

# UPEI LOSES FOOTBALL COACH

from the Guardian  
by Don Morrison

Citing increased demands from his full-time job, Doug Crossman has decided not to return as head football coach of University of Prince Edward Island next season.

Crossman, a former Panther player, guided UPEI for only one season, compiling a 1-16 regular season record in the Atlantic Intercollegiate Football Conference. He replaced Ed Hilton earlier this year.

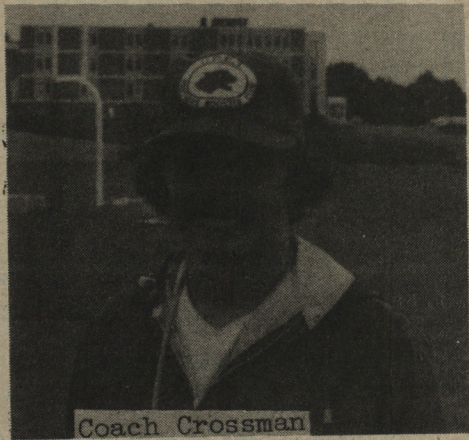
"The major reason that I resigned was that, as a part time person with the UPEI football program, I cannot imagine time to rebuild the program and at the same time give justice to my duties at the Addiction Foundation," said Crossman Tuesday. "I cannot personally afford the time to recruit in the off-season."

However, University of Prince Edward Island athletic director Ed Hilton said it wasn't a case of Crossman resigning but rather his contract has expired for the season. All UPEI coaches are hired by seasons and not for a full year. Hilton

could not say if Crossman would have been rehired.

Although Crossman would not say that one of his primary reasons for stepping down was a lack of support from the UPEI administration, he did say that many of the services provided by other universities had to come out of the football budget at UPEI.

"I was on my own to rebuild the team and there seems to be another cut coming in the (football) budget," he said. "All the other teams have full-time coaches and they spend a good portion of the year recruiting. I would imagine that teams like St. Mary's UNB and Acadia are on the



road recruiting for next season already."

## CUT HURTS

Crossman, a former All-Canadian, said the 1979 budget for the program "wasn't enough" and a cut would further hinder a successful football program at the university.

"There are no provisions made for a full time person here and I explained to Ed Hilton that it's an impossible task, I just can't do it."

The first year Panther skipper noted the future of UPEI football is "not optimistic at all."

"There has to be a major decision from the administrative level. I've heard, for the past 10 years, that facilities would be developed but it's still the same old thing. I'm embarrassed to bring an opposing team into the visiting dressing rooms here. I'm embarrassed to take a group of men at UPEI into a hole in the ground that's called a dressing room and I'm embarrassed bringing high school students from well equipped high schools in Ontario

down here. There's nothing in the way of facilities for them."

Crossman credited Hilton for doing his best but "his hands are tied."

"He's given me a lot of support but his hands have been tied for years. I've appreciated his help very much," noted Crossman, who played under Hilton at UPEI.

The former coach remarked that under the present football setup at UPEI, the Panthers "could not possibly compete" with the other collegiate teams in the AUAA. "How can we?"

Hilton said a decision on a successor for Crossman would not be made immediately.

A study on all facets of the athletic programs at UPEI is in the final stages of completion and Hilton, who coached UPEI and St. Dunstan's University football teams for almost two decades, said a decision on what level of participation Panther teams will have, is expected shortly.

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