

Does Mendryk Still Think That

Height Compensates for Inexperience?

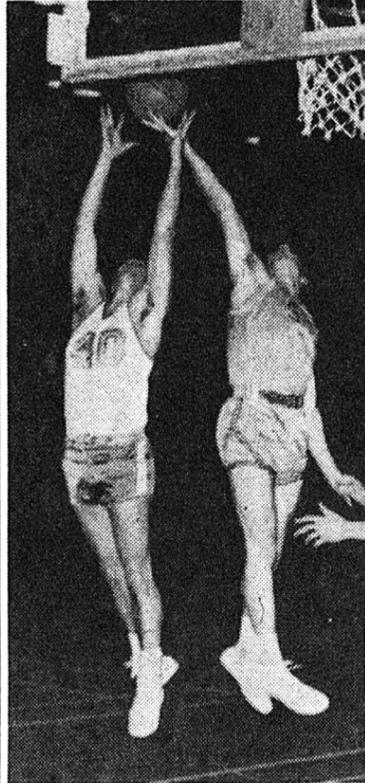
By John Burns

Golden Bears vs UBC Thunderbirds Friday and Saturday nights saw the U of A Golden Bears go down twice to the visiting UBC Thunderbirds. Friday gave the visitors a 72-49 victory, while Saturday's margin of 47-34 was evidence of a definite improvement in the Golden Bears' attack

Possibly the theme of Friday's game may be found in the word "foul", as the Thunderbirds collected 19 of the 23 marginal points through foul shots. Jack Hicken fouled out of the game late in the last half, and team-mates Harry Beleshko and Maury Van Vliet came close to following suit.

Before taking his leave-of-absence, Hicken played a stand-out game, as he sank baskets from all possible angles and even a couple from impossible ones. He seemed to be the only Bear who could penetrate the key through the tight defence of the Thunderbirds. They kept Harry Beleshko submerged as anytime he had the ball, about five big Birds pounced and prevented him from getting any decent shots away. Apart from Hicken's efforts, most of the balance of the Bears' tally was accounted for by guards, Gary Smith and Maury Van Vliet with long shots from outside the impregnable defence of the T-Birds.

The visiting feathered ones showed a great deal of precision and accuracy in all shots and passes. Once on the offensive they were able, on most occasions, to rush into the Golden defence, flip the ball at the basket, and in case of misses, three towering



blue and white shapes would soar around the rim sinking stray rebounds; Hicken, Beleshko and Stothard were able to get a hand on the occasional rebound, but on the whole were overwhelmed in this department by the blue and white.

The height coach Mendryk counted on was short-lived, as the totem-totters simply towered over the locals and were able to get most jumps. Dave Way, with his spire-like physique, pivoted a number of rushing pass plays around the basket that left both players and spectators dazzled. Ken Winslade proved to be what was expected; he is a nifty play-maker, and may be responsible for the victory of the UBC team. Dave McCallum was back in town; they used to hang people for treason; playing well for the team, and any local admirers.

High scorers for the Bears were Jack Hicken with 17, and Gary Smith who counted for 16; for the T-birds, Wayne Osborne produced 19 points, while Dave Way came forth with 15.

DETERMINED EFFORT

Saturday found the Bears intoxicated with determination as was obvious by the score, 47-34. At half time the two teams were in a stalemate at 18-18. With fouls cut down, the type of play was much more enjoyable both from players' and spectators' points of view. However, the Thunderbirds hadn't lost any height over-night; neither had their defence loosened. Beleshko seemed to be sinking a few more baskets but was still unable to break away from the cloud of opponents. Gary Smith played another outstanding game, putting balls in baskets from unbelievable points. However there seemed to be more passing around between the guards than was seen on Friday; but it was all fruitless, as nobody moved, and again the rear men were called upon to attempt baskets from far out.

For the first half it was anybody's game: each team attacked, collected a couple of points, then retreated on defence. It was a give-and-take affair that ended with UBC assuming authority.

For the Golden boys G. Smith notched 15 and Beleshko managed 8 points. Day Way and Ken Winslade had 12 points apiece followed by Pedersen with 10. The week-end of Jan. 20-21 finds U of A visiting Saskatoon in another double-header. If the upward trend as seen in the past two games, continues, the team can hope to look forward to a very successful week-end.

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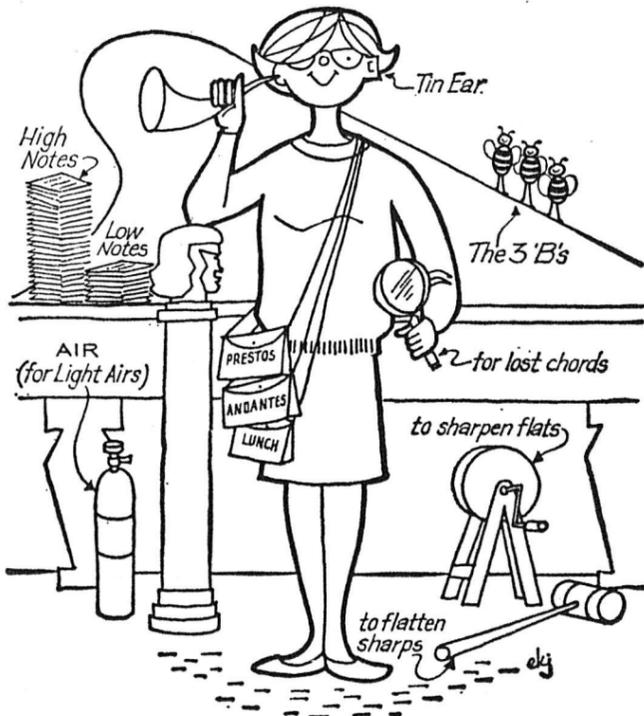
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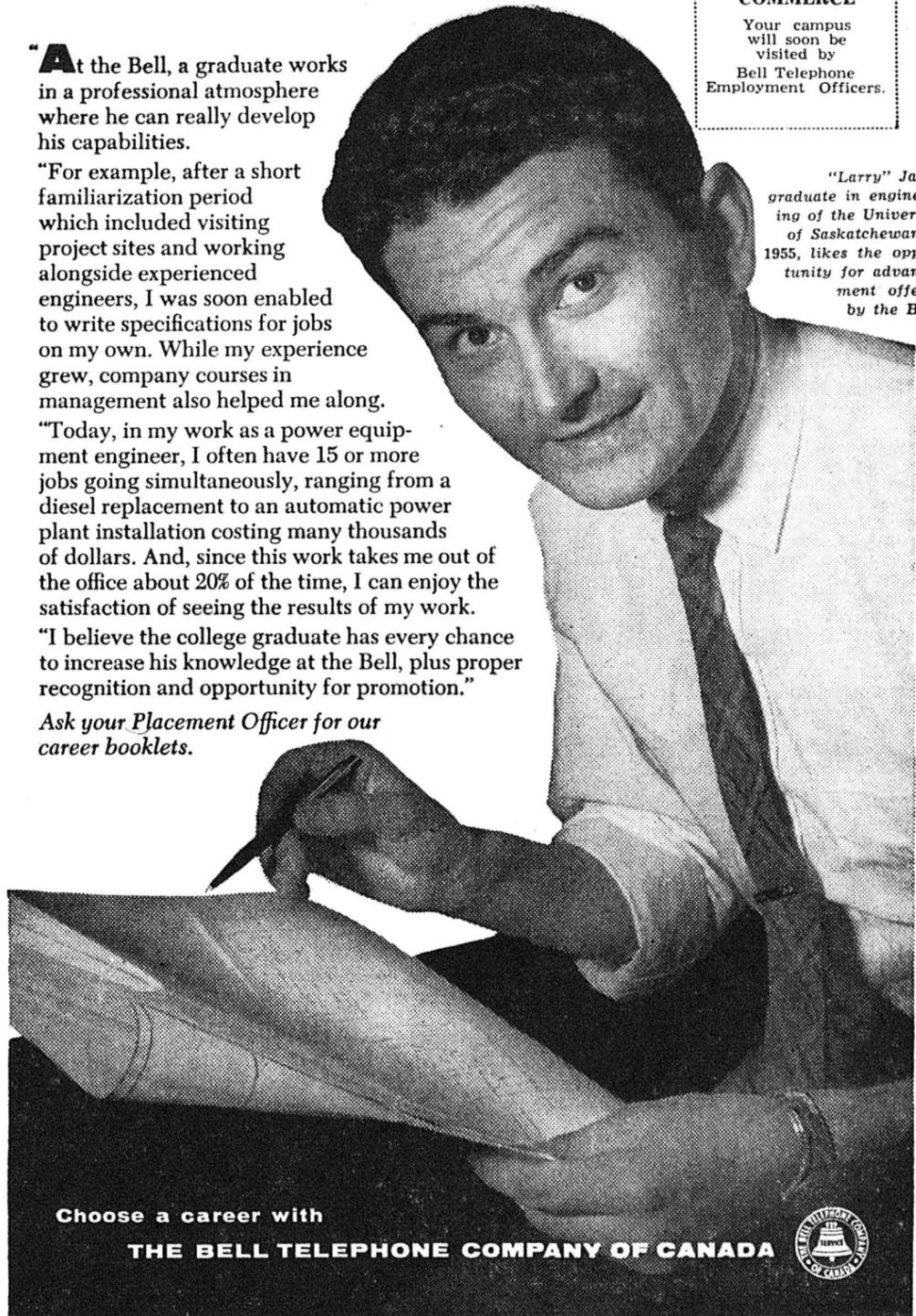
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