

JOCK TALK

By Mickey Place

Encapsulating the weekend's Panther activities, we may report an even split... 3 & 3.. with the hockey team winning from Mount A and losing to Moncton, the Basketball squad losing two on the road to X. & Dal & the Pantherettes overwhelming the Saint Thomas girls in a pair of games in our gym. From our perch, high among the Forum rafters, we thought that both hockey games were very entertaining and well played with the result being uncertain until late in both contests. In the opening game, with our team two points behind the second place Mounties the Panthers had to regard this as a "MUST" game, and we thought this showed in their play. We trailed 2-1 after the first period but had a good second stanza, taking a 5-4 lead and ended up with a 7-4 win. Terry McKenna and Brian O'Stroski both chalked up two markers, while singles were added by Rory Beck, Shane Turner, and Gerald Walker. Prettiest play of the night, possibly of the season, was a brilliant effort by Mike Devine, who stickhandled his way through a maze of Mounties and just as he was hit and dumped by the last defender, lifted the puck over the goalie's shoulder into the net. It was reminiscent of Guy Lafleur at his best. As the hometown fans cheered lustily, there was a hurried consultation between the Mount A. Captain and the referee, Mike's stick was confiscated and, not only was the goal disallowed, but Mike was relegated to the penalty box for two minutes for playing with an illegal stick. During this enforced respite, Mike must have cogitated bitterly over the duplicity and strategy of opponents who had obviously waited until his moment of achievement before calling attention to the exaggerated curve in his stick that they must have noticed prior to that time.

However, the incident, while conceding momentary advantage, seemed to spur the Panthers on to their eventual win. On Sunday there was another game that was close until the final period, when the U. de Moncton showed the strength and finesse that they feel will give them the league championship this year. Score at the end of the second period was 3-3 but, unfortunately, it ended up 8-5 for the visitors. Goal scorers for us were Shane Turner, with two, Gary Trainor, Terry McKenna and Rory Beck. We should note that Rory had eight points over the weekend, while that tough little Irishman, Brian O'Stroski continued on with his long string of at least one point every game. There was an odd goal scored by the Panthers in this one that was, quite unfortunately, cheered by Moncton rooters. After making a brilliant block off the stick of leading scorer, Francois Bisette, Defenceman Mike Ready was propelled prone and rearwards into Shane Carmody's net. Unfortunately the puck was resting under Mike's gluteus maximus. (this being a FAMILY column, we won't call it a F.B.A.). The team travels this weekend abroad for games with S.M.U. and Acadia, but will be home on the 26th & 27th to end the Winter Carnival with games against U.N.B. and Saint Thomas.

Last week we referred to the Musical Chair game the Basketball Panthers seemed to be engaged in, as they went from a short-handed nine players to eight on successive nights. We must have missed a contest as they travelled to Antigonish on the 12th and took on the strong St. F.X. team with six men only. This was one the Panthers would have LOVED to win, as three of the team are former X students, Bruce Campbell, Bill Redmond and the injured Ron Stuewe.

We would like to compliment them on their good judgement in coming to UPEI and would also say they MUST like work. St. F.X. led at the half by only six points, but the shorthanded Panthers tired in the final stages of the game and lost out by a 98-77 score. Coach Dave

EVEN SPLIT

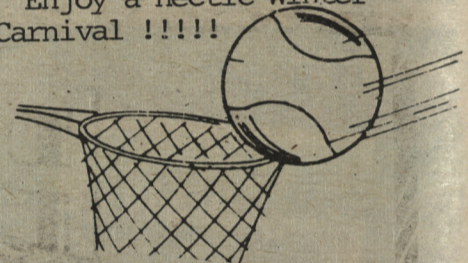
Nutbrown was quoted as saying that he was as happy as he could be after a loss, as he thought his team played as well as they are capable of doing. Rick Millard was high scorer with 29 points. The team then travelled to Halifax, where they ended Dalhousie's 14 game losing streak by dropping a close one to the Tigers. Trailing by 5 at the half the Panthers rallied and led 72-71 with a minute to go, but Dalhousie made good on a desperation play and their defence held as we bowed out 73-72. For a six man team, playing their second game in 19 hrs., with travel in the short interval, we consider they made a gutsy showing. Bill Redmond and Rick Millard were high for us with 21 each.

There will be two games here this weekend, both with U.N.B., which is said to be much improved over last season. These games will be interesting, as our new coach Dave Nutbrown will be directing Panther play against his

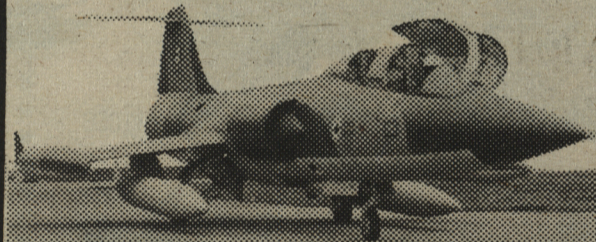
old mentor, nice guy Don Nelson. We hope Dave will make Don proud of him by taking both games!

Our Lady Panthers continued merrily on their winning ways by taking two lopsided games from the Saint Thomas girls. Dave "Hermie" MacNeil used his freshman players to great advantage in both games as Anna MacAdam led our scorers in the first game, which we won 104-28, while Colleen Rossiter's 21 was tops in the second match, which we won 99-17. The girls face a hard schedule this weekend, as they take on Saint Mary's in Halifax at 6:00 P.M. Friday night and are to be back home for a 4:00 P.M. game on Saturday. In mid-January, in the Maritimes, that's a tough assignment, but we expect the Pantherettes can do it!!

Enjoy a hectic Winter Carnival !!!!!



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