

Blanchard eats Engineers

Randy Driscoll scored two goals to pace Blanchard Hall past the University of Prince Edward Island Engineers in a thrilling 4-1 victory Monday at the UPEI Sports Complex (Rink).

The win gave Blanchard the Intramural Hockey title, which was up for grabs coming into the final game of the playoffs.

The Engineers won the opening game with their impressive style of forechecking and an awesome display of defense by their goaltender Jeffy McAuley.

The Engineers' defense and offense fell apart, though in the final game as they appeared to be stagnant in their attack.

They had lots of chances

but Blanchard goalie Paul MacDonald grabbed everything that the Engineers could mount.

Mark McKellar and Alan Arsenault were the other Blanchard goal scorers, while Will Burke was the lone scorer for the Engineers.

Blanchard opened the scoring early in the hockey game, but the "builders"

battled back to tie the score on Burke's goal at the 20-minute mark.

Driscoll scored his second of the game seven minutes later, which proved to be the winner for Blanchard.

Mark McKellar was set up in front of the goal and slid the puck underneath a sprawling McAuley ten minutes later.

Alan Arsenault scored on a scramble to beat the Engineer goalie for the fourth Blanchard goal, which broke the back of the Engineers.

The fan support for both teams was very evident, as they jammed every corner of the aged UPEI Rink Monday night to watch one of the most exciting matches in the history of the campus.

Too bad the varsity teams can't often muster this kind of fan activity at their games.

The Engineers had about ten graduating players on their roster and it will take a lot of work from their coaching staff next year to rebuild the sometimes glamorous Engineer squad.

The only blight on the hockey game was the bloody bench clearing brawl which erupted at the end of the game.

The Annual University of Prince Edward Island Athletic Banquet held last night at the UPEI Cafeteria officially marked the end of a very successful year in sports.

A year in which UPEI captured two Atlantic Universities Athletic Union championships and were in serious contention for two other crowns. The Men's and Women's Basketball teams both lost in the final games of the AUAA Finals.

Not Too Shabby at all!

Watching and reporting on these historical events for the Gem was exciting and will be lodged in my mind for a long time.

Special Thanks to the Athletic Department and especially Sports Information Director Paul Ledwell, who kept the press up to date with stats and player information. Paul did a really good job this year and his efforts are sometimes overlooked.

Back to the Banquet!

Since our deadline was Tuesday, we could not obtain the winners of the awards presented last night. Here are my picks or as they in the spiritual world — Predictions.

Soccer: Most Valuable Player — Scott Neil, Most Improved Player — Wayne 'Bill' MacLean, Most defensive-minded — Alan Spink.

Field Hockey: MVP — Libby Baldwin, MIP — Karen Whelan.

Women's Basketball: MVP — Sherrydawn Jones, MIP — Alison Duke, Rookie — Paula Edwards.

Men's Basketball: MVP — Tyrone Norman, MIP — Glen Grant, Rookie — Delroy Adams.

Men's Hockey: MVP — Ron Carragher, MIP — Garth Arsenault, Rookie — (real easy) Tony Haladuick.

All the teams have their own individual awards and I have outlined only a few of them here.

I am probably way off the mark in my selections but who cares. The press is usually wrong anyway?

The Male and Female Athlete of the Year awards were announced also last night and I bet the committee who boiled down two names out of the tremendous crop of athletes had a hard time deciding.

I think the most important aspect of last night was the fact the athletes chose people they felt were instrumental to their success this year. To receive an award from your teammate (at any level), is the highest accolade.



Engineer defencemen try to remove Blanchard forwards Mark McKellar and Kent Ford as they mill around the Engineer goal in Blanchard's 4-1 victory Monday at the Rink. (MacLeod photo)

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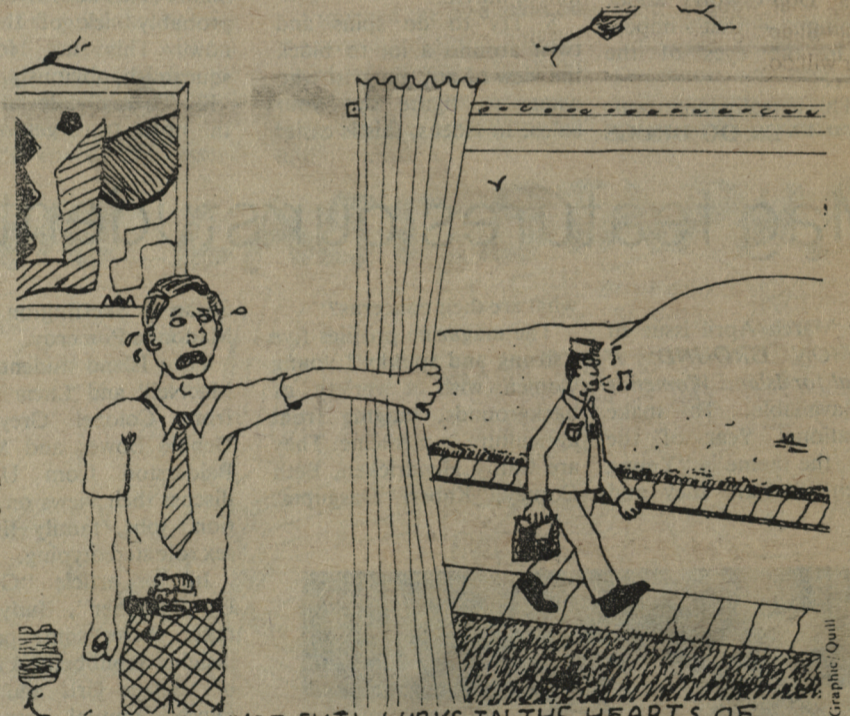
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