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1987-1988 Review

1988 was a year in which many thought the Panthers would not be factors in the outcome of the AUAA championship. Most thought that the Acadia Axemen would be the team to walk away with the title. Acadia had only one problem, they couldn't beat the Panthers. Four times the teams played and three times the Panthers were victorious.

The Panthers finished third overall in the league and met the St. Mary's Huskies in the semi-finals. It was perhaps the best game of the playoffs. The game was back and forth all night. Then with 37 seconds left guard Alonzo Wright sank a 15 footer to give the Panthers a one point lead. With under five seconds left SMV had a man on the line with a chance to win. He missed the first and was forced to miss the second. SMV grabbed the rebound and had two shots but the ball rolled off the rim to give the Panthers a victory.

The final pitted Acadia against the Panthers. The game was strictly all Peter Gordon. He had 35 points in an array of driving moves, fade away jumpers everything he put up went in. Acadia

Coach Dave Nutbrown commented that on one shot Gordon ended up in his lap after he shot. The Panthers were easily the smaller team but workman-like efforts by Dave Dunn and Mark Roberts under the boards helped the Panthers to eke out the victory. However the game was not over until Peter Gordon hit two tense free throws at the end.

From there they went to the CIAU's where the Panthers were simply outsized. The Victoria Vikings were simply too big. The Panthers tallest player was at least seven inches shorter than the Vikings biggest. From there the Panthers moved to the consolation round where Peter Gordon led the Panthers to a victory over the Bishop Gaiters. The Panthers then met the Saskatchewan Huskies in the consolation final where the Panthers led for much of the first half but the Huskies came back in the second half led by Byron Katarchuk to edge the Panthers. The sixth play finish is the highest ever for the Panthers plus they were additionally honored with the appointment of Peter Gordon to the Tourney all-star team.

The UPEI hockey Panthers got off to a disappointing start this weekend, dropping their first two games of the young AUAA hockey season.

Saturday night, in front of a small crowd of 948, the Panthers and the Moncton Blue Eagles battled evenly until midway through the second period when Moncton picked up their first of three straight goals in route to a 6-4 victory. This was their first meeting since UPEI captured the AUAA championship last year.

A rash of seventeen first period penalties saw both teams capitalize for two power play goals. UPEI's Jerry Flemming got the Panthers on the board first, banging in his own rebound while Bissonette of the Blue Eagles as in the box for interference. Four minutes later, Moncton's Gauvin tied the game at one, knocking a rebound past Panther goalie Jamie Blanchard.

With two Moncton players serving penalties, Randy Muttart scored a controversial goal at 17:03 of the first period, putting the Panthers up 2-1. Moncton goaltender Joel Drolet seemed to have made a sparkling glove save off Muttart, but referee Dave Stone claimed his globe was over the goal line.

With just twelve seconds left, Gosselin was allowed to beat Blanchard on a rebound evening the score at two.

Moncton came out flying in the second period, out shooting the Panthers 15-4, and didn't al-

low UPEI a single shot on net in the last ten minutes of the period.

UPEI came close in the first minute of play ringing one off the post, but Richard Linteau silenced the crowd at 1:36 stepping past a falling Sandy Gallant to beat Blanchard in alone.

The Panthers bounced back 24 seconds later as Bert Weir swung around and slid one past Drolet. Gauvin of the Blue Eagles, made it 4-3 on what appeared to be a glove pass from team-mate Laren at 10:28. However, the hand pass went undetected and the goal was allowed. Claude Gosselin notched his second power play goal of the contest, putting the Blue Eagles up 5-3.

Although Moncton clearly outplayed a sloppy and seemingly tired UPEI team in the third period, the Blue Eagles only managed to put one past a strong Jamie Blanchard. Eric Thompson rounded out UPEI's scoring, bringing them within two.

Claude Gosselin of Moncton with two goals was voted player of the game.

In game two versus the St. Mary's Huskies Sunday afternoon UPEI took advantage of early Husky penalty problems to jump out to a quick 3-0 lead on power play goals from Randy Muttart, Dave Flanagan, and Bert Weir. However, this proved to be not enough as St. Mary's fought back to garner a 7-5 triumph.

Frank Gladiator netted the first of St. Mary's five straight goals as he dented the Panther

net at the 8:45 mark. Down 3-2 Todd Leblanc quickly shifted the momentum as he beat Scott Blanchard immediately following Dave Shellington's foiled breakaway attempt. Both squads displayed fine penalty killing in the period as five minute majors were effectively killed by each team.

Rookie goalie Scott Blanchard was replaced by Jamie Blanchard at the 11:39 mark of the second period after a goal by Leblanc and two goals by Greg Milkovich made the score 5-3.

UPEI poured on the pressure early in the third with Jerry Flemming connecting on a fine passing play from Shellington and Griffin as St. Mary's seemed to be sitting on their lead.

The Huskies quickly resumed control as Wayne Morrow blasted a slap shot into the top corner and Leblanc added his third marker of the game on a short handed breakaway to up the score to 7-4.

Muttart brought the Panthers back to life firing his second goal of the game at 14:31 but the momentum was short lived as Panther rookie Scott Farrell was sent off for cross-checking at 15:47.

UPEI coach Bill MacMillan pulled Blanchard in favor of the extra attacker at 19:22 but the Panthers failed to score in the final 38 seconds.

Todd Leblanc, who scored tree goals in the contest, was named as the player of the game, which was played in front of a sparse crowd of 606.



Intercollegiate Scoreboard

October 21:	Soccer	Mt. A. -1 vs UPEI -2
October 22:	Soccer	UNB -1 vs UPEI -1
	Playoffs Field Hockey	UPEI -1 vs UNB -2 (OT)
	Basketball (men)	Alumni -98 vs UPEI -107
	Hockey	U de M. -6 vs UPEI -4
	Basketball (women)	Alumni -29 vs UPEI -87
October 23:	Hockey	SMU -7 vs UPEI -5

Hockey Panthers off to Disappointing Start