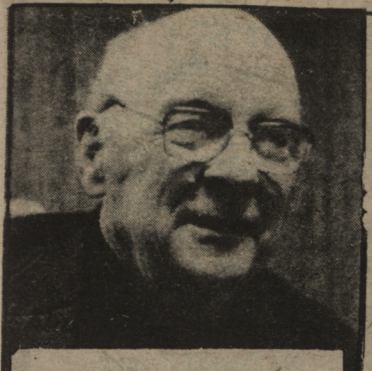


JOCK TALK



By MICKEY PLACE

Under ordinary circumstances reporting Panther athletic activities as two won & two lost would not give us great pain. Sad to relate that however on this occasion, it is with great regret that we record these figures. We came so close to a full & glorious weekend, one game we should have won & the other loss was a really fatal blow. ON the brighter side we may recount that one of our wins was so thrilling...we can't remember a game of any kind that was more exciting & in which we held our breath so long & often as in our Soccer win in the semi-final game against Saint Mary's on Saturday. It was 0-0 at the end of 90 minutes of regulation time, 1-1 after our uphill struggle in 30 minutes of overtime & then 4-3 in the shootout to which playoff soccer teams resort to decide a winner after an overtime tie. Along with other Panther fans we were ecstatic &, phoning the score back to Charlottetown, we could just shout exuberantly into the mouthpiece "We won, We won, We won!!" During part of the game we felt quite frustrated as we had two very good friends SMU rooters sitting beside us & we could not feel it appropriate that we should give full vent to our emotions. It may come as something of a surprise to some of our acquaintances that we might have friends who

root for SMU but they do have some nice, but deluded, people over there. We even have a son with a SMU degree but we hope he has more sense than to root for them. He won't in our presence anyhow! In the first half of this game it appeared that the Santamarian would swamp us as they forced the play throughout & only the outstanding play of Jean Francois Painchaud kept them off the scoreboard. They did put the ball into the net twice but the linesman called both plays offside after the usual jubilant antics by their players. We were really impressed by their behaviour for, after the rulings, there were no arguments & no discussions as the players accepted the decision without protest. Would that hockey and baseball player might follow their example! The end of regulation play found both teams scoreless but SMU scored in the opening minute of overtime play as one of their players used his head to deflect one past, Jean Francois. SMU continued their pressures and seemed to be heading for the same 1-0 win that they had over us in 1981, with a little over six minutes to go, Scott Niel, who had been closely guarded throughout the game, out taced an SMU defender and, from a narrow angle booted one between their goalie and the post. The overtime ended one to one and the teams went into the shootout finale. Gary Polenz scored, SMU scored, Steve Polnez...hot buscuit Painchaud made a sensational dive in stopping an SMU corner kick and we led 2-1. The SMU managed a stop on Glen Smiley's hard shot and when SMU scored it was

2-2. Andy Cameron booted a low one in & Painchaud (we think) deflected a high one that hit the cross bar and bounced out to make it 3-2 & Mitch Murphy had the chance to end the long struggle and extend the UPEI season!.. it all depends on his shot! He drove it, straight and true into the lower left hand corner, a shot on which the defender had no chance and the game was over! Happy Panther fans crowded onto the fields to congratulate the players and to wish them well in the following day. Readers may not agree with us when we believe that hockey might well borrow this system of a shootout to decide tie games.

We Can't imagine goalkeepers favouring this such a plan. However we believe we have seen too many hockey games where, in the third period, a team decides to play for the single point that a tie gives them & uses delaying & boring tactics to stall for a deadlock. In the Soccer system there is no advantage & WE think that they too should use this play in all their games. Certainly there were no bored fans leaving the stadium in the final minutes of Saturday's game. We have no explanation for Sunday's 2-0 loss to UNB. Perhaps it was that there are many players on our team that were not used to playoff pressure but we seemed to run out of the steam that drove our boys on Saturday. Sufice to say that on that day & on that field, even the most prejudiced Panther fan (we should be counted as such) would have to admit the better team won. Still we were in it until the middle of the second half as

Jean Francois performed miracles &, on a couple of occasions we appeared to have the UNB goalkeeper out of position only to shoot wide. They too should have been tired as they had also won an uphill overtime struggle against Dalhousie the previous afternoon. We feel our team should be proud of their showing & we don't like to single out any player(s) for praise as they all played well.

However, we do feel that Jean Francois Painchaud was the outstanding player of the four teams we saw in three games and had the team missed the last ferry on the way home we would not have been surprised to learn that he walked across the water of Northumberland Strait! Thus ends the season for soccer. Six players, Painchaud, Steve and Gary Polenz, Scott Neil, Glen Smiley and Mitch Murphy were chosen for the mythical A.U.A.A. All Star team and the latest standing in the even more mythical national standings puts us in fifth place... the highest ranking we have ever enjoyed. By graduation we will lose Gary Polenz, Tommy Hogan, Larry MacAdam and John MacRae. With eligibility remaining can't you guys come back in 1983 for additional courses??? In Hockey, in Fredricton, we won 10-6 over St. Thomas on Saturday and led 4-1 after two periods in Sunday's game only to have the roof fall in on us as the Tommies (winless since the season before last) rallied to tie the game up at the end of the third and scored the winner in the last minute of overtime for a 5-4 win. Inasmuch as points are going to be hard to get in this league this season it was a bitter loss. However, imagine what a happy feeling the S.T.U. rooters must have experienced after their long famine. We haven't

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