

Ice Bears pluck T-Birds

by Shaune Impey

The Golden Bears hockey team remains in a first place tie in the Canada West conference after sweeping their weekend series with the UBC Thunder-Birds in Vancouver. The two victories combined with a pair of wins by the Calgary Dinosaurs over the Saskatchewan Huskies almost ensures a playoff berth for the two Alberta squads and a rematch of last year's Canada West final.

The Bears received a solid team effort in both games enroute to 6-3 and 6-5 triumphs over the third place T-Birds. Last trip out to the coast the teams had split the two game series.

Friday night the Bears were led by third year veteran Jim Lomas as he scored his first ever Canada West hat trick. The Bears led 3-1 after the first period on a pair of goals by Joe Elliot and a single marker by Dale Ross. T-Birds' only goal came off the stick of Marty Matthews.

The Birds rallied in the second period with goals by Jim

McLaughlin and Hugh Cameron to tie the score 3-3 by the 13:21 mark. That was it for UBC however as Lomas went to work for the Bears. He scored once before the period ended and notched a pair in the final twenty minutes to clinch the victory. Center Dale Ross also had a strong game for the Bears as he assisted on all three of Lomas' goals as well as counting once himself.

Saturday night was a much tougher game for the Bears as poor refereeing kept the Bears at a disadvantage, particularly in the third period as they had three penalties called against them while UBC was not whistled for any infractions in spite of obvious highsticking and charging offences.

Again the Bears were never behind in the contest. The Alberta squad opened the scoring in the first period with goals by Greg Skoreyko and Lomas for a 2-0 lead. The T-Birds came on in the latter half of the stanza to even the score on goals by Bill Holowaty and Jay Rumley.

The UBC club continued to

dominate in the second period as they outshot the Bears 23-13 however the Bears emerged with a 5-2 margin as rookie goaltender Brad Hall played outstanding while the Bears made the most of their opportunities at the other end of the ice. Ross, Chris Helland and Rod Tordoff counted for the Bears.

The UBC squad, with some help from the officiating, closed within one goal midway through the third period on powerplay markers by McLaughlin and Rumley. An insurance goal by Rob Daum at the 17:32 mark put the game out of reach for the T-Birds. Their final goal came with just 27 seconds left to play and the goaltender on the bench for an extra attacker.

The Bears were tagged with ten minor penalties to UBC's four with each taking one major for fighting. The fight between Bears' captain Larry Riggan and Matthews of UBC was initiated by Matthews tripping Riggan after the whistle blew to stop play. As Riggan got up and confronted Matthews the UBC

player started swinging. One of the punches caught Riggan on the right eye and he ended up in a Vancouver hospital with internal bleeding. He's expected to remain there until at least Tuesday so that tests can be conducted.

The injury to the veteran Riggan will be a tough blow to a rookie laden Bears' defence and comes right on the heels of the loss of fourth year man Mike Broadfoot. He separated his shoulder in Wednesday's 8-1 victory over Calgary and is likely out for the season.

On the positive side the Bears will have Danny Arndt

back in the line-up when they travel to Saskatoon this weekend. He has missed most of the season to date with a dislocated hip suffered on the first trip to Vancouver.

Next home action is against the T-Birds on January 11 and 12.

BEAR FACTS

Besides Riggan and Broadfoot the Bears also have minor aches and pains. Bruce Rolin - elbow, Dunc Babchuk - nose, Chris Helland - leg, and Terry Lescisin - ear. Most are a result of the rough play in Vancouver.

National Standings

| | GP | W | L | T | F | A | PTS |
|---------|----|----|----|---|----|----|-----|
| ALBERTA | 17 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 98 | 49 | 26 |
| CALGARY | 17 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 68 | 58 | 26 |
| UBC | 17 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 96 | 92 | 16 |
| SASK. | 17 | 6 | 11 | 0 | 80 | 83 | 12 |

Fans help Bears win

by Ernie Lotz

In my last article, I predicted a much improved and exciting team in 1980. This was surely the case last weekend when the Bears Basketball Team matched up against the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds.

After the national anthem the fans responded in clapping, stomping and cheering until the Bears scored their first basket. Jim Bonin scored quickly on the first shot of the game which seemed to set the pace for the Bears.

During the rest of the game the Bears controlled handily to win 64-59. It seems that Jim Bonin finally "woke up" and played perhaps his best game thus far. He was the top scorer for the night, shooting an impressive 53 per cent from the floor and 100 per cent from the line.

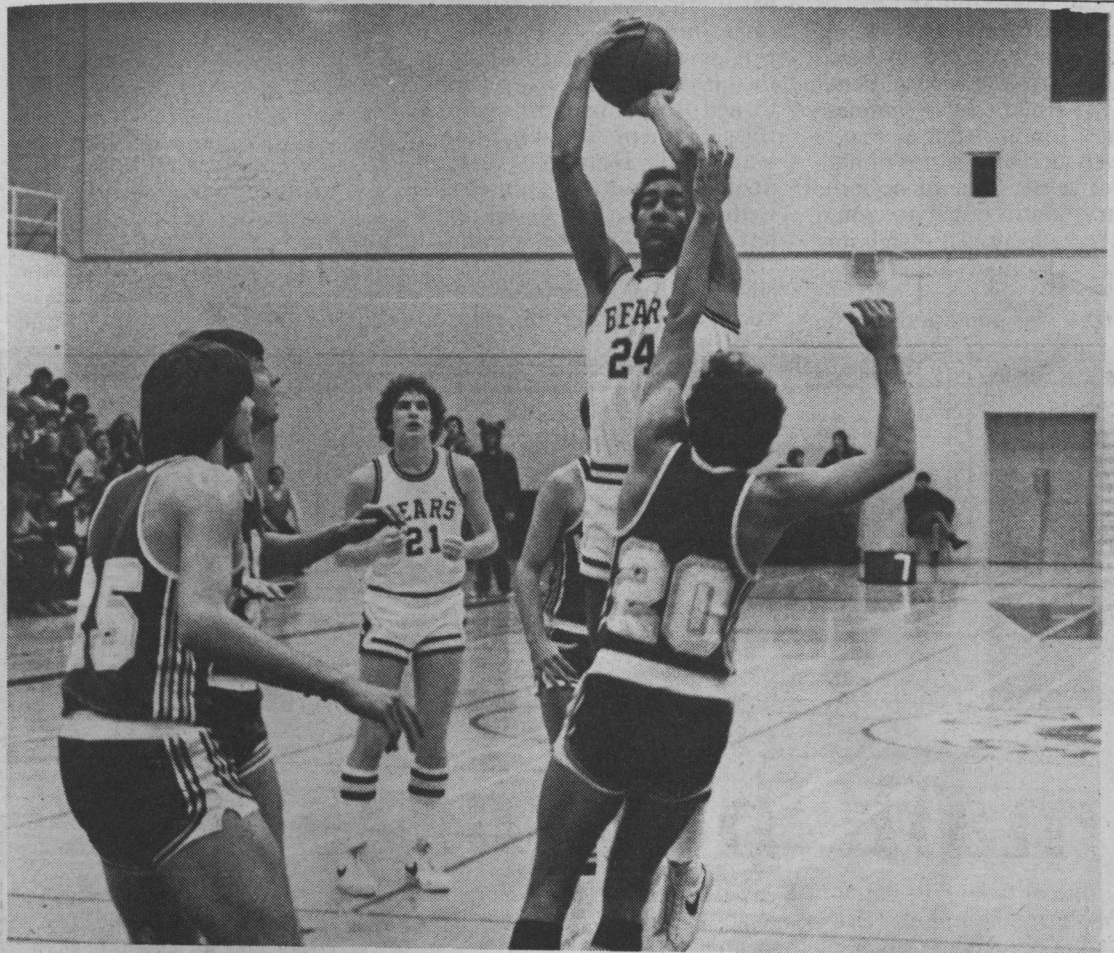
Bonin, however, was not the only outstanding player Friday night. Brent Patterson, perhaps one of the best guards in the

conference, showed his capabilities as a one-man press break with his fine ball-handling techniques and experience.

Patterson displayed leadership qualities in playmaking and defensive structures. I overheard one of the spectators say, "That guy sure knows what he's doing" in reference to Patterson. His recent marriage hasn't slowed Brent down in the least. He was named 'player of the game'.

The second game was much the same story. The Bears controlled the whole game and won 76-67. The Thunderbirds made desperate attempts to get back in the game, but they trailed throughout. Jamie Thomas led the scoring with 20 points with some impressive outside shooting. Jeff Gourley came back to score 16 points after being knocked unconscious when he hit the floor early in the game. Gonin had another good game adding 16 points to secure the win.

Perhaps the best statistic of



Colin Fennell shoots and from the line scored 100%.

the night was the team's foul shooting percentage of 88 per

cent. This is a definite improvement over previous performances and possibly is due to the support received from spectators.

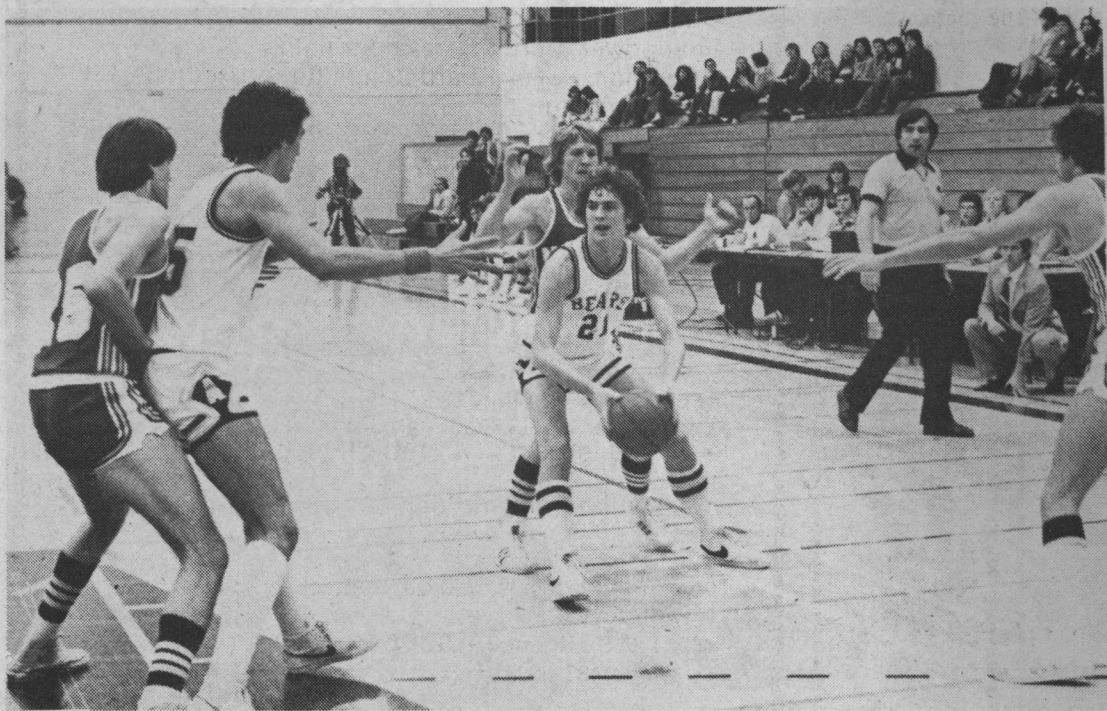
spectators, the more the home court advantage has an effect on the outcome of the game.

This was displayed on the weekend. The support the team received was perhaps the best in years. The spectators cheered, clapped, stomped and whistled loudly to let the Bears know whose side they were on. This was done until they scored their first basket at the beginning of each half of play. In the second half of the first game it took almost two minutes, but the noise level did not decrease in that time. It was as if the spectators were enjoying themselves and getting involved in the game.

Colin Fennell expressed his initial surprise at the cheering and clapping of spectators when at the free throw line. "When I got used to it, there were no negative effects on my shot," said Fennell. Jim Bonin felt that the extra cheering gives him added confidence. Bonin, Fennell and Thomas all shot 100 per cent from the line.

Everyone talks about a home court advantage about which I was always slightly unconvinced. However, it became very clear to me in these last two games. Home court advantage does not refer totally to the facilities that a team is used to, but rather towards the support given by the home crowd. This suggests that the more support given by the

The Bears travel to Lethbridge this weekend and host the University of Calgary Dinosaurs on January 25th and 26th. Calgary has three National Team members, so the Bears need all the support they can get. See you there!



In spite of desperate attempts, the T-Birds could not control game.