

Hoop Bears make like Santa Claus

by Randy Lennon

The 74-75 season had already gone sour for the University of Saskatchewan but Saturday night in Saskatoon, Alberta's Basketball Bears provided the Huskies with a 'taste of honey' and what could be the sled-dogs' sweetest win of the year.

Left with only second string forwards after defending league scoring champion Dean Faris got the axe and buddy Mark Hopkins quit, Coach Don Fry was not optimistic about improving on the team's dismal 3 wins against 12 defeats record.

Friday night, the Bears outplayed the Huskies in every department and coasted to an 89-52 victory. If anything, the score flattered the Huskies as veteran guard Paul Jacoby accounted for almost half of the team's scoring and was the only bright spot in an otherwise out-classed line-up.

Saturday night, however, those same Golden Bears came up flatter than the pancakes that they had missed at breakfast and it appeared that the victory partying during the wee hours had been a trifle premature. They didn't exactly stink out the place, but the overall performance was poor.

This, combined with a far improved boards showing by the Saskatchewan forwards, a super performance offensively by second-year centre Roger Ganes, Jacoby's usual array of outside shots from anywhere inside 35 feet, and some rather marginal officiating, put the Bears on the wrong side of a 74-71 final score.

Wallace Tollestrup hauled down a respectable 12 rebounds but was a major contributor towards a disgraceful team field goal percentage of 33, hitting only 2 of 14 shots. Dan Court wasn't far

behind with 3 buckets on 12 attempts while Bill Hamilton netted only 6 of his 20 tries.

Doug Baker, who lead an Alberta five-man double figure parade in Friday's victory with 22 points, added 17 on Saturday and shot a reasonable 47% from the floor. Len Davidiuk, who also shone on Friday with 14 points and 13 rebounds fouled out on Saturday but still managed 5 of 10 shots and 7 rebounds.

Dave Holland, who made the trip but saw no action because of a healing ankle, was joined on the injury list by rookie Colin Fennell, who suffered a minor charlie horse in the opening game. Fennell's shooting hand would certainly have come in handy on Saturday as the game, although disappointing, was never out of reach for the Bears.

They led 41-39 at the half and held their own until about the 12 minute mark when Davidiuk fouled out on a questionable call (of which there were many against both teams). Two minutes later, after scoring by Ganes and, of course, Paul Jacoby, the Bears found themselves down by 10.

Despite a semi-successful stall by the Huskies, the Bears were still alive when Tollestrup took two at the foul line to put them within three points and twelve seconds remaining.

Court stole it momentarily on the throw-in but could not control the ball. When the Huskies retained possession, Tollestrup was forced to take a foul.

Kim Renwick put the game 'on ice' when he swished both foul shots.

It was a serious loss for the defending Western Champions who are involved in a four-way battle for two playoff spots with only four games remaining.

A Saskatoon sweep would have left the Bears with both hands on the wheel if not completely in the driver's seat. With two wins against the basement bound Pronghorns from Lethbridge next weekend, the Alberta hoopsters could have played for a split in Calgary to lock up a playoff spot.

"Now we'll have to beat Calgary twice at home," says Coach Mitchelson, "and even then, nothing is guaranteed!"

In other CWUAA Basketball action last weekend, Victoria and UBC split, while Calgary popped two from Lethbridge. The Golden Bears will be entertaining the Pronghorns this weekend, both games will get underway at 8:30 in the Main Gym.



Panda athletes win fourth gym title

Panda gymnasts had their fourth triumph of the season, defeating the team from UBC in Vancouver, on Saturday afternoon.

Yvonne van Soest led the squad for the second weekend in a row, placing first all round with a score of 31.75.

Close behind was Panda teammate Barb Rutherford, who placed second overall with a total of 31.30. Barb managed a first on balance beam with 7.6, while Yvonne swept to top place

on the remaining events with 8.5 on floor exercise, 8.2 on uneven bars, and 8.45 on vaulting.

The U of A contingent was also well-represented by a strong performance by Wah-King NG who placed 4th overall with a 27.0 score.

The gymnasts take a well-earned break in their schedule next weekend, in preparation for the Canada-West Championships to be held at U of Alberta on February 22.

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