

BEAR ACE WARREN CHAMPION
... talented rookie scores again

Larger league proves headache for b'ballers

By LAWRIE HIGNELL

The University of Alberta Golden Bears basketball team has had its troubles this year in the newly expanded WCIAA league.

With the addition of the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds this season, the five team league has posed a real problem to the Bears, who have only won one Saturday contest in five, and are presently ranked third with a 5-5 won-loss record.

The Bears competed in two leagues this year in an attempt to represent Alberta at the Quebec Winter Games this weekend, but went down to defeat when they lost to the Calgary Cascades and Lethbridge Broders early in the season, and then to the Calgary Dinosaurs, who eventually won the league.

In the Bears' bid to regain the WCIAA crown, the Calgary Dinosaurs, present title holders, have proved to be the most problem to the team.

WON OPENER

The Bears won their league opener against the Dinosaurs, but since have lost three games, including a disputed match in Calgary three weeks ago.

The UBC Thunderbirds have proved the surprise this year, having, so far, defeated the Bears twice in four games and the Dinosaurs once in a doubleheader in Calgary.

With four wide-margin victories against the University of Manitoba Bisons and the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, the Thunderbirds appear to be strong contenders for the western title, with only a doubleheader in Vancouver remaining against the Dinosaurs, who presently have a slim hold on first place.

Under new head coach Gerry Glassford and assistant coach Alex Carre, the Bears have seen the return of three of their starting five players from last year in guards

Bruce Blummell and Darwin Semotiuk, and forward Ed Blott.

BACK IN ACTION

Returning to the roster after a year's absence, centre Nestor Korchinsky has displayed his rebounding skill and shooting ability, and captained the team during a difficult and disappointing season.

The Bears will lose three of these men after the season because they have finished their degrees, but have some promising players to replace them in the lineup.



NESTOR KORCHINSKY
... peerless leader

With the retirement of Korchinsky, Blott, and Semotiuk, the Bears will need two new forwards and a guard in their starting five.

Guard Don Melnychuk shows the most promise for a first string position next year, as he has showed much improvement this year on both offense and defense.

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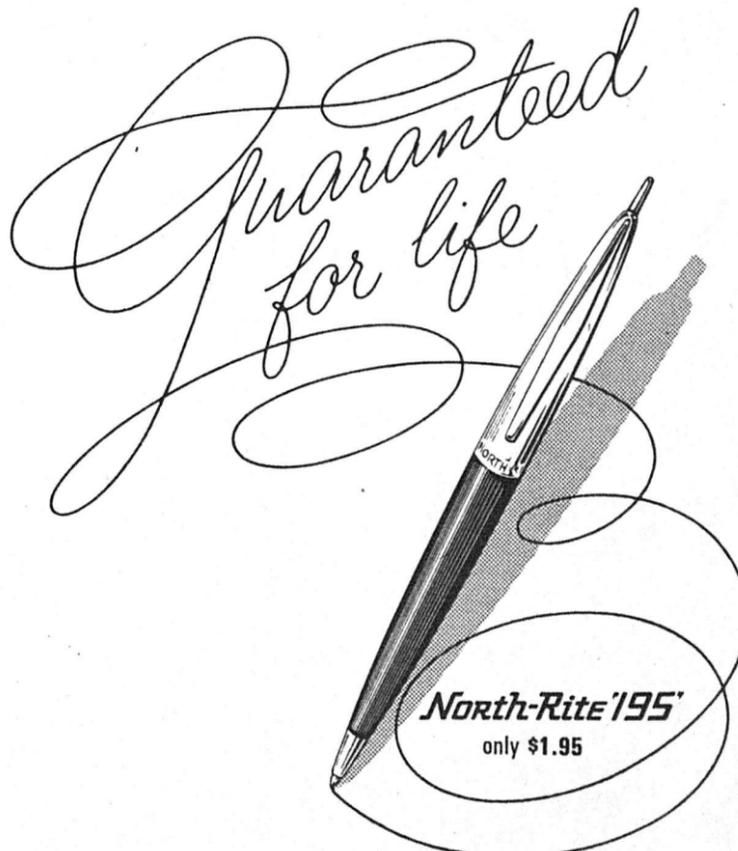
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Interviews will be conducted by Mr. M. Kurtz at the Campus N.E.S. on February 13 and 15.

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