

McKays bushwhack Bears

by Alan Small

Victoria 88 Alberta 69
Victoria 76 Alberta 70

Like the James gang did to banks in the 1800's, the McKay boys ambushed the Golden Bear basketball team and stole a pair of wins at Varsity Gym.

Friday's game was all Spencer McKay, the 6'9" third year Viking forward. Not only did he score 27 points — he went a perfect 11 for 11 from the charity stripe — he ran the show underneath the Viking hoop, nabbing nine defensive rebounds. Toss in seven assists and you have one great performance.

The whole Vic team controlled the boards in the opener. They grabbed 51 rebounds while the Bears only could manage 21.

"We came out flying. We were really well focussed," said Viking



Victoria guard Daryn Lansdell (R) pushes off Bear forward Ed Joseph.

Jeff Cowley

"That's how close we are to the best team in the country." — Horwood

forward Dale Olson, who dominated the game like McKay. He missed only five shots — four field goals and a free throw — in a 23 point, 12 rebound performance.

"We got some kind of a kicking," said Bear head coach Don Horwood, "we missed a lot of one-and-ones early when the game was still close."

"They weren't ready for us tonight," McKay said.

Despite the fact that Victoria controlled the boards early, the Bears kept up and led 18-17 at the ten minute mark. The Vikings turned it on late in the first half and by halftime, led the Bears by 11 points.

The Vikes came out of the locker room ready to plunder and by the 13 minute mark of the second half, led by 20. They coasted to a 19 point victory.

Sean Chursinoff led the Bears with 17 points and forward Bill LaVergne scored 14 in a losing cause.

If Spencer McKay was the star of game one, 6'3" Geoff McKay took over in game two, scoring 23 points in a seesaw game that was anybody's with two minutes left.

"It was heartbreak city," said a dejected Horwood, who saw his Bears rim out many makeable layups in the second half. The killer was a Kevin Ottewell prayer shot that sat on the rim for what seemed like days before falling into the basket for a pair. The Bears didn't get the rolls like that.

"It's pretty disappointing," said Bear forward Ed Joseph, "It's not over yet. We just have to keep working every game."

Chursinoff once more led the Bears with 16, while Brian Halsey scored 15 in his first start as a Golden Bear. Spencer McKay added 15 for the Vikings.

"We knew they would be pumped for this one," said the big McKay. "We were passive after last night's game. It's a common

error when strong teams play weaker teams. You see it everywhere: high school, college, NBA."

The Bears proved in the second game that they can keep up with the Vikings, who have now won all six of their conference games.

"That's how close we are to the top team in the country," Horwood said, "We just have to pick it up a little."

POST UPS: Ottewell, who sat on the bench for the Golden Bears two seasons ago, equalled his career output as a Bear (13 points) in the opener. Last year, he singlehandedly took the Grant MacEwen Griffons to the CCAA final. Both the U of A and UVic want him, and the Vikings won. Two years ago, getting Ottewell was a coup for the U of A, as they sneaked one of Ken Shields' junior varsity players from under his nose... It is ironic that Ottewell, while at the U of A, was a roommate of Russ Brown, the offensive tackle who also defected from the U of A to go to Tulsa University. Brown left there too, and is now enrolled at the University of Calgary.

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