

So Near the Circle of Glory

JOCK TALK

By Mickey Place

This week's won-lost stastic is a sorry one for us as it reads 0-2 and with that went our slight chance for a wild card or divisional invitation to the hockey nationals in Moncton this coming weekend... we felt, that, if we won one we might have had a chance... who can tell? Coach Jack Hynes led his determined crew into the Moncton rink last Friday night and, in both games, the boys played well but it is very hard to beat Les Aigles Bleu in the Louis Levesque Arena. In the first period of Friday night's game we fell behind 0-2 quite early as we yielded up two power play markers, we made up one as the period ended 2-1. It was 2-5 in the middle of the final period but the Panthers put on a drive to make it 4-5 and were striving for the equalizer when Moncton got a shorthanded goal and later scored on an empty net. We thought Hynes' strategy correct in taking chances in his bid to catch up.. if you are going to lose it might as well be 4-7 as 4-5. Singles were scored by Terry McKenna and Callie MacPhail while Norman Beck had a pair. S.O.G.'s were 30-28 for the home team. On Saturday afternoon Moncton again broke fast from the wire and led 3-0 after twenty minutes, and won by that margin 6-3. Trevor Crawford scored twice for us while Norman Beck got the other. This ends the

season for the Hockey Panthers. Certainly they have given us great entertainment. After a slow start they ended up 16-9-1 in league play, outscored their opposition 127-88, finished up only one point out of first place in the MacAdam division and won the first playoff series. Norman Beck was 4th in scoring in the two divisions while goalie Avelino Gomez tied for first with an average of 2.96 goals per game. Jack Hynes faces a big rebuilding task next year as he loses Neil MacKenzie, Thane Campbell, Brian O'Stroski, Terry McKenna, Callie Macphail, Trevor Crawford and Gary Trainor through graduation. Replacing them will be difficult.

On Monday night we were priviledged to attend a party which launched off a newly formed Basketball Booster Club and we must say it was done with class. We congratulate the new president, James Johnston, (Make sure you put in that "T") and his executive. Most of the team were there and did ample justice to the buffet table, as growing boys and girls should, and adults like your writer should not! The ever-phlegmatic Dave Nutbrown has had the boys hard at work since their impressive victories over Mount A. and promises they will give it their all this weekend in Halifax. We think it most unfair that it will be their first game in the large and different Metro Centre while

their three oponents have played there several times. We would suggest to next year's schedule makers, if the playoffs are again set for Halifax, that the regular Panther games be played there. The Panthers first play St. F.X. (10-8) whom they defeated quite handily here but to whom they lost two in Anticonish. The undefeated Saint Mary's take on Dalhousie who also have a 10-8 record in league play. The winners play Saturday afternoon at 3:00 while the consolation round goes at 1:00. The top team gets a trip to the Canadian Championships in Victoria, B.C.! For those interested in stastics, we were 11-5 after an 0-3 start Chris Summer was second in scoring with 25.7 per game and Vinnie DePinto was 4th in rebounding with 9.6 per game.

We wonder a bit about a contrary fate that has

given us no playoff games, in any sport, since UPEI was formed. We have finished in that circle of glory several times, bit, in no instance have we had a home advantage for play. We do not think it is fair that the place of playoff action is often times set before the season starts.. not fair to the fans and not to the players. If we had won the hockey league and had home games here think of the travelling money our fans would have saved. (Possible to spend at a glorious PIG.)

However, be that as it may, we are a TERRIBLE singer but, in print, we suggest a song for the Halifax Tournament and a wish for the Panthers to earn that trip to B.C. the following weekend: "We are going to Victoria, Victoria, Victoria... We are going to Victoria, we are from UPEI..." hope it is so boys!

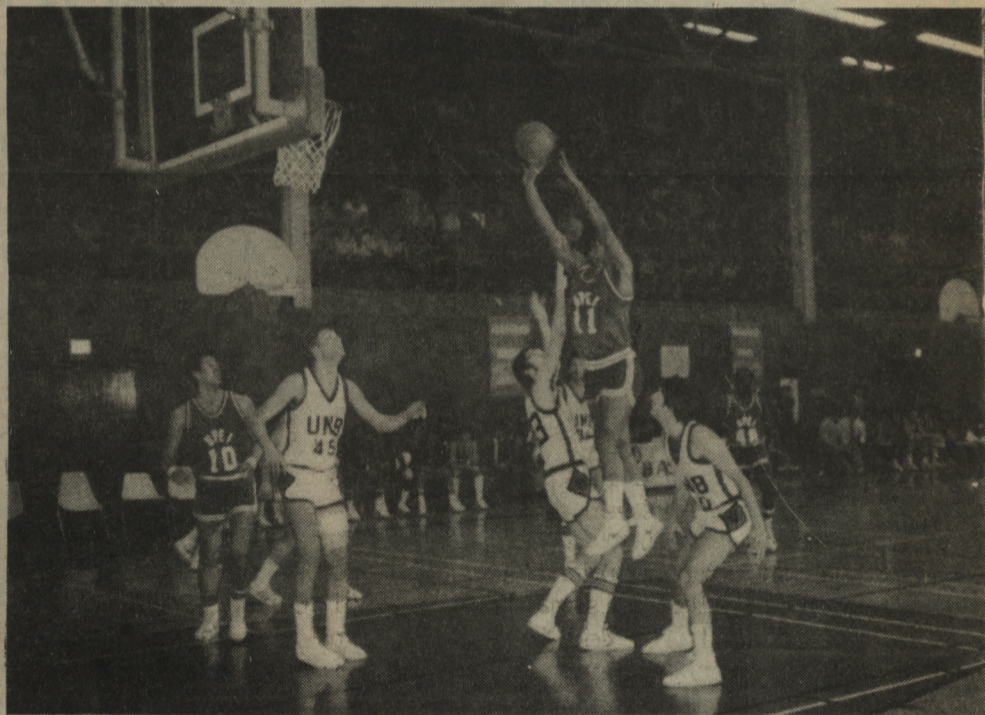


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