

The Bears -- part II

Ed Blott

This is the second of a series of three articles in which co-sports editor Lawrie Hignell talks with retiring Golden Bear basketball players. This week Ed Blott and Darwin Semotiuk have their say. Next week Murray Shapiro and coach Gerry Glassford will be the subjects of the final two interviews.

Ed Blott, a six foot six inch forward for the Bears, and the tallest member of the team, is finishing his fourth and final season with the team this weekend.

Ed started his basketball career in Grade 11 at Ross Sheppard High School and has also played one year with the Bearcats during his university life.

"I don't know what the problem was this year," he commented when asked about the Bears' inconsistency. "I don't think anyone has been able to put their finger on it."

Ed has no preference to shooting or driving with the ball and he is known to stuff the ball when the opportunity arises during the game.

"You stuff the ball more because it is a crowd pleasing shot than because it is a safe shot," added Blott.

CROWD PLEASER

Tips-ins are also a favourite of the fans but Ed cautioned against the use of this shot. "I tip it in only when I am sure of the basket; it is safer to bring the ball down, and then the other team won't get another chance at the rebound."

Ed blamed poor publicity this

year on the lack of crowds at the games. "It certainly dampens the team's enthusiasm, although I don't know whether it hurts the team's chances. A winning team wouldn't make that much difference in the turn out."

"Look at the hockey Bears this year. They were a first place team and even they didn't get good crowds at all."

The Bearcats team has been changed this year to act as feeder team for the Bears and Blott added, "I think it has to be done this way. We're going to have to have a freshman team to develop players just out of high school; there are very few that can cope with the calibre of university ball immediately after high school."

SORE POINT

Refereeing has been a sore point in the league this year and Ed comments, "It is inconsistent from point to point. I don't know whether you could call it biased; each town has its own standard and it varies from town to town."

"Before they get good refs they're going to have to standardize it all through the west—not just in Calgary and Edmonton."

When asked what the team learns from playing against American teams, Ed jokingly added, "You learn to run!"

"If you studied the man you were checking and if you kept up with him, you could learn a lot from some of his moves. You can also learn their attitude toward basketball which is a lot different from up here."

MORE EVEN

Ed felt that this year's games against the teams from the south were better because they were

more evenly matched, but also said, "you learn more when you play the better teams, as the Bears did last year."

Ed graduates in Engineering this year and plans to take up residence



ED BLOTT

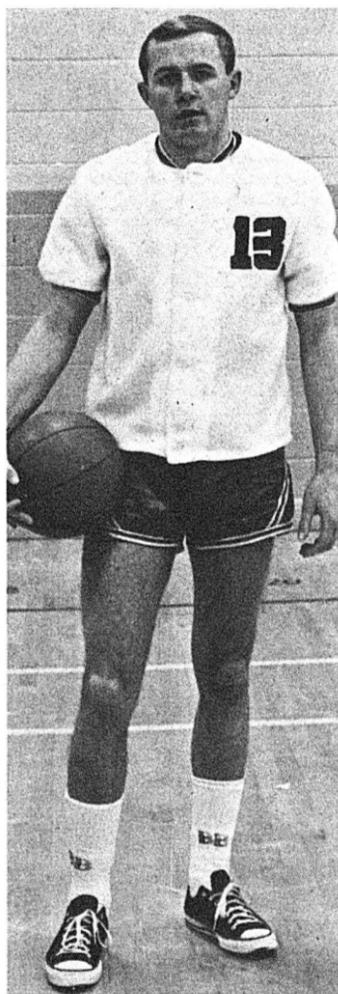
in Calgary where he hopes to play some Senior Men's ball as long as he has time for it.

Ed, with his height advantage and good inside rebounding and shooting, looks like a hot prospect for the national team tryouts this summer. When asked if he would train for the team if he were invited, he replied, "I'll be living in Calgary so I think I would go and try-out."

Darwin Semotiuk

pack 2,000 in there every night so the money is a problem."

When it was suggested that a full time public relations man be hired,



DARWIN SEMOTIUK

Darwin Semotiuk, the only Alberta basketball player to make the Canadian National team in 1965, ends his career at university only because his eligibility has run out.

A post graduate in physical education, Darwin is a natural athlete who played end for the football Bears for four of his five varsity years but has a slight preference for the hoop sport.

Although only six feet, Semotiuk has an excellent jumping ability and can dunk the ball, but prefers to shoot outside.

"Most guys guard me really close so I drive, but it all depends on the situation. It's less work to shoot from the outside," added Darwin.

He agreed that the refereeing was "inconsistent, especially from the spectators' point of view, and that is what spoils the game."

"The only way they can iron out these inconsistencies is to form a body of officials for the western conference."

"I picture referees as people who are there to make sure the game doesn't get out of hand." He also added, "A perfect game should be called where you don't know the refs are there and yet they are controlling the game."

RIGHT IDEA

When questioned about the new idea this year, to have the Bearcats as a feeder team, Semotiuk said, "I think it is developing on the right idea now. You have to have a place for guys who want to play but who are just not ready to make the jump to varsity ball."

"I'd like to see a junior varsity WCIAA league for these teams, playing a preliminary game to the Bears."

"Films", Darwin agreed, "are definitely worth the expense, although you have to look at it from a practical point of view. We don't

Darwin added, "I could see the advantage of a publicity man of this type in the athletic department, but he would have to go out on a selling job. There is not enough publicity across town to fill the stands at every game."

Semotiuk felt that inconsistency was the Bears problem this year. "You have to have a lot of poise in the game—if one thing goes wrong you have to expect it and not get panicky as we did several times this year," he added.

YANKS GOOD TEACHERS

After being asked if the American teams taught the Bears anything in their annual visits, Darwin said, "Every time you go out on the court, you learn something. The American teams they are bringing up now are good. Last year it was a little ridiculous because they were the best small college teams in the States and we were no match for them."

"There is no doubt that basketball has improved since I started," said Semotiuk. "It has especially improved in the coaching approach towards the game. It boils down to the coach being really intelligent now, and the fellow we've had coaching this year did a really fantastic job."

As a member of the first Canadian National basketball team (that travelled to South America during the summer of 1965 for an exhibition series), Darwin was one of a select few.

Out of 180 names submitted from across Canada, 40 were chosen to attend the training camp in Vancouver for one month, and only twelve were selected for the team, seven of these coming from Vancouver.

Although this is his last year at college ball, Darwin doesn't intend to quit. He would like to be involved in it for years to come in either a playing or coaching aspect.

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SECOND CENTURY COFFEE HOUSE SCHEDULE

MONDAY	THURSDAY
9:30—Karma Hirshey, folk singing	9:30—Jazz Ballet
10:00—Trio Aurele Le Compte, from Hull, Quebec	10:00—Trio Aurele Le Compte
10:30—Isabelle Foord, poetry, drama	10:30—Isabelle Foord
11:00—Lurie Trashed, Judi Lees, folk singing	11:00—U of A Dance Band
TUESDAY	FRIDAY
10:30—Gordon Auck, Barbara Downs, singing	9:30—Kathy Paton, singing
11:00—John Mobowichuk, poetry	10:00—Sing up Canada, singing
11:30—Brian Mullino, singing	10:30—John Thompson, poetry
	11:00—Inner Circle, folk singing

BIG DANCE ON WED. NIGHT
9 p.m.-1 a.m.

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9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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