

SPORTS

Panthers Sweep weekend action

By Darrell Cole, Sports Editor

First of all I would like to apologize to all my readers for the absence of a Gem Sports page for the past month, and secondly I would like to welcome Matthew Beardsley to the Gem Sports Department. Matthew will cover Men's and Women's Basketball for the remainder of the season.

After defeating the Universite de Moncton Blue Eagles last Wednesday in Moncton 4-3 thus clinching the AUAA's MacAdam division, the Panthers were probably looking forward to last weekend's games against the Mount Allison Mounties Friday night in Sackville,

N.B. and then Sunday afternoon in Charlottetown.

On Friday night Dave Shellington, Randy Muttart, and Steve Fulton each beat Mt. A goalie Pat MacLaughlin twice as UPEI romped to a 9-2 victory over third-place Mount Allison. Greg Gravel, Ron Annear, and Kevin Skilliter rounded out the scoring for the Panthers who pounded the Mountie net with 47 shots.

On Sunday afternoon the scene switched to the Charlottetown Forum where penalty trouble in the third period almost cost the Panthers the game as the Mounties chipped away at a Panthers' 6-2 third-period lead.

However they fell short as UPEI held on for a close 6-5 win. Dave Shellington scored two goals on Sunday to continue his torrid scoring pace. Steve Fulton, Randy Muttart, Bob Giffin, and Brent (Tippy) Thompson also scored for the Panthers.

The Panthers two remaining regular season

games are this weekend as the Panthers travel to Cape Breton on Friday night to play the Capers and on Saturday they travel to Antigonish to play the St. F.X. X-Men, in what verywell could be a preview of the AUAA Final Series.

Eight graduating Panthers were hon-

ored before the game on Sunday. They include goalie Tony Haladnick, defenseman Mike Thususka, Kevin Skilliter, Steve Fulton and Ron Annear, centers Greg Gravel and Don Clow, and winger Jeff Steffen. Trainer Kevin MacNeil was also honored for his years of dedicated service to the team.

Lady Panthers clinch first place

by Matthew Beardsley

The UPEI Lady Panthers clinched first place in the Atlantic Universities Womens Basketball with a sweep of their weekend games at Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld. Friday night the Lady P's also defeated Acadia.

The Lady Panthers' record now stands at a perfect 12-0. They lead the UNB Red Bloomers (10-2) and the Dalhousie Tigers (9-3). Even if the Panthers lose their final two regular season games at Dalhousie and St. FX they would still finish just because of victories over UNB and Dal.

Friday night in Wolfville the Lady Panthers scraped their way to a hard fought 59-47 win over the Acadia Axettes. The Panthers were led by Ria Bahadursingh who scored 15 points. It was a tight game throughout as the first half score indicated. The Panthers were up by a slim 24-22 margin.

Also contributing for the Panthers were Tracey Bowie with 12 points; Janet Nichols 11; Stephanie Smith 9; Tracy MacEachern 8; Dawna Townsend 2; and Stephanie Knickle 2. Acadia was led by Jennifer Lloyd with 21 points and Diane Poirer with 12.

Saturday, the Panthers romped to an easy 78-59 win. Leading the way for the Panthers were the two Tracy's. Tracey Bowie led all scorers

with 15 and Tracy MacEachern tossed in 13. Also scoring for UPEI was Nadaine Inman 12; Janet Nichols 11; Stephanie Knickle 8; Stephanie Smith 7; Dawna Townsend 6; Ria Bahadursingh 4; and Susan Knickle 2.

Sharon King led Memorial with 12 points. The Panthers led 46-27 at the half.

On Sunday, Tracy MacEachern scored a season high 25 points to lead the Panthers to a 86-44 win of Memorial. Stephanie Knickle added 14 points for the Land Hoopstars.

Ann Marie Tobin led Memorial in scoring with 11 points.

Also scoring Sunday for UPEI were Ria Bahadursingh 10; Janet Nichols 10; Tracey Bowie 8; Susan Knickle 6; Tobey Jones 5; Nadine Inman 4; and Stephanie Smith 4.

The Lady Panthers next see action when they travel to Nova Scotia this weekend to play Dal and St. FX. The games will be meaningless in the standings for UPEI, although they could possibly provide a preview of what is to come in the AUAA's.

The Panthers have played Dal twice in a row for the AUAA title and the two meetings again is not all that unlikely.

After those two games the regular season is finished

tickets for the tournament go on sale on Tuesday, February 23 at 1:00 in the Main Office of the Gym.

Cost for a tournament pass for the floor and stage is \$12.00 for non-students and \$10.00 for students. Rush

tickets for the balcony for the two games on Friday are \$4.00 for non-students and \$3.00 for students. For the championship game on Saturday rush tickets for non-students are \$3.00 and \$2.00 for students.

Last year the championship was some of the best basketball played here at UPEI so don't miss it this year.



Intramural Hockey Update

Pay attention all you HOCKEY JOCKS. With the break just around the corner, we figured it was time to enlighten you on the Intramural Hockey Standings.

Marian Hall and Blanchard are tied for first place with 16 points each. However, Marian has an opportunity to go ahead, as they have played one less game than the Blanchard Squad.

In second place we find the Business Society with 5 wins, 2 losses, and one tie for a 10 point total.

With 9 points chalked up, the Rulers are in third

place. They have 4 wins, 3 losses, and one tie.

The Soccer team is in fourth place with 8 points, followed by the Engineers with 7 and the Vet students with a 6 point total.

Don't despair, Folks, we did not forget anyone. Bringing up the rear with 0 wins and 8 losses for a 0 point total, we find the Arts team in last place.

Intramural hockey will continue better than ever after the break, so keep it up, guys!

Attention sports fans

by Ian MacAdam

For the third time in as many years UPEI is going to host the Womens AUAA Basketball finals. Starting Friday, February 26 at 6:00 pm the number 3 team vs. the number 2 team, followed at 8:00 by number 1 vs. number 4. The playoff game goes Saturday the 27th at 1:00 pm.

As of Monday, February 15, UPEI leads the standings with a perfect 12-0 record with 24 points, ranked 6th in the nation, and is shooting for a National championship. UNB is next with 10-2 and 20 points while Dalhousie follows with 9-3 and 18 points.

Acadia is fourth with a 6-6 record and 12 points. Tick-



Graphic/Brock Press

and the top four teams will advance to the AUAA's to be hosted by the Lady Panthers at Alumni Gym.

This year marks the final season for four Lady Panthers, Tracey MacEachern, Tracey Bowie, Ria Bahadursingh, and Janet Nichols, all of whom will be playing their final two games at UPEI. If you have not seen these four play yet, you owe it to yourself to come out and do so.

It would be a fine and fitting way for these players who have given so much of themselves to the University program to go out with an AUAA championship.