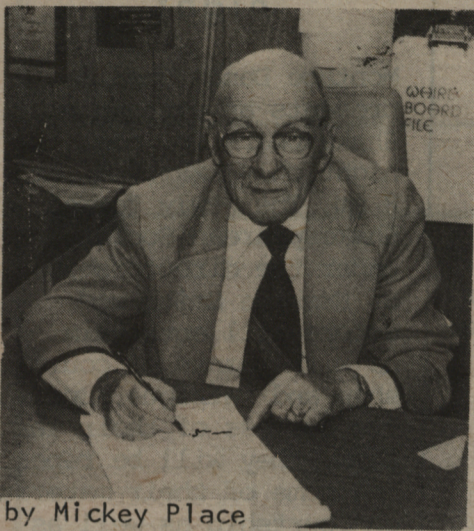


Getting Better All The Time



by Mickey Place

Well we think all Panther fans should be very happy over the performances of our teams since our last issue. The Hockey Panthers gained a most important tie that was better than most wins. The Basketball Panthers played extremely well in splitting two and our Pantherettes lost one to 4th ranked Dalhousie, but swamped the U. de M. to nail down their divisional title.

In hockey, our boys really needed a point, as they faced nationally ranked Mount Allison, to gain 3rd place and the last playoff spot. Down 6-3 well into the third period after goals by Norman Beck, Gary Trainor & Brian O'Stroski their cause seemed quite hopeless to all but the players themselves. Then Thane Campbell, playing his best hockey of the season, made it seem a bit more interesting as he flipped in a Mike Ready pass and the suddenly hopeful UPEI fans came to life when Gary Trainor scored the prettiest goal of the night to bring it to 6-5. Pandemonium broke loose when Thane Campbell evened it up at 12.30. Although most of the remaining play of the period remained in our opponent's territory there was no more scoring in regulation time. Shortly into overtime Terry McKenna, who usually scores on booming blasts from the blue line, changed roles and dipsey-doodled around the net to jam in the leading marker past the surprised goalkeeper. Mount A. managed to make it 7-7, but our boys were well satisfied with the tie and the opportunity for this week's trip to Halifax to meet Dal in a sudden death game in

the first round of the playoffs.

In this season's only previous meeting between these two teams, we trailed by 2-1 going into the third period, but as many of our players played a spectator role from the penalty box, we suffered a bad third and bowed out 6-1.

There being a limit on our superlatives, we can't begin to give this team's players all the credit they deserve. With defections and injuries throughout the season they have never given up and really kept plugging away. No matter what happens (and we really expect them to win in Halifax) they have brought great credit to themselves and UPEI may well be proud of them.

In Panther Basketball, our boys showed real class in upending the Dalhousie Tigers 83-68. We led 40-30 at the half and, early in the final session, Dal moved closer, but a sudden spurt by the Panthers (in which we outscored the opposition 16-2) put the game out of Dal reach and Coach Dave Nutbrown made use of the opportunity to end the game using his bench players. Billy Redmond was high with 28. On Sunday, the Panthers really made it close as they dropped one to highly rated Saint Mary's 92-84. To our admittedly inexperienced eye Saint Mary's seems to have the best individual players in the league, but we thought there were always 5 players on the court, not a team which played like the Panthers. SMU took an early lead and appeared to be on their way to a big win, but the Panthers kept plugging away and actually caught up to lead 40-39 near the half which, however, ended 49-42. The "Bad Guys" again took the lead in the second half, but close to the end, we rallied and lost by a respectable 92-84 score. Billy Redmond again led our scorers with 36. Gary Heald, SMU Mentor, said after the game "We know Redmond is going to score a lot

every game we play--what we do is try to keep others from scoring!" This ends the season for this team with a record of 7-9. With seven of our boys playing their first year of inter-collegiate play, two their second and Bruce Campbell their "Old Man" with three, we can say with confidence that Dave Nutbrown deserves great credit for the way he has brought his team along. We all know how good he is! Everybody in the hall can hear him in action!

This is really a happy column to be writing for we can also report that the Pantheress Basketball team also did well. On our way to their game with the Dalhousie women, Canada's #4 team, we were a bit delayed and did not arrive until the 5 minute mark and we were amazed and delighted to see our women enjoyed a 12-2 lead. It may be that we brought bad luck however for their lead soon melted away, mostly due to fouls, and the half ended 51-33 for the visitors. We played quite evenly with them to begin the second half, but they gradually drew away to win 83-56. In the game we played against them last year we lost by 58...wait till next year!! High for us was Sue Betts with 18. We might add that, high for the Dalhousie women was Anna Prendergast with 30. We grumbled to her beautiful cousin Rita.. "What is a nice girl from Kensington with a PEI name and a PEI face doing wearing a yellow and black uniform?" Our women salted away their divisional

title on Saturday afternoon as they easily outplayed the U. de M. women by an 82-65 margin. Sharon Douglas and Sue Betts leading the way with 18 & 20. Our women travel to Halifax where they play U.N.B. on Friday night in the first game of the playoffs in the Women's section of the A.U.A.A. Game time is 6.15 and the final (pray we make it) will be at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday. Wonder if it is possible to see both the women play basketball and the men play hockey. For the Human Rights Commission we might point out that we referred to the "Pantheress" team and that our dictionary tells us that this is the proper term for a female Panther. We also called the players "Women". We think it sounds repetitive and terrible, so in future, to Hell with it!!!!

We had a sad thought on Sunday as we watched what has become a very familiar figure waddle across the gym floor and we realized that this was the last time we would see the Rabbi in action. Over the past four years he has been on hand to take care of all types of sports players and he certainly has earned the respect and thanks of all of them. We think one of the oddest spectacles we have ever witnessed was this approximately 5 foot expert gazing earnestly up into seven foot Denis High's face in an effort to give comfort. We will miss you Rabbi....we wish you every success and thanks for taking care of our boys.. if anyone deserves an athletic award it is the little chap from Putland.



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9 P.M. - 1 A.M.

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