

Hoop Bears disappoint throng

by Philip Preville

Over 2000 loyal fans came to see the Alberta Basketball Bears play their first home game of the new campaign this past Monday. Rather than the high-flying, co-ordinated team they saw play last year, however, the surprisingly large crowd saw a Bears team that is still getting its act together. Soggy defense was the Bears' fatal flaw, as they dropped a 80-79 decision to the Lewis-Clark State Warriors.

"We're just having problems getting it all together," said Alberta rookie post Rick Stanley of the team's defensive woes. "It will come

together eventually, though. We've got a lot of really good guys here who want to win."

The U of A began the game as they always do: playing tough defense, causing some turnovers and running up an early lead. With 11 minutes left to play in the first half, the Bears were leading 20-6. Things slowly deteriorated from there, and their lead dwindled to as much as three against an unimpressive but effective Lewis-Clark squad. The Green and Gold's less-than-inspired play had head coach Don Horwood singing the praises of "patience and execution" from the sidelines.

The Bears came on strong before halftime to go up 38-31 at the half, but that lead didn't last long. The Warriors began to score lots of easy hoops, and eventually went ahead by as much as seven points. Bears guard Sean Chursinoff brought the Bears within one with a jump-shot from the foul line, and then put them ahead with 22 seconds remaining with two free-throws, 79-78.

Ironically, it was Chursinoff's mis-opportune gaffe just after his heroics, that cost the Bears the game. On the ensuing Lewis-Clark drive, a rebound was bobbled underneath the net. As Chursinoff gained control of the ball, he found himself falling out of bounds. In an attempt to keep the ball in Alberta possession, Chursy tossed the ball back in bounds, where it was intercepted by the Warriors and easily converted into the winning basket with five seconds remaining.

The Bears got good offensive production from their posts as Stanley, who started in light of a knee injury suffered to Bears no. 1 post Scott McIntyre, tallied 15 and fifth-year veteran Mark Baker scored 12.

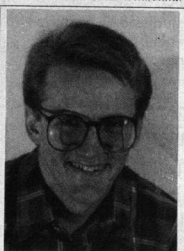
Baker, outmached in height at 6'5", displayed a particularly cool hand in the paint. The Bears' strength remains at guard, where the gazelle-like Chris Toutant scored 23. David Youngs added 8 points, including a couple of three-pointers. Soon after the Bears fell behind, coach Horwood switched to a perimeter offense, with four guards (Chursinoff, Toutant, Youngs and Cliff Rowein) on the court with the 6'9" Stanley.

Nevertheless, all the offensive pluses in the world couldn't remedy the loss. "We've scored enough points to win every game we played thus far," said Horwood, "but we didn't stop them once in the last five minutes of the game. You can't win by simply trading baskets." Lewis-Clark were able to score many an easy basket in the game, particularly in the paint. The Bears often made it easy for the Warriors to obtain a high-percentage shot.

"You have to be able to stop them when it counts," Horwood said.

IN THE PAINT— The Bears were coming off a rough weekend in Saskatoon, where they went 1-2 in the Ironman Classic. They beat Regina 103-99 in overtime in the opener, but lost 101-91 to the Saskatchewan Huskies and 77-76 to the Manitoba Bisons. Chursinoff was the only Bear elected to the tournament all-star team.

The Bears now travel back to Saskatoon to face the powerhouse Huskies for two conference games. Huskie head coach Guy Vetriche has all of last year's top ten — ranked team returning in 1987-88. "It'll be a dogfight," said Horwood, not realizing what an awful pun he had just slipped through his lips.



Randal Smathers

Nobody here nobody cheers

U of A Athletics and the CFL are in the same dinghy. Unfortunately it leaks. The big leak is that both groups lack credibility in the minds of fans.

At the pro level, the CFL is viewed as the minor leagues for the big boys down south. This causes things like bad attendance, small ad revenue and bankruptcy.

At the college level, the Bears can't compete with the pros, which causes things like bad attendance, small ad revenue and...well, things aren't that bad.

Dale Schulha, marketing honcho for Athletics, says that the programs in trouble (of the top four — basketball, volleyball, hockey and football) are the last two. The problem is that these are the most expensive sports, plus the ones that sponsors and alumni pay the most attention to.

Schulha admits that students are not coming out in any numbers. Selling the sponsor's product (Molson's) in the stands would probably help, but that's strictly out. Educational institutions shall not hawk alcohol.

A lack of student bodies in the stands suggests two possible solutions. First you can try and get off-campus fans in. Marketing is working on that — note the Husky ticket giveaway at the Shrine Bowl. Note the empty seats.

Second, you can try and get more students out. One attempt was the bag of goodies everybody got at registration. Last year they had a tuition giveaway at a hockey game. They lost dough on that one — not enough students came out to pay for the cost of the \$1000 prize.

Is student apathy the answer to this vacuum in the stands? Well, maybe, but why does Don Horwood's team fill the seats?

The football Bears had a winning year this one, but they played in front of empty stands. Rumor has it that the budget didn't even cover watering Varsity Field. With



Holes like this one made Mark Brus (23) and three linemen all-stars.

the good support crew for the football media, they got good press, including front page color in the Sun sports section for the Shrine Bowl. I can't understand how you can't get people to walk across the street from Lister.

Besides the competition from the pros, what are the differences between programs? One of the answers is Horwood. He runs a great p.r. program — Adopt-A-Bear being the latest of a series of successes.

There is a p.r. problem on campus for some other people however. Clare Drake deserves better than the support his program gets. Tween periods shoot-outs are not a bad idea, but they're not a new idea either.

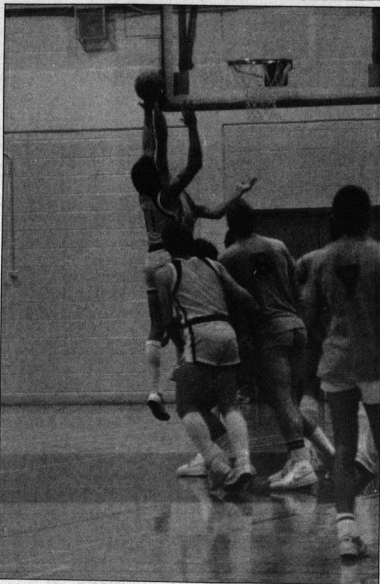
One idea that is backfiring is student conveners. These are people who get credits or small honorariums for trying to raise the profile of Inter-U sports. While some of these people are doing a terrific job, others are creating problems for their teams, by annoying the media.

This doesn't mean that I expect to be treated with kid gloves, but everybody except Harold Ballard would rather deal with at least an impartial press, than a hostile one. If his building wasn't sold out until the next century, he might not be so smug either.

If you decry the power of the sporting press, ask Don Matthews whether the media calling for his but had anything to do with it being fired out of the sling the way it was.

A curious contradiction is the fact that the Gateway is also being submerged with demands for space to run free promos now that Athletics can't pay for ads any longer.

Perhaps Marketing could give a seminar to their conveners (and some of their coaches) on the do's and don'ts of promotions. After all, they can't have it both ways, and it would be nice to see some more faces in the stands before the budget does to football what it did to the former cross-country running team.



Hoop action against Lewis and Clark State packed the main gym Monday.

Golden Bears, T-Birds dominate west all-stars

by Alan Small

Seven Golden Bear football players made the west's all-star squad. Also, Bear head coach Jim Donley was named coach of the year in the WFL.

The Bears placed four players on the offence, two on the defence, and one on special teams.

The offensive line, who came up big all year, garnered three selections alone, as centre Kelvin Ostapowich, guard Robin Steward, and tackle Russ Brown all made the squad, as well as the back they blocked for, WFL rushing record holder Mark Brus.

On defence, defensive end Brent Korte, and linebacker Lenard Sawatzky made the all-star club. Steve Kasowski was picked as the west's best place kicker.

UBC had 11 players on the club, while Calgary had seven, Manitoba had 3 while the Saskatchewan Huskies placed only one on the squad.

The men's soccer team was also

announced, with three Golden Bears getting the honors.

Forward Dave Phillips, and midfielders Salvi Cammarata, and Rob Biro made the Canada West all-star squad.

Canada West champs Victoria grabbed six selections, while UBC had three and Calgary and Saskatchewan had one apiece.

UBC coach Dick Mosher was awarded coach of the year honors.



Goal — Jon Bos, Victoria; Backs — Greg Kern, Victoria; Gregor Young, British Columbia; John Hughes, Victoria; Stig Pettersson, Saskatchewan and Alex Percy, British Columbia;

Midfield — Derek Ballendine, Calgary; Glenn Johnston, British Columbia; Salvi Cammarata, Alberta; Rob Biro, Alberta and Brian Penk, Victoria;

Forwards — Dallas Moen, Victoria; Dave Phillips, Alberta and Rick Jachen, Victoria.

Coach — Dick Mosher, British Columbia.

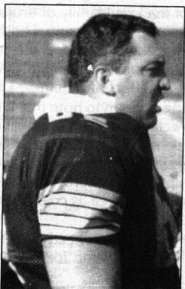
OFFENCE

Centre — Kelvin Ostapowich, A Guard — Craig Watson, C; Tony Kristopatis, BC and Robin Steward, A

Tackle — John Kadla, BC and Russ Brown, A

Wide receiver — Dave Brown, C; Todd Wickham, BC and Bruce Derraugh, M

Inside receiver — Craig Keller, BC and Grant Nielsen, M



Kevin Ostapowich — All-star center