

# Soccer Panthers Champions in every way that matters

by Ross Hartinger

Due to an Atlantic Region Canadian University Press Conference hosted by the **Netted Gem** last weekend, there was no issue last week as staff prepared for a weekend full of meaningful discussions on Sexism and Homosexuals' rights.

My story on the soccer team's defeat became a little outdated, and as I dusted off the copy Monday evening after my haziness from the weekend, I found I could shed little light on the actual game and its' ins and outs.

So I threw it in the trash. All I could think of was how the poor officiating and the fact that Carleton was spurred on by its twelve players helped the Ravens dash any hope of a national title for the University of Prince Edward Island.

The game was very close, with UPEI being the better skilled team on the field but with this unrolltable factor against UPEI the outcome was evident.

Carleton scored first. The whole tempo of the game changed as UPEI tried to crack the deficit, regain their composure, and play their own game, but they reverted to Carleton's style of 'Kick and Run' game.

Carleton scored late in the second half. UPEI tried a desperate comeback but time ran out, and as the whistle blew Carleton erupted from its bench knowing it would be in the national final against the University of British Columbia. (Which game UBC won 4-2 on penalty kicks after the teams played to a 1-1 tie last Saturday.)

The game was over and the Ravens were celebrating their national berth, a dream held

by UPEI for three years, but I know each player on UPEI gave that dream a burial in his own emotional way.

Words could not describe the aftermath of the game. The support from fans and the sense that they had lost the game for an entire province weighed heavily in their hearts.

A victory in Ottawa and a national final here in Charlottetown was what Coach Gordie Wilson and each

player wanted and it would have been a great graduation present for the players on the team who will not be returning for another title drive.

On the plane trip to Ottawa, one player said he would not return to the Island if they didn't win the game because he would feel so disgraced.

Each player on the team deserves a lot of credit; they did represent UPEI very well in their pursuit of the national title.

They have won two consecutive AUAA titles and have only lost three games in the last three years, all of them in post-season play,

They are champions in the fact they did return home with heads held high. The reception at the Charlotte-town Airport was evidence of the spirit they had kindled, and that's the finest accolade.

A few of the players continued as if they were not really affected by the loss. Some went to the Forum th

cheer on the UPEI hockey team and one player hit the books as soon as his suitcase hit the floor.

UPEI can only be proud of the students who played on this soccer team and the support they had this year was remarkable.

The only way I can end this short article is to say: "There will always be a next year".

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Left to right, the UPEI soccer Panthers, coached by Gordie Wilson; Dave MacRae, Mitch Murphy, Paul Peacock, Glen Smiley, Richard Pierre-Gilles, Don MacKenzie, Andrew MadAdam, Danny Harris, Trent Hayes, Wayne MacLean, Steve Polenz, Keith Mumma, Doug Blain, Alan Spink, Scott Neil, Jean-Francois Painchaud.

(Photo: Hartinger)

## Panthers sweep two

by Ross Hartinger

The University of Prince Edward Island Lady Panthers defeated the University of Maine Presque Isle twice last weekend in two foul-filled games at Alumni Gymnasium to open their exhibition basketball schedule.

Saturday night UPEI stormed back from a 24-23 deficit at the half to defeat UMPI 53-39, in what could be described as the first round of a boxing match.

Libby Baldwin scored 18 of her 20 points in the second half as she converted a series of steals into layups to ignite the Panther attack.

Rookie Paula Edwards scored 11 for UPEI while Jackie Springer netted 21 points for the UMPI Owls.

The aggressive styles that each team employed Saturday carried over to the afternoon game Sunday.

There were 32 fouls called in the first half alone, with 19 going to UPEI, who were in foul trouble early in a bonus situation before ten minutes were gone in the first half.

UMPI scored 19 points on foul shots alone.

UPEI controlled the game and were never really in serious trouble as Coach Dave McNeil substituted freely, using his very strong bench support.

UPEI's zine press was

impressive against the Owls who never really got their offense into gear and managed only 14 points in the second half after UPEI lead 36-29 at half-time.

UPEI has a speedy team with a strong bench with an average amount of height to bolster its ranks.

Most impressive Sunday were Sherry Dawn Jones, who topped all scorers with 20 points, and Tracey MacEachern, who seemed very aggressive on the boards and netted 8 points for UPEI.

Rookie Paula Edwards was also a standout, scoring 11 points and showing signs that she will definitely be a player to contend with in AUAA.

She did have four fouls on the first half and showed some discontent with the referee.

Owl Jackie Springer was again high scorer for UMPI with 18 points on Sunday.

Lady Panthers looked impressive in their first two games of the exhibition schedule.

They should be in contention for the top spot on the AUAA with the University of New Brunswick who finished ahead of them last year. UNB. has almost the same team as last year and plays aggressive basketball.

The Lady Panthers play this weekend in Sackville at the Mount Allison Invitational Tournament.

## Norton's starts MVP race for hockey team

by Tony Sauer

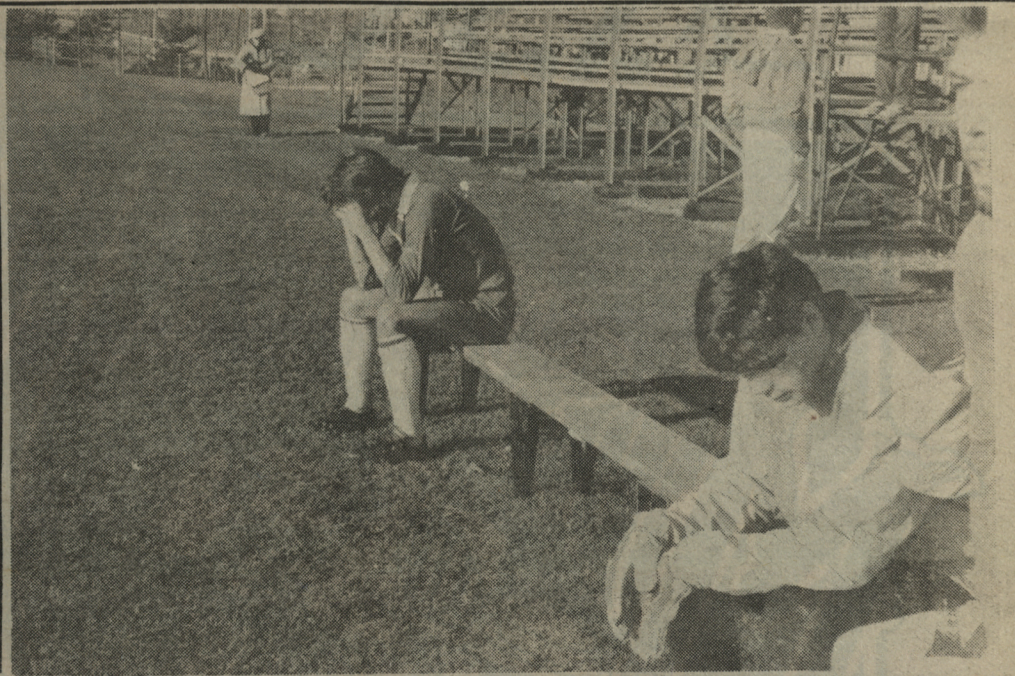
Peter Norton, of Nortons Jewellers, will sponsor a system of game M.V.P. awards in which a group of journalists and members of the Panther booster club will elect an M.V.P. at the end of each game which the Panthers play at home.

Each time a player wins the M.V.P. award, he will receive a coupon for a free pizza from Pizza Delight.

In addition, the player will get a certain amount of points.

At the end of the season, the points will be totalled, and the player with the most points will win a Citizen watch from Norton's Jewellers valued at \$250.

The Panthers are already off to a fine start this season, but hopefully this extra little incentive which Norton's Jewellers and Pizza Delight have contributed will help the Panthers to an even more successful season.



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