

Bears' American tour disastrous

In WCIAA competition the Bears have a 3-1 record and a solid grasp on second place. In the United States leagues they would be lucky to get a place in the cellar.

During the Christmas holidays the Bears dropped seven straight to six of the better small college teams from the mid-western states. The story of the Bear losses could be titled "An Education in Basketball".

The American enthusiasm for basketball is as strong, or stronger, than the Canadian love for hockey. Driving along a typical highway in Indiana, one notices a hoop and backboard nailed on every barn or garage with at least one small-fry practicing jump-shots.

From the time they take their first steps these kids are brain-washed in the language of basketball—dunk, fast-break, hook, zone press, dribble, split-vision, rebound. By the time they reach college

level they no longer think about what moves to make in a game but react instinctively as each new situation arises.

The Bear coaches hoped competition with these boys would improve the club.

It is certain the Bears got a sound lesson in rebounding and fast-breaking-phases of the game which the American teams have developed far beyond any in Canada.

Even though the Americans had greater shooting accuracy than the Bears, the real imbalance came when the Americans grabbed nearly every rebound and preceded to run the University of Alberta team right off the floor.

Few players the Bears faced on their five-game road trip could shoot better from long range than Alberta's Darwin Semotiuk, but their team emphasis on a running style of play gave them openings

to shoot short jump-shots and easy lay-ups.

Playing a slow-down or control-offence style the Bears repeatedly had to settle for a more difficult long shot or a shorter one with a defensive man ready to block it.

The hard-won experience and the addition of a few more players should improve the Bears in the second half of the season.

With Garth Hillman healthy again and George Monkman back in the line-up, the team won't have to depend so much on Ed Blott for rebounding strength. Ed practically carried the Bears on his shoulders during the whole trip.

Barry Mitchelson, a 6'5" forward who doubles as end for the Edmonton Eskimos during the football season, gives the team increased scoring power and frees rookie Bill Buxton for duty as a guard, his best position.

Even though the Bears have a stronger team they are going to have to fight for the WCIAA championship. The split with Saskatchewan last weekend left them with a 3-1 record so the home-home series with league-leading Calgary this weekend and next will be crucial.

The games get underway at 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the main gym.

Bearcats down NAIT, winning streak at 12

By DAVE WRIGHT

Outstanding jump-shooting by Jerry Kozub lead the Bearcat basketball team to two wins last weekend.

The university squad kept alive a 12-game winning streak by dumping the NAIT Ookpiks 68-63 Friday and 56-55 Saturday.

From the tip-off Bearcat guard Ben Urner gave the team a momentary lead Friday, when he stole the ball from NAIT's Dekerk and scored a lay-up.

NAIT's Al Shaw hit for a 20 footer to even the score and moments later counted a free throw to give the tech school an early lead.

When the Ookpiks mounted an early 7-2 lead, the Bearcats turned to a full-court man-to-man press. NAIT had a chance to make it 9-2 but Bannister missed a lay-up and Urner hooped a 15-footer for the 'cats.

The university team's press started to take its toll from the Ookpiks. Art Dyke drove for a two pointer and Urner put the 'cats into an 8-7 lead with another 18-foot jumper.

John Hasselfield's 20-foot set-shot made it 10-7. And when Urner popped another jump-shot and Bill Scribe found the range with a hook and a jumper it looked like another Bear rout in the offing.

The 'cats ran the score to 20-12 before the Ookpiks started to eat away at the lead.

With Bearcats leading 22-21 NAIT's Dekerk drove in a lay-up and seconds later Tymchuk hit a 20-footer to propel the Ookpiks to a 25-22 lead.

The Bearcats retaliated with a free throw and a short jumper to knot the score at 25 all.

Hasselfield sank a 22-foot set-shot but Dekerk came right back with two more for NAIT. With three-and-a-half minutes left in the half, Hasselfield hit another 20-footer as the teams traded baskets.

Coach Alex Carre sent in fresh Bearcat substitutes and the move paid off as Rod Soholt, Mel Read, and Wilf Kozub all scored to put the 'cats on the top end of a 36-31 half-time score.

The university team maintained a slim lead through most of the second half, relying heavily on Kozub's jump-shot from the left corner. With 10 minutes to go Kozub (Jerry this time) sank the first of three consecutive 25-footers to push the 'cats to a 56-55 lead.

Hasselfield hit a set-shot to make it 58-55. Kozub hit another two long jumpers and with the score 64-59 the 'cats went into a stall.

NAIT's Dekerk and Shaw hit back-to-back baskets but Urner's lay-up with 26 seconds left killed any hope of an Ookpik triumph.

Kozub's 14 second-half points gave him a total of 16 for the night. He was followed by Hasselfield with 14 and Urner with 12.

The Ookpiks' Dekerk was high man for the game with 23.

Saturday's game saw the Bearcats fall behind in the early stages as the fired-up NAIT squad attempted to redeem the Friday encounter.

Shooting at a very poor 17 per cent, the out-hustled 'cats found themselves down 15 points at half time. NAIT, once again lead by Dekerk, held the top end of a 35-20 score.

But coach Carre sent his troops out in a full-court press and the tech school's lead began to shrink. The university marksmen began to hit, and with Kozub finding the range for the second night in a row it looked as though the 'cats might pull the game out of the fire.

With three minutes to go the 'cats were down 55-54 and NAIT was on the run. Rookie guard Ben Urner had the ball near the top of the key and he dribbled to the right side of the basket and threw in a short jump-shot from the endline.

Holding a 56-55 lead the Bears took no chances and went into a stall with two-and-a-half minutes remaining. Even so they had to be thankful that NAIT missed two free throws in the last 60 seconds.

Jerry Kozub lead all the scoring with 20 points.

The Bearcats' next two games are in Southern Alberta against Mount Royal College and Lethbridge Junior College. In two weeks the University of Alberta Calgary and SAIT come here for a weekend double-header.



The Supervisor of Western Canadian Offices for the New York Life Insurance Company will interview prospective executive trainees for Western Canada at the University of Alberta on Tuesday, February 8th.

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