Alumni action opens hoop year

by Mitch Panciuk

The University's basketball teams are in action Friday in the annual Alumni Game. The Alumni game is fast becoming a traditional start-off for the season, as both coaches are looking at it as a way to evaluate their teams.

Bear's coach Don Horwood said that "The Alumni game is going to let us get a good look at our players. This game doesn't mean a lot in terms of wins and losses, but we want to see how the team is going to play in a game situation.

The Bears should put in a strong showing due to the fact that this year there are nine returning players. Brian Halsey, Rick Stanley and Ed Joseph will have to dig deep in order to go up against the big boys of yester-

The Alumni squad will feature past U of A greats Mike Kornak, Mike Suderman, Scott MacIntyre

and Chris Toutant just to mention a few and also Doug Baker. Baker played for the Golden Bears in the mid 1970's and was the Canada West scoring leader in his hayday. The Men's Alumni game starts at 8:15, right after the women, in the Main Gym.

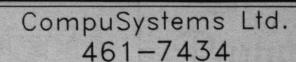
The Panda basketball team has a lot riding on Friday's Alumni game. Coach Diane Hilko said that "there are two things riding on the game: That we play really hard, and that we play together

The Alumni game is always a tough game. Being the first really competitive game of the year, it's always a good test to see if the players can perform. Hilko feels that the Alumni team "has noth-

ing to lose. They come in and want to see their old friends and they want to play hard, whereas the girls here are fighting for playing time. That makes it tough on the team, but we're looking to come in and win this one and see how everybody plays under game conditions. It's going to be an interesting test for us.

The big test Friday night is going to be how well rookie Susan Chalmers adjusts to university level ball. Returning Alumni like Trish Campbell and many of the Pandas who have played in recent years will be there to test

Last year's great player, Patti Smith, won't be playing as Hilko does not consider her Alumni. While Smith did not return due to academic priorities, Hilko is leaving the door open in the future. The Pandas get action underway at 6:30 in the Main



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New blood for hockey offence

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think that they will take a very active role in the offense this year."

Of course, an essential component of the rebuilding of any team is the incorporation of new blood into the lineup. With regard to offense the Bears have five new players that will be expected to make vital contributions to the

team. However, Moores was not willing to speculate on how his rookies will perform in the 89-90 season. "It's hard to tell right now. We'll have to wait until the league games but they've all done some good things and that's why they're

Moores is not concerned with

the small physical size of many of his rookies and believes they will compensate for it with aggressive playing spirit. "Some of the guys are not necessarily big but they are very capable of being physical."

The Bears open the 89-90 season this weekend against the Lethbridge Pronghorns in Lethbridge.

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