

From the Guardian

CONCENTRATING ELSEWHERE

UPEI Withdraws From AUAA Football

University of Prince Edward Island has decided to opt out of the Atlantic University Football Conference "for the time being" it was announced Wednesday by university president Dr. Peter Meincke.

The decision was the result of a year-long study by the UPEI athletic board whose report was made public last month.

The report had recommended football, at the intercollegiate level be retained for a minimum of two years and a formal review be conducted during that time.

"After much consultation and careful consideration of the many excellent letters and briefs from all over the Island, I have decided to suspend our intercollegiate football program for the time being so that we can concentrate our limited resources in other programs," said Dr. Meincke in making the announcement.

"After we have built up strong capabilities in these areas, we will explore the possibility of starting football again, but we simply cannot build up everything at once."

The UPEI president admitted the decision did not come easily.

"This has been a very difficult decision and one that has not been taken lightly but I believe that it is essential for the best possible development of the athletic programs at UPEI," said Dr. Meincke.

UPEI becomes the second university to withdraw from the AUAA conference. Dalhousie withdrew from the sport in 1977.

The decision on the football program was made quickly to coincide with the AUAA scheduling taking place in Halifax.

TAKING LOOK

As for the other recommendations mentioned in the report, the president said a closer look will be taken but "since football was our main concern now, we dealt with that quickly."

Dr. Meincke, in an interview Wednesday, said a careful look will be taken at staffing. The report recommended the athletic department staff be increased to six full-time and five part-time individuals.

"It's pretty clear that basketball and hockey will

be our major sports and we will be doing whatever we can to help these areas out. As for the other areas, we will plan more carefully," added Dr. Meincke.

LARGE CUT

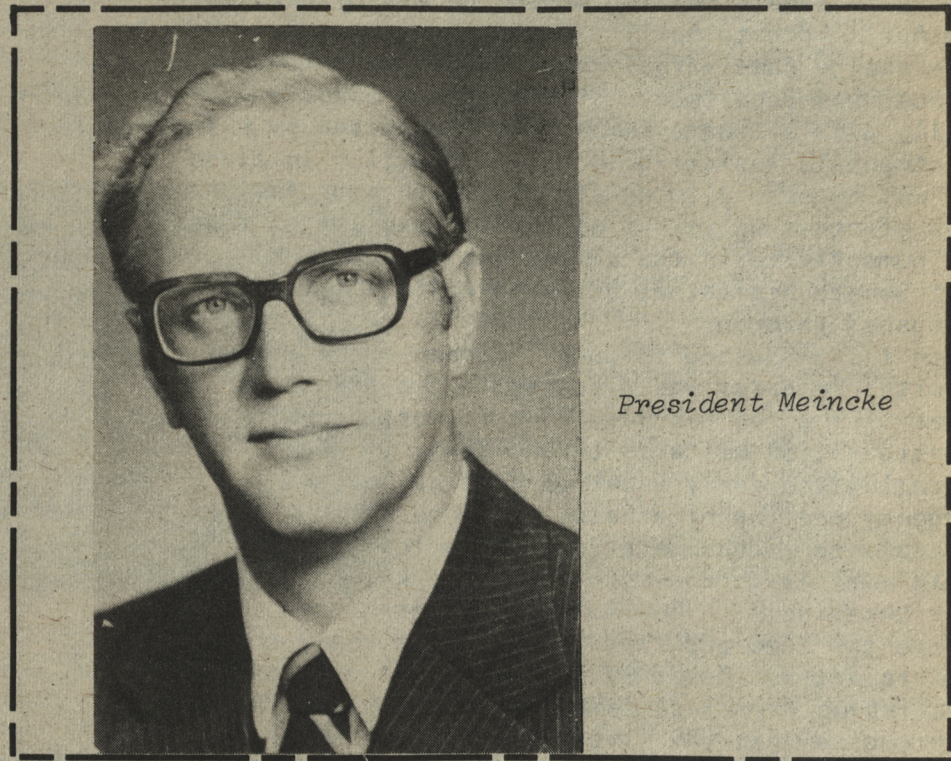
The football program had been scheduled to receive \$20,600 of the \$219,171 total budget for this coming year but the president said "it is hard to say" if that total would be applied to other sports.

"The money going into travel and equipment will not be taken away (from the athletic programs) but reapplied to other areas," he noted.

"Don't expect UPEI to expand into a flurry of activity...it will be carefully staged," he noted.

The president expects that it will be another month before the entire athletic board report is settled although most recommendations are apparently clear cut.

The report, headed by Prof. J.J. Revell of the department of business administration, was undertaken at the president's request and at the time of its release, Dr. Meincke invited comments from all



President Meincke

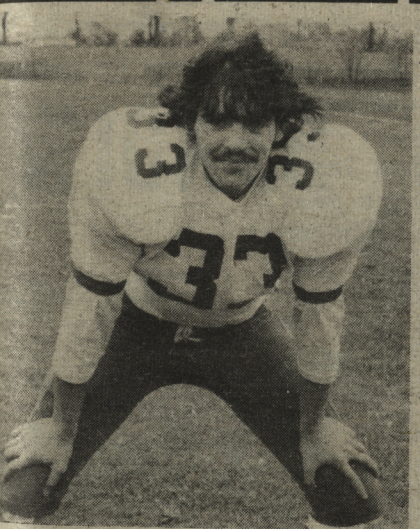
Islanders.

"On behalf of the university, I'd like to thank all the members of the athletic

board who have given so much of their time for the past year considering these important issues. I'd also

like to thank the many people who took the time to write such thoughtful and helpful letters," he added.

MACDONALD A SIGNED PRO



Hubert "Socky" Macdonald as he appeared as a Panther

By John Cairns

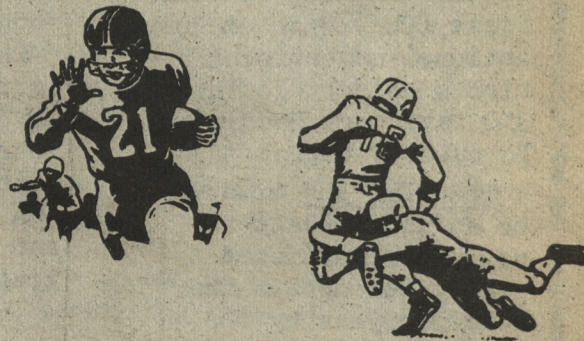
In the same week that UPEI terminated its football program ironic news arrived from Montreal. Hubert "Socky" Macdonald, one of the university's most glittering football stars, has signed a two year contract with Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League.

For four years Macdonald starred with the Panthers as a defensive back. Hailing from Charlottetown, he was always popular with local fans as a home boy

doing well. Four consecutive seasons he received all-conference honors, and in 1979 he was athlete-of-the-year for the province of Prince Edward Island.


Macdonald is one of two former Panthers about to attend CFL training camp. The other is Vernon Pahl, a lineman from Montreal who was drafted several weeks ago by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Possibly the two will have an

interesting reunion (or should we say confrontation) the next time Montreal and Winnipeg play each other.



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