

Varsity Reds beat down *Bleues*, take gold



SHEAH GASTON, THE BRUNSWICKAN (CUP)

DON'T LOSE IT THIS TIME Nick Marach of UNB hoists the University Cup above his head. UNB defeated Moncton 3-2 Sunday to take the title.

New Brunswick takes its first men's hockey Championship since 1999 with a thrilling 3-2 overtime victory over the hometown Moncton *Aigles Bleues*

SHEAH GASTON
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Sports Writers

MONCTON, NB (CUP)—In front of 6023 fans, the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds played a *déjà vu* match against the *Université de Moncton Aigles Bleues* and hoisted the CIS University Cup for the first time since the 1999 tournament. The match was a long-awaited chance at revenge for the Reds, who suffered five regular season defeats and a brutal double overtime loss to the Aigles in the final game of this year's AUS Championships.

In the final, Moncton and UNB's familiarity showed, as they played a back-and-forth contest. As they had in previous matches, U de M took the first goal at just under three minutes, in a low shot from forward Remi Doucet that popped behind freshman goalie Mike Ouzas without question, and sent the hometown fans into a frenzy of flag waving.

Then in the second, UNB forward Nathan O'Nabigon proved his mettle with an emotional tying goal off a pass from Boyce. Despite tying the game, UNB was plagued by a series of mistakes that eventually led to a goal for the Aigles at 10:32. Moncton's Karl Fournier picked up Reds defenceman Dustin Friesen's dropped puck, and Pierre-Luc LaPrise took it to the net for

a 2-1 lead. It would remain that way until 10:27 in the third, when John Scott Dickson reopened it with a hot-potato puck on the net.

The Aigles and Reds needed overtime to settle things once again, and it was Robert Pearce finishing it for the Reds. Nick Marach sprung Pearce with a breakout pass and the forward made no mistake, putting the game-winner past Moncton goalie Éric Lafrance.

"I went in on a breakaway and just got the goalie moving a little bit and threw it between his legs and it went in."

**ROBERT PEARCE,
ON HIS TITLE-WINNING GOAL**

"[Marach] made an outstanding play on the boards, turned the puck over, picked up his head and saw me wide open," Pearce explained. "I went in on a breakaway and just got the goalie moving a little bit and threw it between his legs and it went in."

For the Reds, a two-week layoff provided them a chance to get ready for the final tournament, and the time paid off to give them their second CIS gold.

"It's all about preparation. We [were] just a little bit hungrier than the last time we played," UNB head coach Gardiner MacDougall said.

While Pearce was the hero in Sunday's 3-2 win in the title game, it was other Reds who provided the heroics in the opening games. Darryl Boyce scored the game-winner against the Saskatchewan Huskies to open the tournament, as he pushed a bouncing puck past Huskies goaltender Jeff Harvey with ten minutes left. The goal came with a man-advantage and proved UNB's power play potency.

"On the power play, I don't think there's any given set play that we have. We move around and we try to find whoever's open. [Josh Hepditch] got a stick on it and it just came rolling to me. I just one timed it and eventually it went in," Boyce said.

Saturday afternoon's second round-robin game saw Ouzas blank the *Université de Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes*, making 19 saves and sending the Reds to the final in the process. O'Nabigon added a break-through goal for the Varsity Reds.

"I had a rough year, but during the playoffs I started playing with Boyce and Dickson and since then we rolled into the playoffs pretty good. I'm just glad I could make good on a goal today. I took an extra second to let the goalie go down so I could go over him."

McAlpine overcomes Addison's to lead Pandas to National glory

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Sports Writer

When Lindsay McAlpine started her career at the University she thought she was going to be playing a little puck. What she got was a steady dose of curveballs instead. But after battling through a life-threatening illness, McAlpine turned her career into a home run, leading the Pandas to CIS gold this season and picking up the Broderick trophy as CIS Player of the Year.

"I was never really a standout player my first couple of years, so it's taken my whole career to get to this point," McAlpine notes. "I guess this is the top of the peak and a good high to finish on."

When McAlpine was red-shirting with the Pandas in 2001, the team was at the beginning of a 122-game undefeated streak. While Alberta was easily the most talented team in the country, stepping onto a squad with that much talent never intimidated McAlpine. However, before she could even put on a jersey and step on the ice, her health had begun to deteriorate.

"I was dead tired all the time; I was getting muscle spasms in my legs; I was tested for everything under the sun," she recalls. "I ended up losing 30 pounds and was hospitalized."

Eventually it was discovered that McAlpine was afflicted with a rare hormonal defect known as Addison's Disease—a disorder that results from producing insufficient amounts of certain hormones from your adrenal glands. The disease can be life-threatening if not diagnosed properly. Once the doctors found out what was wrong with the talented centre, she was forced to take hormonal replacement medication—in other words, steroids. In order to play legally, McAlpine has to clear her medication with CIS officials and is closely monitored.

"I live on steroids now, and every year I have to fill out the sheet with CIS and re-file with the league so they know that I'm on steroids if I get tested throughout the season," McAlpine explains. "It's kind of a self-regulating system: I just take the steroids whenever I'm feeling tired ... almost like diabetes."

However, McAlpine managed to bounce back and settle in as a rookie; she didn't miss a game in 2002/03—her first campaign—while notching 15 points and had back-to-back 20-plus point seasons the following two years. She hit another snag when the medication she takes decreased her bone density leading to a stress factor that eliminated most of the 2005/06 season.

"After that injury, I was really starting to think about packing it in," McAlpine admits. "But once I got healthy and training again, I was able to come back and play."

After clearing up her health problems and resuming her training schedule, McAlpine had her sights on becoming a dominating force in Canada West. In her first game back, she scored a pair of goals to help the Pandas take the Canada West title in a 5-4 overtime victory over Manitoba in the conference final.

McAlpine tallied a CIS leading 57 points in 2006/07—her fifth and final season—while becoming the second Panda in three years to earn CIS Player of the Year. She also led the Pandas to their sixth National Championship—the fourth of her career.

With her CIS career finished, McAlpine plans on playing for the Edmonton Cheemos next season while finishing her masters in Sports Sociology at the University and promises to keep close ties with the hockey program whose current identity she helped mould.

"I'm on campus, [so] I'll jump on the ice with them every once and a while for sure, but finishing school is number one, and maybe later I'll think about taking on a bit of a coaching role," McAlpine adds.



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

BLING BLANG You can't tell because it's in black and white, but that medal is gold, and Lindsay McAlpine went through a lot of injuries to get it.