

Cross-country title returns for alberta's eighth victory in a row

An eighth consecutive Western Intercollegiate cross-country title was brought home by U of A runners from Vancouver Saturday, as the Alberta contingent pulled an upset victory over three other western universities.

Bears' number one runner, John Eccleston, finished fourth. Their top five runners placed high enough to score 34 points, the sum of the position in which the five finished. Under this system Saskatchewan picked up 41 points, the host UBC team 50 and UAC, who were a distant last in their first year of competition, 100.

B.C. CHAMP

Individual winner of the 3¼ mile race was defending champion Geoff Eales of UBC, with a time of 18:01; while Saskatchewan's Hall and Maloney placed second and third.

Albertans Doug MacDonald

and Bob Gillespie chased Eccleston to the wire while Al Armstrong, Matt Taylor and intramural champ Don Burfoot captured 9th, 10th and 11th spots for the U of A squad. Seventh Alberta runner was Bob Lamp-hard.

The race was described as "very exciting" by Alberta coach Dr. Jack Alexander. MacDonald and Gillespie passed the eventual number 7 finisher and Armstrong, Taylor and Burfoot pulled ahead of the 12th place man in the last quarter

mile, which was run on the track in front of the grandstand.

COACH HAD DOUBTS

Coach Alexander, who earlier in the week had expressed doubts about Alberta's title chances, was pleased with the team's performance. While praising all the team members, he mentioned particularly Gillespie, who sat out over two weeks with a groin injury and began running again just the Monday before the meet; and Burfoot, who, Alexander said, progressed rapidly from the time he began practicing in earnest with the squad after the intramural race.

Alexander pointed out that although Burfoot did not directly contribute towards Alberta's victory, he did so indirectly by finishing ahead of Saskatchewan and BC runners whose position did count, he added one point to the total score of each team.

The team winds up the season this weekend when they attend the Inland-North West AAU Championships in Spokane. Among teams in attendance will be University of Washington, Washington State, Montana, Idaho, UBC, and some California universities.

City cops to crack down

Students take note: Irate residents of the Garneau district have been given co-operation of city police in a crack-down on drivers violating the 2-hour parking limit which prevails in this area; from 111 St. and Saskatchewan Drive south. In future those whose cars remain for a longer length of time can expect tickets.



Sometimes truth is indeed stranger than fiction. In sports it is anyway.

Saturday, three of Alberta's many sports trophies were placed on the line. People in the know predicted that two of them, the Hardy Cup and the Rain Bowl Trophy would be right back in their appointed places in Alberta showcases for another year, while the third, the Dr. P. S. Warren Trophy would find a new home in Vancouver, after seven years under glass on our campus.

EXPERTS WRONG

Saturday came and went. The experts' forecasts were wrong—one hundred percent wrong, thank you. The cross country boys, with a supreme team effort, stole the championship from under the noses of Saskatchewan and favored BC just hours before their football comrades, with a similar team effort, succumbed to Barry Carkner and friends on the gridiron.

This was to be the big year for the football Bears. Surprise winners of the western title last year, they were clobbered in the Churchill Cup game in Montreal. Inexperience and a smaller line were given as prime reasons for the slaughter.

But the team was now a year older, more poised, more confident, more seasoned. The line, with the addition of numerous husky young lads was obviously stronger. The backfield was returning intact.

Saturday, a hustling, determined, hungry Alberta squad was out-hustled by a more determined, hungrier BC squad.

The league was tougher this year; so were the Bears. But somehow, they never quite lived up to their potential, or even to their statistics. In the first three games the yard-stick story was almost completely Bear-dominated; yet the team managed but one win and two ties.

They had a tendency to fade in the late stages, a tendency which proved to be their downfall. Surely lack of conditioning wasn't the answer. Perhaps the team was overconfident. Perhaps... well, all we can do is guess.

Meanwhile, we must wish the Thunderbirds well as they attempt to wrest the Churchill Cup from eastern hands. From what we see of the eastern brand of football on TV, the 'Birds will have their hands full.

Hats off, also to the cross-country team. They were not expected by anyone to take the title; after all, in their invitational meet some three weeks ago, their top finisher, Matt Taylor, was a distant tenth. Taylor was again tenth on Saturday; but this time four of his teammates led him to the wire.

A little-known contributor to the runner's triumph was Dr. Jim Haddow. The engineering professor turned out with the squad at each practice session, including twice-weekly workouts at 7:30 a.m. When it is considered that Haddow ran with the team an average of seven miles a day, his contribution becomes even more significant.

SCRAPS FROM THE BASKET

An article in one of Canada's great newspapers the other day caught the eye. The story concerned a hockey game between the Flyers and the Oil Kings; Edmonton's two best hockey teams—they were called.

Now just hold on a minute there, Bunky, them's fight-in' words. There's another team over in these hyar hills known as the Golden Bears, which doesn't take to a statement like that to easily. After all, didn't these same Bears win a best-of-five series from the Oil Kings last year?

So Al LaPlante won't be back, you say. And Doug Messier and Vic Dzurko and Dick Dunnigan and Jim Jones and George Kingston and some more.

But Austin Smith will be back. So will Ed Brown, Jim Hodgson, Dick Wintermute, and a few more of the old reliables from last year's squad. The list of newcomers is headed by rugged Lorne Braithwaite, of Oil King fame, ex-Moose Jaw Canuck forward Duane Lundgren and maybe even ex-Oiler smoothie, Bobby Cox.

It should be a good year; and, no sir, don't call the Kings Edmonton's second best team until you hear from us. Then we'll see.

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