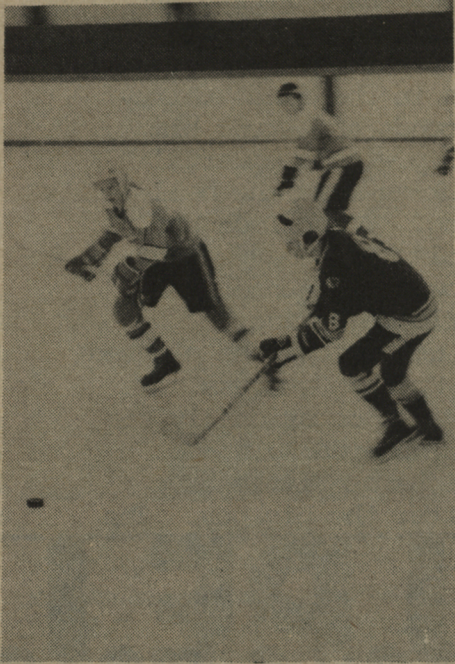


PANTHERS MAKE PLAYOFFS!!



We don't know when we enjoyed two hockey games more than we did the pair our Panthers won over last weekend. Others may enjoy the thrills and excitement of close contests wherein the result is in doubt up to the last second but we like to have our favourites assume an early lead and coast to easy victory. This way we can enjoy the skill and good play without danger of apoplexy. Saturday night, against a Mount Allison team that seemed quite willing to accept the inevitable our heroes quickly assumed the lead, the result was never in doubt and the only disappointment was when Snags McInnis' try for a shutout was ruined by a tainted goal into a dislodged net...at least that was the way we saw it. We have been known to be prejudiced, we must hasten to add. Goals were scored by Ken Burton (2), Louis Lortie (2), Wayne Squarebriggs (2) Val Mitchell and Wilfred MacDonald, as we won 8-1. Les Aigles Bleu came into the rink on Sunday knowing that third place was on the line but, from the opening whistle, they were outclassed as we scored two goals in the first three minutes and from then on, although the fast skating Moncton boys tried, they were unable to contain the Panther offense. The game was a hard hitting one and we thought it a good thing that, for playoff purposes, the players were anxious to avoid heavy penalties for tempers were very high at times. We would like to pay a special compliment to rambunctuous Ralph Josey who, after being goaded by a Moncton player, actually shed equipment and gloves in an obvious offer to shake hands, but his sportsmanlike gesture was declined and both skated off the ice to the obvious disappointment of the spectators. At least that is the way we PREFER to report the incident.

Final score was 6-2 (it did not look that close). Ken Burton and Shane Turner each scored two goals while Danny Kinnear and Val Mitchell got singles. The Panthers thus qualify to meet



second place finishers, St. F.X., in a best-of-three series in Antigonish this Fri-Sat-Sun. Our hopes are high as we have finished even in the two games played this year and, despite the loss of high scoring team leader, Dave Cameron, the team seems to be at its peak. A series win would put us into the championship round. Perhaps the season isn't over yet! Louis Lortie's weekend scoring rampage gave him 23 goals and 24 assists for a total of 47 points and the league lead over the injured David Cameron who, in spite of missing 4 games, managed to finish second. To round off an astonishing scoring season, Val Mitchell finished in a tie for third place in the league scoring race. Quite a

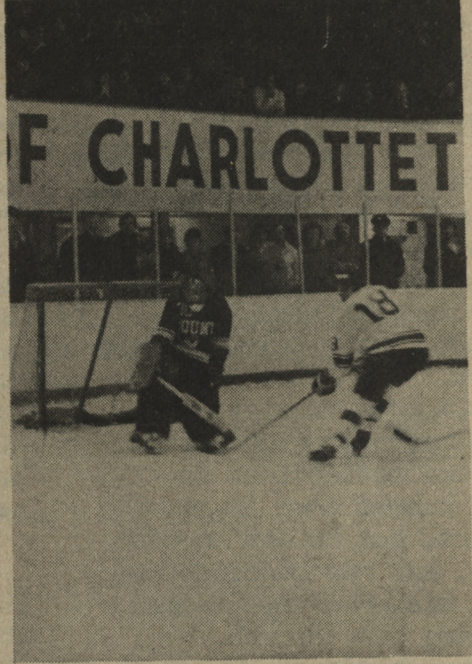
team record! Lortie's 23 goal figure bettered the former U.P.E.I. mark set by Barry Turner in 1969-70 and the 47 total was 2 better than the former record set by Billy Weatherbie in 1970-71. We might also add that Wilfred MacDonald set the pace for scoring for defenceman in the league. Statistical demon John Neville passed along a sheetful of statistics and we'll give you a few. The high scorers in the "+" & "-" were Louis Lortie and Steve Miglia with +26 each. Highest S.O.G.'s for the season was Wilfred MacDonald with 105, of which 13 turned on the light. Highest percentage of goals per shot was (Surprise, surprise) Terry Devine who had 10 shots and made the goalkeeper



fish the puck out of the net 5 times...an astounding 50% record! Louis Lortie was next to Terry with 97, of which 23 went in. Although he missed 8 of the 20 games, "Gentlemanly" Ralph Josey whiled

away 36 minutes in the company of the timekeeper and led the team in this department.

In basketball we almost staged a bigger upset than Leon Spinks. With only 3 minutes left to play we



led league-leading Acadia by 9. However, as Keith Strieter fouled out the Axemen rallied, but at the game ending buzzer we still led by 2!!!! The great joy of the few Panther rooters on hand in the Acadia gym was ruined however, as the referee awarded Hometown Acadia two throws for a foul he claimed was committed by one of our boys at the last second. Acadia made both throws and went on to a 79-78 overtime win. It was a discouraging blow. Of course, one of the Panther players confided in us saying it was no foul and the contact came AFTER the finish. We are sure Acadia players would claim the reverse. When we asked George Birger, he just looked sad and declined comment. Of course we think our informant gave gospel truth!! Flatbush Vince Murray had 23 points in this game and was closely followed by Keith Strieter with 20 and Lloyd Pullen with 18. On Saturday, the tired Panthers dropped one to Saint Mary's 91-71.

We seem to be assured of a fourth place finish and will probably face either Acadia or Saint Mary's in the first round in a 2 of 3 series on 3-4-5 March. After Saturday's game we feel justified in saying that anything can happen. This Friday and Saturday we play host to St. F.X., coasting along in 3rd place

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