

this week in brunswickansports

Reds place seventh at first CIS championship in 30 years

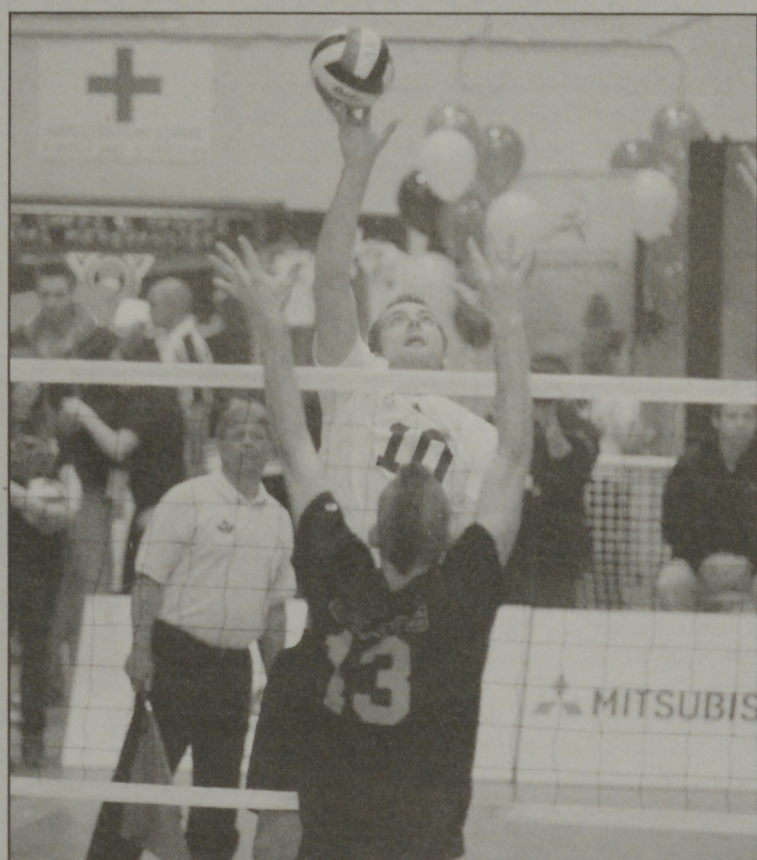
In their first appearance at the CIS men's volleyball championships since 1979, the UNB Varsity Reds dropped both of their matches to finish in a tie for seventh place.

The Reds faced the top-seeded University of Alberta Golden Bears in their quarter-final match-up. In front of 2,400 fans, the Reds stunned the hosts carrying leads of 8-7, 11-9, and 16-12 early on. However, the undefeated Bears overpowered the Reds, taking the match in straight sets (25-12, 25-17, 25-21).

South Branch, N.S. native Tyler Veenhuis was named player of the match for UNB. Veenhuis contributed seven kills in 20 attempts for the Reds.

In their second match of the tournament, the Reds faced their conference rival Dalhousie Tigers in the consolation semi-final. Again, their opponents took over early, as the Reds dropped the match 3-0 (25-11, 25-21, 25-16).

Fourth-year middle Ryley Boldon was named player of the match for the Reds for his six kills in the consolation semi-final match-up.



Pete Yee / The Gateway

The top-seeded Alberta Golden Bears dropped the UNB Varsity Reds in the quarter-finals at the CIS men's volleyball championships. The match marked the first time since 1979 that the Varsity Reds participated in the tournament.

Sharpe, Van Vlack, and Anthony recognized at AUS awards

Third-year forward Amanda Sharpe was named a first-team all-star while point guard Tashina Van Vlack was named a nominee for the Tracey MacLeod Award recently at the AUS women's basketball awards ceremony. Meanwhile, first-year guard Dustin Anthony was recently named to the AUS men's basketball all-rookie team at the AUS award banquet.

Anthony, a native of North Bay, ON averaged 12.1 points per game for the Reds this season. Other members of the all-rookie squad include Jeremy Dunn (St. FX), Casey Fox (Acadia), Justin Boutilier (Acadia), and Simon Marr (Saint Mary's).

A dominant force on the court all year, Sharpe posted 16.9 points per game this season for the Reds. She finished second in league scoring over the season, helping the Reds qualify for the AUS championships.

Van Vlack, a native of Golden, B.C., was announced as a nominee for the Tracey MacLeod award, recognizing the women's basketball player who demonstrates determination, perseverance, and unwavering spirit in the AUS.

Van Vlack tore an ACL in her right knee in January 2007, had surgery in April 2007, and resumed playing in October of the same year. She re-tore the ACL in the same knee in November of 2007, and once again underwent surgery in March 2008. Despite the injury, Van Vlack returned to the court this past season, appearing in 18 of the 20 regular season games for the Reds, averaging 25.6 minutes on the court.

UNB swimmers participate at CIS championships

The three rookies who attended the CIS National Championships in Vancouver, B.C. came home with mixed results and some very good racing experience. The competition was the fastest and most competitive CIS Championships in history, with 25 CIS championship records being broken and 15 of those where also new senior Canadian short-course marks.

UNB's Shannon Donnelly and Danielle Merasty, both rookies for the Reds, managed to stay focused against the very strong competition, each posting lifetime best performances and made second swims during the weekend. Merasty posted lifetime bests in the 50m butterfly and 100m Freestyle and made a consolation final in the 100m freestyle, placing 13th in the event. Shannon Donnelly had a lifetime best by three seconds in the 400m freestyle and made a consolation final and placed 15th in the event while also posting a top 16 finish in the 800m freestyle. Rene Boudreau was the third representative for the Reds and, unfortunately, was very ill at the meet and was not able to swim by the final day of competition.

The UNB squad is still training hard and planning on racing throughout the summer with a lot of the team in positions to be able to attend the Canada Summer Games in PEI in August. The focus for the program for the next four months will be to recruit more great athletes to come to UNB in the fall and to continue to raise funds and scholarship dollars for the team. (Submitted by Paula Crutcher).



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

UNB fifth-year right side Christina Ross goes for the attack against the fifth-seeded York Lions during the consolation semi-final match-up at the 2009 CIS women's volleyball championships hosted by UNB. The Reds fell 3-1 to the Lions, finishing the tournament in a tie with UdeM for seventh-place.

Women's volleyball fall at CIS championships

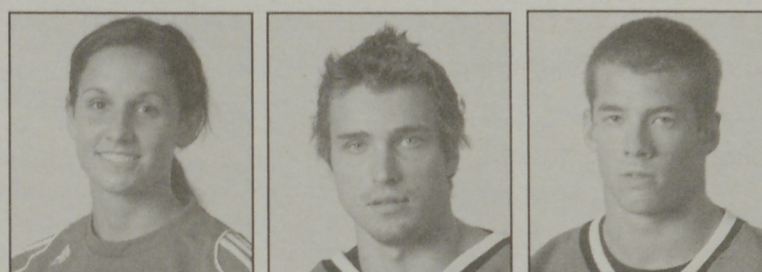
It was another disappointing performance for the women's volleyball squad as they hosted the 2009 CIS women's volleyball championships during the March Break at the Aitken Centre.

In a rematch of last year's quarterfinal match, UNB fell once again to the heavily favoured Montreal Carabins in straight sets (25-17, 25-17, 25-16). Fourth-year left side Erica Hay was named player of the match for the Reds. Hay contributed six kills and had just as many digs in the match. Saint John, N.B. native Jill Blanchard had seven kills for the hosts.

In their consolation semi-final match-up, it was once again another disappointing loss for the Reds, this time to the hands of the fifth-seeded York Lions. After dropping the opening set by a small margin, the Reds dominated the second. But the third and fourth sets were a different story, and UNB lost steam and dropped the final two and the match 3-1 (28-16, 12-25, 25-21, 25-20).

Middle Barb Vriend, who had eight blocks in the match, was named player of the match for UNB. Blanchard continued her strong play with her 16 kills in the match.

Athletes of the week



UNB Media Services

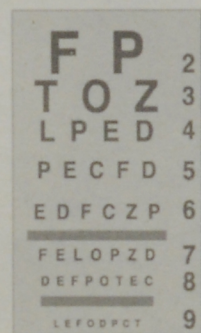
(Left)
Isabelle Miles
Women's Soccer
BSc, 4th Year
Fredericton, NB

(Middle)
Travis Fullerton
Hockey
BBA, 1st Year
Riverview, NB

(Right)
Jonathan Harty
Hockey
BBA, 1st Year
Oromocto, NB

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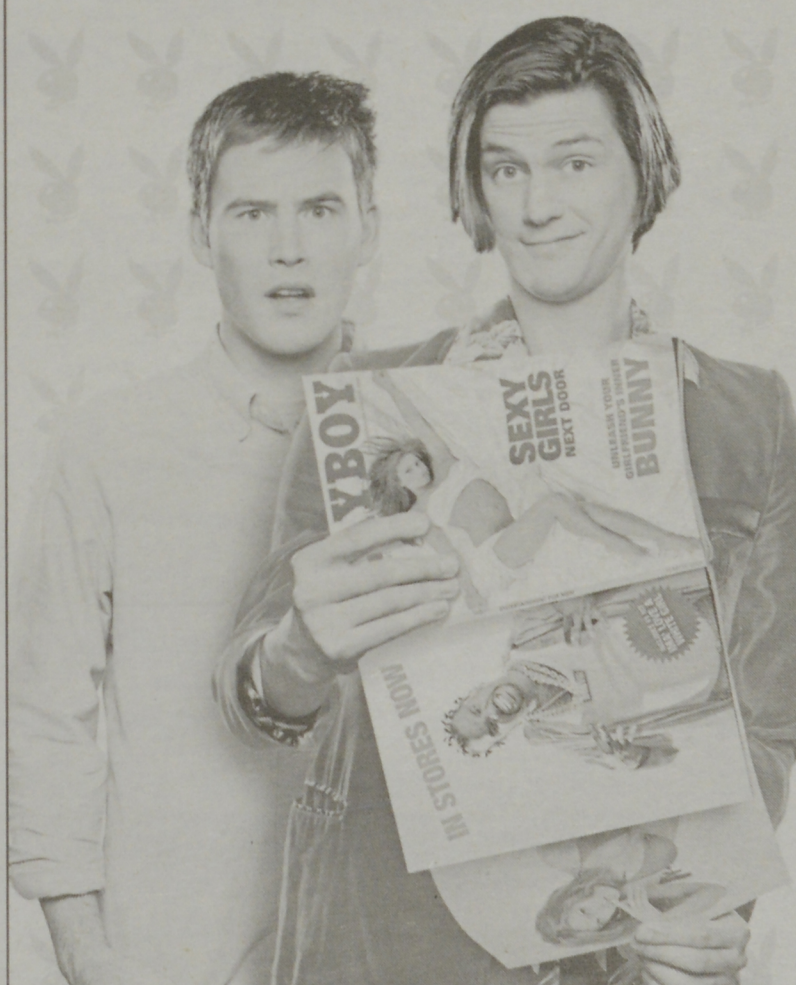


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