

# Panther Fortunes

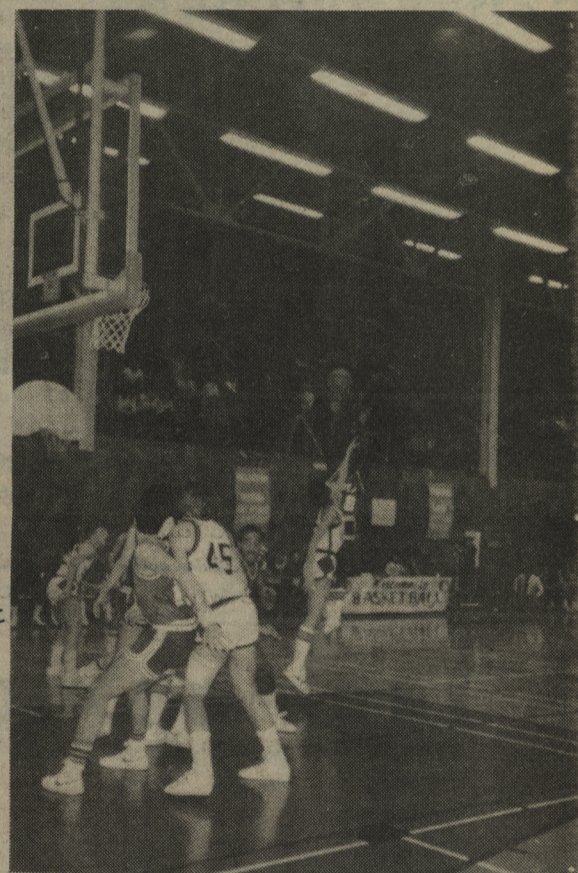
We have had a lot of ups and downs this season as we commented on Panther fortunes. We have been elated by the wins and depressed by the losses but this week we strike a new and sorry situation. We not only lost the one game played and thus, our chances for an Atlantic Championship and a probably bid to the national finals in Victoria but we also lost our coach! We'll deal with the game first. Probably 200 loyal and enthusiastic fans made the trip to Halifax last Friday and had a couple of sections (alas behind our opponents bench) and certainly made themselves heard. Saint F.X. took an early lead but our boys played well in the final minutes of the first half and led 35-34 as the horn(!) sounded for the intermission. Our hopes were shattered however at the beginning of the final session as the X-men came out hot and the Panthers seemed unable to get going. Believe it or not we scored not a single point until 3 minutes and 49 seconds had gone by, while the big X team was running wild. Once again we rallied and trailed 40-41 with over ten minutes to go. We seemed to control play throughout but our shooting was away off and the game ended 66-72. Billy Redmond (whose family came from Portland Me. to see the games) was high for us with 21. It was a sad ending for a good season. X went on to play an exciting game in losing to St. Mary's by 5 and both teams are off to Victoria for this week's Nationals. In any close game there are always a lot of post mortems and out biggest one is the poor shooting that the Panthers suffered. Last fall our Halifax informant remarked to us that a team with no previous experience in the Halifax Metro Centre faced a ten poin handicap before tee tip-off. We believe he is quite correct and we think our many misses can be attributed to the difference in the court and backboard. It has to make a difference. We are told that the other teams in the area have four

contests scheduled for the Centre next season while the visiting Panthers will play all games in the several university gymnasias! Are we crybabies or do we always get the soiled end of the stick? Perhaps we are thin skinned but we wonder at the national anthem being played before the St. Mary's - Dalhousie game as though the program started there... or are we not considered as Canadian? We also wondered, inasmuch as so many fans followed their favourite Panthers abroad if it would not be possible for the schedule makers, when planning for 1982-83 might not have the Panthers, hockey and basketball, play their two Halifax games against Dal and SMU on successive nights instead of the SMU, X, Dal, and Acadia contests now customary. It would be much appreciated by the fans we believe as it is nice to get away a couple of times during the season. It would cut down in travelling for both team and fans. If we can do it in Fredericton why not in Halifax? On behalf of their many fans we want to thank the Panthers for a very entertaining year and we hope most will be back next season. Only the popular Bruce Campbell graduates. While we offer

'congratulations to the whole team for their achievements we think it only proper that we give an added nod to two players who were accorded special honours. Chris Summer, the team's high scorer, was picked for the first all-star team as well as getting the "Rookie of the Year" award. Billy Redmond, whose return to the fold sparked a resurgence from an 0-3 league record to an 11-5 second place finish with 9th national ranking, was chosen for the second all-star team. Dave Nutbrown didn't make it as "Coach of the Year" but the choice must have been a hard one for the judges to make!

It is hard to say "Au revoir" to Coach Dave Nutbrown. In the two seasons with us he has built a team that we really expect will be the big winner next year. That he goes to Acadia is probably, unfortunate for us and, consequently, we cannot sincerely offer him our wishes for an unqualified success. To be perfectly honest, we can't even wish him to win all games EXCEPT against us, for we bestowed that desire upon Gary Heald a few years ago when he left UPEI for SMU (not that we think our blessing had anything to do with his

great success.) We'll qualify by hoping that both lose all games to UPEI, split between them, and win all the others! As far as commenting upon his leaving... well... Dave did a great job for us.. we thank him... if he has the opportunity to better himself.. why not?.. If we don't look out for ourselves in this world.. to whom can we look? Good luck Dave and many thanks and our best wishes... but don't expect us to cheer when you take your Acadia team on the UPEI floor! We may even ask you to keep your voice down!



## AND THE WINNERS ARE

**JANICE WAGNER,**  
Queen's University,  
Kingston.

**MARIE PERKINS,**  
Concordia University,  
Montreal.

**JILL BARNARD,**  
York University,  
Toronto.

**Congratulations  
to the Mercury LN7 winners in  
the Long Distance**



**We wish them many years of enjoyable driving.**

And thanks to the thousands of other students who participated. Better luck next year! Meanwhile, good luck in your exams, have a great summer and keep that Long Distance Feeling going strong!

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