

The Gem

The Gem

The Gem

ARCHIVES
U.P.E.I.

Volume 7, Number 21

The Student Voice of University of Prince Edward Island

Thursday, February 15, 1999

UPEI Opens Fieldhouse in Style

by Matthew Beardsley

The UPEI Mens' and Ladies' Basketball Panthers opened the new Canada Games Fieldhouse with performances befitting the spectacular new facility in which they will now play.

The weekend was a total success, on all accounts except one. In the first game Saturday night the Dalhousie Tigers spoiled the party for the Lady Panthers with a late game rally to win 64-58. The game was everything anyone could hope for. The new fieldhouse which seats just slightly over 1400 was jammed full for the game. Minutes before tip-off, the bleachers were full and the track above the seating area which can accommodate 200 people Standing Room full with people lined up past the dividing curtain.

Lady Panther captain Susan Knickle was the first player to score in the new fieldhouse when she nailed two free-throws. Next trip down the court, Paula Edwards drained a three-pointer to give the Lady Panthers a 5-0 lead.

Dalhousie refused to fold under the impressive circumstances as they slowed down the pace and patiently ran out their offense. National team member Angie MacLeod was the big gun for Dal as she scored 27 points to pace the Tigers. MacLeod used her height advantage over the smaller Panther guards to drive and shoot over them. Not all of her points were easy as many were tough under pressure and from far out.

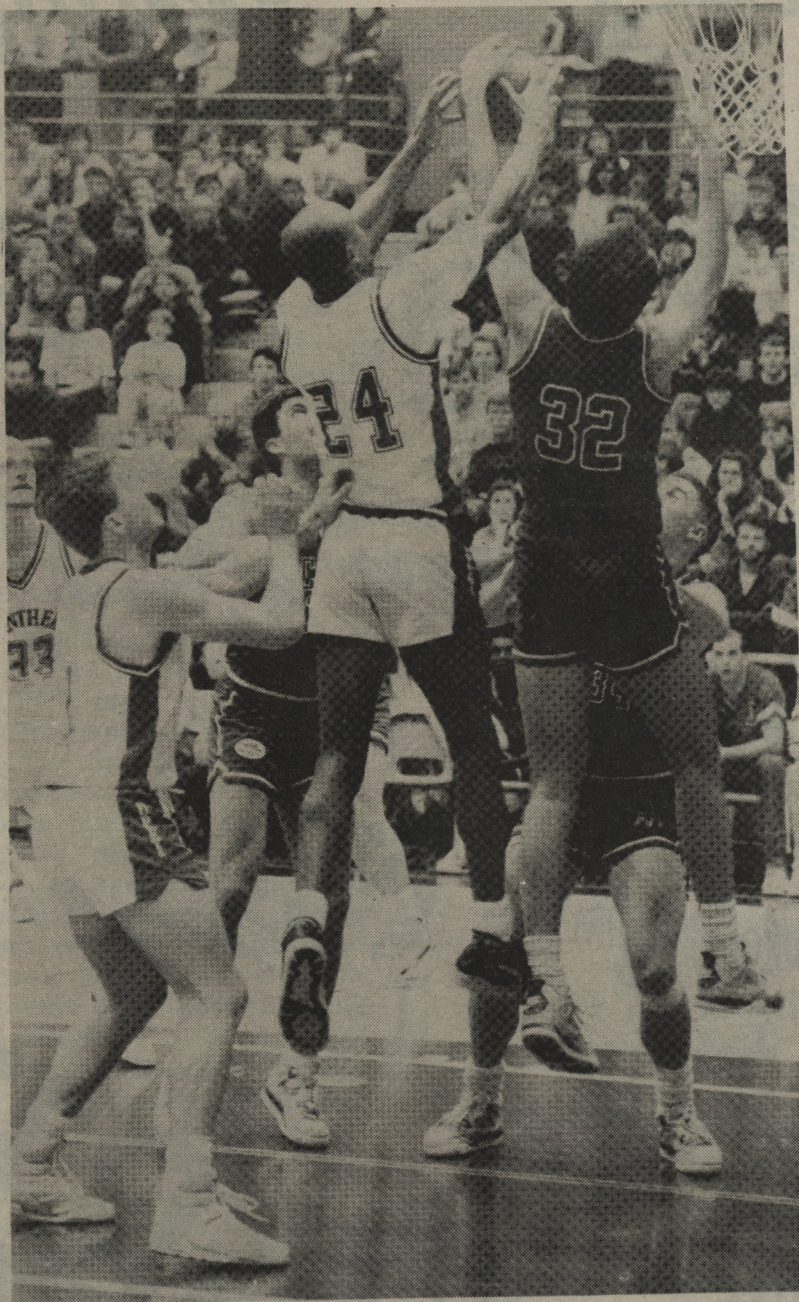
The Lady Panthers con-

tinued to have trouble running a set offense and their outside game has not yet come around. As was the case the last game between the two teams, the Lady Panthers shot a paltry 33% from the floor. Their offense in the first half consisted of Susan Knickle driving to the hoop and the tough inside work of Paula Edwards. Lori Knickle was forced to sit out most of the first half as she picked up some early fouls. Dalhousie led at the half 30-27.

In the early going of the second half, Dalhousie continued to press and threatened to open up the game. Then the 1700 plus in attendance began to make their presence known. Roaring, stomping, screaming defense, the fans tried to lift up the Lady Panthers. Susan Knickle then siezed matters into her own hands and began to bring the Lady Panthers back. Diving, slashing, she worked her way inside, scoring from seemingly impossible angles and positions.

Knickle gave UPEI its longest lead on a play that would prove to be the difference in the game a few minutes later. She drove the lane from the left, threw up a double pump layup, and was fouled in the process. The crowd roared to its feet and Knickle exchanged high fives with her teammates. She made the free-throw to give her team a 7-point lead and the game seemed to be well in control.

Then disaster struck. Knickle again drove the lane, only this time the Dal defender was a step ahead of Knickle. She held her ground and Susan plowed



UPEI's Trevor Wilock (24) skied to grab rebound over Acadia's Ted Byrne (32) looking on is Mark Cameron (11) left, Dave Dunn (33) far left and Kevin Venoit, obscured.

into her, the two players hitting the floor as the whistle sounded. Then as the players looked towards the referee, the obvious was called. The crowd groaned as Susan Knickle's fifth foul was signalled. A distraught mur-

mur went through the crowd as the Lady Panthers would be without their leader for the four final minutes of the game.

Dalhousie wasted little time as they went straight

at the Lady Panthers who seemed a little lost without Knickle on the floor. The Lady Panthers were also hampered by the loss of Lori Knickle fouled out minutes earlier. Then problems continued at the offensive end of the floor as they were unable to get the ball inside to Paula Edwards, who may have been able to right their fastly sinking ship. Edwards put together a remarkable game as she scored 16 points and handed down a game-high 17 rebounds.

The Tigers scored 15 points over the final four minutes to win the game and put the Lady Panthers plans to host a fifth AUAA championship on ice; the loss drops the Lady Panthers to third place and gives the UNB Red Bloomers a firm hold on first place. Barring some huge upset, the Red Bloomers should host the AUAA playoffs.

continued on page 3...

Inside

UPEI Today

CIMN

Sports

Editorial

Celebrity Corner

Jobs

Shock Hazard

In Search of
the Green