

U of A runs away with meet

by Karl Wilberg

The holiday season and missing competitors were the greatest threat to the U of A track team's victory in last Saturday's triple meet. The meet, held in the Kinsmen fieldhouse went on between the U of S and the U of A in spite of weather preventing the U of Calgary's participation.

The U of A won, however, according to organizer-coach Gabor Simonyi, the "men rescued the effort" to compensate for athletes still on holidays. In fact, Simonyi states the men's performance "beat Saskatchewan to bits and pieces." For example, the U of A spring relay team set a Canadian record of 42.5 seconds in the 4 x 100 event.

The sprint squad includes national class runners Frank van Doorn and Dan Biocchi, as well as successful provincial sprinters Sean Kehoe and Jack Sugget. In particular, Simonyi was impressed with Sugget and states "we had a big deficit" of 15 m to make up and "if it wasn't for him the team would have lost."

The U of A's men also did well in field events. The Bears took first and second in the triple jump, the high jump, and the shot put. The Bears added a first

and third in the pole vault, and Brian McFadden led the U of A in its first, second, and third place sweep of the long jump. Simonyi mentions McFadden is new to the event and only began practising this October.

Not surprisingly, with only nine competitors, the U of A women, according to Simonyi, were "beaten handily." Simonyi had counted on Karen Chorney and Birget Otto for the long distance events, but injury prevented Chorney from running and Otto was absent. The team also missed Olympic competitor Margo Howe.

Simonyi states Saskatchewan has a large team and will be better next year. Also, Simonyi believes the next couple of years will not be as kind to the U of A as the last two. The U of A, it appears, could have won a national championship if one had existed. Now, Simonyi realizes the team will lose national class competitors like Biocchi and van Doorn. In addition, Simonyi comments the CIAU's failure to organize a championship "takes the wind out of sails."

In any case though, Simonyi knows that "like a wave" the loss of veterans is "experienced by all universities." Consequently, the U of A program is attempting to

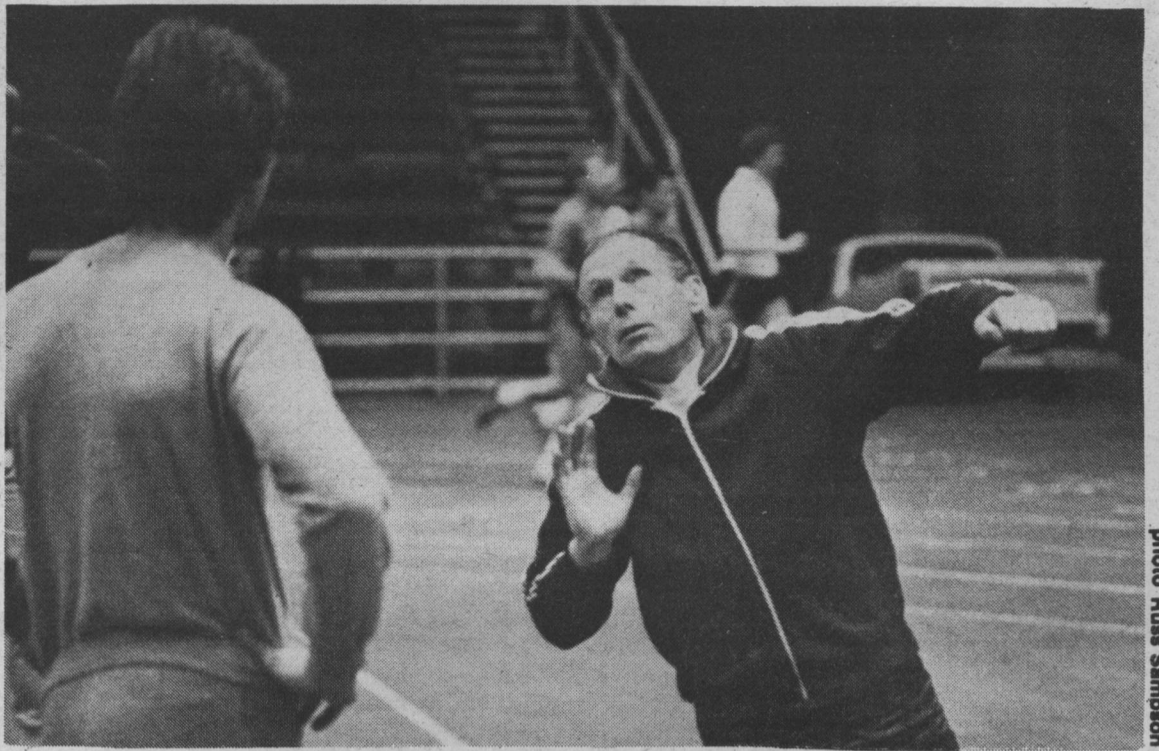


Photo Russ Sampson

Organizer and field events coach Gabor Simonyi instructs with invisible shot-put.

eliminate what Simonyi terms "shallow recruiting." In other words the team will look to sources besides the phys. ed. faculty.

For example, Simonyi plans to continue with a summer camp and hopes to cultivate high

schools for potential athletes. It seems the problem is not in a lack of potential athletes and Simonyi agrees it is more a matter of getting talent involved. He declares there are "always people who show good potential."

The U of A will host the next

meet and schools from the northwestern US and the CIAU West conference will compete in the February 1 and 2 meet. Simonyi mentions preparation is underway and the Golden Bear meet will be in keeping with its good reputation.



Photo Brad Keith

Pandas in practice for this weekend's match with UBC.

Pandas 50-50

by Dora Johnson

Over the Christmas break the Pandas took part in two invitational tournaments. On December 28, the basketball team was in Regina in the Queen City Classic. The Pandas hoped to encounter some of the teams from outside their conference but ended up competing against teams from their own league.

In the first game the Pandas lost to the first place Victoria Vikettes 88-63. At half time the Pandas were down by only 11 points but could not hang on to that margin. Carol Tourney-Loos paced the Vikettes with 23 points while Trix Kannekens lead the Pandas with a 23 point scoring effort.

The Pandas then advanced to play the Saskatchewan Huskiettes and squeaked by 64-62. Janet Bosscha lead the Pandas with 23 points, Sheila Brennan for the Huskiettes had 19.

In the consolation finals the University of Calgary Dinnies defeated the Pandas 71-63. The Pandas stayed within 2 points of the Dinnies until the last five minutes when they pulled ahead

taking advantage of Panda fouls. Top scorers for Alberta were Janet Bosscha with 19 points and Trix Kannekens with 15; Lori McPhail shot for 18 and ex-Panda Lori Chizik hit for 12 for the Dinnies.

The Pandas came back for New Years then left for Saskatoon for the Huskiettes Invitational Tourney. In their first game the Pandas lost to Guelph 53-46. The Pandas, instead of playing their usual aggressive style, played too cautiously which proved to be costly. Trix Kannekens lead the Pandas with 17 points.

The Pandas went on to defeat the University of Regina 71-36 and the University of Lethbridge 78-40 winning the consolation finals. In both games Alberta out rebounded and out hustled their opponents. Trix Kannekens was top scorer for the Pandas with a total of 51 points in the two games.

The Pandas play their first league games of the new year at home on January 11 and 12 when they host the University of British Columbia.

B-ball hopes inflate

by Ernie Lotz

The Basketball Bears had a relatively quiet Christmas break and opened up the new year with a good showing in Calgary at the Calgary Classic Basketball tournament last weekend.

In the opening round the Bears matched up against the number two ranked team in Canada, the Brandon Bobcats. The Bobcats were very surprised at the Bears hustling defence and fine outside shooting that kept the game close. Were it not for poor foul shooting, the Bears might have won the contest.

From the line they shot an atrocious 44%. The score was within one point with three minutes left but the Bobcats came back to win 80-73, scoring two free throws with no time left on the clock. High scorers for the Bears were Jamie Thomas with 20, Jeff Gourley with 18, and Colin Fennel with 10. The Bears controlled Brandon's seven foot center Jerry Abernathy and held the most valuable player in the tournament, Fred Lee, to 12 points.

The Bears moved to the consolation side and met the Saskatchewan Huskies in a matinee performance. They were down at half time but came back to outscore the Huskies by 23 points to win 76-57. Tom Groat scored 21 points with Jeff Gourley and Jim Bonin netting 14 points each.

The Bears shook off their previous poor performance to beat Lethbridge in the consolation final 94-88. Jamie Thomas shot 71% from the floor to collect the game high, 28 points. He was named the most valuable player of the game and was given honourable mention in the selection of tournament allstars. Brent Patterson al-

shot well at 70%, scoring 20 points, and Tom Groat added 21 points.

The Bears were hurt by the absence of Tim Ryan who shares the post with Tom Groat. However, Groat played extremely well with an average of 16 points and 11 rebounds per game. Veteran guard, Brent Patterson led the team with assists and Jeff Gourley added consistency in scoring double figures in all three games.

Overall, Alberta had a successful tournament, showing an unexpected performance which surprised many coaches and players. Coach Heaney was very happy with the Bears play and stated that "this had been the best they had played all year and a noted improvement should take place from now on." This improvement could be attributed to players getting to know each other and their styles of play.

Coach Heaney concentrated last weekend on defense.

The defences were mixed often from full-court to half-court to man-to-man which kept their opponents off balance. This also gave rise to a well-run fast break by the team. However, there seemed to be a definite weakness in the transition into a set offence where time is lost on the 30 second clock. Coach Heaney says improvement will be made during the next few weeks in relation to this problem.

This weekend, the Bears, tip off against the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds to determine third place in the conference. The team is looking for a lot of support from the students and fans in probably the two most important games of the season. Coach Heaney feels that attendance is an important aspect to the program which adds much to the performance of the players.

I think we will see a much improved and exciting team in 1980 and everyone is urged to come out and cheer the Bears on.

Hold me tender

Don't let the cold weather blues get you down this weekend when you can drop into the Physical Education Complex and watch some exciting action from the campus Grunt and Groaners.

This year's wrestling team has had an exceptional season to date, losing 25-25 to Lakehead University and 23-22 to Simon Fraser University which are ranked second and third in the nation respectively.

Led by Canadian Champions Pierre Pomerleau (C.I.A.U.), Scott Tate (National Junior Champion) and Al Harmon (Canada Winter Games Champion), the team has dominated the Western Canada

Conference. As well, team veterans Glenn Purych (C.W.U.A.A. Champion) and Earl Binder (C.W.S.A.A. Champion) are both excellent bets to win National titles this year.

Friday night the Bears take on Northern Montana College in a Dual Meet. Wrestling will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Phys. Ed E-19. Saturday the Grapplers host the 14th Annual Golden Bear Classic with 125 wrestlers from across Canada anticipated to arrive.

Competition will be in the Main Gym commencing at 9:00 a.m. with finals starting at 3:00 p.m.