

Chursinoff at home in crucial games for Bears

by Phil Preville

When the hoop Bears venture into the unfriendly climes of the Red Gym in Calgary, there is never any question what team is the crowd favorite.

But as of late there's been a small troupe of turncoats — and lately they've had much to cheer about.

"Oh, those are my pals from high school," explains Bears' guard Sean Chursinoff, who played with the 1985 provincial champions of Sir Winston Churchill High. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that he could play University ball, including Sean's. In fact, Chursinoff was more sure than anyone else.

"I was welcome at the University of Calgary," recalls Sean, "but they have (high-scoring guard John) Vigna there, and I would have had to wait a long time before getting any real playing time.

"I also knew that Gerry Couzens was going to graduate in a year, so I decided to come up here." Horwood did not pursue Chursinoff to any great extent, but he did let Sean know that he was welcome up here, too.

As it turned out, freshman Chursinoff was starting before year's end, getting the nod over third-year man Cliff Rowein and local product David Youngs.

"Sean has all the confidence in the world in himself," says Roth. "Even as a freshman, he handled himself very well on the court. He's a great team player."

Sean indicates that he's very

happy here, away from home. "Things have turned out great, both with basketball and school," he says. Why shouldn't he feel that way? He's where he feels he belongs — on the court, not on the bench.

On Saturday the Bears will be in Lethbridge to play the Pronghorns, the only CWUAA team that has yet to place in the rankings. They are the division doormat, yet they only lost to the University of Calgary by six points.



Lately, the Golden Bear basketball players have been a rather joyous lot. After all, just last weekend they dethroned the Victoria Vikings from top spot in the CIAU rankings. They themselves are ranked second in the country. Not much gone awry here.

However, they're not perfect. Their loss to the Saskatchewan Huskies two weeks ago still irks them. And their coach won't let them forget it, either. "We're the team to beat in Canada West," clan

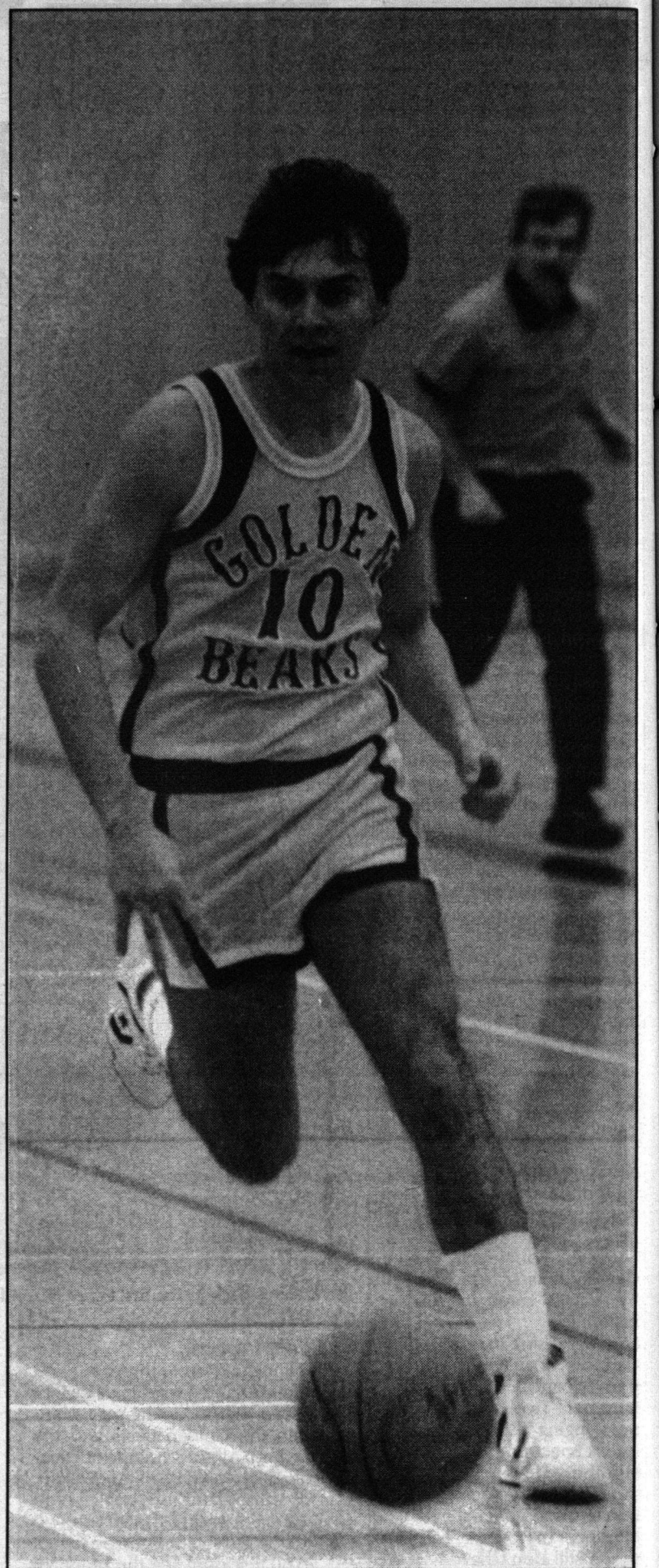
leader Don Horwood told his Bears, "and every team will be up for us. We can't let the intensity level drop again. If you guys can't do it yourselves, I'll do it for you."

Horwood is a good-natured man, and it seems that he couldn't possibly sound stern no matter how hard he tried. That doesn't mean that he isn't stern, though. The Bears didn't accumulate the required 12 offensive rebounds on Saturday, so he sentences them to 20 minutes of "hamburger".

"It's a rebounding drill where five guys park under the hoop and go for the ball," explains Dean Peters. "The rules are: there are no rules. The first guy to sink five wins." The title aptly describes the state of being the players are in when time runs out. One wonders whether this hell is really necessary.

"These next four games can wrap up a playoff spot for us," says assistant coach Steve Roth of the upcoming home-and-home series against Calgary and Lethbridge. "We could finish this at 6-1. If we want home-court during the playoffs that would be ideal."

Calgary, where the Bears will be on Friday night, have been struggling since the beginning of conference play. If anything will wake them up, a game against Alberta will. There is also the possibility that 6'4" forward Greg Maillet will return to the Calgary lineup. "He's a very good play who shoots a great jump shot," Roth assesses. "He's an added worry for us."



Sean Chursinoff — the sophomore guard is already a starter for Alberta.

V-Ball Bears look for upset

by Alan Small

"Steady," the whole team said adamantly.

That and more will be what it takes for the Bears volleyball squad to upset the No. 6 ranked UBC T-Birds on Friday night at the main gym.

Alberta is 2-4 in conference play so far and will need a better record in the last half of the year to have a chance at the top two places in Canada West and the playoffs.

Saturday night has the Bears facing the last place University of Victoria Vikings.

But Friday night's game is what they're looking forward to, as the Golden Bears lost in three straight to UBC in their first game of the year and want to even up the season series.

It won't be easy, though, as the Bears already had trouble with UBC's one big player, Junior National teamer Greg Williscroft, and now have to deal with two more

ringers that UBC has added to their squad including National Teamer Phil Bolden.

"Williscroft is about 6'7" and jumps right out of the gym," head coach Pierre Baudin said, "and Bolden is 6'8" and will give them more stability."

Somehow, though, his players were still confident.

"We can't stop them all the time," said veteran Jim Schubert. "So our defence will have to play well. We'll have to play around them."

"We got to have a tough back-court defence," Baudin said. "Maybe it will frustrate UBC just like Saskatchewan did during the tournament."

After remodelling their service reception, Baudin is hoping a renewed team spirit will put them over the top.

"We've been missing that team feeling," he said. "We need that cohesiveness to win the tough close games."

The players have been taking things into their own hands, as they had a team meeting after practice on Tuesday.

"Now that we have worked out the kinks in our system, we'll be a different team out there," setter Brad Evans said. "We've got to play at a consistent steady level."

Victoria shouldn't pose as much as a problem to the Bears, as they have defeated them twice, losing only one game in the process. No one is counting them out either.

"They'll be stronger, as they have worked together for two more months," Baudi said.

SIDE OUTS — Both games start at 8:30 Friday and Saturday evenings in the main gym. U of A Athletics has given away a pile of tickets to junior high and high schools in the area for Friday's game. They did the same thing when Calgary came to town and it was a loud bunch. They're hoping for the same reaction this time.

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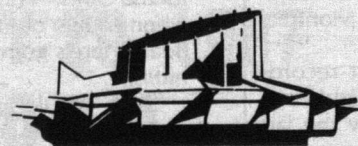
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