the NCAA. Many former Canadian Hockey League players now suit up for their Canadian schools.

There is a provision in Division II that allows a school to have a maximum of one men's and one women's team participate in Division I athletics. This is particularly appealing to Canadian schools with strong hockey programs, as there is no Division II hockey pro-

gram.

Faced with the possibility of schools leaving the Canadian Interuniversity Sport ranks, CIS officials responded to the NCAA's decision to allow universities from outside the United States to seek active Division II membership.

According to the CIS, the feedback from Canadian universities suggests that a very small number of universities might pursue the NCAA option. CIS membership has grown in recent years and indications are it will continue to do so, so the potential loss of one or two members is offset by recent expansion.

CIS has also announced that it will conduct a membership satisfaction survey to identify issues that require attention, and plans to confront issues and to build on the strengths of being a Canadian league that celebrates and supports academics and athletics.

CIS officials announced intentions to hold discussions with Canadian universities considering joining the NCAA, in large part to express that CIS values all its members and would prefer that none migrate south of the border. They also pointed out that if a Canadian university chooses to apply and is accepted

as a NCAA member, there would be a lot of issues to resolve as the process plays out.

One alternative proposal to schools completely severing ties with the CIS is to allow CIS member schools to compete in the NCAA.

A decision on this proposal will be reached by the CIS membership in June 2008. However, the philosophical position taken by the CIS Board of Directors that will be advanced to the CIS membership for their discussion and decision recommends against a joint CIS-NCAA membership scenario – meaning this proposal will likely die on the table.

"This can be considered a defining moment for CIS," the organization announced in a press release in response to the NCAA decision. "At the end of the day the CIS membership is an expression of who we are and what we value. As CIS goes forward, the CIS Board of Directors wants the CIS membership to be composed of universities who are fully committed to a Canadian league and proud of the Canadian roots and keeping it in Canada. The Canadian identity and the Canadian model are important and integral values of who we are."

"Our niche is a Canadian organization with a Canadian identity and a commitment to quality education and athletics. We are proud of our Canadian identity, and our Canadian commitment to quality education and athletics."

While no schools have yet applied to join the NCAA, all applications are due by June 1. Some suggest that UBC will apply to join competition in fall 2008, while other interested school may gauge their interest based on the success of UBC.

V-REDS RESULTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18TH

MEN'S HOCKEY
St. FX – 2
UNB – 7

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
LAVAL – 3
UNB – 0

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
U DE M – 1
UNB – 3

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19TH

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
SHERBROOKE – 2
UNB – 3

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
UNB – 1
St. FX – 3

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
SMU – 59
UNB – 66

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB – 3
MONTREAL – 2

MEN'S HOCKEY
UNB – 4
SMU – 1

MEN'S BASKETBALL
SMU – 90
UNB – 60

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20TH

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB – 3
McGILL – 0

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
UNB – 2
DAL – 3

UPCOMING V-REDS EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23RD

MEN'S HOCKEY
STU @ UNB
7:00PM @ AUC

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25TH

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB @ MUN

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB @ MUN

MEN'S HOCKEY
UNB @ STU
7:00PM @ LBR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB @ MUN

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
UNB @ MUN

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB @ MUN

MEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB @ MUN

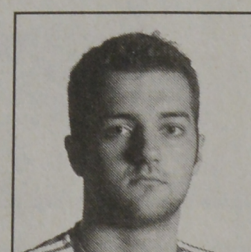
WOMEN'S HOCKEY
UNB @ UPEI

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27TH

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB @ MUN

MEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB @ MUN

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



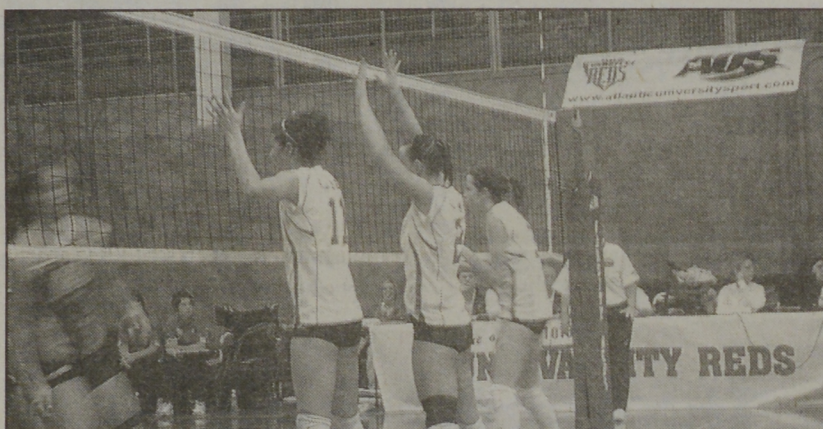
TYLER VEENHUIS
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL



ANGELA AYDON
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CIS Women's Volleyball Championship honorary chair named

by Hunter Gavin



Brian Munn / The Brunswickian

UNB is preparing to host two consecutive CIS volleyball championships

At a special reception held last Friday in Fredericton, the University of New Brunswick, host of the 2008 and 2009 CIS Women's Volleyball Championships, announced that Monica Hitchcock will serve as Honorary Chair of the 2008 event.

"We are very proud to be able to recognize Monica as the Honorary Chair of this year's championship," said Kevin Dickie, UNB's Athletic Director. "Monica is a terrific ambassador for the

sport of volleyball and the Province of New Brunswick; she is also a great role model for young women."

Hitchcock is a UNB alumnus, having competed for the UNB volleyball team in 1976-1977. She also started playing

for the Junior National Team in 1976. She was a member of the Canadian National Senior Women's Team from 1977 to 1985. During that time, Hitchcock competed in the 1979 Pan American Games in Puerto Rico and the 1983 Pan

American Games in Caracas, Venezuela. She also competed in the World Championships in Leningrad in 1978 and a tour of the Orient to Japan, China and Korea in 1979.

In addition, she competed in three World Student Games in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1977, Bucharest, Romania, in 1981 and in Edmonton in 1983. In 1984, Hitchcock was selected as the captain of the Canadian team that competed in the Los Angeles Summer Olympics.

"I am extremely honoured and very proud to be the Honorary Chair of the 2008 CIS Women's Volleyball Championships and I really look forward to watching the top volleyball players in the country as this event is a stepping stone for future National Team athletes," commented Hitchcock.

The 2008 CIS Women's Volleyball Championship will be the fourth

championship that the University of New Brunswick has hosted in six years. "UNB will be showcasing its strength in hosting a national championship and I know the Varsity Reds team is preparing to meet the powerhouse teams of the country," continued Hitchcock.

Following her retirement from the National Team in 1985, Hitchcock returned to Saint John where she continues to contribute to volleyball in New Brunswick. In September she was recognized by Volleyball New Brunswick as she was inducted into Hall of Fame.

"What a great opportunity for our provincial grass root volleyball athletes to witness this very high level of competition, right here at home," commented Hitchcock. "The volleyball community of NB is very fortunate to have this event for two consecutive years. What a bonus!"

Amazing dance workouts

Dance classes at UNB provide unique opportunities for all dancers, from newcomers to the most experienced.

by Naomi Osborne



Internet

Dance program costs at UNB are discounted for students and staff get a discounted rate.

The great thing about these classes is that they are not only limited to UNB and STU students, faculty, and staff but they are also open to the general public.

These dance classes give people the opportunity to meet others and experience new things. It can also be the perfect break to a busy day by dancing your stress away.

"In addition to physical activity, they are a great way to meet new people or connect with people you may not see regularly," said Dunfield-Whiters.

"We have many people who come to the dance classes as a fun night out either with friends or a spouse/family member."

These classes have been offered at UNB for years, and over time they have grown in both the number of people attending and the types of classes offered.

"We make an effort to keep up with the current trends, and the popularity

of reality dance competitions television shows which have bolstered the popularity of dance classes," said Dunfield-Whiters.

The good thing about these classes is that you don't even need to have a partner to join, so anyone is able to sign up.

All of the instructors have years of experience and come referred to the Campus Recreation Center. They also encourage anyone who has any experience teaching any style of dance at all to contact them.

"Variety is the key to keeping people interested and motivated and we are always open to new ideas," said Dunfield-Whiters.

The types of classes offered depend on how many instructors they have and what styles of dancing they teach. In the past, UNB has been able to offer various styles of dancing such as belly dancing.

Some of the instructors are students, but most have full-time jobs and teach dancing on the side. Most of them have grown up dancing and just want to share their passion for dance said Dunfield-Whiters.

All of the dance programs are beneficial in a variety of different ways. They offer a wide range of dance styles, and the first class is free for people who want to try out several different types before paying for the whole program. This way it is easier for people to know what they are paying for so that they are not disappointed.

These classes are a fun and new way to get a fantastic workout without even going to the gym.

Said Dunfield-Whiters, "often you are getting a fantastic workout without even realizing that you're exercising!"

V-RED WOMEN DROP KEY POINTS AT HOME



Brian Munn / The Brunswickian

Sarah Belmore and Terri Ryerson had a great weekend for the Varsity Reds women's hockey team, but they were about the only bright spots for the Reds. UNB dropped two important games on home ice, losing 3-1 to St. Francis Xavier on Saturday afternoon and dropping a tough 3-2 loss to the Dalhousie Tigers on Sunday. Terri Ryerson looked impressive for UNB on Saturday, turning aside 37 shots to keep the Reds in the game. Belmore's goal in the third cut St. FX's lead in half, but an insurance marker by St. FX with just two minutes left ended the Reds comeback bid. The V-Reds were outshot again on Sunday, and relied on Ryerson's timely saves to keep the game close into the third. Ryerson made 30 saves and Belmore notched two goals in the loss, which dropped UNB three points behind Dalhousie in the standings. At 3-10-1, UNB now sits sixth in the Atlantic Conference with 7 points. The team is in action next Saturday at UPEI, who sit one spot back of UNB with 4 points.