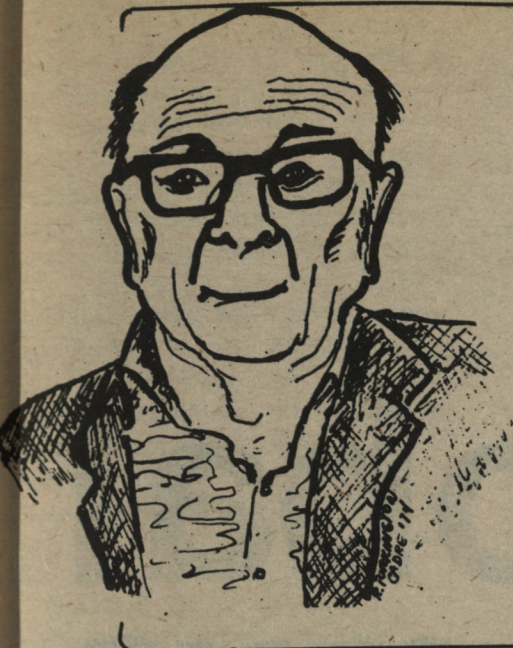


# Sports Preview: Football Suffers; Basketball Improves



## Jock talk

### Mickey Place

It seems a short time since we last discussed U.P.E.I. sport through a Cadre column for tempus has fugited celerissime as Father Kelly would NOT say and we are now facing another season with high hopes. Welcome back to those who are returning and a special greeting to those newcomers who, we trust, will now become Panther rooters for life. Looking back briefly, we enjoyed the Awards Dinner and offer congratulations to Art Laffin and Janet Trainor who were designated as "Athletes of the Year". The Panther Booster Club, with hard driving Posty Connolly exhorting them on, was quite active. Their dinner at Monty Hall was fantastic. Former collegiate greats and still prominent professionals Jim Foley, Billy MacMillan, and Alan MacAdam teamed well with M.C. Danny Gallivan to give entertainment and information that local sports fans will long remember. Several people, for reasons best left unmentioned, have but hazy recollections of the latter part of the evening, but that is another story. The club also sponsored a Panther Pace at the Charlottetown Driving Park that further enriched their fund. The money raised goes toward providing athletic scholarships to two players on th basketball, football, and hockey teams, May their projects prosper!

**Football** - Graduations and other departures took away a lot of the strength that we enjoyed in recent years and pessimists forecast a drab season. However, with 17 veterans returning, and a wealth of talent trying out for the 16 positions that will have to be filled by rookies, Coach Hilton seems quite cheerful. To pick a few of those remaining who,

by virtue of experience, will have to take on a big load we'll have to mention Mike Jones, Dave Lidstone, Shane Dowling, Roy Taylor, Mike Lyriotokis, and Howie Adams. With the departure of Grant Canvin the Q.B. position is wide open and three are trying to fill Grant's shoes ( no mean feat, if you'll take a pun. ) They are Dino Puia, last year's backup, John Paul MacIntyre who was Q.B. for last year's champions, Colonel Gray, and Colin Anderson who filled this position for the Verdun Maple Leafs in the Ontario-Quebec Junior League last year. We look for an entertaining team with a wealth of good receivers and strong quarterbacking .. . . lacking the crystal ball that we smashed last and haven't been able to get repaired, we are wary of making any other prediction other than that the Panthers will be in there trying for 60 minutes every game and we hope their fans will give their support for the same period. If there are enough fans to pay the way, the Student Union will probably arrange a bus to the opening game in Fredericton on Sept. 27. That game will tell a lot.

**Soccer** - Coach Mulligan started his hopefuls with their first practice on Monday. In as much as this is only their second year of league play, Vincie is work-hard at building a team and feels he has a much stronger aggregation than last year. His troupes open their season at U.N.B. on Sept. 19 and will play their first home game against perennial contender Memorial on the 27th.

**Basketball** - We have been told that last year's Panthers were the most improved team in College Basketball. After an excellent showing against Saint Mary's and

Mount Allison in last March's playoffs, the usually critical - of - U.P.E.I. - teams Halifax press commented that we were one year and a really tall player away from having a real contender. Well, Gary Heald ( who, by the way, was chosen as last yaer's coach of the year ) now has that year under his belt and, we think, more than a really tall player. We'll miss Mike and Phil Connolly but we have from last year - Jamie Ballem, Art Laffin, Tom Hibbert, Butch Postma, and Anson McLaughlin. Among the newcomers we have 6'7" Tom Kappos who was leading scorer for Vanier College of Montreal last year, 6'4" Gary Young from Fredericton who was on N.B.'s Canada Games Team, 6'4" Lloyd Pullen from Montreal who was on the gold metal winning Quebec team at the Canada Games, 6'2" Mark Vickers, who was also on that Quebec team, 6'2" Mike Willins from Toronto, and Kevin Feighery, 6'1", who was a teammate of Panther veteran Art Laffin at Merimac College in Connecticut. A number of Island prospects, including Colin Mac Adam from Colonel Gray also have a good chance to make the team. The outlook is optimistic and, hopefully, this team can give competition to any college team in the country. There will be lots of entertainment as they will have the toughest schedule in Island basketball history. Last year's system of splitting the teams into two divisions has been scrapped, and we'll see all the Atlantic teams here. First home game will be with U.N.B. on Nov. 28.

**Hockey** - Last year we finished 7th in the 10 team league with a 7-11 record. Actually, we certainly considered ourselves much better than this record indicates. We lost several cliffhangers .. . . we played 5 overtime contests and lost all of them. If we had won all of these (or even 3) we would have been right in there for the playoffs and anything could then happen. This year we'll certainly miss Donny Brown, Gene Power, Louie Doherty, Shawn MacIsaac, and V.P. Tom Hayward. However, we'll have lots of new faces with a great deal of promise .. . . rugged Larry Arsenault from the O'Leary Maroons, defenceman Daniel Lessard from Junior A, Shaw-

nigan, Charlottetown's hard shot Wilfred MacDonald, who was in Junior A in Montreal last winter, goalkeeper John Mitchell from Farmington State College in Massachusetts who was his league's M.V.P. last year, forward Luc Champagne who has played outstanding hockey for the Laval Nationals and Sherbrooke's Junior A teams .. . . also forward Ray O'Donnell who was a high scorer for St. Thomas .. . . Coach Kane also has several new prospects to compete for positions .. . . anyone who saw last year's Junior A playoffs will realize there is no shortage of good prospects in Island players so we have just mentioned some newcomers. Returning will be 14 of last year's players, including the 6 top goal-getters and both goal-keepers.

A big item of interest is that all home games will be played in the Charlottetown Forum .. . . we don't know the arrangements, but we do think it is a forward step and should go far in cementing relationships between the community and the University. If there is one thing that can attract the local citizenry, it is good hockey .. . . a commodity that the M.I.H.L. has in great quantity.

Last year, as we left the press box in Halifax, as a farewell, we said to those remaining, " See you at the playoffs next year .. . . IN CHARLOTTETOWN!" .. . . how about it, Jack!

**Special footnote** - Jock Talk is indebted to newcomers Gordon MacAlpine and John Neville who, this year, will be handling the publicity for Panther teams. They performed this function for Vanier College last year and we think will do an outstanding job for us this year.

