

Bears lose twice

By Bill Winship

Northern Montana College Lights, on the strength of powerful second half offensives, dumped the Golden Bears 78-73 and 71-65 in exhibition basketball action last weekend before sparse crowds in PEB gym.

Both games were ragged with the basket often the scene of friendly games of ante-ante-I-over and ring-around-a-rosy. At times it seemed like each team was trying its utmost to give the game to the other.

Friday, the Bears showed signs of life but soon gave way under the Lights' pressure. The Bears early lead was quickly overcome and the teams settled for a 38-38 stalemate at half-time. In the second half the Bears had trouble finding the basket, and the Lights capitalized to score an easy 78-73 victory.

Larry Fonner and Paul Eggen led the Lights' attack with 19 and 18 points respectively.

VAN VLIET SPARKLES

Maury Van Vliet, coming up with a sparkling performance in a losing cause, was top man for the Bears with 23 points. Garry Smith followed with 15, Jim Fisher netted 9 and Jack Walker 7.

Saturday, the Bears once again opened fast and took command of the game. Their crisp passing and accurate shooting, combined with a strong defensive performance, gave them a comfortable 42-32 first half lead. The advantage apparently was too much for the winless Bears as their game deteriorated into the unorganized, individualistic pattern of the night before. The Lights made

the most of the Bear miscues to overcome the 10 point deficit in the fourth quarter and then never looked back to defeat the Bears 71-65.

Larry Fonner again led Light scorers with 15 points but Phil Langston with 13 and Pete Flanagan with 10 inspired the Light's rally, scoring all but four of their 23 points in the second half.

For the Bears, Garry Smith was top man, netting 16 points, followed by Maury Van Vliet with 13, and Jack Hicken and Jim Walker with 10 each.

The Golden Bears are a good team, and at times have given glimpses of greatness. Yet, unless they shake their second half slumps they will suffer a similar fate to last year's edition. With the exception of the 83-80 overtime loss to the Carrol College Saints the Bears have had a decided tendency to fade. This fading may be attributed to "growing pains," to the lack of college level experience of many players, however, veterans with the ability and experience of Jack Hicken and Harry Beleshko have no such excuses.

HICKEN OFF

Hicken had one of his rare off-games Friday night and he found the basket almost as elusive Saturday afternoon.

The work of Jim Fisher in Friday's game, and of Jim Walker in both games, was one of the few encouraging aspects of the series.

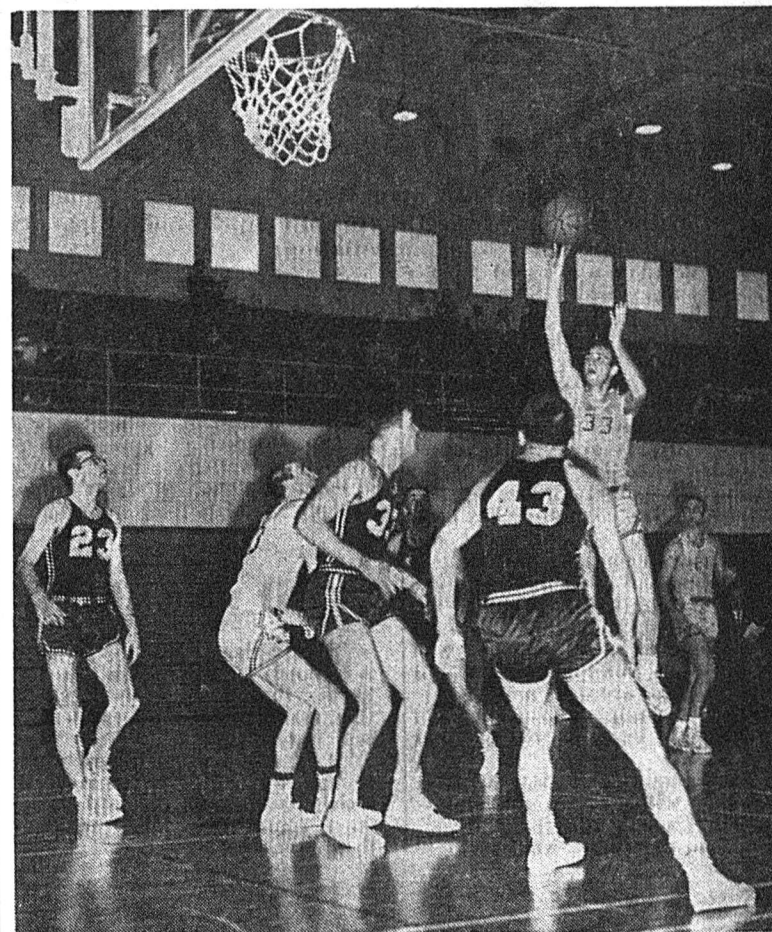
About the only good news coming out of the Golden Bear camp in the past two weeks was the announcement of a new arrival in the Stothart household. Peter is now the proud father of a baby boy, a future Bear star no doubt!

Possibility team may win

There is a distinct possibility that the basketball Bears will end their 14 game losing streak (eight last season) on the road as the Golden Bears journey to Havre, Montana to continue their feud with the Northern Montana College Lights. The change of scenery might be the ideal medicine to shake the Bears out of their lethargy.

Following the Northern Montana series the Bears are idle until they open the intercollegiate schedule against the Saskatchewan Huskies Jan. 12 and 13 on home ground. The Huskies fared much worse against the Lights than have the Bears but Coach Mendryk thinks the Huskies might possibly be the team to beat.

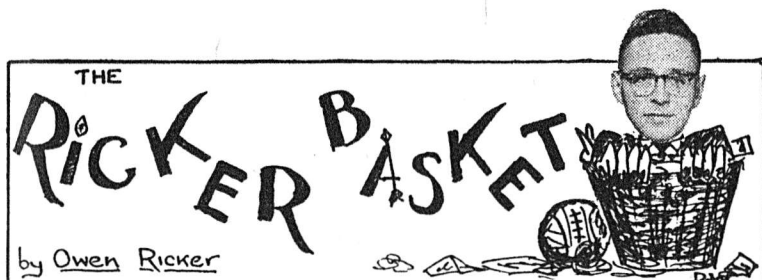
After the Huskies series the Bears travel to Lethbridge to tangle with the national champion Broders Jan. 19 and 20. This series should prove to be the Bears' toughest challenge of the season.



RARE MOMENT—U of A's Golden Bear Basketballers prepare for the intercollegiate hoop season by tangling with American teams. The games provided good experience for the players, but they usually have to wait until the intercollegiate season to taste victory. Bears lost twice to Northern Montana last weekend, despite the effort of Jeff Hakeman (33, light jersey) in the above picture. Other Bears are Jack Hicken, crouched under the basket, and Garry Smith, (21) at right. (Photo by George R. Hallett)

SPORTSWRITERS WANTED!

The Gateway sports staff will require two or three sportswriters after Christmas to cover such activities as swimming and wrestling. Anyone who would like to see his writing in print and who has an interest in athletic activity of any sort is invited to apply. Experience is not necessary. We want YOU!



Upon us once again is the season of goodwill.

It is the season when people send greetings and/or gifts to friends and/or enemies they haven't seen and/or spoken to for twelve months.

It is also the time when sportswriters sit down in their padded chairs (cells) and exude cheer and wish their readers and friends (if any) the compliments of the season. So here goes our list of Christmas wishes.

For Steve Mendryk—a winning basketball team for a change. It's been a long, long time.

For Clare Drake—another year's lease on the Hardy and Hamber cups. Oh, yes, and three wins over Leo LeClerc's pride and joy, the Oil Kings.

For Leo LeClerc—a capacity crowd at the Varsity Arena so he can eat some of the words he gives forth with so freely.

For Bobby Cox—a pro hockey contract.

For Con Stenton, Gateway Photo Editor—credit lines the next time he takes pictures for a sports spread.

For other Photo Directorate members—a few nice clear action shots.

For EUS—a successful bonspiel and a bigger and better Winter Carnival.

For Fidel, ex-baseball player—a razor (for beard or throat)—take your choice.

For Gerry Marshall, ex-sports editor—happy retirement.

For Murray Smith and the football team, who won in the right year to get a trip east—another win, another trip.

For the engineers, sportsmen all—some mature queens.

For Davy Jenkins—a forty-hour week.

For Al Affleck—another vaudeville offer from the Pantages

Theatre.

For Ed Zemrau, to help in balancing the budget—some athletic support.

For University of Manitoba—a football team.

For Dick Kupsch, woman hater—a new poison pen.

For Gateway sports staff—three new writers so that the rest of us can pass.

For everyone else—Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night. (And have fun studying!)

Pots play rutherford

An exhibition of Canadian ceramics (1961), sponsored by the Western Canada Art Circuit, is now on display in Rm. 310 of the Rutherford Library.

The display pieces are of contemporary design. They indicate what Canadians, and in two instances, Edmontonians, can do in the designing of form and decoration. Some of the works are pots plain and simple, while others are ceramic sculpture, mobile and free-form. A few of the pieces are colorful, while others may seem, to those who do not understand clay, drab and colorless.

This display, which opened Dec. 4, will be at the library to Dec. 15. It will then move to the Edmonton Art gallery.

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