



JOCK TALK

By MICKEY PLACE

It is again Tuesday night and we are trying to listen to the World Series' game as we peck this out. We are quite aware and somewhat apprehensive as we know we will have to face the glowering Sun Editor as we are already over her 9:00pm deadline! Our prediction of the Cards in six has certainly gone awry but that does not surprise us too much. Had we been around at the time we are quite sure we'd have put our money on Goliath, considering David a patsy. Over the weekend our Soccer Panthers took a big, but not decisive step toward a playoff berth as they engaged in a 1 - 1 deadlock with Mount A. Quite surprisingly we scored both goals! A play that has worked well for us all year backfired disastrously. Using it our players boot the ball back to netminder Jean Francois Painchaud who then gets a free kick and puts the ball into a safer zone. Early in Sunday's game we seem to have mixed our signals and the ball, booted with vigour by a Panther sailed, nay flew, past our startled and unprepared goalie. Such things can happen in the best of families! Quite fortunately Scott Neil evened things up for us early in the second half and, although we had the better of the territorial play throughout, we had to settle for a tie. We are now in a very unusual position. With two weekend games coming

up against Memorial (who are also struggling for a playoff berth) a sweep would catapult us into first place. Less than that could see us in a playoff-earning second place or, and we hesitate to write it, the role of playoff spectators at the games at Saint Mary's in the following weekend. Memorial will be no pushover for, we note, last weekend they trimmed St.FX 3-1 and Acadia 4-0. Being optimistic we are making reservations for a Halifax trip on the 30 and 31st and we hope many Panther fans will do likewise. We would certainly like to make first place as our first game would be with the second place team in the N.S. division and we'd have a chance to get used to the astroturf surface that certainly favours the hometeam SMU. The games here will be at 2:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. Be there.

Our Field Hockey team lost their chance for a playoff spot on Saturday as they dropped one to the Saint Mary's Belles 5-1 with high scoring Libby Baldwin getting our only marker. However our women (I always start to write that forbidden word "Girls") finished off their home season on a high note as they notched their third win of the season in beating Mount A 3-1 as Elaine Foote scored twice and Della Gaudet once. This must be encouraging for hard working Coach Barbara Mullaly who is slowly building a winner.

The team travels to St. John's where they will play Memorial in their last game of the year. It will be the final game for defensive stalwarts Marlene Costain and Jane Hogan who will graduate in the spring. If the crowded Forum on Saturday and Sunday is any indication it would seem that intercollegiate hockey is finally getting the recognition and support we have long felt it merits. It is pleasing to note that they saw two well played and spirited ones which, although only exhibition contests, were played as though the League Championship were the prize! Against big and fast Saint Mary's, Norman Beck started where he left off last year, scoring twice early in the first period with newcomers Jeff Lantz and Ted Kozab earning assists. SMU make it 2-1 in the second but, as the period ended Terry McKenna boomed in one of his snapshots to make it 3-1. As our four-man defense tired in the final period SMU tied it up and the game ended 3-3. The meaningless S.O.G. statistics had us outshooting them 27-22. In Sunday's game against Les Aigles Bleu from the U. de Moncton, last year's national champions the story, but not the result, was much the same. It was 3-2 for us at the end of the first, 4-4 at the end of the second but, sad to relate, 8-4 for the visitors at game's end as they scored four in the last ten minutes when our overworked defense crumpled from the pressure. Ron Carragher, Ted Kozab,

Trevor Crawford and Rick Cameron scored for us. Although admittedly shorthanded we felt that these games showed we have a team that will be very competitive in this, the best intercollegiate hockey league in Canada. We played without our regular goalie Avalino Gomez, (although standing Dave Reid could not be blamed for the loss) and the rookie we are most anxious to see in action, Rob Mazzuka. Avalino had flu but is expected back this weekend, Mazzuka wrenched a shoulder in practice and is not expected to play until the league opening in Fredericton on 30 October. No small part of our personal enjoyment can be attributed to Scott Scantlbury of CHIN who sat next to us and practised calling the game sans a microphone. We would like to comment that, although the Forum was well filled for both games, our team, playing well and shorthanded, received very little vocal support in this their own rink. Anyone who has visited Moncton, for instance, when the Blue Eagles are playing, would be struck by the contrast. When the Panthers play in Halifax the "Islanders in exile" make much more noise than the seemingly apathetic fans do here. Those were not wakes on Saturday and Sunday, they were damn good hockey games and we feel, would be even more exciting if there were a little more noise! This weekend the team plays UNB in Alberton on Friday, St.FX in Summerside on Saturday and will host "X" in the Forum on Sunday afternoon at 2:00. St.FX will be tough, after we tied St. Mary's 3-3, St.FX beat them 5-1. It appears there are no soft spots in the league this year! Sunday will be a hare day to make a choice. Will we see the Soccer Panthers (rated Canada's #9) making a bid for first place or a playoff spot or the "X" game at the Forum? May they both win...now if schizophrenia could be physical...