



By MICKEY PLACE

JOCK TALK

Almost always at this time of year, as the A.U. A.A. teams approach the end of scheduled play, fans and players alike scan the standings and remaining games with many "ifs" being applied to the calculations. "If" this hadn't of happened to us of "If" we had only done that, how much better might our situation be! Unfortunately we have reached a state where our fate has been passed, in part, to others & their chances of edging out our close competitors in order for us to reach post season play. For the Panthers the same situation exists in both basketball and hockey. Of course we must also win to take advantage of what others might do to us.

We'll first go to women's basketball where we are mired in 7th place (Thank Heaven for Mount A) and out of playoff contention. We hosted the St. F.X. team on Saturday after noon and unfortunately, we were most hospitable as they walked off with a 55-31 win after leading 36-14 at the half. Sue Balwin was high for us with 14. As in most games this season we are handicapped with a disadvantage in height and have been consistently outmaneuvered under the basket. Looking forward to next year we'll hope that many P.E.I. highschool girls have been eating the proper breakfast foods and growing high. Perhaps, in 1983 we should say "Tall". The final league game of the year will be on Friday at 6:00 against the league leading "Red Bloomers" of

U.N.B. who sport a national ranking and a 13-0 record.

In hockey we split a pair since our last column. On Wednesday we travelled to Moncton where we dropped one to Les Aigles Bleu 6-1 in a game in which we never really got started. We trailed 2-0 after one and 3-1 at the end of two. Avelino Gomez was injured midway in the middle period and had to give way to Dave Reid in goal. Each allowed three markers. Rob Mazzuca got our lone tally. Captain Trevor Crawford was ejected from this game and had to miss the next one because of strenuous and overenthusiastic debate. Saturday night it was a different story as the Acadia Axemen sorely needing a win to stay in contention came to the Forum. It was a miserable stormy night and those brave souls who defied the elements to attend, saw the Crawfordless Panthers play the type of game we have hoped for all season as they smothered the mainlanders 6-1 in a contest in which the biggest wonder was whether Dave Reid would get a shut-out. (A third period backhander, while he had been drawn out of position foiled his attempt). We lead 2-0 after one, 4-0 after the second and 6-1 at the final whistle. Norman Beck connected for two, Ricky Cameron got a neat short-handed one & Ronnie Carragher scored three, one in each period. Monday mornings standings are shown below. To achieve a playoff spot, and the dubious honor of meeting Moncton in the first round, we MUST beat out UNB and Mount A. We play

St. Thomas and Mount A. here this weekend. Mount A. is at home to UNB on Saturday & here on Sunday. UNB is at St. Thomas on the 16th & at Mount A. on the 19th. Figure out the possibilities!

In basketball we dropped two & we, who only a few days ago were enjoying the stratosphere of first place in the standing have been deposed and driven to the depths of fifth position! To such a nice bunch of guys it shouldn't happen. Against league leading St. F.X. in their gym we managed to stay close for the first half as we trailed by but five at 37-32 but the X-men changed tactics & took control early in the second & they won, going away by 92-62. Billy Redmond and Mike Morgan were tops for us with 15 and 14. Sunday's game was a continuation of the same sad story with but slightly different script as St. Mary's took a 100-78 decision from our struggling warriors. The close guarding and superior height of the Santamarians were too much for the Panthers as hurried and hurried shooting from the inside & a recalcitrant ball, which kept bouncing off the hoops frustrated our attempt from outside & we were out or close contention throughout. Our shooting was way off average although a hockey statistician would probably have us ahead on the S.O.G.'s! They do not count however in determining a winner. SMU led 52-39 at the half. Mike Morgan lead the way for us with 23 and Billy Redmond was close behind with 20. Our playoff hopes were somewhat dimmed by UNB's 79-70 upset vic-

tory over Dalhousie. (generous of us???) St. Mary's (who have a tough finishing schedule) UNB (here for two this weekend) and the Panthers are all in contention for third and fourth places. "Eanie meanie, miney, moe.. .. who's out?"

"Nice guy" Don Nelson (who claims to make the best clam chowder in the Maritime) will have his UNB Red Raiders here this weekend & to stay in the race, we MUST take both games. In the games played in Fredericton last fall we took the first by a few points but UNB bounced back to take the second by a wide margin. They have a win over SMU in Halifax & as we have remarked, beat Dal. in their own gym by 9. We MUST root the Panthers to wins in both games! For the "iffers" the rest of the schedule has the Panthers home for these two against UNB, Mount A. will be here for our final home game on the 22nd. (Our sad farewell to Billy Redmond) We'll be away at Dal. and Acadia the following weekend. Besides the pair of games here, UNB entertains Mount A. on the 16th & are at home to St. F.X. on the 26th. St. Mary's are at Dal. on the 15th and 16th, at home to Acadia on the 19th & at St. F.X. on the 22nd. IF you are an optimist & Curtis Brown has promised us, you'll make reservations for Halifax for 4 & 5 of March!

If the reverent Phil is counted among the few who might be reading this, will you Father, on behalf of both the hockey and basketball Panther fans please try to establish immediate contact with St. Jude?

Standings 14 Feb. 83:

	W	L	F	A	Pct
St. FX	10	3	1138	999	.769
Dal	9	4	1088	1013	.692
St. Mary's	9	5	1049	971	.643
UNB	7	5	966	845	.583
UPEI	6	5	920	901	.545
Acadia	4	10	974	1072	.286
Mount A	0	12	881	1215	.000

UdeM	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Dal	17	4	0	128	61	34
SMU	11	10	1	92	91	23
MIA	10	9	2	107	102	22
UNB	10	12	0	93	105	20
UPEI	9	11	2	91	96	20
Aca	7	13	2	96	124	16
St FX	6	13	3	75	112	15
St.Thom	3	18	1	80	165	7

	W	L	F	A	Pts
UNB	13	0	998	659	26
Dal	11	2	888	622	22
St. FX	8	4	653	558	16
Mem	6	6	647	758	12
SMU	6	7	859	805	12
Acadia	4	8	614	686	8
UPEI	3	11	642	832	6
MIA	0	13	568	948	0