

JOCK TALK

Panthers Heading For the Top

By Mickey Place

Over the welcome March break, which, unaccountably, comes at UPEI in February, Panther fortunes started off not too well but are now certainly at an alltime high! First off the Lady Panthers ended their season with a loss to the Red Bloomers of UNB 73-57, and thus dropped out of playoff contention. Actually they tied for 4th in the 8 team league with a 6-8 record but the Saint Mary's belles had a score advantage in the games between the two and so got the playoff nod. Most of the team will be back next year but Sue Betts and Cathy Chandler who graduate, will be hard to replace. We hope Stu and Wilma Chandler, constant spectators for the last four years, will continue their interest! This was a much stronger league that we were in last year and we are glad to comment that the girls proved they belong.

In hockey we didn't start off too well. We travelled to Fredericton and eased past Saint Thomas without difficulty but dropped an important game to UNB 4-1. Then on to Halifax for the replay of the SMJ game made necessary by the stoppage of play due to the much celebrated brawl of Jan. 27. This game was clean and fast but was won by St. Mary's 4-2. Trevor Crawford and Gary Trainor getting our markers. This loss relegated us to third place and made Mt. A. the division winners. In league play Mt. A. had 34 points while we and UNB both had 33. That put us into the semi final tournament in Halifax. Our boys left on Friday night in that horrible storm and it seems a miracle they got to Halifax in time for the Saturday game. They quickly demonstrated they had come to play hockey, however, led 2-1 after the first, 6-1 after the second and eliminated a stunned UNB team 9-3. The deluge of Panther goals came from Trevor Crawford (2), Callie MacPhail (2), Norman Beck, Bob Hicks, Gary Trainor, Doug Currie, and Greg Nicholson. Against heavily favoured sectional winners Dalhousie

they trailed 0-2, 1-2 but tied it up in the third 3-3 and won it in overtime 4-3. Callie MacPhail had a pair, Gary Trainor a single, and Doug Currie (a real villain in Halifax) had the winner at 8:03 of the overtime ten minute period. This puts the Panthers into the finals in Moncton for a three game series starting Friday night. A win, or a strong showing, should put us in the National finals, there March 12-14. On Sunday night we received a most enthusiastic call from our Halifax informant as he rejoiced in the Panther victory. This was at 10:30. For the late evening news we tuned in the local T.V. station and watched, in gloating anticipation, for the comments on the game at 11:30. We heard volleyball results, both male and female, we heard NHL scores, we heard AHL scores, we heard reports on a golf tournament in California. There was no report on the hockey match between Dal and UPEI! We might also add we listened later to a Halifax radio station that also overlooked our win. We may be little and we may not win too often but we do we'd like to be noticed! Those going to Moncton over this weekend should go early for that carferry is liable to be overcrowded!

In basketball the story is STRONG all the way. Needing a split in Fredericton to ensure playoff participation our boys disdained aiming so low as they ran roughshod over the Red Devils in the first game with Billy Redmond having 26 points and Chris Sumner 22 (86-71). In the second game the Panthers started slow and trailed by an alarming 23 points after only ten minutes of play. We can imagine the comments that "Silent" Dave Nutbrown must have whispered into their collective ears as he called for a time out for they rallied to be within 10 at the halfway mark and won, going away, 95-89 as Billy Redmond sparkled with a 37 point total. Last weekend we were here and away with Mount.A. On Friday night a capacity crowd waited patiently until they were informed that the visiting team was still on the carferry stuck 100 yards off the Borden

wharf. The did not arrive here until around 5:00 a.m. and , at 2:00 Saturday afternoon had little resitance to offer the Panthers who, substituting freely, won 105-70, with Chris Sumner leading the way with 29. It was the last home game for graduating Bruce Campbell who received a great ovation during the game's opening introductions. He looked embarrassed! There may have been some better players during his stay with us. There have been none more hardworking and sincere. Certainly none more popular! Next day our boys travelled to Sackville where they repeated their performance throuncing the hapless Mounties 121-66 with Chris Sumner accounting for 26 and Curtis Brown 22. Thus our league record goes to 11-5 After a 0-3 start, which is good enough for second place

and we will face St. F.X. in the first game of the playoffs to be held in Halifax on March 12. Undefeated St. Mary's play Dalhousie and we expect to be playing St. Mary's in the final, on Saturday afternoon. We recently came across a comment from that city, that (sportwise) we are beginning to detest, to the effect that the only REAL competition that St. Mary's may expect in these matches will come from St. F.X. Remembering that our meanderings are sometimes read by ladies/or children , also being a strong devotee of euphamisms, we will reply to that statement "Bovine excrement!"

For those of you who cannot make the game in Moncton, CHTN, 1190 on the dial, will be carrying the game.

Panthernews

Panthers in AUSA Finals

This year's edition of the Panther Club fought adversity all year to finish in second spot of the MacAdam division, one point out of first place.

The Panthers are known for their hard forechecking, led by veterans Trevor Crawford and Gary Trainor; their strong defensive corps anchored by Mike Ready , Terry McKenna, Duane Sprague, and Brian O'stroski; and the Panthers also boast of the finest goaltending in the conference by Avelino Gomez.

Leading goal scores include Norman Beck, Trevor Crawford, and Callie MacPhail, with 23, 22, and 14 respectively.

Coach Jack Hynes, who worked hard all year, feels his team deserves to be in the league finals, despite many setbacks during the year, both on and off the ice. He feels credit should be awarded to Assistant and Associate Coaches, M.F. Schurman and Neil MacKenzie, for their dedicated and knowledge input.

Congratelations and good-luck , Panthers!

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Req. Prices 7:30-12:30

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