

SPORTS



photo Bill Inglee

The Bears parked in front of the UBC net and the puck parked in it. Hockey action is on hold until January 20-21 when the Saskatchewan Huskies are back in town.

Bears # 1

Santa might be forgiven if he skips the homes of the hockey Bears this year. After all, what do you get for the team who has everything?

After winning two games against the UBC Thunderbirds this weekend, the Bears are tied for first in the CWUAA with arch-rivals Saskatchewan Huskies. And, likely because of the two wins they took off the Huskies last weekend in Saskatoon, they are ranked first in the country by the CIAU.

The Bears showed less than goodwill towards the 'Birds when they beat them twice at Varsity Stadium: 6-2 on Friday and 6-2 on Saturday.

Friday, the Bears scored one unanswered goal in the first then ran up four more in the second. It was 6-0 in the third period before the Bears let up and allowed UBC to score 2 goals.

The Thunderbirds kept the score close until the third period in Saturday's game. It was 3-2 for the Bears when Dennis Cranston broke the game open with two goals.

The Pandas Basketball team also moved in the CIAU rankings. They slipped from fourth to fifth after action at the Tait McKenzie Basketball Classic in Toronto this weekend. The defending national champion, Bishop's University of Lennoxville, Quebec, took the tourney while the Pandas won the consolation final.

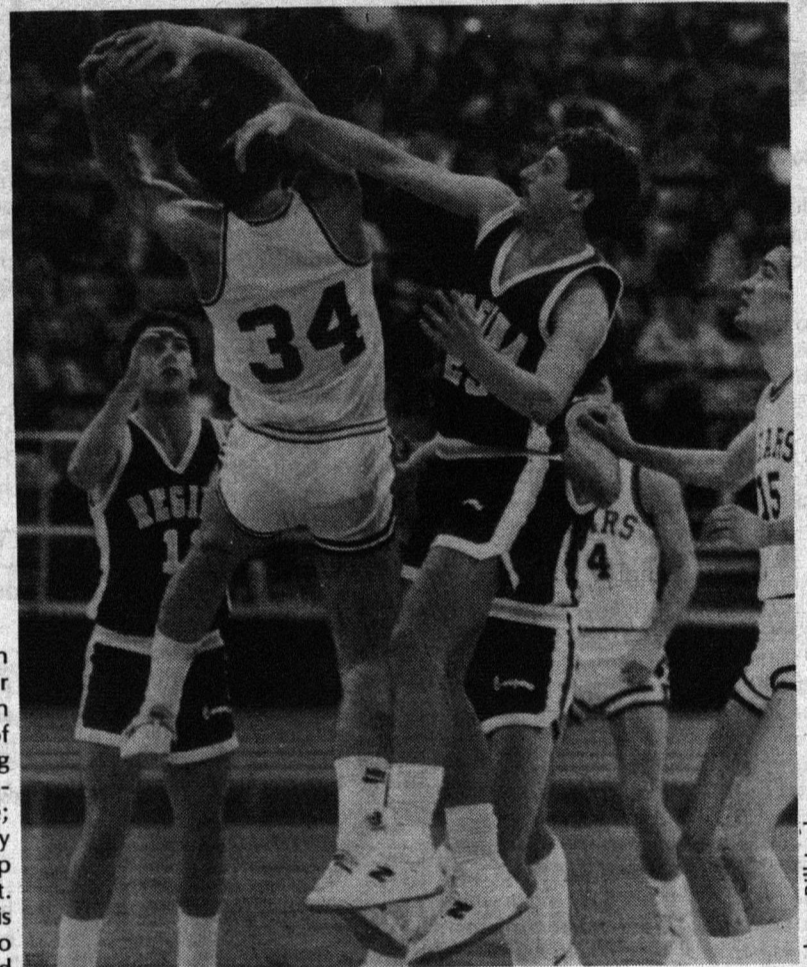


photo Bill Inglee

The Bears have won their first two games of the year. They beat Regina 93-83 Friday and 89-78 Saturday.

Better Basketball, bit by bit

by Tom Hayward

With two victories over the University of Regina this past weekend, the Basketball Bears have proven that experience is the best teacher. Under the tutelage of rookie head coach Don 'the Newf' Horwood, and assistant coach Steve Roth, the Bears improved steadily over the pre-Christmas exhibition season. Their transition game, once non-existent, is operating at an acceptable level, solving one of the Bears early season problems. Offensively, the imports from

the Pacific continue to impress, especially Mike Suderman. Local high school graduates Chris Toutant, Mark Baker have shown marked improvement, especially in rebounding (Baker) and outside shooting (Toutant). The return of veterans Mike Kornak and Jim Pratt, both of whom missed the early pre-season with injuries, to the level of play and leadership expected of them has enhanced the team's offensive performance greatly. Great things are to be expected from these sweethearts in the New Year. Most of the Bears problems

during the preseason have been defensive. Two areas in particular have been weak - ball handling in the backcourt, and execution of the zone defenses. Ball handling can only be improved by individual practice and experience; defence is a team activity. Only game experience is going to keep the zone defence flowing as a unit. Too often the zone coverage is tentative, with players failing to respond correctly to changed offensive patterns.

The Bears play this weekend at Varsity Gym against the SAIT Trojans.

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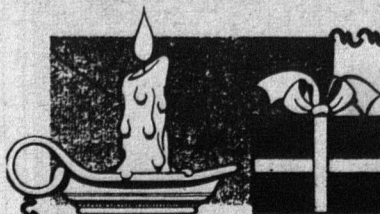
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