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HOCKEY COMES HOME PANTHERS MOVE TO CAMPUS ICEBOX

Ed Hilton, head of the U.P.E.I. Athletic Department, officially announced his decision that the U.P.E.I. Hockey Panthers will play their game on Saturday, January 28th, against the Mt. Allison Mounties, at the U.P.E.I. rink.

It is hoped that holding the games here on campus will attract a greater number of the student body. Mr. Hilton said that "increased enthusiasm of the students may be the input that is needed to get the team into the finals."

Mr. Hilton said that this next game will be a part of winter carnival activities and along with various basketball games, "moving the hockey game back here helps to make it an action filled athletic week end for our student body."

After the game on the 28th, the hockey Panthers will be on the road for two weeks before returning to home ice on February 18th, and 19th. Mr. Hilton stated that this would give them an opportunity to look at the overall situation and see the reactions of the hockey team, the student body, and the general public.

Hilton feels that it may be to the Panther's advantage to play the remaining home games here on campus in order to attract a large number of students while it may be a "financial decision" to play downtown.

The seating capacity at the University rink is not as great, nor are the facilities reported to be as comfortable as those of the Charlottetown Forum. But Hilton feels that "the closeness of the fans to the action heightens enthusiasm and the crowds respond more to plays on the ice."

Although more students live off campus than on, Hilton stated that he has been led to believe that "85-90% of the student body desire a move back to our own rink."

The student attendance has only been an average of 190 per game at the forum. Hilton said that this is "very discouraging" for the team. Increased support and an encouraging air of enthusiasm in the rink "may be worth a goal over our opponents," stated Mr. Hilton.

Jack Hynes, team coach said, "Naturally we feel a bit disappointed about the move but since the team practice here on campus it should be a bit of an advantage." Hynes is skeptical about how the public will receive such "moving about" but the team will "abide by the decision of the athletic department," he said.

The Booster Club, strong supporters of university teams, have managed the financial situation at the forum for the last two years. Ray MacCormick, Booster Club President,

said they are having difficulties since they are not drawing the crowds this year as they have in the past.

MacCormick stated that although the move to the campus rink will "decrease expenses," it will also "decrease revenue". The general public, the only paying supporters, will not be drawn to the games in such an uncomfortable rink" he said.

The two hockey games

last weekend at the Forum attracted approximately 800 paying fans. Mr. MacCormick feels that they will be lucky to attract 100 per game out here.

The hockey players expressed varying opinions about the move, but most would be happier staying at the Forum. They question whether they will attract more supporters here on campus, and we will have to wait and see if it effects their performance.

AFS BEGINS ORGANIZING AGAINST CUTBACKS

HALIFAX (CUP) Organized opposition to the latest round of government cutbacks and possible fee increases at Maritime universities should get underway later this month with the Nova Scotia caucus of the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS) expected to plan action at a meeting in Antigonish Saturday.

Nova Scotia caucus chairperson, Marc Allain, said the caucus will consider a series of motions that will later be presented to the boards of governors at the province's universities and colleges.

AFS would like to put the governors on the spot,

Allain said, and pressure them to release budgetary information and to take a stand on the financing issue.

Students at Maritime universities should know within a few weeks if a refusal by the council of Maritime premiers to meet MPHEC funding requests for next year will mean tuition fee increases. Last year

the Nova Scotia government boosted grants to institutions to keep fee increases at six per cent.

Allain said the caucus will also consider progress on the province's student aid committee, and discuss any new changes in the provincial program.

CIMN DISCONNECTED

On Monday the CIMN radio line to the Charlottetown Forum was disconnected. However, there is disagreement among those involved as to why.

As Communications Officer for the Student Council Michael McMahon should know why UPEI Panther Games will no longer be broadcast. He says the Council Executive considers the broadcasts a service to the student body, and is willing to provide the necessary funding.

Meanwhile, Chery Cannon who as station manager requested the line be cut, claims the station cannot afford to offer the service.

Whatever happens here, Rick Webber, Program Director at the time, admits "No D.J.s will cover the station while the games are being broadcast," he says. He added that the job was, "too much of a hassle to do."

In the middle of this confusion is a News Broadcast teletype machine,

Herbie, which is costing \$25.00 a month. Herbie is expected to improve the quality of CIMN programming.

McMahon insists the station can afford to broadcast the games, and can afford the controversial Broadcast News machine as well.

"The station is becoming more professional," he says, "but it may be at the expense of things people consider important."

According to Webber,

the station has received no complaints regarding the discontinuation of games coverage.

During all this, Herbie keeps clicking from morning to night, providing the station with International, National, Atlantic, and Local news, sports and weather which is broadcast five times daily.

Apparently UPEI gets the service cheap, since commercial stations pay about \$1,000.00 a month.