

# Panthers clinch first in AUAA Eastern division, advance to playoffs

by **Marc MacDonald**  
*Sports Editor*

The UPEI Men's soccer team finished their last two regular season games at home this weekend against the UCCB Capers. Sunday's game marked the final home game for two of the team's veterans, John Michael Murphy and Brodie McMurrer.

The Panthers were able to defeat the Capers Saturday, 2-1. The player of the game went to UCCB's keeper who had to work very hard to keep the Panthers to two goals. UPEI played even better on Sunday which marked the final game of their season. Using their excellent ability to pass, the Panthers were able to outplay the Capers, as they have outplayed most teams all year. The Panther's first goal came courtesy of Captain Brodie McMurrer on a penalty shot netted nicely in the corner. UPEI was awarded the penalty shot after another Panther was knocked down in front of the Caper net.

The Panthers and Capers traded goals early in the second half with Goran Rudic scoring for UPEI and Cordell MacAulay netting one for UCCB. The Panthers dominated the rest of the game with the excellent play fans have come to expect from the returning champions. UPEI scored its third goal when McMurrer made a nice pass up to long-time teammate Murphy, who was able to get past the Cape Breton keeper and then head the ball in from a difficult angle.

Looking as though they were ready for the playoffs already UPEI continued the onslaught with first year player Patrick O'Connell picking up two goals and John Michael Murphy netting his second goal. Murphy was awarded player of the game and the crowd showed their appreciation of Murphy and McMurrer in the form of an ovation as the pair were replaced late in the second half. The Panthers seventh and final goal came late

in the second half when Patrick O'Connell passed the ball up to his brother Ryan O'Connell who put it passed the over-worked Caper keeper.

The Panthers finished the season with a impressive 12-2 record and first place in the AUAA Eastern division. UPEI will enjoy a bye in the first round of the playoffs as will the Dalhousie Tigers.

The Tigers who finished first in the AUAA Western division, ahead of the Panthers overall, will play the winner of the lower seeded team while UPEI will play the winner of the highest placed winner.

With some time off as the first round of the playoffs is played the Panther will probably be practicing hard to prepare. Aside from wanting to recapture the AUAA championship, the Panthers would also like to win the National Championship.  
END

## Playoff dreams over for women's soccer

by **Marc MacDonald**  
*Sports Editor*

The women's soccer team was placed in a do or die situation this past weekend. By winning both games the team would have had a chance to secure a playoff berth only if Memorial lost both of its games.

The situation looked very positive for the Panthers on Saturday, the team was able to rock UCCB, 5-0,

and Memorial lost its game. Sunday UPEI continued to keep their playoff hopes alive by edging UCCB 1-0.

Captain Lana Birch scored the winning goal assisted by a cross from Kinza Baker in the second half. After the win, the Panthers had to wait for the outcome of the Memorial game to see if they would make the playoffs or not.

Unfortunately

for UPEI, the Seahawks won their game, 5-3, dashing Panther playoff hopes.

The Lady Panthers had a rough start to the season, but had improved in the second half. The Panthers can look ahead to next year positively as they have a young team and can expect good play from rookies Kinza Baker and Joe Ellen McKinnon next season.

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