

Hockey Panthers Turning Things Around

by Jason Martell

A lot can happen in a week. Just ask UPEI Panthers men's hockey team. Heading into Christmas, the Panthers under the guidance of head coach Doug Currie, were two games under the .500 mark at 5-7-1 and managed to drop a pair of exhibition games to the Alberta Golden Bears and the UPEI Alumni team over the break as well.

However, a pair of victories over nationally-ranked St. Thomas by scores of 5-4 and 8-6 combined with a 5-1 pounding of the Dalhousie Tigers has brightened the outlook of the Panthers. "Certainly, when we can take four points from a team like St. Thomas, it's really positive for us," said Currie, "Everyone's been working extremely hard, so we're really pleased with the effort as a whole."

These three wins have the Panthers tied with the Tommies for third place in the MacAdam Division with 17 points, four back of defending CIAU champion Moncton, and only five back of first place UNB.

Forbie MacPherson lead the way offensively, racking up eight points for the Panthers in the pair of wins while first-year goalie David Mitchell outplayed St. Thomas all-star net minder Johnny Lorenzo, turning aside a total of 62 shots on the weekend.

UPEI sees action next on January 20 and the 21 when they travel to UCCB to play the Capers who have only two wins in 16 games this season.

The UPEI men's basketball team has been a team of opportunity this season. Heading into the weekend against UCCB, the Panthers had a 3-4 record, but two of those wins came against St. F.X. -- wins which are worth four points each.

Therefore, the Panthers sit in a tie for third place in the AUAA with the Capers and the X-Men. All three teams have 10 points, four behind Acadia and eight back of undefeated Dalhousie. Leading the way for the Panthers once again with 28.6 points and 8.7 rebounds per game has been Curtis Robinson. Another bright spot for head coach

George Morrison has been Peter Lawlor, who is 10th in the conference in rebounding.

The Lady Panthers have had things a bit tougher this year as they presently sit in a sixth place with UNB with six points. They dropped a pair of games in Nova Scotia last weekend to Dalhousie and St. F.X., but will have a chance to break their present four-game losing skid on the 20 and 21 as they host third place Cape Breton.

Eireann Rigby, who was one of the UPEI representatives at the AUAA all-star game in Saint John earlier in the season, leads the Panthers in scoring with a 15.4 ppg scoring average. Meanwhile, the tandem of Angela MacIntyre and Kara Saunders have patrolled the point well for the Panthers this season, grabbing 7.8 and 6.8 rebounds per game respectively.

The Lady Panthers volleyball team was in action on the 12th and 13th against the Mount Allison Mounties, but dropped both games by scores of 3-0 (15-12, 15-11, 15-7) and 3-1 (15-3, 15-3, 5-15, 15-9). The Panthers now sit in eighth place in the AUAA but still have a good opportunity to move up in the standings, as only ten points separate UPEI and third place St. Mary's with four teams in between them.

Communiversiy and Recreation News:

UPEI is now offering fitness classes in High and Low Impact and Step Aerobics at the UPEI sports Centre. Mon-Fri, 12:05-12:35; Monday and Wednesday 5:00-6:00 pm; Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

UPEI Winter Carnival Broomball Tournament: Friday, Jan. 26; 1:00-5:00 pm. Sticks are provided, but helmets and sneakers are mandatory. Contact the Sports Centre to register or for more information.

Face Off

by Yvonne MacKean

The Tommies for Two

The St. Thomas Tommies rolled into Charlottetown to take on the Panthers in a pair of weekend games. Special thanks to my correspondent Wendy MacDonald who kept stats for me in my absence.

In the first game, on Saturday evening, the Panthers was first on the board by Cory Power, assisted by Harding. The Tommies tided up the game on a goal by Weir. The Panthers forged ahead on a goal by Willie Skilliter, assisted by Walker and MacPherson. The Panthers followed with a goal by Greg Power assisted by new recruit Pomeroy. The Tommies added a second goal by Thompson, before the end of the period. The Panthers were outshot 16-10.

The second period saw the UPEI add to their lead. First on a goal by Sproul, set up by MacPherson and White. STU replied with a goal by Lehman. MacPherson gave the Panthers their fifth goal, assisted by Sproul and Lemay. Although the Tommies added a fourth goal by Hogan, the Panthers hung on to win 5-4. Forbes MacPherson with his goal and two assists was player of the game.

The rematch on Sunday proved to be a shootout.

In the first period the Panthers got off to a running start with four goals. Mike Harding, assisted by Lavoie and G. Power, scored the first goal. The second Panther goal was scored by Pomeroy, assisted by Lavoie and Mitchell. Colin Wilson added the third goal, assisted by Henderson and Nelson. The Panthers' fourth goal was scored by Jason Sproul with assists by MacPherson and Walker. The Tommies scored two goals of their own before the end of the first.

In the second period, the teams exchanged goals. The Panthers goals were scored by KJ White (assisted by MacPherson) and Jason Sproul (assisted by Lemay and MacPherson). The third period also saw the teams exchange goals. The seventh Panther goal was scored by MacPherson unassisted. The final goal to cap the victory was also scored by MacPherson, assisted by C. Power, for a final score of 8-6. The player of the game was once again Forbes MacPherson with four points. The Panthers play at UCCB on January 20, play at home against Mt. A on January 26 and at UDM on January 27.

Notice

L'Arche Cape Breton has openings for live-in volunteer assistance with mentally challenged adults. Situated near the village of Whycocomagh, L'Arche is a community where approximately 45 people live in family size homes. Each year colunteers from Cape Breton and around the world come to help and to learn from the community life. It is a great experience and looks great on your resume.

Volunteers receive free room and board and a monthly allowance. There is also an international program where you may live and work in any of more than 100 L'Arche communities worldwide. Looking for a challenge? Call 902-756-3162 or write L'Arche Cape Breton Whycocomagh NS, B0E 3M0, fax 902-756-3381.

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