

Is Winning the Measuring Stick For Success?

Now that the fall sports have been completed and the winter ones are in full swing, I feel it is a good time to look back over the fall and see what has transpired. Football is, of course, the main fall sport. The football team at U.P.E.I. finished with a 1-5 won/lost record. Many people around campus, especially those in the media were very harshly critical of the team's performance and maybe justifiably so. During the course of the season many bad things were said about the team and its coaching. I have to admit that there were times when I too said derogatory remarks about the football program and its administrators. The fact of the matter is that we just didn't stop to think what was transpiring. We had a football team that finished with what some people called a disastrous record of 1-5. I would suggest to those people that they go dunk their heads in a bucket of water. We had a team that played most of the season with less than thirty players and several of those were playing with injuries. The team was never out of the game until at least the second half and in my opinion and the opinion of several others I have talked to we could have just as easily finished 3-3. We provided exciting football throughout the year and just the idea

of trailing Saint Mary's 6-3 at the half is almost worth the effort. Certainly Saint Mary's and Acadia finished on top and I have heard people ask why can't we be like them. Well let me tell you why. We can't be like them because we don't want to be like them. We use local people on our athletic teams. The bigger schools recruit very strongly and as a result win a little more frequently than us. Judging from the very little time I have spent at the more athletically-inclined places, I found that the athletes and administration were under incredible pressure to win. In my opinion they have lost the entire concept of what sport is. True, it is useless to enter an event with the idea of losing but it is also true that the success of a program does not rest solely with the results of its teams in league standings. Our football team did not have a winning year but those thirty guys gave it their all and they should be commended for it.

Moving over to soccer, we come to what was perhaps the surprise squad of the fall season. They earned four ties in league play and terrific improvements were evident on the field. They tied two playoff teams during the course of the season; both Saint Mary's and UNB can attest to the fact that our



Panthers are vastly improved. In just their second year of existence they have moved from the basement to where the opposition holds respect for them as a team. Vince Mulligan and his team did a hell of a job and certainly deserve much better support next year than they received this past season.

The Lady Panther Field Hockey team was the other fall sport in operation and they were certainly in the

upper when they pulled the upset of the year. Previously undefeated, unscored upon Dalhousie fell to the wayside as the Lady Panther won 3-2. That afternoon was perhaps the highlight of the fall season.

All in all, the athletes. However their season was full of bright spots. The superb playing and goalscoring of at U.P.E.I. had a successful fall campaign. Most importantly, they competed in the



think of things until the final gun. The girls missed the playoffs by virtue of their record against Mount A as both squads finished the regular season tied. The MT.A team defeated our Lady Panthers twice during the regular season with that second defeat coming in overtime. The Lady Panthers stayed in it right until the final game of the season but just finished short of their bid for that final playoff spot. Mary Bradley was certainly one. But nothing will outshine that afternoon in Oct-

spirit of good sportsmanship. As far as their finish in the league standings, look at it this way; if they had finished first we wouldn't be able to use that old cliché, "JUST WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR"

I would like to genuinely thank the Cadre for the opportunity to express my views on the Inter-collegiate program here at U.P.E.I. Please note that this column represents my opinions and does not necessarily reflect those of the Athletic Department.
John Neville

IN CONCERT

at the Confederation Center
Sunday, Nov 30th, 8:30pm

UPEI Student Union

presents

P.E.I.'s own Marty Reno

and

Bonnie LeClair

appearing with

Juno-Award-Winner

VALDY

Watch the cadre, look for posters, and listen to CIMN for detail on tickets.