

Miles wins James Bayer Scholarship

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THE BRUNSWICKAN

It's not always easy being a student athlete. Spending weekends on the road, early morning practices, and tough training regimes leave little time for academic work. However, UNB soccer player Isabelle Miles has found more than a healthy balance between the two.

Last Saturday at an awards ceremony in Halifax, Miles was named the recipient of the 2009 James Bayer Memorial Scholarship for excellence in academics, athletics, leadership, sportsmanship, and citizenship. The Fredericton native is a biochemistry student, who in three and a half years has received an A+ in all 129 credit hours worth of courses, giving her a perfect 4.3 GPA.

Miles, who is listed as a fourth-year mid-fielder for the women's soccer team, was caught off-guard when they announced her name as the recipient.

"I was in shock," said Miles. "I wasn't quite sure if I had heard my name or not. I had no idea where I was suppose to go, or what to do. Then, I just pulled myself together and hoped I wouldn't trip on the way to receive the award."

The James Bayer Memorial Scholarship Award was established in 1985 and it is noted as being the most prestigious award offered annually by Atlantic University Sport.

"It was a great honor just to be nominated by UNB in the first place, and there are no words really to describe how I feel about then being the recipient of the award this year," said Miles.

As the 23rd recipient of the award,

Miles embodies exactly what the award recognizes. Besides excelling academically as well as on the court, Miles finds the time to volunteer with a number of organizations including "Read with the Reds", "Heads up with the Reds", as well as coaching with Soccer NB.

"I've never really thought what I was doing was worthy of recognition, I was just doing what I loved," said the three-time academic all-Canadian. "I've always enjoyed staying busy ever since the time I started high school. I just feel more organized, energetic and happy when I'm busy...but a balanced busy, meaning my life doesn't only consist of my studies."

The award, which looks not only at on-field stats but also how athletes perform in the classroom and in the community, means that the recipient must be a well-rounded individual. As for Miles, she's just happy that people are credited for their work off the field as well, something that should be important to all student athletes.

"It's nice to have an award that shows that AUS athletes are not only defined by our athletic successes, but that we are students and contributors to the community as well," said Miles.

UNB women's soccer head coach Andy Cameron noted that Miles, who was captain of the team for three of the four years on the squad, is truly deserving of the honour.

"I think it was fantastic and she's very deserving of it because she's a leader on the field, in the classroom, and in the community," said Cameron.

Miles, who graduates this spring, received a \$1,000 scholarship for the award.

"With my graduation in the spring, it's an amazing recognition to end my undergraduate career with."

Teeing off in the dome



Sandy Chase / The Brunswickan

This past week, UNB opened up its golf facilities in the dome at Chapman Field. Open Monday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., 6 p.m. - 10 p.m., Friday 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., and Sunday 4 p.m. - 10 p.m., students have the ability to practice their swing during the off-season. Included is a driving range with 12 tee stations and targets representing different golf shots, as well as a putting area. It costs \$12 for a 30 minute time slot and \$20 for a 60 minute time slot. For more information regarding the golf facilities in the dome, call 440-3384.

Economic downturn spurns athletics

Travel among biggest concerns to Atlantic schools

DANIELLE WEBB
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ANTIGONISH (CUP) - While the current economic crisis is taking its toll on university varsity athletics, Atlantic University Sport travel budgets have been impacted the most.

"Travel is by far our number one issue in terms of expenses. Over one-third of our operating budget is devoted to travel. It used to be around a quarter a couple of years ago," said Kevin Dickie, athletic director at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, N.B.

UNB made cuts to its athletic program in March 2008 by downgrading six varsity teams to club status, claiming the teams didn't bring in enough revenue to balance their budgets.

"The changes made last year were out of necessity. There would be no sustainability if we didn't [make the cuts]," said Dickie.

"To what extent is a team able to raise revenues to offset the costs? So, if one team is very costly, is it able to raise revenue?" Terry Haggerty, Dean of Kinesiology, told the Brunswickan at the time.

Still, UNB remains conscious of their current financial shortcomings.

"We talk about ways we can continue to be fiscally responsible. We're not waiting for some type of sugar daddy to come bail us out," said Dickie.

UNB self-generates a portion of their operating budget through sports camps, sponsorships, and high levels of philanthropy.

While rising travel costs have also become an issue at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S., fundraising options are beginning to shrink.

"The biggest economic challenge we face is in fundraising. In tight times, businesses will often cut the marketing and advertising expenses to help contain their costs. This makes it more challenging for us as we need to ensure they see a partnership with St.FX athletics as a valuable and worthwhile exercise," said Leo MacPherson, director of athletics at St.FX.

"Nobody is immune from a downturn in the economy and athletic departments need to continue to be prudent in the way we manage our resources. It [has] put a great deal of pressure on fundraising to ensure we have the dollars necessary to offset the expenses," MacPherson said.

Donations to athletics are also in decline.

"We occasionally receive a transfer of shares from someone's investment portfolio. When the stock markets are depressed, the value of the share is low and people are inclined to hold off on

donations until such a time when the markets recover," said MacPherson.

Despite the penny-pinching, cutting programs is not an option MacPherson will look into, as this creates revenue problems.

"Our student athletes pay tuition fees, residence fees and meal plans, and help enhance our enrolment numbers. If it weren't for the varsity sport opportunity, these students would be at another institution pursuing their academic and athletic goals," he said.

Even though St.FX students don't pay admission to varsity games, MacPherson believes students are valuable assets in the crowd.

"Students bring energy and excitement to our sporting venues and other fans, and our teams love to see the support. Although [they] aren't a source of revenue, they improve the event with their attendance and this makes other paying customers want to come to each and every home game."

Geographically isolated from the rest of the AUS teams, travel costs are the biggest concern at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, N.L.

MUN has not had to take any cost-reduction measure at this point, and only funds core areas of the athletics program such as regular season play, playoffs, and national competition, says director of athletics Michelle Healey.

"We always look for ways to reduce costs in an effort to get the most for the funds we have, and I believe our teams are being very accountable with the dollars they have," said Healey.

MUN isn't looking at increasing ticket prices to help generate more revenue during this time. Healey remains optimistic about the future.

"There seems to be some relief in these areas since January, so we look forward to a better economic climate heading into the 2009-2010 year than we faced heading into 2008-2009."

-with files from the Brunswickan

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