



JOCK TALK

By MICKEY PLACE

We look forward, hopefully, to some future date when we will have the joy of sitting at this machine to recount many wins for Panther teams & having no losses to detract from our euphoria. Oh happy day! Unfortunately it is not this week for, sad to relate, in the contests upon which we have to comment we won one, tied one & lost four. That is three points out of a possible twelve! Unhappily it is the tie which we regret the most for it enabled U.N.B. to nose us out of the lead in the Western Division of the AUAA Soccer standings with the slight advantage that goes to the winner. Other activities kept us away from Saturday's tie game, played against Memorial but everpresent Russ Stewart tells us that our boys enjoyed a advantage in play but were unable to overcome the strong Beothuk Brave's defense and had to settle for a scoreless tie.

On Sunday, we were among the handful of spectators who braved the elements to cheer our team on as, on a cold and windswept field, we notched a 2-0 win. Both our markers came in the first half. Andy Cameron chipped one in over the goalkeepers head (it looked like a 9-iron shot) and Tommy Hogan really used his head to bat one past the MUN defender. These games put us into the playoffs and we will face St. Mary's Huskies, Eastern Division winners on their own field in the first game of the knockout play-downs this Saturday.

On Sunday, the winner (Hopefully the Panthers!) will play the victor of the U.N.B./Dalhousie contest which will also be decided on Saturday.

In our previous game against the Huskies, they scored in the first minute, we believe because of our team's unfamiliarity with the astroturf surface in their stadium, and they scored another as we strained for an equalizer so that they won 2-0.

Since then, in the nine games we have played, we have not been beaten and only two goals have been scored upon us...one of which we inadvertently booted into our own net!... This is the best defensive record in the conference. Our Scott Neil is the leading scorer with nine. The thought has occurred to us that soccer's Jean Francois Painchaud and Peter MacDonald might give a few pointers to Avalino Gomez and Dave Reid of the hockey team. It was pointed out, however, that the hockey boys might have an equal record if the puck was the size of a soccer ball. Then came the suggestion about what Jean Francois and Peter might do if soccer and hockey goals were the same size! We'll give up the thought. Coach Mulligan is quite optimistic over his team's chances saying that the choice of a first round opponent means but little to him inasmuch as the winner has to come out on top in two games. At any rate, we have sold our better half with the idea that we should go over to Halifax on the weekend to see a new grandchild. As a SIDE INTEREST, we expect to be in the S.M.U. stadium on Saturday (and Sunday??) afternoon. Hopefully there will be many other Panther rooters there. It is about time we had an A.U.A.A. winner in a major sport!

In Field Hockey, our women travelled to faroff St. John's to take on the Beothuk Ladies (or should

we properly refer to them as "Squaws"?) for the final game of the season which they dropped 4-0. We are told that the game was much closer than the score would indicate but, as has been the case so many times this season, we lacked the touch to propel the ball between the goalposts. Although the Field Hockey Panthers won three games this season, they are eliminated from a playoff post by a narrow margin. Graduating Marlene Costain and Jane Hogan will be missed but as most of the remaining players are in their early years, Coach Barb Mullally is optimistic and believes that the upward trend of her players will continue when play resumes next fall.

In hockey, we lost the three games played. We do have a strong team but need all of our defencemen. We must note that all teams seem to be much stronger and with improved play we we expect great entertainment and close competition throughout the season. In Alberta, on Friday night before a sellout crowd we lost to U.N.B. 5-3 as we weakened in the final minutes of a close game. Our goals came from Ronnie Carragher, Bob Hicks and Tony MacKenzie. On Saturday night, in Summerside, against St. F.X. Brodie Lantz got two with Tony MacKenzie and Ronnie Carragher getting singles to make it 4-4 at the end of the second. X scored three unanswered goals in the final frame to win 7-4.

On Sunday afternoon, we sat beside the chap who stopped for X in this game and we asked him if our team weakened in the third and he said "No, we just played better." In respect of his opinion, we thought Sunday's game pretty much of a carbon copy of their

first encounter. Ronnie Carragher and Albert Roche scored for us in the first two minutes, St. F.X. got two in 38 seconds midway in the period. We traded goals in the second (Bob Hicks) to make it 3-3 going into the final twenty minutes. Once again our overworked defense yielded and X got four to win 7-3. Last year we thought Avalino Gomez performed miracles but, on Sunday, peppered as he was, at times, looked almost human! These games certainly make it obvious that the return of the injured newcomer, highly regarded Rob Mazzuca is essential for our success. We might add that Terry McKenna was missing on Sunday's game because of a suspension for a spirited altercation in Summerside the night before. We implore all defencemen to refrain from suspensions, to take care crossing streets, to abstain from doubtful food (and drink) to get lots of rest and to get whatever shots might be necessary for them to stay healthy. Obviously they are needed at the blueline! If you don't believe me, ask

Gomez and Reid. The team travels to Fredericton for weekend games with Saint Thomas and these will be the first league games of their season. Next home games will be on the following weekend against greatly improved and highly regarded Dalhousie. We might note that the Chinese National Team will be with us on 8th of November. For those who might be confused after reading newspaper ads, we are pleased to advise that student cards are valid for admission and rush seats. The charge for RESERVED seats will be \$4.00. We have no idea, as yet, as to the hockey ability of these visitors from afar. We are told that they won the "C" Division of the International Hockey Federation a couple of years ago but how that compares with the brand of play in the Atlantic Intercollegiate Hockey League, we have no idea. However, many of you may recall how we all laughed when the Russians started to play.....