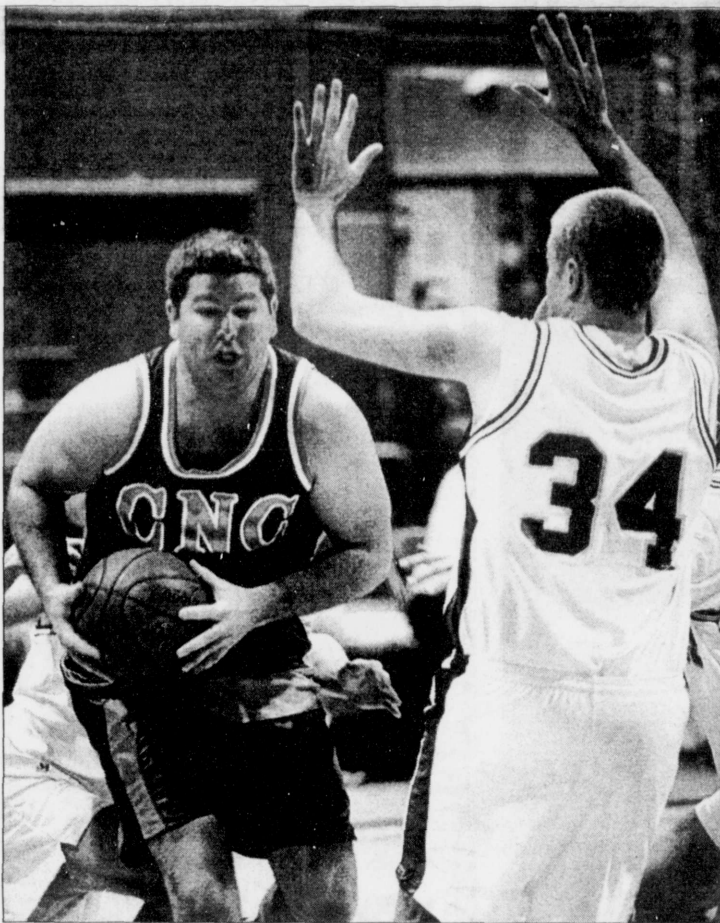




The uniforms will be hung up next year as the College of New Caledonia decides what to do with its men's and women's basketball programs. FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

CNC benches b-ball programs for a year

By **MARK ALLAN**

For The Free Press

Just as the University of Northern B.C. enters the B.C. Colleges Athletics Association, the College of New Caledonia is withdrawing its basketball teams.

CNC will not have men's or women's basketball teams in the BCCAA next season, confirms Catherine Giles, dean of arts and social services. President Terry Weninger made the call based on a report prepared by athletic director Tina McComb-Tardif and Giles.

The college now has only until October 15 to inform the BCCAA whether it will enter teams for the 2000-2001 season.

Giles indicates CNC wants to form a community advisory committee to add outside input to help determine the best way to proceed. "Part of having a good program will be having good relations with the community.



Dwayne Washington

"We need to do some really intense work" during the summer, she agrees.

UNBC announced earlier this week that the BCCAA unanimously admitted it for next season. UNBC plans to enter men's and women's Timberwolves basketball teams next season.

"This provides a great opportunity for northern athletes to compete at a provincial level while pursuing a university education," says Jim O'Meara, athletics and recreation coordinator. UNBC hopes to expand the program to include other sports, he adds.

Giles concedes that students interested in playing

basketball will lean toward UNBC now.

"We'd like all the students to come to CNC, but students have to weigh all options."

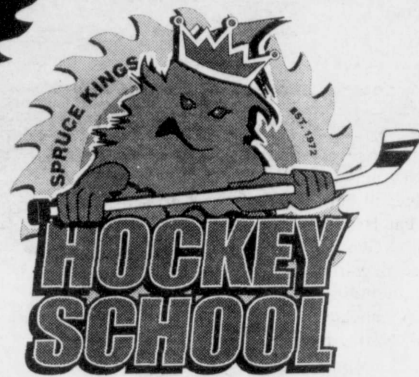
CNC didn't have a women's basketball team last season due to a lack of players. Men's coach Dwayne Washington quit near the end of a season in which the team had far more losses than wins.

"If we're going to run basketball teams, we want them to be good teams," Giles states, adding that CNC would like to offer athletic scholarships and "a decent honorarium" for coaches. "With the college's fiscal situation, everything's under the microscope, not just athletics."

CNC will still have BCCAA volleyball teams, although coach Cam Young has left the women's team. Brian Bird remains as men's coach. The volleyball program is operating smoothly, Giles says.

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