

A POOR START

by Robin Clow

I'm sure many of you were surprised (mostly pleasantly so) to see that the one and only John Neville is not only absent as a contributor to our paper but as a student on campus. John was abused enough at a roast held for him earlier this month so I'll just say that people like John are few and far between and sports on campus will miss his support and enthusiasm this year. I'm attempting to take over for John as sports columnist for the SUN and right now I'm fighting a deadline, which will come as no surprise to the professors who have waited for papers from me in the past. This week I'm to write on the 1979 Panthers and their new head coach, Doug Crossman.

Doug is a former Panther defensive back where he left his mark as an aggressive hard-hitting player, selected for both Team M.V.P. and All Conference honors during his years here. He left us for two years from 1974-75 while he finished his Master's degree at the University of Waterloo. He captained the Warriors as well as being All-Canadian in 1974. In 1975 he was selected Team M.V.P. and All Conference once again, bringing a great deal of hardware back on his return to the Island.

For the past three seasons Doug has been an assistant coach under Ed Hilton, serving as Defensive Co-ordinator in charge of the Panthers' excellent defence last year. In his first year as head coach, Doug is faced with a major rebuilding program, having lost

nine veterans on defence alone.

As the defence will undoubtedly be weaker than last year, if the Panthers are to win then the offence will have to take up the slack.

However, the Panthers opened their regular season last Saturday on the wrong end of a one-sided score. The defending A.U.A.A. champion St. Francis Xavier X-men thoroughly dominated the unaggressive Panthers in a 42-1 rout. For rookie head coach Doug Crossman it must have been a demoralizing start to the season. In talking to Crossman last week, he said that he expected an aggressive hard-hitting game with the X-men and that the Panthers, who have had a history of close games over the past years with X, would be in the game till the end.

From this writer's viewpoint, the game was never in doubt from the start. The Panthers' offence was unable to move the ball against a defence which appears ready to repeat as the best in the country. The X-men's weakness last year was lack of offense but on Saturday they showed real power in this area, amassing close to 600 yards. They were able to gain much of this running up the heart of the Panther defense, showing how sorely we miss the players lost from last year.

It's hard to talk positively as a whole about the team as anyone could see they were badly beaten. Some players look like with some support from the best of the team that the Panthers can play good football this year. Vernon Pahl, J.P. MacIntyre Terry Palmer, and Neal Connaughton all showed well on Saturday.

However, Panther fans should not despair as, though our men had a poor start on Saturday, their main weakness is inexperience and game to game this should improve. Lack of size and inexperience can be compensated for by aggressiveness and desire. The former will have to come from the Panthers themselves, but desire and enthusiasm can be supplied by fan support. Get out and support the team; yell, scream and think

positive. They can't help but be better next time!

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BOOK BUSINESS

by Larry Green

There are few things more frustrating at university than signing up for a course, but not being able to get the text book. The person the student usually complains to is Russ Stewart, the bookstore manager.

"99 per cent of the time it is the fault of the professor," Mr. Stewart will answer. "Occasionally a book will be between printings and so won't be available, but usually it is the fault of the professor."

It is hard for a student to believe that those same people who penalize students for not making deadlines, don't make them themselves.

To be assured books, a book order should be in by the end of June. Some professors are not around in the summer, and instead of taking care of such things beforehand, leave it to afterward.

Nowadays, with computerized red tape added to the regular administrative red tape, it takes at least four weeks for a book to arrive after it is ordered. And that's if the book is in stock. If it's not, it can take much much longer.

Those guilty professors will have plenty of excuses on hand - some learned from their students. But as we are frequently told, "There is no excuse for being late." Now if we could only penalize professors....

