



JOCK TALK

by Mickey Place

It takes a real optimist to try to put a good face on the situation after two weekend losses which ran our league record to 1-5, (The worst start a Panther team has ever experienced) but we do think a silver lining may be in the dark cloud which hovers over us at the moment. This past weekend, playing with but 13 or 14 players (some of whom should have been hospitalized) our heroes made very good showings, albeit in losing causes, against the two league leading teams on foreign ice. Against undefeated (!!!!) Acadia, we were behind 1-0 at the end of the first although enjoying a 17-3 advantage in shots on goal! Behind 2-0 in the second, Mike Selleck and Ken Burton scored in quick succession (both on Wilfred MacDonald rebounds) to tie it up.

Unfortunately for our side, with both teams two men short in the third, an Acadia breakaway was successful and they again had a game by a close score...this time 3-2 although, once again we outshot them 40-29. We'll repeat that statistic is as meaningful as the figures of the number of left-handed spectators in the rink! Next day, on Halifax ice, against perennial league leaders Saint Mary's, the first period was scoreless, we dropped behind 2-0 in the third when with but two minutes to go Coach Jack Hynes took goalie Howie Murney out in favour of

BEAT X...BEAT DAL...BEAT X...BEAT..

a sixth attacker. This stratagem backfired as S.M.U. got one into the open net but Jack persisted with this desperate play, succeeding momentarily as David Cameron (suffering from flu) made the best rush of the day to break the zero and haul us to a 1-3 disadvantage. S.M.U. however, applied the coup de grace, shooting the puck rinklength into a Murneyless net to end the game at 4-1. Our boys had performed courageously but lost in a somewhat novel but exquisitely painful fashion. Shots on goal, meaningless as ever, were 26-26. With a 1-5 record we might expect the team to be downcast and discouraged but with the Nova Scotia trips over... (until the playoffs) and it is in N.S. that they feel the other league strength lies, they hope that the after-Xmas return of Rick Hill, Shane Turner and Danny Kinnear will give them a succession of wins enabling them to achieve their avowed objective of making the playoffs. After coming so close with so many players incapacitated, they feel their full squad is capable of beating any team in the league! This week's games at home with St. F.X. (Fast) and Dalhousie (Big and rough) loom as VERY IMPORTANT ones for it would be nice to take a 3-5 record into the new year. Hopefully a large crowd will be on hand. It is very noticeable when the Panthers are away from home that they always have a large group of expatriate Islanders on hand to cheer them on....and they certainly are a big boost to team morale.

ball Panthers, smarting to make a good showing after a complete walloping from Acadia in the Tip-Off Tournament earlier in the month, certainly made a most impressive debut in their league play against this, one of the top ranked teams in the country. Few expected that Kevin, starting in August with no players held over from last year, would have much success but, as everyone who saw this game will agree, he has moulded a most exciting contender for this year's competition.

against Dalhousie on 19 January.

We have saved the "Good stuff" to the last like dessert after a good meal. Our Lady Panthers continue their winning ways with a season record of 6-0 and league statistic of 4-0 after their 91-33 win over The Blue Angels of the University of Moncton. They led 47-22 at the half. This from a team that could not win ONE last year. Heather MacLean and Alyson Maxwell had 16 points while all players had a hand in their lop-



The fast and dazzling play of our locals kept the crammed gymnasium in an uproar with "Lightning Larry" McGhee (no relation to Dan who, you will recall, was from Tennessee) John Guilford, Jude Kelly and all the team being really outstanding as they kept the game close throughout until finally bowing out 85-77. McGhee led our scorers with 34. On Saturday night we saw the Alumni lose to the Panthers 94-73 with our bench getting a lot of action. It is always pleasant to see the stars of yesteryear in action and showing flashes of their former skill. We noted that many of them have grown...although none are taller. The Panthers travel to St. F.X., S.M.U., Mount A. and U.N.B. before their next home appearance

sided victory. We think new coach Hermie MacNeil has done a great job with his charges and we imagine it must be a pleasant experience for him to be surrounded by such an attractive group after years spent in assisting weighty injured male athletes from their field of endeavour to the bench... a task now relegated to the diminutive but very competent Rabbi Henderson who should be thinking of taking weight lifting exercises in the off season. The girls travel this weekend to Fredericton where they will play a brace of games against the Saint Thomas Ladies. Hopefully we'll be asking next week when was the last time a UPEI team won 6 in a row!

Beat X...Beat Dal...Beat X
Beat Dal....ad infinitum.

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