

Red Devils win international tournament

Defeat Soviets 4-2 to take gold

by Frank Denis

Camrose, Alta. The UNB Red Devils captured the prestigious Viking Cup in Camrose, Alberta last Saturday with a 4-2 win over the Commonwealth of Independent States, formerly the Soviet Union. The game was played before a sell out crowd of 2500 at the Camrose Rec Center.

The Viking Cup held every two years, attracts some of Europe's top junior select teams as well as university and college teams from across Canada.

In the preliminary round UNB defeated Camrose College 10-2 and Czechoslovakia Selects 4-2. In their semi-final game they won a hard fought decision over Northern Alberta Institute of Technology 5-4 in overtime.

Tournament all-star Trevor Boland had two goals in the final game to finish the tournament with 7 goals in four games. Also scoring for UNB in the final were Jamie Colvin and Mike Cavanagh.

Cavanagh, who had the game winner and was also named to the all star team said it took his team awhile to get going against the Soviets. "We came out slow in the first period, but we kept a positive attitude. Coach Mike Johnston had us adapt to the Soviets style and we got better as the game went along."

After the Soviets had taken a 2-1 lead in the first period, the Red Devils shut them down completely. The Soviets were unable to get back on the scoreboard thanks to some persistent forechecking and solid goal-tending by Chris Somers.

Centre Jim Landino agrees that the tournament will help prepare the Red Devils for the upcoming second half of the AUSA season.

"All of the teams in this tournament were as good or better than those in our league. Winning this tournament will give us some good confidence heading into the second half and we'll be looking to win the AUSA championship."

Johnston says that the quality of teams that

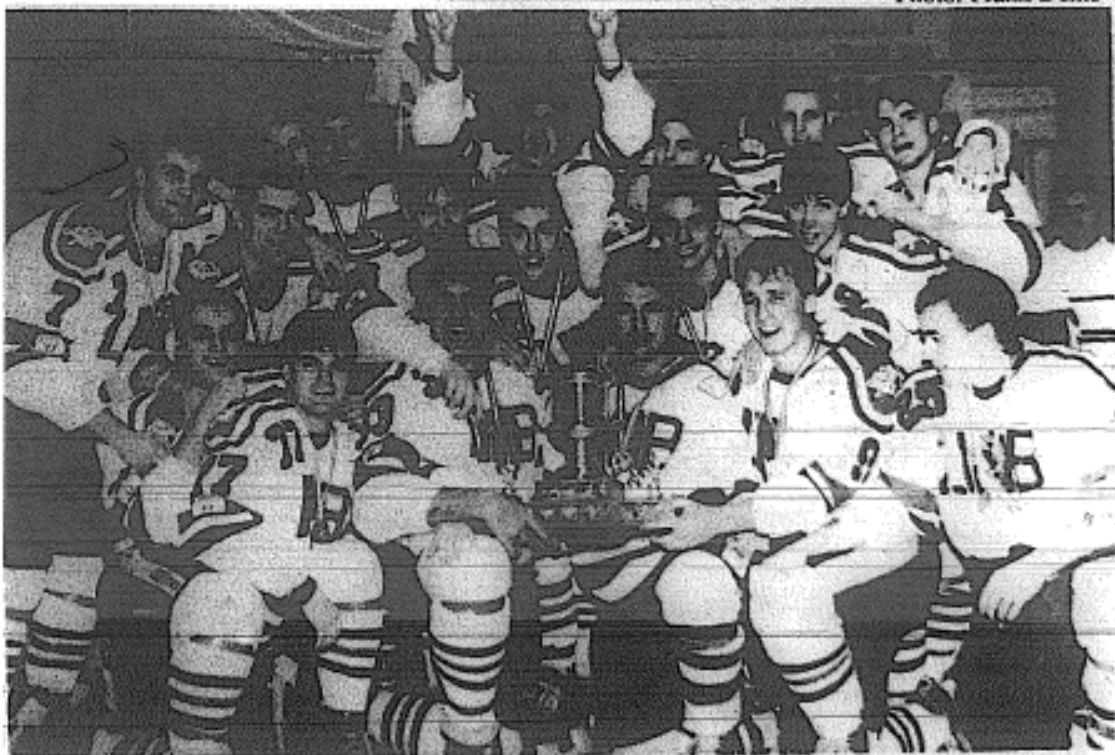


Photo: Frank Denis

Red Devils celebrate their Viking Cup win in Camrose, Alberta last Saturday

competed was outstanding. "This was a tough tournament to win. Several of the Czech and Soviet players will be playing in the World Junior Championships next year. We knew it would be tough.

"When our players got here they saw the quality of teams and were a little bit nervous because they knew that to win the tournament they would have to play very well and they couldn't have handled the

challenge any better.

"This tournament win is great for our program and hopefully it will get us into some other big time tournaments in the future."

18 The Daily Gleaner, Saturday, January 4, 1992

Devils To Viking Cup Final

University of New Brunswick Red Devils advanced to the final of the Viking Cup hockey tournament in Camrose, Alta. with a stunning 5-4 overtime victory over Northern Alberta Institute of Technology of Edmonton in semifinal play at the international tournament yesterday.

Trevor Boland fired a hat trick to spark the Devils, who had posted victories over host Camrose Lutheran and then the Czechoslovakia Junior Selects to reach the semis. Dominic Niro and Jamie Colvin had the other goals for the Devils while Chris Somers warded off 32 of the 36 shots NAIT directed his way.

Devils are to meet the winner of the other semifinal between the Czech Junior Selects and the entry from the Community of Independent States — you knew them better as the Soviet Union — in the final today.

10 The Daily Gleaner, Monday, January 6, 1992

UNB Wins Camrose Hockey Tournament Triumphant Return For Johnson

Mike Johnson showed the natives a thing or two in his return to his coaching roots.

Johnson, who got his coaching start in Camrose, Alta. took his University of New Brunswick Red Devils back there for the Viking Cup international tournament and promptly won the tournament, capping it off with a 4-2 victory over the Community of Independent States Selects in the final of the six-team tournament.

Tournament all-star Trevor Boland had a pair of goals to lead the way, along with defenceman Mike Cavanagh — also a tourney all-star — and Jamie Colvin. Goaltender Chris Somers, the third Devil selected to the tournament team, helped make it stand up.

Devils went unbeaten through the tournament with a perfect 4-0 record, including victories over the host team by a 10-2 count in the opener, a 4-2 victory over the Czechoslovakian Selects, a 5-4 overtime win over NAIT of Edmonton in the semifinal and then the championship victory. Devils return to regularly scheduled AUSA action this weekend with games in Halifax against the Dalhousie Tigers and in Wolfville against the Acadia Axemen.



Chris Somers

Notes from Viking Cup '92

by Frank Denis

After arriving at 3:30 pm Edmonton time on December 28th, the Red Devils made the one hour trip to Camrose on a chartered bus. They held their first practice that same night at 9 pm local time (midnight in Fredericton) for those who left Fredericton at 8:30 am it made for a very long day.

The Red Devils were joined in Toronto airport by the Boston Bruins who were on their way to Winnipeg following an 8-1 loss to the Sabres in Buffalo the night before.

You've all heard that a hockey card is worth more if it is personally autographed; while the same is true for Viking Cup posters. For an unsigned poster advertising the tournament it cost a dollar. For the same poster signed by all the Red Devils the cost was 10 dollars.

Several players who have played in the Viking Cup have gone on to play in the NHL. Most notable are James Patrick (Rangers), Dave Tippett (Hartford), Petr Klima (Edmonton), Greg Paslawski (Sabres) and Bobby Holik (Hartford). Says Klima "The 1982 Viking Cup is the best tournament I've ever played in."

Duane Sutter who played several years in the NHL scouted the tournament for the Chicago Blackhawks. The Blackhawks have two players on their roster who participated in the Viking Cup. They include goaltender Dominic Hasek and defenceman Frantisek Kucera.

Not making the trip out west for UNB were forward Jason Lessif and defenceman Rob Boldon. Lessif reportedly injured his knee over the holidays and Boldon was still suffering from mono which has kept him out of the lineup since early December. To replace Boldon, the Red Devils had Jason Butler who plays for the Fredericton entry of the junior league made the trip.

Captain Murray Nystrom was deemed ineligible to play in the tournament because of the 24-year-old age limit imposed at the tournament. Nystrom practiced with the team and served in a coaching capacity during the games.

All of the players competing were billeted by families in the Camrose area.

All of the tournament games were broadcast on a local cable television station. Previewing the upcoming UNB-Camrose game, the announcer said "Camrose will have a tough time against UNB. The Red Devils play in the tough Eastern division of the CIAU against teams like McGill." He was right when he said Camrose would have a tough time because UNB whipped them 10-2 but wrong on the latter point.

Strange but true: In their final two games of the tournament, the Red Devils had only one power play opportunity. That power play ironically occurred in overtime in the semi final victory over NAIT.

Viking Cup tournament all-stars: Forwards: Trevor Boland (UNB), Alexi Lozhkin (USSR), Greg Geldart (NAIT). Defence: Mike Cavanagh (UNB), Libor Prochazka (CRSR). Goalie: Chris Somers (UNB). Tournament MVP honors went to Sergey Brylin of the USSR.

On Sunday morning the team travelled for a little "rest" and relaxation to Banff. They spent Monday skiing at Sunshine Village. Conditions were ideal. Seven inches of fresh powder, -8 degree temperature and no lift lines made for a great day. Shortly after skiing, the bus went to Calgary for the all night flight home.

The wipeout of the ski day award goes to Derek Scanlan who fell and then slid back first into a tree. Scanlan came away from it with a torn jacket and a nasty looking scar on his lower back.

Red Devil forward Scott Winchester had to be helped from the ice in the early going of Saturday's final against the Soviets. He suffered a serious leg injury as the result of turning his leg in a rut while checking a Soviet. The injury might require surgery. Up until then Winchester was having a good tournament by notching two assists.

Game by game of Viking Cup

by Frank Denis

UNB 10 Augustana 2

Camrose Albt. — U-N-B opened the Viking Cup Tournament on New Year's Eve by scoring a decisive 10-2 victory over the host Augustana University College Vikings from Camrose.

Forbe MacPherson led the Red Devils with 2 goals and 2 assists to capture the player of the game award for UNB.

UNB led 4-0 after the first period on goals by Joey MacTamney, Jamie Colvin and MacPherson with a pair. The four goals came on the Red Devils first four shots of the game.

Ed Borque brought the Vikings as close as they would come with his goal early in the second period.

The Red Devils got second period goals by Trevor Boland with a pair and singles by Ken Murchison, Gord Christian, Derek Scanlan to lead 9-1 after 40 minutes.

Christian scored his second midway through the third to close out the scoring for UNB. Andre Legace beat UNB goaltender Greg Reid from close in with only 4 seconds remaining to make the final 10-2.

For goaltender Reid, it was his first start of the season in the UNB net. Red Devil coach Mike Johnston, who has played Chris Somers all season long explained his decision to use Reid following the game. "Reid has to get into some games so we know what he can do and he gains confidence. I had it in mind to start him on a few occasions last term but I just switched for one reason or another."

UNB 4 Czech 2

Camrose Albt. The Red Devils ended the round robin portion of their division by defeating the Czechoslovakia Junior Selects on New Year's Day 4-2.

The win left UNB with a perfect 2-0 record ahead of the 1-1 Czechs and the 0-2 Augustana Vikings.

For all of the Red Devils it was their first game against international competition and coach Mike Johnston was satisfied with how his team played. "We had to adapt because the guys weren't used to playing that style of hockey."

That style of hockey includes lots of stick work and skaters with agility and speed. While UNB was physically stronger they had to concentrate on the Czech's free wheeling style.

Trailing 2-0 early in the second period, the Red Devils started their comeback on a shorthanded goal by Ken Murchison. They tied the game on eventual player of the game Joey Mac Tamney's goal. Brian Wilson fired a shot past Czech goaltender Robert Slavik before the second period had ended to give UNB a 3-2 lead.

Clyde Simmons used his speed to score UNB's fourth goal at the 12:27 mark of the third period. Simmons broke in on the Czech goal but was stopped by Slavik on his initial shot. Simmons managed to bang home his own rebound.

Chris Somers made several big stops in goal for UNB to keep his team in the game. Somers faced 37 shots from the Czech Selects.

UNB 5 NAIT 3

Camrose Albt. In what has to be considered one of the most exciting Red Devil games in recent memory, UNB edged out the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) 5-4 in overtime of the semifinal game.

With 7 seconds remaining in the first overtime period Red Devil forward Trevor Boland capitalized on a NAIT mistake deep in the UNB zone and rushed the length of the ice. Boland fired a shot high over the shoulder of Don Davidge in the NAIT goal.

Boland, who scored three times in the game, credited NAIT for having played a strong game. "NAIT played a really good game. They're a lot better than the teams we play in the AUAA," said Boland. "It was one of their few mistakes in the game that allowed us to win it."

Twice in the game UNB had to comeback from a two goal deficit.

Goals by Boland and Dominic Niro tied the game at 2 early in the third period after Kevin Lavig and Greg Geldart had given NAIT a 2-0 lead.

NAIT scored two more goals only twenty one seconds apart in the third. Geldart and Brad Falles accounted for NAIT's third and fourth goals.

The Red Devils who are making a successful habit of playing comeback hockey evened the score after Jamie Colvin and Boland scored for UNB.

That sent the game into overtime and set the stage for Boland's heroics.