

Unsung player recognized

JOCK TALK



by Mickey Place

We suppose we should be happy over winning three of four games played this last week, we think we should be excused for regretting that it was not a clean sweep inasmuch as the only loss was a tough one that we felt we should have won...it was a split of two games in hockey and two wins in basketball.

The Lady Panthers travelled to Antignish where they played their third exhibition game against the Xettes and proved that their two previous wins were genuine as they walked off the X floor with a 50-49 squeaker. Velvet Charters led all scorers with 16 while Kathy Chandler was right behind with 14, four of these being from pressure foul shots in the final minutes of play. The X girls led 13-4 early in the game, but aggressive play by Rhody Gallant and Libby Baldwin took us into the second half with a 19-14 lead. This, being written on Tuesday and the first league game being on Wednesday night, we may be permitted to say we think this will be a good game wasn't it? The girls travel to New-

foundland for two games this weekend and will be at Moncton next week. They will not play at home until after the Christmas break.

The Basketball Panthers opened their league play Tuesday night with a good home win 78-72 over rival Mount Allison after a see-saw struggle which saw them trail 52-44 with but ten minutes to go. At this point Steve Wilson and David Larkin stiffened the defence and the Panthers quickly overcame the deficit catching the garnet and gold boys at 52-51 and they never looked back. Hard working Billy Redmond led all scorers with 24. There will be big opposition on the court this Saturday as Towering St. F.X., hoping to dominate the conference, make their only local appearance of the year. Next Wednesday, a touring team, Athletes in Action-Canada, having beaten many of the best teams in the Continent, will be with us for what should be a rare treat for Charlottetown fans. The team travels to Mount A. for a return match next Friday and will not play at home again until 16 January.

The hockey team travelled to faroff Saint John's, where they split a weekend series with the Memorial Beothuks. In the first game, we led 4-2 going into the third period, but the roof fell in as the Newfiew stormed back for a 6-5 win. We cannot say that the spectators went wild as the hometeam won for there were about 20 spectators in the rink in both games.

It would seem that the Beothuks get even less support than the Panthers. In this game Norman Beck scored three for the Panthers, while Trevor Crawford and Mike Ready had singles. It was quite an accomplishment for Trevor inasmuch as he arrived in Newfoundland with a VERY empty stomach, having found out, with great discomfort, that those paper bags on the back of the seat in front of the passenger have a very practical use. The second game had a very heartening story in it. Big Neil MacKenzie had a string of 50 Panther games as backup goalie without having started a single one, so he must have been incredulous when Jack Hynes told him to get out there and Neil responded valiantly kicking out 40 of the 42 shots that came his way. He was particularly brilliant in the opening period, stopping several point blank shots. To put the frosting on the cake, he also drew an assist. We won 4-2. Scorers in this game for us, were Terry McKenna,

Norman Beck, Terry Palmer and Callie MacPhail. Norman, by the way, had 7 points in the nine Panther goals scored in the two games with 4 goals and 3 assists. We'd like to elaborate a little on Neil's feat. We feel that a backup goalie has about the worst job in sports. He has to attend every practise and then gets into very few games and, when he does, he goes in cold, sometimes after the regular player has been hurt or else is getting bombed. We'd like to remind the Alumni Association that a few years ago, we won a contest for a UPEI song (No, we won't sing it..we think they lost it!) and we gave the prize money back with the suggestion that it be used to buy a trophy to go annually to the "Unsung Player of the Year" such as the backup goalie or the player on the end of the basketball bench who works every practise to give the regular players opposition and never gets into a game unless the team is winning by a big margin and then is put

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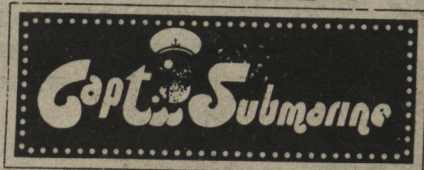
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