

HOPE SPRINGS IN PANTHERS

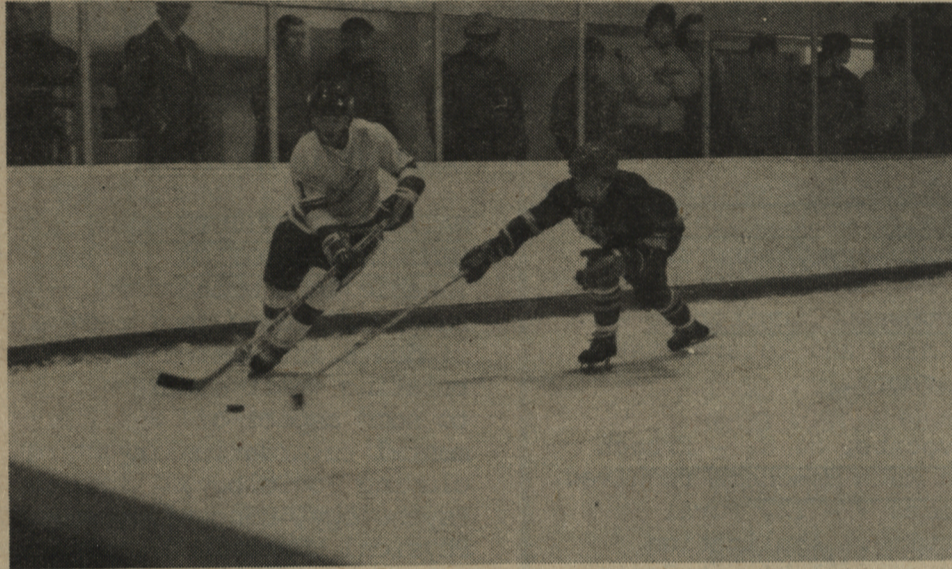


Squarebriggs. We must counsel Wayne that, in future, when engaging in fisticuffs he should exercise discretion when picking opponents and select ones smaller and with less pugilistic talent than his latest opponent. Wayne made the Mount A. slugger look like Mohammed Ali at his peak.

indefinite period. The injury was sustained when he was checked in a U.N.B. game by one of the smallest players in the league! We asked Ralph for comment on this and he said, "When you're on your knees, any player looks BIG!" Ralph joins Terry Devine, out with a broken wrist, as a spectator beside the

Acadia from then on as they went on to an 83-68 win. Our high scorers were Dave Arsenault who had 24, while Vince Murray, who replaced Dennis High for this one, had 22.

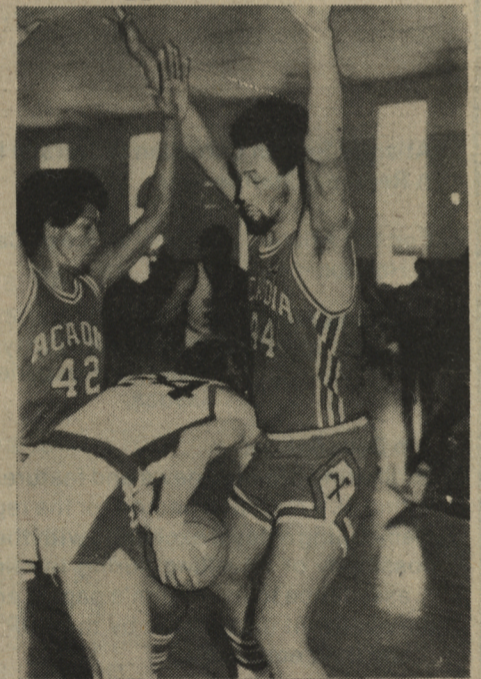
As we go to press we hear the good news that we beat U.N.B. in Fredericton last night 84-65 with Vince Murray's 18 leading our hoopsters. This gives us a full game advantage over Dalhousie who will be here Friday night and Saturday afternoon for a pair of games that are "Musts" for both teams. It might also be of interest to local hoop fans to know that CBC-T.V. will be showing the Acadia-Saint Mary's game at 3:00. The team had a hard time returning from Fredericton as the roads were bad, driving conditions were poor and the Strait was full of ice, so that it was 2:30 before they arrived back home. We saw Colin MacAdam this morning who was bemoaning the fact that he had had to write a math exam while exhausted and sleepy.



These recent games put us back into contention for a playoff spot...with second place and the consequent best-of-three home game series not at all out of reach. Conceding a first place finish to Saint Mary's, the other teams in contention for the second, third and fourth spots, their records and games ahead are: St. F.X. 8-4-3 for 19 points has but 5 to play; only Acadia at home and away Dal for two, U.N.B. and Moncton. Moncton 9-5-0 for 18 points with six to play, U.P.E.I. and Mount A. away and U.P.E.I., Dal, St. F.X. and U.N.B. at home. Dalhousie, 7-4-2 for 16 points have seven to play. They'll be at home to Saint Mary's, Acadia and St. F.X. (twice) while they are on the road against U.N.B., Moncton and Acadia. Our record is 7-5-2 for 16, tied with Dal for 4th. This weekend we travel to Mount A. and Moncton for games (and what 4 points would do for us); then the following weekend the team visits Acadia and Saint Mary's and we close out the regular season on the 18th & 19th at the Forum against Mount Allison and Moncton. As can be seen, we have a chance for any position except the lead, but we cannot afford to drop any "Shooda won" games. We regret to report that husky Ralph Josey is out with a separated shoulder for an

bench or in the press box.

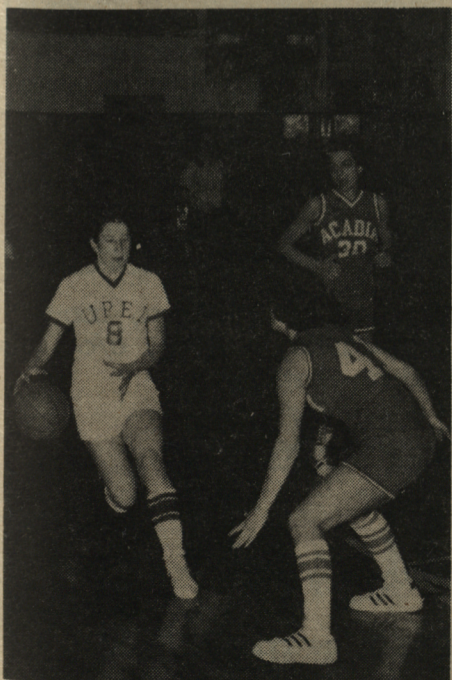
It is hard to look GOOD when losing but we thought the Basketball Panthers did just that on Friday and Saturday as they dropped a pair to league-leading and talent-laden Acadia (10-1), who are ranked #2 in Canada. George Birger's charges managed to keep close for most of both games but the Acadia bench strength became evident in the closing stages of each contest. In the first game, things looked bright in the opening minute as we quickly assumed a 4-0 lead but the optimism among the spectators who crowded the gym proved premature as the visitors quickly assumed command and enjoyed a 50-39 lead at the half. Playing with dogged persistence, we managed to close the gap to 68-64 with ten minutes to go but Acadia rallied and closed out the game with a 101-88 victory. Dennis High, back in a Panther uniform, played an outstanding game for us as he led our scorers with 25. In Saturday's game we again got off to a fast start and led for most of the first stanza, going off the floor on the short end of a close 37-36 score. In the second half we again started strong as Dave Arsenault's first shot gave us a lead which was only momentary and although we did succeed in keeping it close, it was all



The Pantherettes also voyaged to Fredericton and had the same rough trip and did not have the satisfaction of a win as the boys had as they lost by a lopsided score to the U.N.B. girls. We thought the girls had been playing much better recently and we wish them well as they take on Dalhousie at 6:00 on Friday. Perhaps a few fans to cheer them on would help a lot!

We'll close out the week with a new theme song which we dedicate to all interested fans: "When constabulatory duty's to be done, to be done, A policeman's lot is not a happy one!"

When the Bard wrote "Hope springs eternal in the human breast" we suspect that he may have had Panther hockey fans in mind. Two weeks ago, after we had lost a heart-breaking home game to Dalhousie and barely salvaged a tie against St. F.X. in the Forum, the future looked pretty drab. However, after two away games with U.N.B. and the consequent four points and our recent home win over Mount A. seem to have bolstered our flagging spirits and have resulted in our studying the schedule with renewed optimism. But first to the Mount A. game which was scheduled to be one of the high points of Winter Carnival and proved to be just what was needed to restore the spirit on campus. David Cameron and Louis Lortie gave a clear demonstration why they are one-two in the league scoring race, each garnering six points to run their totals to 38 & 36... an exceptional record for the 14 games in which they have participated. Louis had a hat trick with his three markers and was credited with three assists while David scored once and had five assists. Other scorers were Wilfred MacDonald with a pair, Val



Mitchell, Shane Turner and Danny Kinnear. We out-classed the Mounties, in this game, in every respect with the regrettable exception of Wayne