

MICKEY WRAPS UP THE SEASON



JOCK TALK

Hard-hearted Editor Maria just waltzed into our office insisting that, although the varsity sport season has been completed, we MUST produce a column. We feel that this is like beating a dead horse but, having received our early education in a convent school, we are most susceptible to feminine insistence.

While we think the best topic for our enforced scribbling might be a review of the different activities of the past season we also think it might be well to promote Bridge to a campus sport status and refer to the series of games that have started, beginning with last Sunday night's activity in the Panther Lounge. Competition was good, the atmosphere relaxed and friendly, and, we thought, the standard of play excellent. Robin Clow and Mati Kolga walked off with top honours while Peggy Arsenault was brilliant as she dragged herself and partner (who played not a single hand) into second position. "Weren't we fortunate to draw her?" For those who might wish to while away a couple of pleasant hours on a Sunday evening we'll recommend a visit to the Panther Lounge. (Sorry, nothing stronger than coke.)

To go now to the sports season just ended. We'll start off in chronological order....which also happens to be the most successful two. In Harness Racing our Kevin McCarville was awarded the Canadian title as he won the final event in Halifax in quite easy fashion. We'd guess that his closest competition on the way to his win came right here in Charlottetown when he won, at the wire, from Freshman Bernadette Shea in a thrilling finish.

In Golf, UPEI darted past Acadia and Dalhousie in the final round to capture the Atlantic Intercollegiate Golf Championship for the first time since 1974. Led by John Neville's 75 and Lee Brammer's 76 our boys were two strokes better than second-place Acadia. These two, Dave Stevenson and Steve Dowling all bettered their opening round score to snap Halifax domination of this annual event.

In Football, we were 4-3, which was a big improvement over the previous year's 1-6 but it was also quite frustrating as we came so close to having a really BIG year. In the three losses, we led St. Francis Xavier 14-0 at the half but were nosed out 15-14 at the end. We fell behind Saint Mary's by 20 points in the first five minutes but rebounded and almost caught them as time ran out with us trailing, and pressing, 23-18. We dropped our game to Acadia 35-18 in a contest in which we were contenders all the way. Mike Lyriotokis, Dan Desjardins, Hubert MacDonald (that's Socky) and Frank Costa were named to the All-Conference team while Mike was picked to play for the Canadian Colleges against their American counterparts in a January game in Florida. Our moment of glory was somewhat dimmed by a dumb C.B.C. announcer who never did learn Mike's name and referred to our beloved institution as "The University of PRINCESS Edward Island"!!!!

Our Soccer team played well and came close in several contests but were quite unsuccessful in the "Win" column. Too bad that more attention is not given to this excellent game. We watched only two games but found them interesting and exciting. Vincie will make it one of these years. We believe that the players really enjoy playing and morale seems excellent.

In Field Hockey our girls seemed haunted by ill fortune as they ran up a 1-9-2 record....dropping 6 of their 9 losses by one point....five of these in overtime! Hard working Sandra Drysdale was picked as a member of the All-Conference team.

In Women's Basketball, it was an outstanding year. Similar to the 1970-71 season (15-0) our girls went undefeated in league play, piling up 20 successive wins before bowing out to the nationally ranked U.N.B. in the first game of the play-offs. Heather MacLean and Alyson Maxwell were chosen as All-Conference players. Hermie MacNeill was honoured by being picked as League Coach of the Year.

In Hockey, we certainly had a disappointing though extremely exciting year. We were 3-5 at Christmas but ended up in 4th place with a 10-9-1 record. We were really rolling in high gear when in January, for the second year in a row, both times in Moncton, David "The Moose" Cameron (not only leading the scoring in the league but also in all Canada) was badly injured and knocked out of play for the season. In subsequent games injuries followed to several other key players (e.g. Shane Turner, Harold Hay and others) but we still managed to limp into a playoff spot. Pundits gave us little chance against league winners, Saint Mary's but we confounded the experts as we topped our highly rated opponents in the first game, our best of the season....possibly the best ever for UPEI, Brian Ostroski's goal at 19.44 of the second overtime period being the 5-4 winner. The next two were both cliff hangers, 2-4 and 3-4...in the latter we led 3-2 going into the final period but the legs just gave out as this series was played by UPEI with only 12 players against a fully manned S.M.U. team. The invalids did not enjoy their spectator role. Brian Ostroski and Wilfred MacDonald were chosen for the All Star team of the league. Wilfred was picked for the M.V.P. of the league, as well as the All Canadian Team and was runner-up for the M.V.P. in Canada!

In Men's Basketball we had a terrific season. With George Birger departing for Brandon late in the summer, former great Kevin Feighrey, upon his appointment as coach, faced an almost impossible task as he started from

scratch with no regulars returning from the previous year. With three coaches in three years it is difficult to establish a program and it would seem that, particularly in a college as small as UPEI, planning is essential. Kevin recruited Larry McGhee, the most exciting player we have seen on a Maritime court, John Guilford and Ken Salter (after Xmas) all of whom depart this year. Adding other area players Kevin quickly moulded a most outstanding team that ended up ahead of pre-season favourites, Saint Francis Xavier and Acadia with a league record of 11-5 and an overall record of 20-9. We were ranked #10 in Canada although finishing ahead of the two above-mentioned better ranked fives. Since play ended there has been a lot of criticism and discussion....ad nauseum. However, we'd like to remember this as a year when we finished second in the best league in Canada, when we were nationally ranked, when we beat St. F.X. twice (To us that makes a GOOD season), when we had the best coach in the league, when we had (we thought) the best player in the league, when we had a player who led the nation in scoring and who made, not only the All Conference team, but also the All Canadian team....a most exciting year...let's forget the rest and may our recollections be high.

