

Bears steal bone from Dinos

by Ernie Lotz

It was a weekend that kept the fans on the edges of their seats. Even the players themselves couldn't sit quietly on the bench, and either could coach Heaney who was as excited as ever. Heaney reminded his players all week that, "we are going after Friday's game," and the players didn't let him down.

With the spectators going wild, it took the Bears two minutes to score their first basket. After that nothing could stop them. Not even Calgary's three National Team members who are 6'11, 6'10, and 6'9" tall.

The Bears were flying. Jamie Thomas, Jeff Gourley and Jim Bonin were hot. Their lack of height was compensated by speed. Many times Thomas and Bonin beat their men to the hoop to score.

To help the cause, the Bears had Calgary in foul trouble early in the first half. Even though they shot only 55% from the line, it was enough to control the game.

The start of the second half saw the Bears' Jamie Thomas scoring their first basket in only one minute. Jamie Thomas was fouled in the process and scored a three point play.

However, for a while the Bears were cold, but played a

tough hustling defence to produce some key turnovers. The Bears continued to lead throughout and controlled till the end to win 77-73.

Calgary made some desperate attempts to come back but veteran guard Brent Patterson kept the game in the Bears hands. Tim Ryan fouled out with seven minutes left in the game to end a super effort.

Ryan and Groat played tough defence and rebounded extremely well considering the difference in height. After the game, coach Heaney stated, "Groat and Ryan haven't let us down yet." In the final minutes Gourley and Patterson put the icing on the cake by scoring the last points to put the game out of reach for Calgary.

In addition, to shooting well, the Bears played strong defence. Jim Bonin held top scorer Carl Tillman to almost nothing. I asked Colin Fennel how he felt after the game. "Tired" he answered, and summed up the players' hard work.

Jim Bonin collected 22 points for the Bears, with Thomas adding 15 and Gourley 11. Jeff Gourley played very consistently shooting 63% from the floor.

Overall, the Bears played well. The players themselves seemed to be on a psychological

high after the game. Player Des MacManis kept saying, "I can't believe we did it." Coach Heaney, when asked if they would win Saturday's game exclaimed, "We're coming back just as tough."

And they did come back tough. The game was close throughout with a halftime score of 47-45 for Calgary. The Bears shot well however, Calgary dominated on the boards collecting 41 to the Bears 18. Tim Ryan had an excellent game along with Tom Groat.

However Groat fouled out early and his loss hurt the team. Near the end the Bears came up flat and Calgary took over to win 88-78.

Coach Heaney explained that the difference between the two games was: "Calgary played much more consistently and rebounded very well to control the game." Heaney didn't seem at all perturbed by the loss but rather was happy with how the team played.

The Bears tackle the Victoria Vikings next weekend who are presently ranked third in the country. I have a feeling there might be another upset. Coach Heaney says, "The players have a good feeling about playoffs," so come out and support the Bears.

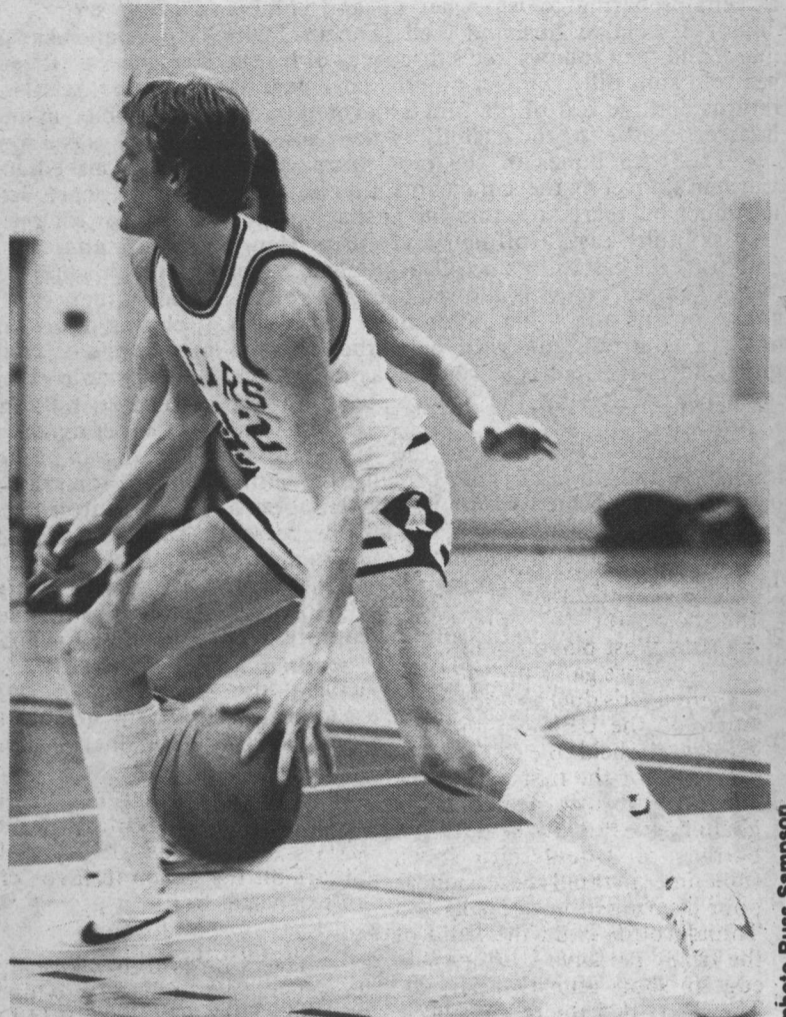


photo Russ Sampson

Bears tough defense helped in Friday's victory but Saturday Bears lost consistency and match.

Take no prisoners



photo Russ Sampson

Thursday the Glad man will be helping the wrestlers lose weight. Glad bags hold 47% more wrestler.

BY DOUG GILROY

The U of A wrestling team continued to show its strength and superiority in the West last weekend capturing both the prestigious Dinosaur Invitational and the Western Canada Greco Championship in Calgary.

At the Invitational the Bears finished with an untouchable 84 points. The U of Calgary took 2nd place with a meager 38 points and Mount Royal College followed with 34 team points. Other teams at the tournament were the U of Saskatoon, the U of Regina, and SAIT College.

Individual honors went to Adrian Marr, Glenn Purych, Mark Yurick, Pierre Pomerleau, and Marc Landry each finishing 1st in their respective weight classes. Second place finishes went to Al Harman, Scott Tate, Tom McKee, Kelly Rich, Shaun Holmstrom, and Jeff Owen.

The tournament was highlighted by Pierre Pomerleau's 5-3 victory for 1st

place over Calgary's Bob Ecklund who was last year's CIAU champion and a member of the National "B" team. Pomerleau was deservedly voted the Outstanding wrestler of the tournament.

Another classic confrontation pitted Canadian junior champion Scott Tate (52K) against arch rival Jim Keeley, Canadian Jr. champion (57K) in the 136 pound final. Keeley jumped to a six point lead in the first round. Tate gained momentum and tied the score early in the third round at 8-8 only to lose in the dying seconds on a 10-10 tiebreaker. Naturally this loss will be avenged next weekend when the Bears travel to Saskatoon.

In the Western Canada Greco Championships, the Bears entered only a 7 man team, but the wrestlers were victorious over the U of C by the narrow

margin of 43-42. First place finishes went to Pierre Pomerleau and Sid Thorowsky with Al Harman, Tom McKee, Shaun Holmstrom, and Mark Yurick picking up second places. Jeff Owen and Marc Landry obtained 3rd place finishes.

If anyone wants to watch the Bears train, Thursday is the night. The grapplers will don their plastic sweat suits and green garbage bags for their fourth annual weight loss practice. At the end of an intense one hour workout, the athletes will be weighed out to see if they can beat last year's astounding 4.3 pound average loss and top Dave Judges 8 pound decrease in body weight.

Next home wrestling action takes place on Friday and Saturday, February 15 and 16 where the main gym is the venue slated for the Canada West and GPAC conference championships.

Pandas on beam

Actors are not the only performers to use a dress rehearsal. Sandy O'Brien's gymnastic team used a competition atmosphere in recent practise to prepare for last weekend's tournament at UBC.

The U of Oregon won the meet with a 130.65 point total. However, the Pandas were only .70 points behind second place finisher UBC.

Generally, O'Brien believes "our own performances were better" than in a Calgary meet early this month. O'Brien states team performance was better and credits Carol Brinkhurst's and Carol Bailey's return for improving standings. Consequently, the Pandas had better depth in the west coast competition than at Calgary.

In addition, O'Brien believes using a video tape machine, judges, and timing to create a tournament atmosphere in practise may have helped the team's beam routines. The technique seemed to be effective because the squad's beam performance at UBC was improved. O'Brien mentions the simulated meet is "more appropriate" with

the Pandas that, in comparison to other years, are inexperienced.

However, other routines are practised as they would be performed in competition. O'Brien points out "the real secret of success is to stay with a routine and build on it." In fact, routines are practised for years and difficulty will be built in.

Generally, the Pandas' routines are new and because scoring is based on difficulty, they receive lower scores. Still, there are veterans, like Brinkhurst, Bailey, and Trish Macmillan who have extensive experience and more difficult routines.

This weekend the U of A squad will be hosting the U of C high school, and club teams. O'Brien states the tournament is an experiment because the Pandas will have split into two squads. Also, schools and clubs will be competing with each other as well as with the university teams. In any case the event should be interesting and will start Saturday in the main Gym at about 3:30 p.m. Mens' events are also scheduled and will probably begin at 1:00 p.m.

Pandas mend nets

Pierre Baudin, Pandas volleyball coach, does not expect miracles especially when his team is in a slump. Still, the Pandas emerged from last weekend's Edmonton Friars invitational tournament with a second place.

The Pandas, according to Baudin, can "see the light at the end of the tunnel" and are aiming for the Canada West tournament in Victoria this weekend. Also, Baudin believes Angie Pistawika, a key player, will be back from an injury.

Last weekend though, the Pandas swept their preliminary round of four teams and went into Sunday's semi-finals with an 8-0 record. The Pandas beat the

Edmonton Friars 2-1 in what Baudin terms a convincing victory.

However, Baudin believes the final, a loss for the U of A, was the result of losing concentration in the final match. He emphasizes their opponent, Calgary Volleyball Club, is a good club. He mentions his team was still not satisfied with second. In explanation for the loss Baudin believes the Pandas "just let down."

Obviously the Pandas were playing more capably last weekend than at a disastrous U of Victoria meet two weeks ago. It will be interesting to see if the U of A squad can continue to recover.