

“Red Bob” 2011 Basketball Tournament

by Sam Morrison

The 2011 edition of the Baddeck Academy Memorial Basketball Tourney “The Red Bob” was contested on Friday and Saturday, February 4th and 5th and what a memorable Tourney it was.

As is usual for this event, the Baddeck Academy gym was packed with boisterous fans for all of the games with the on-court action played at a fever pitch.

Adding to the excitement this year was the fine play of the two local squads with both the boys and girls teams from Baddeck Academy making their way to their respective Championship Tilts. In continuing their tourney-long fine play, the Academy girls came up with a dominating performance capturing the Girls Division with a 53-36 thumping of Glace Bay High while the

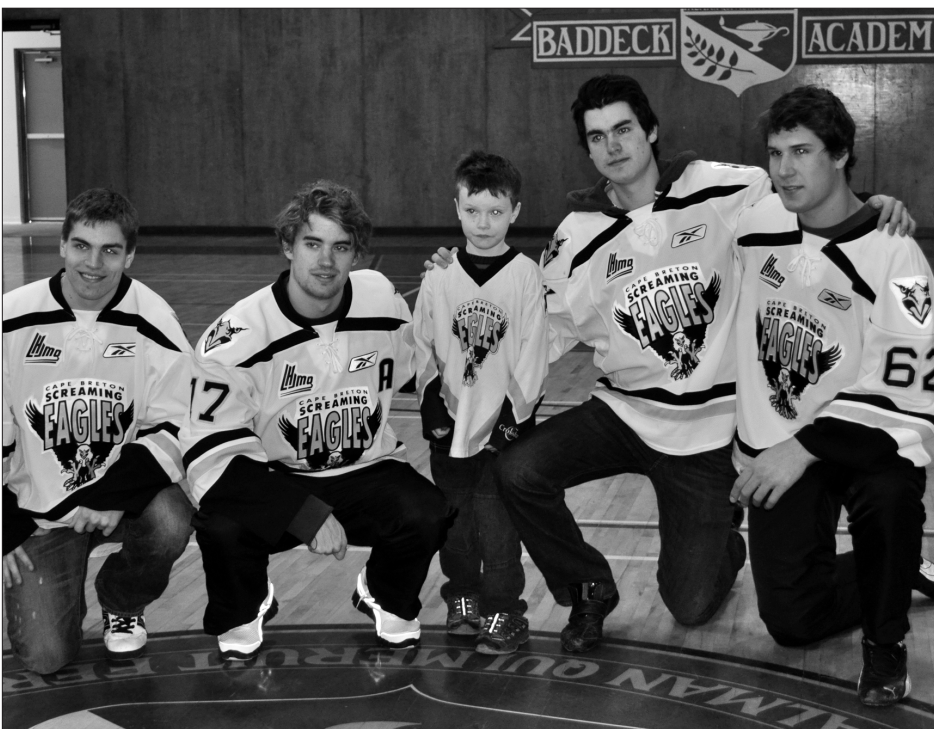
Academy Boys also made it to the Title Match where they came up with a game effort before dropping a 72-66 decision to the hoopsters from Guysborough Academy.

Team work was the name of the game for the Broncos in the Girl’s Title Game as their top scorer was Cecilia Williamson with 10 points while six other players added 4 points or more to the Broncos cause. Michelle Towle came through with an 8 point effort while Taylor Pierrard and Sarah MacKay swished in 7 points apiece. As to the key to his charges success, Head Coach Phillip MacCormick stated, “the girls really played together as a team. They each had a role to play and they did a great job, leading to their win.” As to the greatest area of improvement in his squad from early season play Coach MacCormack felt that, “The girls



The winner of the Girls Division at the Red Bob Tournament was the Baddeck Broncos, made up of: back row (l-r) Karina Kuchta, Cecilia Williamson, Michaela Roberts, Sarah MacKay, Richelle Maloney, Laken Cameron and Kristen Shaw. In front are: (l-r) Raelene Timmons, Taylor Pierrard, Kendra MacCuspic, Natasha Cameron, Jamee Garland and Michelle Towle. At right is the team coach, Phillip MacCormick.

Eagles land in County



The elementary students at Baddeck Academy recently enjoyed a visit from several Cape Breton Screaming Eagles players. Education Coordinator for the Eagles, Gary MacLean, facilitated a presentation about the importance of healthy eating, fitness and proper sleep habits. MacLean was extremely impressed by the respect shown by the P-6 students. Following the presentation, the Screaming Eagles played floor hockey against the students. Again, MacLean amused the students with interruptions for penalties and trades! Both staff and students were very grateful to have had the opportunity to enjoy this experience. Isaac MacNeil (at centre above), who’s birthday happened to be that day, was lucky enough to get his picture taken with the players.

have just gotten more confident as the year went on. They were quite tentative at first but a few wins along the way got their confidence up.”

In Championship action on the Boys side of the slate the Broncos came up with a solid effort but could not contain the sharp shooting Mainland squad from Guysborough falling by a close 72-66 margin. Grade 12 player Leith McFadgen came up with the “Game of a Lifetime” as he poured in 45 points in a losing cause. After warming up with a solid 16 point effort in the first half, Leith proceeded to light up the Guysborough hoopsters for 29 points in 2nd half play. Both Crowdus Roberts and AJ Bradley added 6 points in what was a most entertaining Title Match. In a post Tourney interview Bronco Coach Jason Smith said, “Bruce and I have coached the Broncos for 15 years and Leith’s 45 point effort was the best performance we can remember by a Bronco player in the “Red Bob” at least for the years we were coaching.” As to the key to his squad’s success at this year’s Tourney Jason said, “We really concentrated on the defensive press and the fast break on offence, two areas of play the boys really excelled at.”

In opening day play the Bronco boys got the “Red Bob” off to a flying start with a nail biting 34-33 victory over their longtime rivals the Cape Breton Highland Academy Huskies. In a sign of things to come Leith McFadgen led the Broncos with an 11 point effort while Fraser MacIver added 7 points and Shayne Harvie 6. The Broncos had an easier time in their 2nd match-up as they dominated the J.H. Gillis Royals of Antigonish to the tune of 46-17 with Crowdus Roberts pouring in 11 points for the home squad while Leith McFadgen continued his fine play with 10 points and Fraser MacIver came up with 8 points in the winning effort.

Saturday morning saw the Broncos cross swords with the Guysborough team for the first time and here too the “Mainlanders” proved to be a stern test as they dumped the Broncos 44-34. Fraser MacIver and AJ Bradley led the way for the Academy in this match as they both scored 7 points while Shayne Harvie added 6.

Opening action in Round Robin play in the Girl’s Division saw the Broncos match up with eventual Championship opponents, Glace Bay High and these evenly matched squads treated the “Red Bob” fans to a fine display of basketball as Baddeck came out on the right side of a 42-38 score. Point guard Karina Kuchta, along with running the Bronco offence found time to drop in 9 points versus the “Bay Girls” while Cecilia Williamson contributed 8 and Kendra MacCuspic 6. Sydney Academy were the second team from CBRM to make their way to Baddeck for the Tourney and in facing the Broncos the Wildcats were able to keep things close before the Broncos pulled away for a 45-39 triumph. Karina Kuchta matched her opening game effort with another 9 points, a feat matched by senior player Michelle Towle while Kendra MacCuspic came through with 8 points in the Bronco victory. Early Saturday play saw Karina Kuchta continue her assault on the opponent basket as her 13 points led the Broncos to a 33-27 win over the crew from Guysborough Academy. Cecilia Williamson also had another strong game as her hard work netted her a 9 point effort versus the Mainland squad.

Congratulations are extended to all players, coaches, school administrators, volunteers and fans who once again this year made the Baddeck Academy Memorial Basketball Tourney one of the premier Basketball Tournaments in all of Nova Scotia.

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