

PANTHER MAKES BIG TIME

PAHL TO BOMBERS

By John Cairns

Vernon Pahl has been a lineman for UPEI's Football Panthers for the past 4 years. On February 20th he was chosen by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the third round of the Canadian Football League's Amateur Draft.

Vernon, a philosophy major, has been a consistent all-star in the Atlantic Football Conference, and twice he has been part of the region's all-conference team. He does have one year of eligibility left for college play, but Ed Hilton of the UPEI Athletic Department doubts that Vernon will utilize that time if he can make the professionals.

Vernon admits that he expected to be drafted. What he didn't anticipate, however, was being chosen as early as the third round making him approximately the twentieth player selected. In his own words,



Panther star Vernon Pahl

"That came as a real shock. I was actually chosen ahead of some guys who were all-Canadians."

In early June Vernon will be packing his bags and departing for training camp. He doesn't know exactly where the camp will be yet, but as he puts it, "It will be somewhere in the dark, deep regions of Manitoba."

Winnipeg, to Vernon, is as good a place to play as

any. Indeed, he's relieved to join the Blue Bombers, one of the weaker CFL squads. With a more powerful team he feels his chances of excelling would be reduced.

One of Vernon's immediate problems is that he has to change playing positions. He readily admits that he is too small to be a CFL lineman. Instead, he will have to try for a spot as an outside linebacker, and this may be difficult to

do. He says he will have to play a more controlled game as opposed to being a lineman when he used unleashed emotion to penetrate the opposition.

For a man about to launch a possible career in professional sport, Vernon is remaining remarkably calm. He feels that when he was younger the prospect of entering the CFL might have been a dream come true. In the light of reality, however, all the dreamlike qualities fade. He knows he faces a challenge,

and he is preparing to meet it.

Vernon isn't sure he will be wearing a Blue Bomber uniform in the upcoming season. He declares that if he is it will be a miracle, but perhaps he is too modest. In any case, people at UPEI wish him the best, and hope soon for the opportunity to see him perform on television.

CHAMPIONS AT UPEI

By John O'Brien

UPEI's Brent Cutcliffe and Alex Smith won the Atlantic Universities badminton doubles title at Acadia, last weekend. Their strongest competition came from the Acadia team, which pushed the score as high as 18-15 before the UPEI pair was able to dispose of them. Things were relatively quiet for the rest of the weekend, which was part of Acadia's March break; no other doubles team was able to score more than 10 points against the strong UPEI team.

Cutcliffe and Smith were entered in the doubles category only, since all participants were limited to one category of play in the tournament. They had to play eight matches after St. Vincent University dropped out of the round-robin tournament.

Although UPEI went undefeated in all eight games in men's doubles, Dalhousie University of Nova Scotia won the

overall men's title, while UNB took the overall women's title.

"We knew we had a good chance," said Alex Smith, but he added that he was especially happy in winning after the difficulties involved in training at UPEI. "For the amount of people that play," said Smith, UPEI made a pretty good showing. One of the biggest obstacles the UPEI representatives had to overcome was the problem of training. Practice sessions are reduced to a mere two hours every Sunday and, then, the control room at the gymnasium is usually abandoned so no one is available to supply the nets and other paraphernalia that make the game easier to play. The reason why UPEI had a viable team to represent the University at the tournament is that one of the players happens to own his own equipment, which the team relies on for practices.

When asked his opinion of the proposal to eliminate

such activities as badminton tournaments on campus, Alex Smith summed it all up with: "'sounds scary'". He would like to see at least one more two-hour practice session held each week and, although he didn't complain, it was apparent that a less sloppy approach to practice at UPEI, and

even a little more interest in the sport, would be most beneficial to the development of the sport at UPEI.

For more comment on the proposal to change a number of sports activities at UPEI, see this week's SUN. Perhaps your favorite activity is one of those concerned.

UPEI STUDENT CARIBBEAN BOUND

UPEI student John O'Brien is among 120 volunteers chosen from across Canada by Canadian Crossroads International (CCI) to live and work with local people on urban and rural self-help projects in developing countries.

CCI's 1980 contingent of French and English speaking Canadians will depart in May and September for their placements in Asia, Africa, South America, and the Caribbean. Mr. O'Brien will be visiting the Caribbean.



John O'Brien