

# Panthers Making League Leaders Nervous

by Jason Martell

Two weeks ago, the AUAA men's basketball conference was a one team race with the Dalhousie Tigers leading the way.

Enter the UPEI Panthers.

In a span of nine days, the Panthers reeled off four consecutive victories worth a combined total of 12 points to place them in a three-way tie for first place. UPEI, Dalhousie, and Acadia all have 22 points each heading into February.

The Panthers opened up on Saturday with a 74-64 win over the Saint Mary's Huskies before outlasting the Acadia Axemen on Sunday by a final of 75-70 to improve their home court record to 6-1. Overall, UPEI is 7-4 in their first 11 games.

Curtis Robinson led the way for the Panthers against the Axemen as he scored a game-high 24 points on 11-19 shooting. All-star forward Peter Lawlor had 15 points for the Panthers, while Doug Newson and Greg Lucas chipped in with 13 and 11 points respectively.

One of the most noticable players on the court this weekend was point guard Jason MacDonald who rejoined the team after the Christmas break. MacDonald dished out a number of big assists in both games and knocked down four crucial free throws late in Sunday's game to seal the weekend sweep for the Panthers.

UPEI heads out on the road for a pair of games against the Cape Breton Capers on the 3rd and 4th of February before returning home to take on the UNB Reds on the 10th and 11th. The following weekend will be a memorable one as the Panthers will host the Dal Tigers in their final home game of 1996. This game will also be the final Sports Centre appearance for fifth-year players Robinson and Lawlor.

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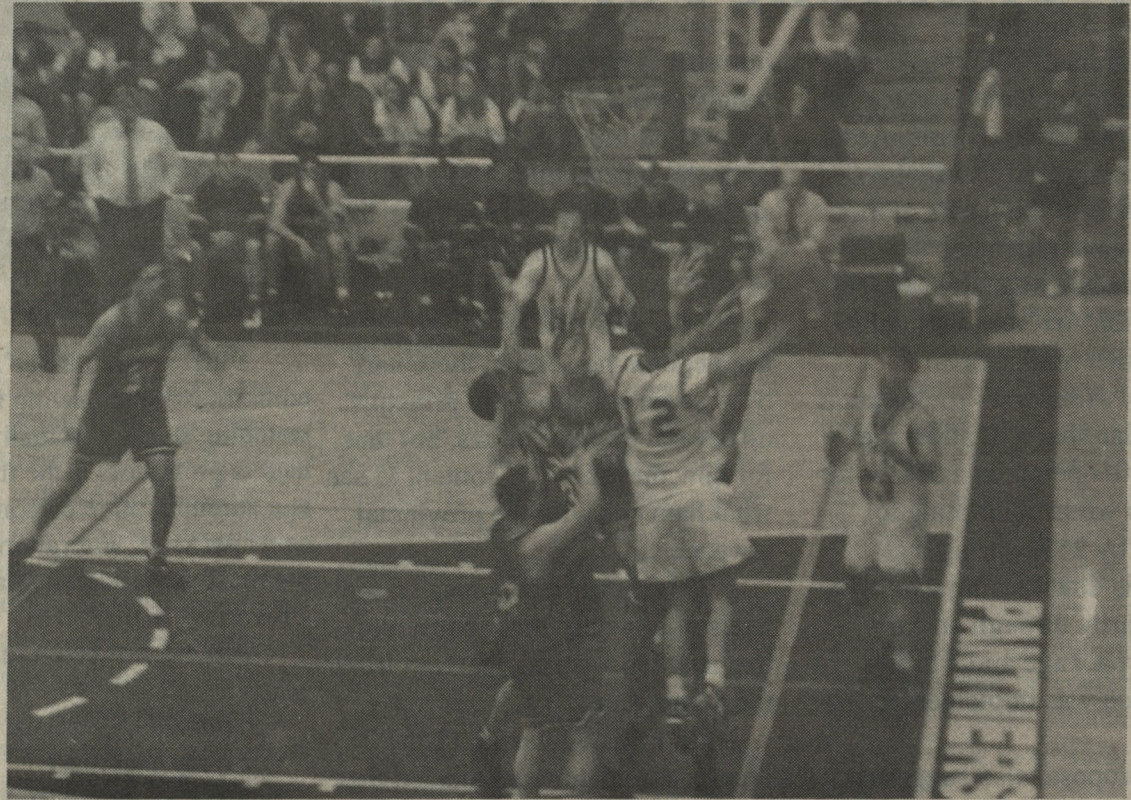


Photo by Lorne Caborn

Don't look now, but the UPEI men's hockey team is making a bid to catch the leaders in the AUAA's MacAdam division.

After hammering the Mount Allison Mounties 9-2, Doug Currie and his troops took their show on the road to play the defending CIAU champions, the Moncton Blue Eagles.

Forbie MacPherson scored with only nine seconds remaining in the game and Mike Harding had a pair of goals to give the Panthers a 4-3 victory and improve their overall record to 11-9-1. The Panthers now sit in third place with a total of 23 points, six behind conference leading St. Thomas.

The Panthers have a pair of big games on the 3rd and 4th of February as they host UNB at the Civic Centre. The Reds currently sit in second place in the AUAA, only three points ahead of UPEI.

The Panthers also have three players among the league's scoring leaders. John Nelson is in 7th place (13-24-37), and MacPherson is in

10th (17-19-36), while K.J. White sits in 16th (16-17-33).

As an extra note, four Panthers have been selected to play in Friday's AUAA all-star game. Dave Lemay and Daryl Lavoie will join Nelson and White in the annual game to be held in Halifax.

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The Lady Panthers basketball team gained a split of their weekend games as they beat the Acadia Axettes 87-77 on Sunday after losing to Saint Mary's 81-78 on Saturday.

The real story in the Acadia game was the balanced scoring the Panthers received from their starters. Eireann Rigby lead the way for UPEI with 18 points but four other players contributed with double-figure scoring efforts as well. Stephanie Shive had 14 points while Kara Saunders and Jennifer Johnston added 12 each. Angela MacIntyre chipped in with 10 in the victory.

The split gives the Panthers an

overall record of 5-8 which places the Panthers in a fifth-place tie with St. FX. Both teams share the final two playoff slots 14 points each. The Lady Panthers will also be in Cape Breton on the 3rd and 4th.

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The Lady Panthers volleyball team dropped a pair of games on the weekend to the Saint Mary's Huskies. The final score on Saturday was 3-0 (15-9, 15-2, 15-3) while UPEI lost by that same 3-0 score on Sunday (15-10, 15-8, 15-4).

The Panthers play their four remaining games on the road as they visit Memorial on the 3rd and 4th before ending their season on the 10th and 11th in Acadia.

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