



**jock talk
mickey place**

With the really serious basketball and hockey seasons about to start it is pretty hard to write about the teams with any strong conviction. In basketball we have had several games which we were able to win without difficulty and, although our hockey team has had but little success we have no feeling that this is an indication of impending disaster as we feel that Jack Hynes has used the games as opportunities to try out new players and combinations rather than wait for league play to experiment.

Last weekend, in the hoop game, we first took on the U. de Moncton and had a very easy time of it overwhelming them 115 to 31 in a colossal mismatch. It was a good example of just how strong the teams in our league are. It also gave some indication that, although our first string is composed of outside players, the basketball being played in our local highschools must be of very high calibre as it was most encouraging to see our second string players (mostly local products) on the floor a great deal of the time and they had no difficulty in outplaying their hardworking, but outclassed, opponents.

We can tell you, quite honestly, that we were

WHICH IS THE 'BAD' SIDE???

somewhat puzzled in the Saturday game. We like to cheer for the "Good" guys and wish all manner of disaster for the "Bad" guys...when our much admired Panthers take the floor against the Alumni, composed of former "Good" guys...which is the "Bad" side???. The question seemed to take the spice out of the game but we still enjoyed the spectacle even though we could not develop a partisan sentiment and had to cheer for both. We were very impressed, at the start, with the 1977 edition of the Panthers as they seemed to be about to give a real demonstration of power and it looked as though they would administer the same lesson that they had doled out to Moncton on the previous evening. However, age and experience came into play. Perhaps it was when George Burger put in his reserves...but from then on the play was pretty equal, even when the first line troops returned with such former stars as Art Laffin, Rick Millard and Ronnie Diamond playing very well. For the Panthers, Dave Arsenault had 23 to top our boys, Lloyd Pullen had 21 and the Flatbush ambassador to UPEI, Vince Murray, had 16. Dennis High, looking to be in great shape, was rebounding in spectacular fashion and had 17 as the '77 Panthers went on to win 108-74.

This weekend the team travels to Wolfville to play in the Acadia Tip-Off Tournament and will open against Husson College. The regular 20 game schedule opens for us at Dal on the 19th and 20th.

We think George Birger, starting late on a new job has moulded together a team with great potential and we await with interest what promises to be another exciting season.

In hockey, we lost to Mount A. in Sackville by a 6-3 score in a game that was much closer than the score indicates. With but 5 minutes to go, Steve Miglia scored our second short-handed goal to even up the game at 3-3. The Mounties scored shortly thereafter and the last two markers came as we strove, vainly, to even it up. Other scorers for our heroes were Val Mitchell and Shane Turner.

After Wednesday night's game here with Moncton, our team goes to Halifax and Antigonish where they will play Saturday night at 7:00 and Sunday afternoon at 2:00. Gus Gaudet and John Neville will bring you the games over CIMN and Cable 12.


It seems pretty obvious that we will have a struggle to keep in competition until our ailing defensemen, Bob Mitchell and Larry Arsenault get back into playing form after injury and operation. We feel that this team is even stronger than last year's (12-7-1) which finished strongly. We also hear, however, that the rest of the league, particularly some of the

ones that finished in lower spots in 1976-77, have improved greatly. Saint Mary's are reputed to be the strongest ever and some pundits prophesy they will not drop a league game this season. They have already dumped the always formidable Moncton Aigles Bleu 8-1. For the rest of the league, however, it should be a real scramble. Moncton beat Dal 9-7, Acadia beat Dal 6-5 and the Panthers have dropped 3 to league opponents... but, as usual, had Dame Fortune been more kind, they might have won all three. (In case you say we are one-sided in our observations we will reply "Why not?") The interesting thing about our college hockey is how much each game matters as each team strives for a playoff spot. Next weekend our boys visit Mount A. and Moncton and we'll see them in the Forum in their next home appearance on the 25th and 26th as they host U.N.B.

In closing, we'll make an appeal. At the basketball game on Friday, SOMEBODY (and we forget who) came to us asking for the loan of a ball point pen. We lent our good Parker, part of a set which had been a gift to us, and it has not been returned. We now appeal to the anonymous recipient for the return of the pen....Please, please, please!

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