

"Give me a U..." Cheerleading at UPEI

by Aldera Chisholm

UPEI students are often accused of being apathetic and lacking school spirit. One student at UPEI is doing her part to change that attitude by forming a cheerleading team.

School spirit is most obviously reflected in our sports teams, and specifically student attendance at those games. Carla Francheville, a new student to the university, noticed that students at UPEI sports are "very serious at games, with not much spectator involvement." She is starting a cheerleading team because she believes having cheerleaders present at those games is necessary to help boost spirits. "Every team needs moral support, and every team can play better when they have their school backing them up" she noted. As well, Francheville believes that having a cheerleading team present will help stir up the crowd, and increase spectator involvement.

Francheville brings ten years of gymnastic training, and experience cheering for McGill to the UPEI squad. The McGill team cheered for home and away games, as well as participating in the opening of the French Juno Awards, and they were shown on TSN at Nationals in the Sky Dome and at the Vanier Cup. During McGill games, the cheerleaders did cheers on the sidelines, and well as stunts

and dances on the floor during timeouts and half-times.

The UPEI cheering team will be a "power" team consisting of both men and women. Power cheering is defined as having very strong, precise, and bold movements. As well, most of the cheerer's jobs are to stunt -- not to sing. Francheville stressed that cheering is a physically demanding sport that involves stunts such as midair flips and pyramids. A basic stunt group consists of four people: two bases, a top who is lifted and thrown by the bases, and a spotter to ensure the stunt goes well. The ideal team can have anywhere up to twenty members. To be a cheerleader, Francheville says that strength, agility, and dance, gymnastics or cheerleading experience is an asset. However, enthusiasm is a prerequisite.

The cheerleading team has the full cooperation of the athletic department. Barb Mullaly, director of Athletics, said that the department was "very pleased to help the team along." Mullaly did not feel that there would be any competition between this team and the Cage Crew. In fact, she saw a role for the two groups to work together in an attempt to help fans enjoy the game. The athletic department is also making moves to step up crowd attendance and enthusiasm by having contests and promotions for student groups

present at the games.

The team is piloting this year, they urge that students come out and help make its first year a success. Francheville emphasized

that the team does not require a large time commitment, with practices scheduled on mornings and weekends. "This isn't a closed team that has tryouts and

doesn't accept anybody else" she said; "the more the better!" Anyone interested should call Carla at 626-4518 or email cfranchevill@upei.ca.

AUAA STANDINGS

WOMEN'S SOCCER:

	W	L	T	STRK	HOME	ROAD	FOR	AGN	PTS
ACA	5	0	2	W2	1-0-2	4-0-0	17	0	19
DAL	3	1	4	T1	2-0-1	1-1-3	9	3	14
SFX	4	1	1	W4	3-1-1	1-0-0	13	4	13
UNB	3	0	3	W2	3-0-1	0-0-2	12	0	12
MUN	5	1	0	W2	4-0-0	1-1-0	17	3	12
SMU	3	2	1	L1	1-0-0	2-2-1	10	4	12
PEI	2	5	0	L1	1-2-0	1-3-0	3	16	6
MTA	1	4	1	T1	1-2-1	0-2-0	1	9	4
UCB	0	5	0	L5	0-4-0	0-1-0	1	20	0
UDM	0	7	0	L7	0-1-0	0-6-0	0	30	0

FIELD HOCKEY:

	W	L	T	HOME	ROAD	FOR	AGN	PTS
UNB	3	0	1	1-0-1	2-0-0	8	2	7
SMU	0	1	3	0-0-2	0-1-1	2	3	3
PEI	0	2	2	0-2-0	0-0-2	4	9	2

MEN'S SOCCER:

	W	L	T	STRK	HOME	ROAD	FOR	AGN	PTS
ACA	4	0	3	T1	1-0-2	3-0-1	11	1	17
DAL	5	1	2	W3	1-1-1	4-0-1	20	3	17
SMU	2	1	3	T1	0-0-1	2-1-2	6	5	11
SFX	3	2	1	T1	2-2-1	1-0-0	9	3	11
UDM	2	3	2	W1	0-0-1	2-3-1	8	15	9
UNB	2	2	2	W1	2-2-0	0-0-2	5	5	8
PEI	2	2	3	T1	0-2-1	2-0-2	6	7	8
MUN	1	3	2	L1	0-2-2	1-1-0	4	8	6
MTA	1	3	2	L2	1-2-1	0-1-1	4	9	5
UCB	0	5	0	L5	0-4-0	0-1-0	0	17	0