

SPORTS

Hoopsters wrap up pennant

by Peter Best

U of A's Golden Bear basketball team won twice more on the weekend, 93-83 and 85-82 over the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns and clinched first place in the Canada West University Athletic Association. Thanks to the University of Saskatchewan Huskie's two victories over Victoria, no team in the league can catch Bears, who lead the CWUAA with a 15-1 record.

Bears won with what has been their strength all season—speed. They ran for the full 40 minutes both Friday and Saturday nights in two of the most exciting games of the year.

Lethbridge greeted them from the opening jump Friday night with a full court zone press, an aggressive defense and running offense that had their fans screaming all night long. But Bears matched Pronghorns' press with their own and ran the fast break as well as they have all season to become the first team to win twice in Lethbridge this year.

Friday's game was close down to the last few minutes as both teams played well.

Pronghorns took a narrow lead while U of A spent some time adjusting to their defense and were trying to clamp Bears at every opportunity by putting two men on whoever had the ball for Alberta. Once U of A found the key to attacking the zone though, they came back to take a 48-43 lead at halftime. Running like Jack the Bear they continued to control the game into the second half until, with ten minutes left to play, they led 68-56.

At that point, Lethbridge mounted a comeback of their own, pressing harder and increasing the tempo of their game. Urged on by their yelling fans Pronghorns temporarily had U of A on the run as the pressure caused Alberta to commit more turnovers.

Lethbridge pulled to within three points of Bears, 76-73 with three minutes left before U of A regained control.

In the last minute Pronghorns' Max Zaugg fouled Bears' Terry Valeriote and when Lethbridge coach Robin Fry protested, he was given two technical fouls. As a result, Valeriote sank four free throws to give Alberta an 87-89 lead and put the game out of reach.

Tommy Solyom led Bears' shooters, hitting 13 of 22 shots in scoring 27 points. Valeriote scored 15, Led Davidiuk added 11 and Steve Panteluk had 10.

Bears were without centre Mike Frisby who was bothered by a groin injury but Davidiuk played one of his best games of the year to compensate for Frisby's absence. Davidiuk did his share of the scoring, played sound defense and worked hard under the backboards to get 11 rebounds.

Phil Letham was Pronghorns' top scorer with 27

points while Max Zaugg counted 11 and John Baldry had 10.

Lethbridge came back Saturday night with what Fry called their best game of the season but it still wasn't enough to beat the Bears' speed, strength and experience.

As on Friday night, the score in the first half was close as both teams were playing at full speed. But Bears, led by Dave Holland, took a small lead and were up 44-39 with three minutes to play in the half.

It was Lethbridge's turn to stage a comeback as for the first time in the series, their press got to Alberta and caused U of A to give up the ball.

The Pronghorns' surge tied the score and 48 at halftime and carried them into the lead in the second half. Their press and aggressive defense were effective and they developed hot shooting hands to take command of the game.

While Lethbridge was coming on strong, Bears were hurt by the loss of Wally Tollestrup who was ejected from the game for protesting a referee's call too vigorously. Speaking of referees, I should mention that they had a particularly bad night, doing things like calling Holland for a foul when a Pronghorn tripped over a teammate or giving Lethbridge possession after calling them for travelling—but enough said about that.

With 7:15 left to play, Pronghorns led 73-65 and U of A looked to be in trouble as without Tollestrup they only had two forwards, Steve Panteluk and Bill Hamilton, both of whom had been running all game. But Bears stayed calm and worked on Lethbridge's defense, finding its weaknesses in the middle and on the baseline.

They also applied their zone press and it paid off when Holland intercepted a pass, fed Solyom deep in Pronghorns' zone and he sank the shot while being fouled. When Solyom completed the three-point play, U of A led 80-79.

Following baskets by Zaugg and Bears' Steve Ignatavicius and a free throw by Pronghorns' Larry Baker, the score was tied 82-82. Alberta brought the ball down-court with 14 seconds left to play and worked it out of bounds with three seconds to go.

Solyom took the ball out of bounds, fed Panteluk under the basket and he powered the ball in despite being fouled by a desperate Pronghorn. Panteluk's free throw finished the scoring and clinched Bears' fifteenth win.

Holland took over from Davidiuk to star in place of Frisby. He scored 21 points, his best total as a Golden Bear. Panteluk also played an outstanding game, scoring 19 points.



Guy Sunada tucked his third collegiate championship away by beating Jim Nakamoto in the Canada West juco finals held here last weekend.

Judo Bears win ninth straight title

The Golden Bear Judo team wrapped up the Canada West Judo championship last weekend in the main gym before a crowd of about 200.

They won three of the five weight classes and the team competition for the Kabuto Trophy. The trophy was presented by former Golden Bear Judo coach Ray Kelly, who is now the University's Athletic Trainer, nine years ago for intervarsity competition and has never been won by any team but the U of A in that time.

Bear coach Ron Powell summed tournament up saying "It was a tough tournament. There were few clear decisions because of the high level of competition."

Guy Sunada of the Bear squad won his third featherweight championship by defeating Ken Kuramoto of UBC.

Casey Van Kooten maintained his unbeaten record and won his fifth championship as a Golden Bear in the light heavy weight division.

Ron Cousins of U of A won the Heavy weight.

All three class winners are leaving the team after this year.

Sunada is graduating, Van Kooten has played out his eligibility and Cousins is retiring from competition.

It was an excellent competition and the men from all teams showed a good deal of sportsmanship besides fighting ability.

The Judo team's win brought U of A its second Canada West title this year.

Panda cagers take two for third spot

by Peter Best

The Panda basketball team produced a variation on a theme by the Golden Bears to take two wins from the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns over the weekend, 59-37 and 64-35.

In their last home stand Bears had played some serious basketball in just one of their two games with Saskatchewan, but won both. In Lethbridge Pandas chose to even out their inconsistency (can you follow that?) by playing well in half of each game and lackadaisically for the other half. But they made sure that they got the same results as the Bears did.

For Friday night's game, Pandas picked the first half to play well. They started off with a full court press that quickly destroyed the inexperienced Pronghorns.

Alberta took advantage of Lethbridge turnovers to build up a 45-15 lead by halftime. With everything going right for them Pandas looked very poised and powerful. They controlled the backboards with good rebounding, they were shooting well (50% from the floor) and their fast break was running Pronghorns off the court.

But they came out and played the second half as if they were only putting in the required 40 minutes to complete the game. Their press disintegrated, they began giving up sloppy turnovers and their offense ground to a halt.

While Pandas were slowing

down, Pronghorns were making a comeback. Led by Sandra Knight they tightened up their defense and improved their attack to cut down Alberta's lead.

With less than eight minutes to play, Panda coach Kathy Broderick took a timeout to try and get her team back in form. Since half time they had scored just six points.

The timeout didn't help much though as Pandas finished the game in disappointing form, relying on their first half lead to carry them to the win.

Wendy Martin led U of A's offense with 20 points followed by Amanda Holloway with 10.

Pat Schandor and Kathy Bardgett each had 10 points for Lethbridge.

Saturday night Pandas took up where they left off the previous night. They still lacked the crispness they had shown for the They were throwing away passes on offense and letting Lethbridge escape from their press with long passes downcourt.

Pronghorns were playing a patient game, waiting for a good shot on offense and holding U of A scoring down.

With ten minutes gone Alberta had a slim three point lead and Broderick was asking "What's going on here? How many bad passes can we throw in one night?"

Pandas must have heard their coach for they finally got

untracked and began returning to the form they had shown early Friday. They outscored Lethbridge 20-6 in the next 10 minutes to take a 35-16 lead at the half.

In the second half U of A completed their recovery and played serious basketball again. They clamped the zone press back on and Pronghorns began giving up turnovers.

With Charlotte Shmyr doing a lot of hard work off rebounds and Yvonne Shea leading the fast break and making some good drives, they cruised to their ninth win in sixteen games.

Martin again was Pandas' leading scorer, getting 18 points before fouling out with 3:33 left in the game. Shmyr added 11 points to Alberta's total.

The wins left Pandas in third place in CWUAA competition with a 9-7 record.

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