

# Winship on basketball

By Bill Winship

The 1961-62 intercollegiate schedule has been full of disappointments for U of A athletes. Heading the list are the Golden Bear basketballers, whose performance is all the more disappointing in light of the promise and potential the team showed in early season play.

With an experienced nucleus returning intact, backed by a very promising array of rookies, it looked like this was the year the Bears would emerge from the WCIAU cellar and once again become a power to be reckoned with. While the Bears did improve on their 3-20 won-lost record of the previous year, it was done at the expense of the UAC squad.

The Bears ended the season with two wins and six losses in league action to tie for second place with the U of S Huskies (UBC T'Birds captured the title), and an overall record of seven wins and 17 losses.

Perhaps too much was expected of the Bears, and in particular, the rookies. A team which counts on strong performances from first year players, as well as consistently strong play from veterans, is courting trouble, as the past season indicates. On the occasions when the rookies were carrying their load, the veterans were found wanting, and when the rookies were shaky, there was little the veterans could do to salvage victory. In the few games that saw both rookies and veterans producing as expected the Bears had little trouble with the opposition.

## PROMISING BEGINNING

The Bears began their season with very promising performances in abbreviated games with the Harlem Clowns. The Clowns played it straight in the first half of two games and the Bears gave them all the action they could handle. The Bears then 'retired' and let the Clowns exhibit their basketball blackmagic at the expense of the junior Bearcats.

The Bears hosted the highly rated Carrol College Saints the following weekend, absorbing 79-55 and 83-80 defeats. However, in the 83-80 loss the Bears excelled themselves in possibly their best game of the season, taking the Saints into overtime before succumbing. The Bear phoenix appeared to be rising!

The Northern Montana College Lights invaded PEB next to give the Bears their second taste of American competition. While the Bears lost twice, 78-73 and 71-65, they gave further indication that 14 game losing streaks were a thing of the past.

## HOLIDAYS GOOD

The Christmas holidays seemed to do the Golden Ones a lot of good as they ended a 16 game drought by downing the U of S Huskies 58-50 and 75-57 in the opening games of the WCIAU schedule. The wins gave the Bears a shortlived first place lead; unaccustomed heights for the U of A squad who've fallen on bad times since the 1957-58 championship team.

The winning streak was extended to four games as the Bears nipped the Southern Alberta All-Stars twice, 60-58, in the preliminary games to what was billed as the "unofficial North American Basketball Championships" between Canadian champion Lethbridge Broders and the Denver-Chicago Truckers. The stage was now set for the big upset.

The UAC basketball squad, a surprisingly strong and spirited team, brought the Bears back to earth with a thrilling last second 65-63 victory. The locals retained some measure of pride by mauling the UAC upstarts 70-53 the next evening. The Bears gained further revenge by trouncing the UAC hoopsters 66-46 and 68-57 before a disappointed Calgary crowd who came to see another miracle.

Having won seven of their last eight games the Golden Ones were in high spirits as they travelled to Saskatoon to meet the Huskies. The return trip was not quite so gay!

The hot Husky squad had handed the Bears 54-46 and 57-51 defeats and Alberta pennant hopes faded.

## BRODER BOMB BEARS

The Bears next fell victim to the defending Canadian champion Lethbridge Broders. The Broders were road-weary and indifferent in handling the locals a 71-60 decision in the first of a two game series. However, it was a much fresher and more concerned Broder team which bombed the Bears 87-53 in the second, in the process giving an indication of why they are considered Canada's best.

A home-and-home series with the UBC Thunderbirds ended the WCIAU schedule for the Bears on a dismal note as the T'Birds swept four games to end another unbeaten season in conference play. At Vancouver, the T'Birds dumped the Bears 84-74 and 80-56 and scored their seventh and eighth wins in conference action at Edmonton with 67-55 and 76-62 victories.

Thus, another unsuccessful season for the Bears has passed and already the cries of "wait 'til next year" are being heard. Perhaps for the first time in four seasons these cries have some foundation. Although graduation will claim Harry Beleshko and Jack Hicken the prospects for next season look encouraging.

Garry Smith, who did such an outstanding job at guard will be returning along with fellow guard Maury Van Vliet who has one more year of WCIAU eligibility remaining. Ed Blott, who improved with every game, should be a major cog in the Green and Gold machine next year. Jeff Hakeman was also very impressive in his rookie campaign, as was Jim Fisher. The little "buzz-bomb" Jim Walker and crowd-pleaser Gord Valgardson should also help the '62-'63 Bear cause. These and others justify the "wait 'til next year" cries.

## WILL MISS VETERANS

The Bears will certainly miss four year veterans Jack Hicken and Harry Beleshko. Jack with his pretty layups, sharpshooting, and prowess at the foul line has been a big weapon in the Bear attack. Harry with his smooth and easy hook shots and "big" games has often turned defeat into victory. Coach Mendryk is going to have trouble filling their spots on the starting line-up.

Nobody asked me but I don't think a coach could go far wrong with these five as a starting lineup:

Center: UBC's sensational Dave Way who does just about everything a center could be asked to do.

Forwards: UBC's rookie Laurie Predinchuk and U of S's Pat Lawson.

Guards: U of A's Garry Smith and U of S's Terry Little.

Of course, a Wayne Osburne (UBC), Maury Van Vliet (U of A), Dave Black (UBC), Bob Babki (UAC), Ken Myhre (UAC), or Bob Mirwald (U of S) on the bench wouldn't hurt the team either!

For the most valuable players I would chose Dave Way and Garry Smith.

For the rookie of the year: Laurie Predinchuk, easily the best rookie on sight.

And the best timekeeper of the year: Doug Walker!

Until the next Gateway (September) just one more comment: "Wait 'til next year!"

# Rust wraps up hockey

By Barry Rust

Alberta's golden bear wears the WCIAU hockey crown and clutches the Hamber Cup. So what else is new?

Actually it's been quite a season, interesting to say the least. Bears were easily the class of the inter collegiate league romping through the schedule with a record of 11 wins and 1 loss. They earned a split with powerful Denver University and Colorado College, and, on the other side of the ledger, lost the "prestige" series to Edmonton Oil Kings. Their overall record was 14 wins, 6 losses, and two ties, not bad, especially when you consider they played only nine games in the friendly confines of Varsity Arena.

While Bears won the WCIAU title by a substantial margin, Saskatchewan won just enough games and received a little help from the scheduling to keep some degree of pressure on until the third last game of the season. The Huskies though must rate as a disappointment for they never did live up to their pre-season expectations. The league of course was considerably weakened, in balance at least, by the absence of Manitoba.

## BAUER TAKES SLACK

The appearance of Father David Bauer on the British Columbia scene, however, took up some of the slack interest wise. And we cannot forget the Hamber Cup. It's still here. Hasn't moved for eleven years.

The loss of the exhibition set to the Oil Kings, three games to one, was a bitter pill for Bear faithfuls to swallow, particularly when one visions a certain Leo LeClerc jumping up and down and rubbing his hands together with most bountiful glee. Nobody's trying to create alibis, but it must be remembered that the Oilers had a full three to four weeks advantage in conditioning over the Bruins when the first two contests were staged.

There is something else, isn't there. No we haven't forgotten the balmy evening of February 24 or better known as, "the night all collegiate hockey teams should have stayed home where they belonged" or "Ducky Drake gets Deeked." Yup,

the Galt Terriers were in town. They were Canada's choice to play the Swedes and, ah, to hell with it!

While I'm on the subject, I say hats off to Clare Drake. He's made the mistake of coming up with winner after winner so that now it's taken for granted. Bears started the season minus nine stalwarts from the preceding year and they were more than average hockey players. They included men of professional calibre like Vic Dzurko, and Doug Messier, Most Valuable Player, Dick Dunnigan, and Al Laplante. Drake did an excellent recruiting job and came up with a brilliant array of newcomers.

The 1961-62 season isn't quite over for the Green and Gold yet. Drake has his club in the Alberta intermediate playoffs. They played Coleman in the south town last night and are supposed to host them tomorrow but what with the carnival in Varsity Arena, ice has become a problem.

## LEST WE FORGET:

—Dave Carlyle, who enjoyed his finest season in Bear uniform, tied a WCIAU record for the most goals in a single game. He popped in four.

—Austin Smith, tied another WCIAU record for most assists in a game, five in the same contest.

—Bobby Cox, who came on like gangbusters to win the WCIAU scoring crown.

—Austin Smith, center and captain

leaves the squad after four seasons. A workhorse all the way, Austin was undoubtedly the team leader. He led the WCIAU scoring race most of the season but missed the final four games.

—Ed Brown, three year veteran leaves mighty big boots to be filled on defence. "Silent," "dependable" Eddy was easily the best blueline Bear this time around. No one is asking but I put my dream team this way:

Center: Austin Smith. Bobby Cox will probably land the official All Star berth, on the strength of his scoring crown, but Smith just did more things.

Right Wing: Bob Marik, Bears.

Left Wing: Dave Carlyle.

Defence: Ed Brown, George Perry, Huskies.

Goal: No question here, Gerry Schultz in a runaway.

Call me a homer if you like but I didn't see anybody but Perry to break the monopoly, and he gets in over Dick Wintermute by the skin of his teeth.

## RUSTY CUP AWARDS

Most Valuable Player—Austin Smith. Best PA announcer—Bryan Clark. Best Talker (without saying anything)—Leo LeClerc.

Best Defenceman—Ed Brown.

Most Patient Player—Johnny Sofiak. Coach of the Year—Clare Drake.

Biggest Disappointment—University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

Best Goaltender—Gerry Schultz . . .

. . . Runner-up—Owen Ricker.

Rookie of the Year—Bobby Cox. He had this one sewn up before he stepped on the ice.

Busiest Player—Goalie Bill Rayment, UBC Thunderbirds.

Hard Luck Guy—Earl Gray. Runner-up—Gerry Kernaghan.

Fink of the Year—The fan who helped Marik fight Larry Hale.

Tiredest Sports Writer—Yours truly.

Runner-up—Bill Winship.

Best Boss—Owen Ricker

Home to bed. See you when the pigskin starts poppin!

# OWEN RICKER'S BASKET

It is with mixed emotions that this corner watches the ink dry on another page in green and gold sports history. By most standards this page is as bright as many that have preceded it, and yet all is not as it should be.

It has been a year filled with alternate surprises and disappointments, with the latter probably predominating. It followed what was very likely the most successful year ever for Alberta intercollegiate participants—the sort of "next year" that sportsmen are always waiting for. But that was the trouble—it was last year—and this year's achievements suffer by comparison.

But let us look more closely at the accomplishments of U of A athletes in 1961-62. On the positive side we will remember the continued success of the hockey team.

It is, I think, a tribute to the calibre of hockey played by the Bears, that Doug Messier in the Western League, and so many other former Bears in the Central Alberta League have given good accounts of themselves during the season just past.

## CROSS-COUNTRY AUTOMATIC

The cross-country team, too, have become known as "automatic." With a tremendous team effort, they came through in the clutch, to run their string of consecutive titles to eight. Coach Dr. Jack Alexander and his able and dedicated assistant, Dr. Jim Haddow must share in the credit with the team members.

Alberta's only other title was carried off by the volleyball team. With a team composed largely of rookies, Coach Costa Chryanthou's boys came through in fine fashion to again bring back the title to our campus.

On the other side of the ledger we must, I suppose, first recognize the "almosts." Although it is no reflection on the person concerned, it is a coincidence that the two squads handled by Murry Smith came the

closest to defending the silverware they won last year.

## YEAR FOR FOOTBALL

Everyone concerned agreed last fall that this was to be the year for the football team. Although they had been trampled the fall before in Churchill Cup play, they were definitely bigger, stronger and deeper. They gave it a good try, but for some reason it was not enough, and Barry Carkner and friends from the West coast were quick to take advantage of it.

The swimmers had an even more heartbreaking loss, going down to the last event before losing by one point.

Otherwise it was pretty well all UBC. In such diverse fields of sporting activity as golf, tennis, basketball, fencing, badminton, and curling the far westerners reigned supreme.

Basketball, at least, deserves a line or two. The Mendrykmens started the season in championship form, but, like their football counterparts, they faded in the stretch. However several good rookies strutted their stuff during the season and the picture does not look nearly as bleak as at this time last year.

## RUGGER HIGHLIGHT

One of the highlights of the year

was the organization of a rugger team and all indications point to the sport growing in importance and popularity as time goes by. Expanding, too, was the men's intramural program, as several new activities were added and participation reached new heights. At least five individuals picked up more than 90 participation points, a factor hailed by intramural officials.

Last but not least, we must remember the Gateway staffers. The make-up staff probably cut off more important paragraphs than ever before, but I suppose that considering the time we got the copy in it was no wonder. Davy J., a former sports editor, was always co-operative and most of the other gaffers at least spoke to us.

Barry Rust and Bill Winship were a big help all year, staying well into the night and early morning on many occasions. My sincere thanks goes to both of them for their continuing support and hard work even when some of the rest of us took things easy. To Doug Walker for his help until he set out for greener pastures on the news staff at Dornoch time, and to Bob Dwernychuk, Brian Flewelling, Bert Murray and Mike Horrocks who answered the call in our time of need also go bouquets for their invaluable assistance.

And now yours truly crawls out of the basket which has been home for the past seven months and bids farewell to the old Gateway office which has become so familiar in the past three years.

Last but not least, to my readers (both of you), thanks, hope you've enjoyed it, and so long.