

# Rae Edgar star of Panda swimming team



—Neil Driscoll photo  
**THE PANDAS' RAE EDGAR**  
 . . . two WCIAA records last weekend

By MARION CONYBEARE

Fifteen years ago Rae Edgar almost drowned at Pigeon Lake.

Last weekend Rae broke two WCIAA records for University of Alberta Pandas.

Rae is the best swimmer ever to hit the Panda team. She is also one of Canada's top swimmers. Rae holds 62 medals, 15 trophies, and "so many ribbons I couldn't begin to count them."

Rae first learned to swim in the Journal Learn to Swim classes at the age of 10. One year later she was swimming competitively with the Y-whirlwind swim club in the city.

She quickly became proficient in all strokes and started to break records.

While in the 13-14 age group she became the first Alberta girl to hold all provincial records for every stroke and distance simultaneously. Rae says "I'd break some, break more, and then break them over again."

The Panda coach, Mike Horrocks,

says that "Rae is possibly the most naturally talented swimmer this province has ever produced."

Miss Edgar's most thrilling win came in the Kelowna Regatta four years ago when she won a gold medal.

Last weekend's performance in Winnipeg was the best of her meets this year. There she beat Saskatoon's Colleen Walsh, a rival for years, in the 200-yard individual medley.

Colleen, one of Canada's best women swimmers, beat Rae twice earlier this year in the same event . . . in meets with U of S at Edmonton and Saskatoon.

Coach Horrocks told Rae she could have another crack at beating Colleen, and this time she beat her and set a WCIAA conference record in the process at 2:28.6.

Rae tried out twice for the Canadian teams sent to the Pan American Games and the British Empire Games. In all four try-outs she won fifth and sixth place positions.

After this Rae stopped training for two years because she "found little competition in my own age group." In swimming circles she calls herself an "old woman" as

most top swimmers are now in the 13-15 age groups.

Joining the Pandas this year provided Rae with a smooth road to more success. She quickly proved herself to be the top Panda swimmer in the telegraphic swim meet. Her times continued to improve and she led the Pandas in split-times in the Golden Bear Relays.

In the meet with Saskatoon here, Rae washed up records in the 100-yard backstroke (1:08.6) and the 200-yard freestyle (2:23.5).

In the return meet at Saskatoon she broke the Alberta record in the individual medley and although she did not win she was the first Panda swimmer ever to qualify for a Canadian Swimming Association Silver Standard Time Award.

Rae's present times now qualify her to swim in this year's British Empire team trials held in July. She is giving serious thought to trying a third time.

Coach Mike Horrocks says that Rae's already impressive record could have been better. "It is a crime that during the most important years she suffered from some rather indifferent coaches," he said.

## Bear wrestlers take second place in WCIAA meet at Vancouver

By RICHARD VIVONE

The University of Alberta Golden Bears won second place in the WCIAA wrestling finals at Vancouver last weekend.

The grapplers scored 69 of a possible 108 points. The University of Saskatchewan took the meet with 74 points, six more than third place University of British Columbia. Calgary came in a dismal last with 5 points.

The round robin meet saw Edmonton men win five of nine weight divisions. UBC took three divisions and U of S the other.

The dual meet consisted of two opposing teams entering a man in each weight division. Four points were awarded for pinning a man, three for a decision and two each for a draw.

Each bout had two five minute sessions and a minute rest.

In their first match, Bears took 19 of 36 points from UBC but lost the second 22-14 to Saskatchewan. They bombed the Dinnies 36-0.

"Saskatchewan has a very good team but we did well against them," said coach Bruce Switzer.

Weight division winners for the Bears were Bill Smith, Dave Penner, Brian Heffel, Jim Chartrand and Larry Speers. UBC's Bruce Green, Ron Reagh and Ken Christianson plus Saskatchewan's Woody Stewart won the other divisions.

Heffel and Speers were second and fourth respectively in Canada last year. Chartrand and Speers are all-star Bear footballers.

Switzer, says, "We had some

exceptional performances against UBC especially from Speers, Penner and Smith."

Penner won the Beaumont Trophy as the outstanding wrestler in the tournament. Bear matmen have won the award for the past five seasons.

In capturing the cup, Penner won two matches by pinning his opponent and a third by a decision.

Speers won two of three sets. His loss was his first in four years of intercollegiate competition and 32 bouts. He was beaten by Don Seaman of Saskatchewan.

"He had one of his rare bad matches" said Switzer.

In the entire meet, the coach chose Smith, Heffel and Penner as his best men.

"But" he adds, "Norm Sakamoto and Mac Kufeldt held their own. Nobody ran over them."

Switzer had special words of praise for Russ Rozylo. "I expect him to be Beaumont winner soon. He's really good."

Wayne Loiselle, a rookie, beat out veteran Dennis Nelson for a spot on the team and was also singled out by the coach for a good performance.

The coach was optimistic of future wrestling prospects. "High schools are starting to promote the sport. They will have dual meets soon. We expect to get some good men from these places."

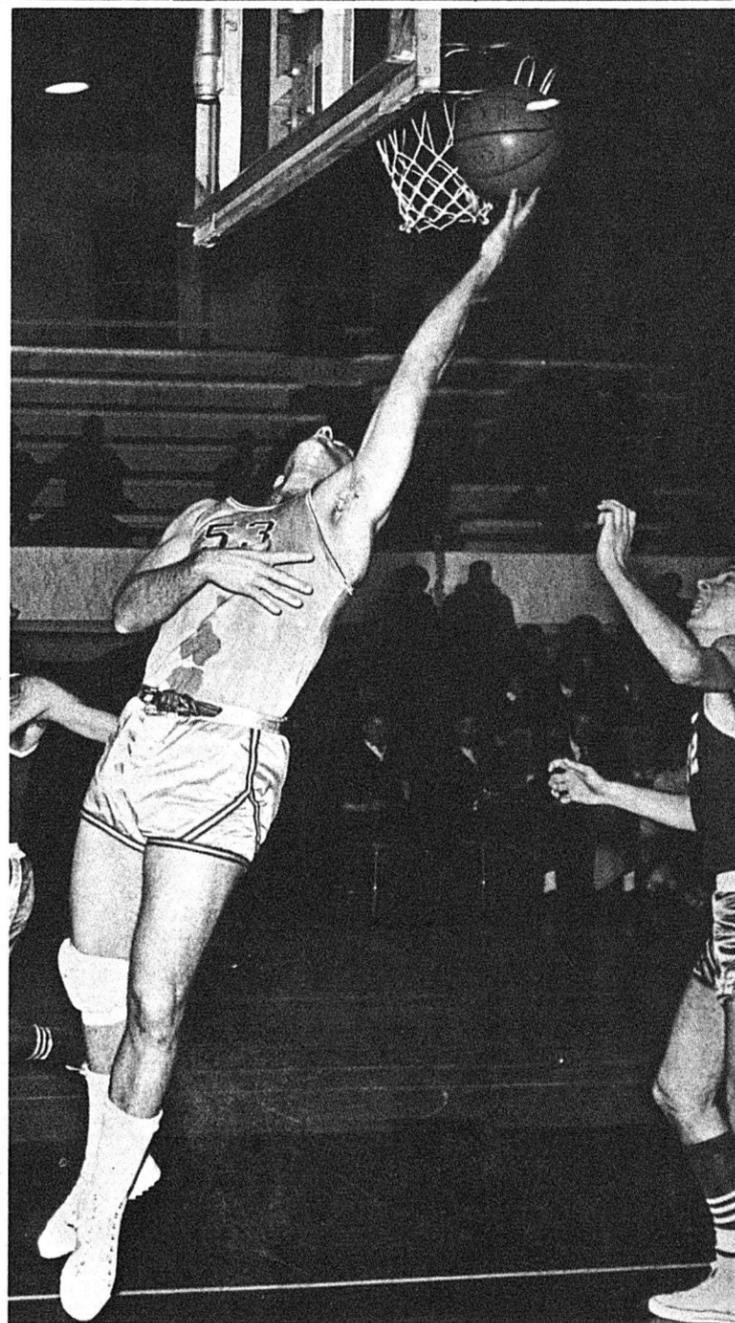
Switzer thinks his team will have to look to the U.S. for more competition.

"You have to wrestle against good competition and do it often to be a good wrestler. The Americans will provide us with some excellent opposition."

Montana, Washington and North Dakota are possible opponents for next season.

For some Bear men the Provincial and Dominion finals are next. Switzer expects Penner to win a spot in the Dominion finals and Heffel and Speers to place in the Provincial games.

Summing up, the coach says "We've done well this year. The competition was the best ever and has really improved in the past five years."



—Neil Driscoll photo  
**LOOK WAY UP**—Barry Mitchelson sinks two more in the game the Bears lost to the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Saturday night. The tally was tied at the end of regulation play at 72-72, but after overtime the Huskies went ahead to win 77-75.

## Haswell finishes fourth in two-mile event

VANCOUVER—Ray Haswell placed fourth in the all-star two mile event at the Canadian Indoor Track Championships in Vancouver at the weekend.

He was beaten by a Hungarian and two Americans, with the Hungarian, Mecsef, taking first with a fast time of 8:49 for the gruelling race.

Americans Gary Lindgren and Bruce Williams placed second and third respectively. Gary Lindgren held the world six-mile record before Ed Clark of Australia shaved his time.

"Haswell's time of 8:54 for the race puts him in the top in North America for the distance," coach Jim Haddow said after the race.

"He is certainly the best runner in the University of Alberta's history," he added.

The race was exciting—Haswell led for the first mile and then fell back slightly as the winner turned on his finishing burst.

Haswell has been hampered

trainingwise as there are no adequate year-around facilities in Edmonton for the cross-country runner.

Officially the squad is allotted one hour a week in the gym, but they usually practice about three times a week, running over, around and on top of other people using the facilities.

Gym practices have other disadvantages as well. There is no way to time the runners over a set distance so they have some idea how they are doing. And even if the length of a lap around the gym were known there are always obstructions in the way which make timing impossible.

But things are looking up for the track and fielders—next year should see the opening of a field house in Kinsmen Park as a regular training ground.

The field house is a centennial project and will make running easier for dedicated Albertans like Ray Haswell.