

# Lady Panther Rugby Only Undefeated UPEI Team

by James Scheib

Lower Field, UPEI, Saturday, October 14, 2000- The UPEI Women's First XV Rugby Team crushed Mount Allison 74-3. Panther scorers, in the rout, were led by Michelle Young and Melissa Perry with a pair of tries each; and Sarah Totten, Dawn Paynter, Jaclyn Coady, Amanda Gallant, Ellen Gallant, Vanessa Larter, Lindsay Peters, and Kelly Pitre with one try respectively. Jaclyn Coady added 6 converts while Michelle Young kicked another. The win kept the Panthers on top of their league and was another step towards reaching their goal of making their first ever CIAU appearance in the new national format. This format determines a national champion, which replaces the four league winners that existed before. The championship are to be held at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec on the weekend of November 4-5.

October 15th, Lower Field, UPEI- The Lady Panthers kept their perfect season intact by beating St. Thomas 20-0. Wing Amanda Gallant led the team with two tries and her weekend exploits were rewarded by being named the Female Panther Athlete of the Week. Michelle Young and Lindsay Peters also added tries. This last regular season win of the year ensured the Panthers a first place standing in the New Brunswick/PEI Division of the AUS. More impressive than that was the 239 points they racked up against giving up a mere penalty kick of three points against.

October 22nd, Lower Field, UPEI- The Lady Panthers captured their division championship with an impressive 17-0 victory over an inspired Mount Allison squad.

While the score was not as impressive as other wins this season, winning in hurricane like conditions was no small feat. Captain Sarah Field scored the only points of the first half running in a try from 40 meters out after looping the backs who managed to swing the ball to her. Jaclyn Coady kicked the convert to make it 7-0. The Panthers took advantage of the wind in the second half by dominating play. The only thing preventing the team from scoring seemed to be their own miscues and penalties. With about 15 minutes remaining, fly-half Coady finally pierced the Mountie defense and made a nice chip kick to the corner that speedy wing Amanda Gallant fell on providing the backbreaking try. The



scoring was rounded out after the forwards provided clean ball yet again and the backs showed deft ball handling skills that put the ball in Gallant's hands, who promptly beat her woman around the corner and scored. Several players rounded out impressive careers on the team in their final game of the year including Prop Anne Corrigan, Flanker Shannon Atkins-Gillis, Amanda Brander, Gallant, and 8 Woman Field. Coach Dale Macleod wanted to emphasize the team has achieved its success as a club rather than a varsity team. The Ladies play arch rival St. Francis Xavier on Saturday, October 29th in Antiginosh. The winner of this game will represent the Atlantic University Conference in the Nationals. Good luck Panthers.



Photo by Shawn Sears



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