

OFFSIDER

The hockey Panthers finished up their regular season last weekend with games against the Dalhousie Tigers and Mount Allison Mounties. The Panthers dropped both games--Friday night a 4-1 loss to the Tigers, and Saturday's 7-5 loss to the Mounties. In the Dalhousie game, rookie goaltender Kevin MacDougall allowed only four goals on 43 shots to the talented Dal team. On Saturday, the Panthers lost a 5-2 lead in the third and Mount Allison scored five unanswered goals to win 7-5.

The Panthers finished the season with a record of seven wins, fifteen losses and four ties. They will meet the tough University of New Brunswick Red Devils in the first round of the playoffs starting in New Brunswick this Wednesday night. The Panthers had considered forfeiting the first game of the best-of-three series because the schedule requires them to miss too much school for the one game, but they decided to play it. The second game will be at the Civic Centre on Friday, February 19. If necessary, the third game will be back in Fredericton on the 21st.

The game against Mount Allison proved that a physical game will take their minds off defense. The Panthers have to watch this in the games against the Red Devils, especially following the rough games the two played in Charlottetown two weeks ago. The Panther have to be able to play with a little discipline if they want to win. In last Saturday's game, the Panthers lost four players for the first game of the playoffs; defencemen Glen Craig and Peter Bernard, and forwards Jim Sonmez and Jeff Gallant will all miss the first game against the Red Devils because of the AUAA rules concerning fighting and game misconducts.

Be at the Civic Centre on Friday night to show the Panthers they have some support behind them as they play their first home game of the playoffs.

The NHL was witness to another big trade on the second of February. The Toronto Maple Leafs sent superstar goaltender Grant Fuhr and a middle-round draft pick in either the 1993 or 1994 draft to the Buffalo Sabres for goaltender Daren Puppa, forward Dave Andreychuk, and Buffalo's first-round draft pick in 1993. The trade was a good one for the

Leafs because it allows the Leafs to develop goaltender Felix Potvin. It also saves the Leafs the problems of deciding which goaltender will be the one they protect in the upcoming expansion draft; now the Leafs will be able to protect Potvin and offer Puppa and Rick Wamsley both in the draft and for trades. Buffalo receives a proven NHL-level goaltender in its playoff drive.

On January 28th, the Calgary Flames admitted that their big trade last season with the Toronto Maple Leafs had not worked as they had expected it to. The Flames admitted this by trading the player they received from the Leafs who was supposed to save their team--Gary Leeman--to the Montreal Canadiens for the often-injured Brian Skrudland. The Flames gain an impressive leader in Skrudland, if he is healthy. The Canadiens will have to work with Leeman to bring his confidence up again; if they are able to do so, he may prove to be a valuable addition to the team in the playoffs.

On January 23rd, New York Rangers' forward Mike Gartner scored his 30th goal of the season and set a new record while doing so. This is Gartner's record fourteenth consecutive thirty-goal season, making him the most consistent goal-scorer in the NHL. It will take a while before anyone takes this record away from one of the most under-rated players in the NHL.

January 21st marked the end of Hartford Whalers' winger Tim Kerr's career. Kerr played thirteen seasons and scored 674 points in 655 games. As soon as Kerr retired, he was named an assistant coach with the Whalers' AHL affiliate, the Springfield Indians. Kerr will be a good addition with the Indians and the Whalers will miss his experience in Hartford.

Boston Bruins fans will be pleased to know that right winger Cam Neely is planning his return for before the month is over. Neely, who has missed 127 games over the past two seasons, suffered a leg injury in the 1991 Wales Conference Finals against the Pittsburgh Penguins. The talented winger attempted a return last season and scored nine goals in nine games. Hockey fans everywhere have been awaiting Neely's return since the Boston/St. Louis trade which made prolific playmaker Adam Oates a Bruin. The long-awaited Oates/Neely combination may be realized before the week is over; coach Brian Sutter pegs Neely's return for late this week--possibly Saturday night against the Toronto Maple Leafs. Neely's return is well worth the wait; when people started saying that he would never play hockey again, Neely decided that he had to return. I know I am glad he will be back on ice.

Show up at the Civic Centre for the Panthers' game Friday. ●

SUNDAY CINEMA

"WATERLAND"

Dir. Stephen Gyllenhaal, UK, 1992.
Starring Jeremy Irons.

Sunday, February 21 at 2:00 pm
Charlottetown Mall Cinemas

Adults \$6.75 Members \$4.25 - Memberships \$10/year
from Off The Wall, 146 Richmond, 368-2992