



The UPEI Womens Curling team has brought the AUAA championship home to rest for this year. The team consisting of Skip Gloria Basha, Mate Janet Wood, 2nd Flora Burnett and lead Karen Stewart, performed flawlessly throughout the tournament to coast to victory over the other teams entered. The crucial turning point of the tournament was the crushing defeat of Mt. St. Vincent, the defending champions who were also undefeated up till that time with a 5-0 record. Against Mt. St. Vincent, Gloria Basha and Flora Burnett both curled in excess of 75%. The crucial game was the Acadia contest where if UPEI had lost and Mt. St. Vincent won against Moncton we would have had a play off. This did not happen and Dean Osmond has the prestigious honour of being the only undefeated coach in the history of UPEI. A special thanks must be given to Vince Mulligan and the Physical Education class and best wishes to Dean Ozmon next year.

PANTHERS 6TH

The UPEI Panthers are 6th in the country which in our minds is a position to be proud of for a team which was unranked at the start of the year.

The Panthers won 1 and lost 2 in the tournament which gives you an indication of the calibre of basketball played. The Panthers played

Curlers Capture AUAA Title

well on Thursday night but the Acadia hoop squad showed why they were # 1. They never looked back after the 8 minute mark of the 1st period as they continued to play solid basketball and gave the 4500 plus fans their money's worth.

On Wednesday night at a press conference, Arnie Donovan, the coach of Lakehead, expressed his view that UPEI should not be in this tournament and he believed there to be 3 teams between Ontario and the West better qualified for this tournament. Arnie Donovan never really gave much thought as to what he said, for he was talking about a very powerful team which played in a tough league all year. Donovan gave the impression to the press media that the Atlantic conference was not a strong one, but had nothing to back this up with as he had never seen the Atlantic conference play except for the SMU - St. FX game which hardly showed the calibre of the league. The distinguished coach from Lakehead proceeded to place his foot deeper in his mouth by stating that the ranking committee was biased towards UPEI. It was aptly shown to Mr. Donovan by Bob Hayes of SMU that the Atlantic conference only has 1 vote in those rankings which could hardly be considered a big vote out of a possible 10.

Well, in my opinion, Arnie Donovan was quieted for the last time and possibly made a believer in the Atlantic conference when, on Friday night, UPEI manhandled Alberta in a show of excellent basketball while Smu defeated the highly rated Laurentian party in convincing style. SMU really hit home by defeating Laurentian as Smu was considered the weak team in the tournament. The game between UPEI and Alberta proved our point that UPEI did indeed deserve to be in the nationals. Against the Panthers, Alberta tried to feed All - Canadian Doug Baker but he failed to produce for them consistently while the big guns for UPEI played good solid basketball to show the western teams the

Atlantic conference is anything but weak.

In the Alberta - UPEI contest we were anything but impressed with Baker, who you would expect to hit at least 40 % of his shots while in reality, he hit 11 out of 34 which reminds us of Bob Fagin from Dalhousie. If all you need to do in order to become an All - Canadian is score 26 points per game without thought to how many shots you take, then why not forget about the basic mechanics of basketball and just shoot away, hoping to become All - Canadian. People like this do nothing but take the shine off the game and bring yawns out in the crowd. Give the fans a good passing team anyway and they will appreciate it. If Alberta was a powerhouse, their league must be the weakest in Canada. In my eyes, St. FX is stronger than Alberta and they were our fourth place team. The surprise win to the people from Quebec and farther west had to be the defeat of Laurentian by SMU. In our minds this just goes to prove what we have been saying all along, that the Atlantic conference must be the strongest in Canada. It most definitely will be hard to swallow these defeats of conference winners by our 2nd and 3rd place finishers and more than likely the boys out west will again refuse to consider the Atlantic league the strongest, no matter how badly we humiliate them. Well, next year, when the Nationals come east to sit for another year, maybe we will finally make believers of them.

On Saturday the Panthers were defeated by the Huskies in a game which featured everything from good basketball to cheapshots being taken in the hope of winning. Sid

Sheppard played one of his best games as he controlled the boards at both ends of the court and Frankie White shot better than he had all season. While on the subject of White, we wonder why he deemed it necessary to put Ken Rowe flat on his face by tripping him at center court. Rowe proceeded to question the referee on White's motive

but when we talked to Ken later, we found out the referee thought the move to be unintentional so he made no call on it. This just proves to me that we could have used a couple of good referees as no matter if the contact is unintentional or not, the fact of possible injury is enough to warrant a foul being called for something as obvious as placing your leg in the path of another player.

Ken Rowe, I felt shot well from the outside and was a main factor along with Rick Malland and Dennis High why the Panthers stayed in the game. One fact which must be noted was that Dennis High had just had his knee drained the morning before but he still managed to give 100% of what was left in him.

The refereeing throughout the Tournament was anything but consistent and many times it turned games which had the potential of being excellent ones into quagmires of cheapshots and bad basketball. The opinion expressed from the Halifax media was that at least two referees in Atlantic Canada were quite capable of handling this calibre of ball so why not use them.

In this calibre of ball the glaring mistakes should not happen. I am not talking about the occasional missed travel or foul, but about the referees inexcusable mistake of not knowing his rules well enough to correct a situation on the court. Well enough about the refereeing but I wonder if next year Arnie Donovan would like to see the majority of referees come from his conference so as to protect his big men while under the boards. But this will probably not be a worry of Arnie Donovan's as I doubt if Lakehead will return to the nationals next year unless of course Jim Zeut has a younger brother we do not know about.

A significant happening at the nationals was the fact that Gary Heald did not receive one vote for 'coach of the year' which I thought he deserved to win and this all just goes to prove in my mind that there are other blind people in Canada besides the ones at the C.N.I.B.

To Gary Heald we say 'Touche' and to the rest of this great continent, (excluding Lakehead and Quebec of course,) I say wait until next year when Gary Heald and the Panthers will make Arnie Donovan eat his words while he watches the finals from Halifax, on his T.V. set in Lakehead.

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