

# Panthers lose heartbreaker to McGill

By Phil Stanyer

The UPEI Panthers soccer team cannot be described as losers.

After Sunday's narrow 1-0 loss to the McGill Redmen in Montreal, only the Panther's first of the year, a shade of disappointment hovered over an unbeaten season.

For rookie head coach Gordie Wilson, it was a tremendous year that almost ended in a trip to this weekend's national final against Laurentian in Sudbury, Ontario.

"We played well. We played them 50-50 all the way," said Wilson.

"I said before the game that whoever got the break would win and they got the break, that's it," he added.

Wilson was referring to a hard shot from about 30 yards out that beat keeper Jean-Francois Panchaud in the 81st minute.

The ball skipped twice on the wet, artificial surface, changed direction and slipped through his legs for the winning margin.

"It was a bad break against us. It could have happened either way," said a dejected Panchaud.

"I saw the ball coming, somebody touched it, it changed direction a few feet in front of me and the ball was slippery so when it touched my legs it went in," he added.

The Panthers clearly were not used to the artificial turf, and it was a distinct disadvantage for them throughout the game.

"The turf hurt, there's no question about it," said Wilson.

"The ball was skipping and scooting and with our control game it's very hard to play on," he added.

However, Wilson was also very positive about his team's performance.

"The boys played super, they never gave up, they kept coming back and they stuck to their game plan all day long," said Wilson.

Some observers felt the Panthers were outplayed in the first half and did not have a lot of opportunities to create good scoring chances.

"No! It looks that way," said Wilson, denying the allegation.

"But then you look at every game, you look at the game's we've won and everybody says you played defence. But that's where we attack from, we attack from defence," he said.

During the scoreless first half, Scott Neil came very close to scoring when he

stole the ball from a careless Redmen defender and almost put it past the keeper who was forced to make a diving save well off his line.

Another good Panther threat came off the head of Richard Pierre-Gilles when he pushed Steve Polenz's corner kick into the keeper's hands late in the game.

It should be noted that Panchaud played probably his best game as a Panther.

Twice the all-canadian keeper was injured in mid-air collisions but stayed in the game.

In the second half he executed an incredible display of bravery.

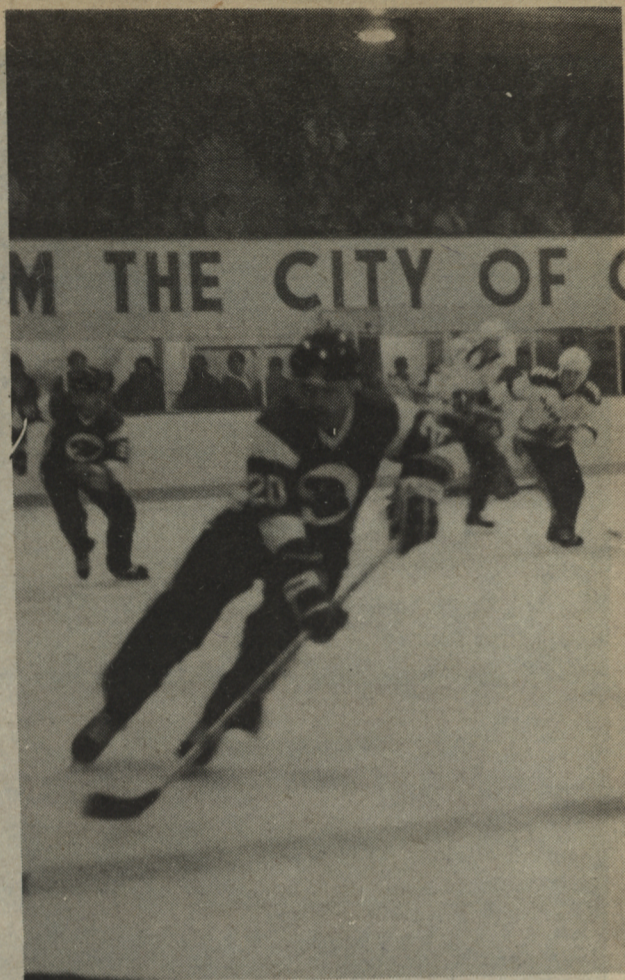
With the Panther defenders caught up field, Panchaud ran 50 yards out of his net to knock the ball into touch and out of danger from the possession of a Redmen forward.

Time and time again, Panchaud was there to make the save.

Gordie Wilson had no regrets after Sunday's loss, only praise for his troops.

"We played well. If we had got the break we'd be cheering," said Wilson.

Prince Edward Island can be proud of their Panthers; they gave the maritimes a classy representative in Montreal and the team can only look to next year with optimism and a real sense of achievement.



Could the Panther's hockey squad be the next in a series of UPEI champions? Photo: Blacquiere.

## Om of the brave

(RNR/Cup) — Their record may not be all that impressive, but Maharishi International University in Fairfield, Iowa, is going on with its basketball program.

"Mellow MIU" as it's known, has been playing basketball since 1975, along with offering courses like "the natural and invincible growth of order from the unmanifest source to the unbounded goal of life."

Perhaps there should be a course in levitation, too: the mellow ones took on William Penn last season and lost 115 to 18. Coach Steve Cooperman says, "Most of our games are legitimate basketball experiences. That one was a night of total character development."



Graphic/ Gateway

## Jock Talk

### Unhappy with 85.5 per cent

By Mickey Place

If, at any previous time, somebody had told us we'd be very unhappy after a week in which Panther success was 6 out of 7 ... (a percentage 85.5) we've termed them crazy.

The soccer team, the pride of U.P.E.I., left for Montreal on Friday, hoping to get in a couple of practise sessions on the unaccustomed artificial playing surface. However the weather prevented any such practice on the strange astroturf of the McGill field.

In miserable weather (for both teams of course) the Panthers were in a scoreless deadlock until well into the second half when a free kick was awarded McGill after the ball took an odd bounce and hit a Panther's hand. The kick went wide of our defenders, took another peculiar bounce past a surprised Jean Louis Panchaud and that was the only score of the game.

It was possibly the final game in the green and white uniforms for Frank Stromier, Gary Polenz, Peter MacDonald, Andy Cameron and Allan Stewart, although they are still eligible for intercollegiate play. Without Andy C. who had so much to do with attracting outstanding players to U.P.E.I.) next year's team will be the first without a member of his family ... First it was Ian, then Donald, then Alan and Andy (twins). Another member is a year or two away.

It is amazing to consider that the final game here drew a large crowd, sometimes estimated at 2000 while the eastern final in Montreal was played before approximately 300, about 200 of whom were Panther fans who travelled up for the game or Islanders abroad who were on hand to cheer their team.

We are sorry they lost but we are proud of their 1983 season ... an 11 - 12 record is really an outstanding one. The Panther Basketball teams also travelled abroad and believe it or not, won all four games played in a Mount Allison tournament. The Women's basketball team won both games which they played.

Against the U. of Maine at Machias Tejene Allevne of the Panthers made both ends of a 1 on 1 foul shots with only a second left to send the first game into overtime. At the end of the first overtime it was still deadlocked and Aion Pettigrew made two points in the final seconds of the second overtime to give us a 89-87 victory.

In the second game, against the U. of Maine at Fort Kent we took an early lead and coasted to a 73-59 win.

In the first game Mike Morgan was high with 21 and he was also tops in the second with 19. The University of Southern Maine is scheduled to host the Panthers on Friday. First league home game will be against S.M.U. on 19 Nov.

The women Panthers are at home to St. F.X. on 11 Nov.

The hockey Panthers started off their home season in intercollegiate play in fine style by trimming Saint Mary's 4-0 and 5-4. Saturday's game was a peculiar one.

Both clubs wielded their sticks like war clubs and Panther Donnie Clow's face was cut. It was the only apparent injury. It was felt to be unfair that Donnie got a double minor for hitting a S.M.U. stick with his face. There was no S.M.U. penalty. Our goals came from John Panasuk, Gordie Roche, Steve Fulton and Darwin MacCuthcheon.

Although we won 4-0, we were outshot 34-16.

It was a different contest Sunday. S.M.U. finally beat Avalino early in the opening session and they led 2-1 at the bell. It was 4-3 at the end of the second but we scored the only two markers of the final period for our second win. Our goals came from Donnie Clow, Bob MacDonald and Albert Roche while Ron Carragher banged in a pair. We outshot them 38-32. The two wins made a lot of Panther fans, particularly former players very happy. We do not believe that, in U.P.E.I. history we have managed two wins over S.M.U. in as many days.

As a matter of cruel fact there have been Panther players who have been with the team for four years and never managed a single win.

The team travels to Acadia for a Friday game and won't be at home until the next weekend when we'll have St. F.X. and the U. de Moncton here.

We like the new feeling the Soccer team game us with a AUAA championship. Let's hope for another.