



By MICKEY PLACE

# JOCK TALK

On behalf of "Jocktalk" we are glad to welcome back returning students and we extend hearty greeting to those newcomers who are gracing the campus for the first time. We trust the latter will immediately become enthusiastic, and lifetime, rooters for all Panther activities and that you will share with us the euphoria that comes with victories and the disappointment of defeats. Hopefully there will be more of the former. Since our last column there have been many changes. There was a fire in the Panther Lounge and we'd like to compliment the new S.U. Executive on the great job they did in refurbishing the building. The executive offices are also much more attractive in which regard not the least visible improvement is the replacement of a nice looking General Manager for the somewhat decreit character formerly ensconced therein. We wish them well. Writing this column before any games are played may be somewhat of a difficult task so we'll have to deal in generalities for a couple of issues and in this issue we will concentrate on the prospects of the two upcoming Fall sports of Soccer and Field Hockey. In Soccer the usually glum Vincie Mulligan is in probably the most optimistic mood we have ever seen him exhibit. The world's most popular spectator sport has never been greatly patronized by students during the few years it has been played here although it has attracted a growing number of fans coincident with our improvement in league standings. Last year, the best yet, we had eight wins, two ties and three losses in league

play and were barely nosed out by Saint Mary's, (regional winners), 1-0 in a playoff game. This year, while we have lost Kevin Burdett and Trevor Crawford, (to hockey), we have retained most of last year's team and have several outstanding recruits. Both players and coach feel we are much stronger. Back are Gary Polenz, last year's M.V.P. and U.P.E.I. "Athlete of the Year", who was an

All Conference choice as well as All Conference Mitch Murphy, outstanding offensive player Scott Neil, Tommy Hogan, who was an All Conference choice in 1980, but injured last year, is back and in good form. We are much strengthened by newcomers Steve Polenz (Gary's brother) and John Painchaud who, with last year's Peter MacDonald will play in goal. Also returning are speedy Alan Stewart and the talented Andy Cameron.

We have probably missed some but all in all, it looks like a team that COULD go a long way this year and we hope that our boys will get the fan support that they merit. A crowd of screeching, screaming supporters can do a lot for a team's success. We realize that many still regret the loss of football and we hope that soccer can fill the void that came with the loss of the Canadian game. We have lived through this before. Whin Rugby was replaced by Canadian Football there used to be many fans who paced up and down the sidelines shading their heads in horror at the new fad and prophesying its demise because of the new game's unpopularity. That game is gone and now we have new predictors of doom and gloom but we are sure that, if we can win BIG the stands will be filled again. The

more things change the more they remain the same! League play starts the 25th and 26th at S.M.U. and Dal. and the first home game will be here on the 29th against Mt.A. Be there.

In Lady Panther Field Hockey, Coach Barb Mullaly has ten players returning from last year and still has seven newcomers in the running for team positions. For those unacquainted with the game, eleven players participate in a game with but two substitutions permitted. Last year's women had a two win, one tie and an eight loss record which was five points up on their 1980 figures. Coach Mullaly feels that, with ten holdovers from last year and seven experienced newcomers still in competition for the starting lineup a playoff berth is a reasonable expectation. We might observe that the winless 1980 team was composed, for the most part of Freshmen, the 1981 team became Sophomores and their play improved. This year, naturally, they are

Juniors and they should be improved just that much more. Look out for 1983!

They played their first game on Wednesday against Moncton and, as this is being written on Tuesday, we can't give any report. The S.U. Crystal ball has been loaned to several Expo fans.

We'd like to close off with a tribute to Barb Mullaly. We thought that, with a losing team, she managed to have her players maintain the highest morale of any team on campus. What would she do with a winner? Hope we find out. Next home game will be on Oct. 3 when Acadia will be here.

Next week we'll look at basketball, hockey and volleyball.