

SPORTS

Panthers romp over Mount Allison to advance

By Darrell Cole, Sports Editor

The UPEI Hockey Panthers' specialty teams thrived last Saturday night as the Panthers scored three powerplay goals and two shorthanded goals en route to a 8-2 thumping of the Mount Allison Mounties in AUAA Playoff Hockey action played at the Charlottetown Forum.

With the win the Panthers advance to the semi-finals and a date with the Acadia Axemen who eliminated the Dalhousie Tigers in two straight games. In the other series the University of Moncton Blue Eagles will play Kelly Division regular-season champ, the St. Francis Xavier X-Men. All series began last night in Moncton and Wolfville.

In last Saturday's game the top-ranked Panthers opened the scoring 3:21 into the first period. On a powerplay Kevin Skiliter deflected a John Cople slapshot over the shoulder of Mountie goalie Pat MacLaughlin to give UPEI an early 1-0 lead.

A Mountie giveaway lead to UPEI's second goal as Greg Gravel intercepted a pass in the Mountie zone and

scored at 6:27. Another powerplay goal gave the Panthers a 3-0 lead as captain Steve Fulton drilled a low shot through a perfect screen setup by Jerry Fleming.

As if three goals wasn't enough for one period another mistake by the Mounties lead to another UPEI goal as Greg Gravel capitalized on an errant pass for a shorthanded goal and a 4-0 lead for the Panther after the first period which saw UPEI outshoot Mount A 14-7.

In the second period the scoring spree for the Panthers continued as Don Clow scored on a breakaway as he, like Gravel in the previous period broke up a

Mountie powerplay opportunity with a shorthanded goal. Todd Steffen rounded out the scoring in the second period when he converted on a perfect centering pass from Brent Thompson. UPEI lead 6-0 after two periods and outshot the Mounties 30-14 in the two periods.

Scott Wasson and Reed McClung both scored early third period goals to spoil goalie Tony Haladuick's shutout bid. Mount Allison looked to be pulling themselves back into the game but Greg Gravel put that to rest as he scored on a three-way passing play with Steve Fulton and Randy Muttart. That goal gave Gravel a hat-

trick on the night. Jeff Steffen rounded out the scoring for the game as he scored late in the third period. UPEI outshot the Mounties 16-7 in the period and 46-21 in the game.

Coach Vince Mulligan wasn't to pleased with his teams penalty problems which still seem to be nagging the team. Mount Allison coach Jack Drover also wasn't too impressed by the number of penalties called in the game. "There's a real problem with high-sticks in this league.", commented Drover. When asked who he thought was going to win the AUAA Championship Drover commented

that both UPEI and St.F.X. have strong teams and that it could boil down to who is able to stay out of the penalty box.

The Panthers are home this weekend in AUAA Semi-final action as they host the Acadia Axemen. There is a game on Saturday and on Sunday. Sunday's game is if necessary. Let's have a good turnout for these games on the weekend as the Panthers really want your support. It was quite disappointing to see such a small crowd on hand for Saturday's game against Mount Allison and I feel that we can do better to support the hockey Panthers.

Lady Panthers AUAA Champs Again



by Matthew Beardsley

The 1987-88 Lady Panthers are in a word, "perfect".

The Lady Panthers fought off a charge by the Dalhousie Tigers in the second half to win 58-51 and take their second straight AUAA Womens' Basketball title. They did so before a loud and boisterous crowd that filled Alumni Gym to the roof.

With the victory the Panthers have given themselves a perfect 14-0 record in league play plus two more in the tournament for an overall record of 16-0.

The Lady Panthers now head to Lethbridge, Alberta for the CIAU championships,

which will take place this weekend at the University of Lethbridge.

The championship game was everything anyone could have hoped for. Dalhousie came out strong and was up 6-4 when UPEI went inside to Tracy MacEachern. MacEachern called upon the shot that has become so familiar to those of us who have seen her play over the past five years. That reliable left-handed hook.

The shot swished through the net and tied the game. It was the last time Dalhousie was to have the lead.

UPEI was again forced to go to their bench as they had Friday night in their win over Acadia. MacEachern picked up her third foul with 6:57 to go in the first half. Nadine Enman came off the bench for MacEachern and hit clutch jumpers down the stretch.

The story of the first half, however, was the play of Janet Nichols and Ria Bahadursingh. Nichols scored a half high 12 points and grabbed 9 rebounds. Nichols time and time again went up against the MacCormacks and came down with the ball.

Ria Bahadursingh was literally all over the floor. Numerous times she either stole the ball or caused Dal to turn it over. She finished the game with a total of seven steals.

From the 10:00 minute mark of the first half it was the great defense of UPEI that allowed them to open up the game. When Nadine Enman hit a fall-away hook with seconds remaining she gave UPEI their largest lead of the half at 35-20.

As the second half started the Lady Panthers found themselves with three fouls each: Tracy MacEachern, Tracey Bowie, and Stephanie Smith.

Right away MacEachern got hit with her fourth foul and was again forced to the bench. Then Tracey Bowie caught five as twice in a row she went coast-to-coast to hit jumpers from the right side. The second of which put UPEI up by 13.

With the Panther KBench leading the cheer of "Defence, Defence," the KAlumni Gym crowd pushed the deciable count higher until it exploded at the 5:37 mark when Dal under immense pressure from the Panther Press failed to

advance the ball over half in the required time.

UPEI continued to pour it on as Bahadursingh hit a jumper from the left corner. Then took a cheap shot from Kathy MacCormack and hit the free throws to give the Panthers their largest lead of the game: 46-30.

Dal called timeout hoping to halt the momentum. It began to look as though the Tiger strategy was working as they went on a 15-4 run. They they cut the lead to five when Mary Feyes hit from the top of the key.

The Tigers continued to fight back refusing to give up. The bench again became a factor when just Tracey Bowie fouled out and then Tracy MacEachern went out with her fifth personal foul. Much to the dismay of those in attendance who unanimously thought it was a bad call.

The crowd sensed the game slipping away. It might have but not for a masterful coaching job by Dave MacNeil. After Dal closed to 5 he called timeout and as Enman said "gave us the confidence to do it."

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