

Vikings capture fifth title at Metro Centre

by Mark Alberstat

The CIAU National Basketball Championships were held at the Metro Centre on March 15 and 17 with the University of Victoria Vikings coming out as the victors over Brandon 70-62 in the final game.

The first two matchups, which were on Thursday night, had the Brandon Bobcats take on the University of Waterloo Warriors and Victoria play the Lethbridge Pronghorns.

Neither of the two games was very exciting but the closest one to getting the adrenalin pumping was the first, which was a mini upset with fifth-ranked Brandon winning over fourth-ranked Waterloo 68-61. The other contest had the Vikings easily winning over Lethbridge 74-48.

The key to Brandon's success lies in superb offensive playing from John Carson, as he poured in 23 points for the Bobcats and collected the game's MVP award. Teammate Jan Bujan had 13 points and was doing a lot for the Bobcats' defensive work. The top scorers for the Warriors were Peter Savich and Dave Burns with 18 and 16 points respectively.

At the 12:04 mark of the second half Brandon was down by seven, 55-48, but put on defensive pressure and held down the Warriors while Brandon's

John Carson and Grant Coulter put on their offensive moves to seal Waterloo's fate.

The second game of the night held no surprises as the Vikings' height advantage easily wore down Lethbridge. At the half, Victoria had an 11-point cushion with a score of 35-24.

Greg Wiltjer, Victoria's 6'11" centre, was the top scorer for the Vikings with 25 points. Wiltjer also did an impressive job on defence, hauling down rebounds. Victoria's scoring sensation Eli Pasquale was kept down to only 11 points of the game, equal to that of his teammate David Sheehan. The only difference here is five of Sheehan's 11 were free throws compared to Pasquale's three.

After these two games the stage was set for the final championship game on Saturday at 3 p.m., with U of Vic taking on Brandon and Lethbridge going at Waterloo for the consolation at 12:30.

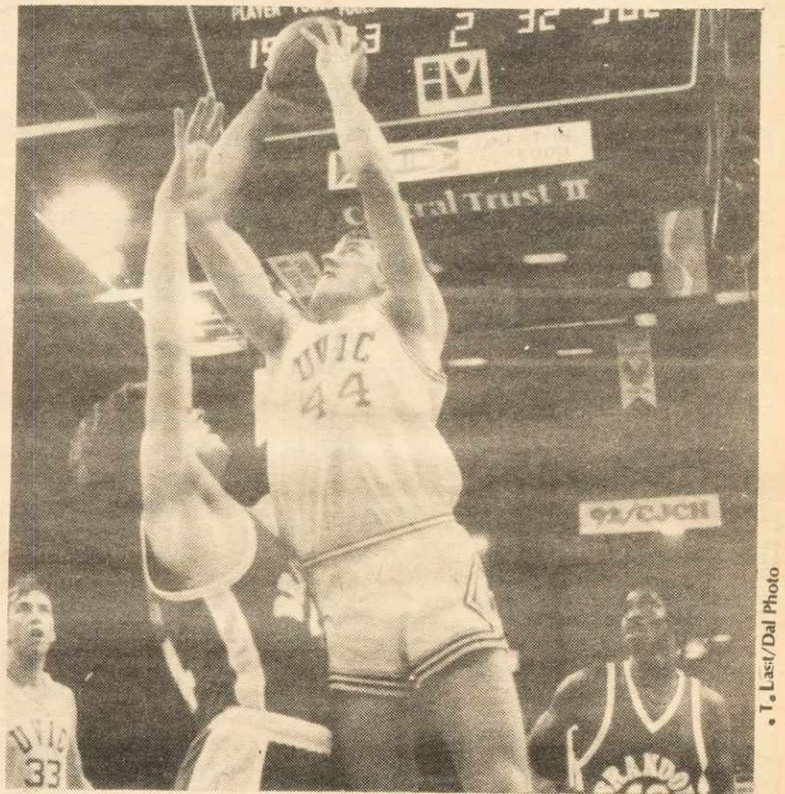
This game had both the Pronghorns and the Warriors playing hard with neither of the teams in secure control any time through the game. The half-time score was 42-40 for Waterloo. Twenty of Waterloo's first-half points were from foul shots, contrasted to Lethbridge's three.

The scoring after the intermis-

sion was a true see-saw event, right up until the last minute of play. The final score had Lethbridge edging out Waterloo 76-72. The top scorers for the Pronghorns were Brent Maxwell, Jerome Ell, and Ken McMurry, all with 14 points apiece. Waterloo's shooting star was Peter Savich with 24 while Dave Burns had 16.

The championship game was indeed worth the wait for the 6,000-odd fans who came out to see the best in Canada battle for the CIAU crown. To no one's astonishment, the University of Victoria took the championship for an unprecedented fifth time in a row. What was a surprise was how close the Bobcats did come on several occasions to taking the lead and maybe even upsetting the Vikings. The game was Eli Pasquale's last game with the Vikes and, in numerous interviews, players and coaches said they wanted to win the championship not only for themselves but also for Eli who has played so well for them.

A little less than eight minutes into the first half, Vic had already doubled Brandon 14-7. Brandon fought back and with six and a half minutes to go to intermission they were only trailing by three, 24-21. Going to the locker room U of Vic had an 11 point margin with a score of 40-29.



T. Last/Dal Photo

In the second half, the Vikings came out strong and refreshed and ready to put fast points on the board. The Bobcats almost caught Pasquale, Wiltjer and company near the end of the game when they came within four points at the 62-58 mark.

Eli Pasquale reached the 20-point plateau with 30 seconds left in the game, to finish his scoring drive as a Viking. He led the Vikings to the final score of 70-62, with Greg Wiltjer hauling down 18 points and 14 rebounds for the MVP award.

College Canadian All-Stars win over N.S.

by Mark Alberstat

There was a first in Canadian basketball history at Dalplex on Sunday March 18 as the Nova Scotia Stars took on the Canadian College All-Stars.

The final outcome of the game, 115-113 in favour of the College All-Stars, indicates how well-fought the battle was. The game was probably the best contest seen this year at Dalplex.

The All-Canadians came on strong in the first half with John Hatch scoring eight points within four minutes of the opening tip-off. For the half, Hatch had 18 points, 14 of which were field goals.

The players were obviously enjoying themselves throughout the game with many three-point shots. The most prolific scorer of these was Tiger head coach Doc Ryan, who bucketed three three-pointers.

At half the College All-Stars were up by seven with a score of 60-53. This lead disappeared quickly after the intermission as the N.S. Stars scored 20 points in four minutes.

The game literally came down to the last seconds. With 30 seconds remaining, John Carson of the All-Canadians nailed an 18-foot shot, putting his team ahead.

With two seconds left in the game, the N.S. Stars got the ball at the wrong end of the court. Everyone was expecting a last-

ditch hook shot from the Stars, but they surprised everyone by passing the ball to Doc Ryan just before half court and calling a time-out with two seconds remaining on the clock. This unexpected ploy brought cheers from the crowd.

When play resumed, N.S. Stars'

Doc Ryan passed the ball to Rick Plato whose shot was partially blocked and didn't reach the net.

Scoring Summary:

Canadian All-Stars 115 - Spagnulo 13, Fast 7, Parober 13, Carson 18, Morgan 20, Bratty 2, Latter 14, Hatch 28. **N.S. Stars 113** - Quakenbush 28, Ryan 27, Bloomers 22, Ehler 18, Williams 6, Plato 7, Kelly 3, Gallinaugh 2.

Player eligibility problems at SMU

by Mark Alberstat

What can a university do as an encore after having two players declared ineligible? They can have a third, and St. Mary's did just that.

For the third time in as many weeks St. Mary's have run into eligibility problems with their teams. The first wrangle was with the Huskies hockey team when they had to withdraw from the championship in Charlottetown because one of their players dressed for 11 games while trying out for the International Hockey League. The CIAU eligibility rules only allow for five.

The second time was with the men's basketball team when they found out that Don Williams had not sat out a year before playing this season. This fact cost the team two games, which dropped them to second place, but the Huskies went on to win the AUBC title. Not only did Williams not sit out a year, he also used his brother's name for registering at the university.

The latest controversy is over

St. Mary's guard Ron Lardge of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Lardge, one of the brightest new players in the AUBC, was recently named rookie of the year, and was on the first team of the all-star team. Lardge was declared ineligible when it came to light that he, also, had not sat out a year, as is required of students transferring from another university.

St. Mary's withdrew from the regional tournament this past weekend in Fredericton and relinquished their AUBC title as a result of the Lardge case. St. Mary's had the best chance of any Atlantic team at being in the final four at the Metro Centre this weekend. Without any Atlantic team being there attendance numbers are sure to suffer.

This disastrous end to an excellent season will almost assuredly bring St. Mary's athletic department and director under the spotlight of the CIAU's eligibility committee. This is the first time St. Mary's has had such problems in the past 25 years.



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Students of Occupational Therapy have a rolling good time introducing their program to local high school students on March 14-15.