

# Bear cagers floor 'Birds

While Golden Bear players were singing praises of University of British Columbia's springy horsehair floor, coach Bob Bain chuckled quietly and shook his head.

"It's a paradox," said Bain. "When we go to UBC, whether we win or lose, we blame the floor."

## Golden Bear player of the week



Jerry LeGrandeur

Jerry LaGrandeur, scored three consecutive goals in last Sunday's game against U of Saskatchewan. Though hat tricks aren't all that unusual for the Golden Bear squad, this one was very special for Jerry.

"It's not just my first one this year," he says. "It's my first one in years. The last time I got a hat trick was in 1968-69, my last year in junior hockey."

Jerry, a winger on Clare Drake's "production" line with Dave Couves and Rick Wyrozub, also picked up three assists on the weekend to give him a total of 19 points, matching last year's record of seven goals and 12 assists.

Jerry is in second year law. ac

## Pandas fourth in tourney

The University of Alberta Pandas placed fourth in the first half of the Canada West University Athletic Association volleyball finals held in Victoria last Saturday.

This sets the stage for the second half of the finals which will go in Lethbridge, February 16 and 17.

According to team manager, Cindy Sabourin, Pandas played better than they did the previous weekend in Calgary by beating Dinnies 16-14, 15-9 and clipping the University of Lethbridge, 15-10, 15-3.

Losing to the University of British Columbia, 15-4, 15-9, they came back to edge University of Victoria 15-11, only to lose the next two, 15-4 and 17-15. University of Saskatchewan took Pandas, 15-7 and 15-3, with Alberta recovering to win 15-4.

Pandas advanced into the semi-finals against Victoria. Although, Pandas secured the first game 15-9, Victoria came back to win 15-11 and 15-9.

Eventually, UBC and Victoria placed first and second respectively with the University of Saskatchewan third and Alberta fourth, followed by Calgary and Lethbridge.

This weekend Pandas journey to Saskatoon for the University of Saskatchewan Invitational Volleyball Tournament.

The junior volleyball team—the Cubs—travel to Red Deer for their Invitational Tournament. bb

This paradox had a positive side last weekend, as Bears swept a pair of games 67-54 and 72-51, from University of British Columbia Thunderbirds, to stay a game ahead of Lethbridge Pronghorns.

Those pesky Pronghorns also won two games against the hapless Victoria Vikings this past weekend to improve their record to 10-4. Both have six games to play.

However, Pronghorns still have to play UBC which has had the Pronghorn's number so far this season. Earlier the southern Alberta team lost both their games on the west coast.

Golden Bears will have to have the temperament of a mountain goat scaling a mountain, aware of their precarious position, but retaining their balance in spite of it.

"One loss could cost us the season and Calgary and Saskatchewan (Bears' next two opponents) are tough at home," said Tom Solyom.

"We'll have to win at least five of the next six to take the title," added Bain. "But for our pride's sake, it's mandatory that we win all of them."

Conceivably, Bain's crew may have to win all their remaining games to become league champions. That would include a sweep of the Lethbridge series, here, February 16-17. But, as the players have maintained all season long, if Bears are rebounding well, they can beat anyone.

In UBC, Bears led by Steve Panteluk and Mike Frisby picked the boards clean. Both attributed some of their success to the Thunderbird's renowned horsehair floor. The floor surface itself is wood, but it

floats on horsehair underpinning, instead of rubber.

"The floor is cool, especially on vertical jumps, it springs like a trampoline," says Panteluk. For the two games, Steve hauled in 21 rebounds and scored 25 points.

"It also slows the ball down," added Panteluk. "I understand last year Marry Mitchelson (Bear coach) had the team practise with deflated basketballs."

"I'd like to play on that basketball floor all year long, smiled Frisby, who has been nursing a pulled thigh muscle since the beginning of January. "When you land on it, it's easier on the legs."

"Terry Valeriote made the difference," offered Frisby. As soon as they missed their shot, he was bringing the ball up the court.

Frisby and Wally Tollestrup were the big guns in Sunday's triumph, each tallying 20 points. Tollestrup scored 16 of them in the first half.

"He was really in rhythm," said Bain. "He could have scored a lot more in the second half, but other things opened up."

Thunderbirds were definitely hampered by injuries to two of their starters, sharpshooter Stan Callegari and Bob Dickson.

"I don't think the victory was tainted," said Bain. "The way we were playing, they wouldn't have beaten us anyway."

Saturday night, Thunderbirds shot a poor 28 percent from the floor, but they improved considerably on Sunday, hitting for 37 percent. In the latter contest, Darryl Gjernes and Jack Hoy paced 'Birds with 21 and 14 points respectively. bt

## U of A wrestlers dominate meet

University of Alberta wrestlers swept seven of the ten weight divisions to win the University of Saskatchewan Invitational this weekend in Regina.

Golden Bears took the first seven weight classes but were shut out in the final three divisions, 177, 190 and heavyweight. Overall, they tallied 97 points, leaving runner-up Saskatchewan (of Saskatoon) a distant second at 54.

The tournament gave wrestling experts an insight into the outcome of the Canadian West championships, Feb. 16-17 in Vancouver, as UBC was the only western conference team that didn't compete.

"The three weight divisions we lost are British Columbia's strength," notes Alberta coach Dr. Bert Taylor.

But the Bears' wrestlers in these divisions showed well.

Blaine Kjolten tied the conference champion, Barry Mudry of Saskatchewan (the 190 division) while the two Bear heavyweights, Ron Ewasku and Bob Pugh, lost matches to Bill Benko of Calgary Premier and Dave Keller of University of Calgary, both former Canadian champions.

Don Anderson of University of Regina was the only other non-Bear winner, in the 177 pound class.

Bears reigned supreme in the 126-pound with Gord Bertie going undefeated to take the crown and Alan Boychuk hammering Canadian Winter Games' champion Gil Wist to finish second.

In the 142-pound division, Earl Finnell, who has dropped

over 40 pounds since September upset conference champ Bob Brunet, from Regina, 5-2.

Other Bear winners were Dennis Cleaver, 118; John Barry, 134; Bill Dowbiggen, 150; Ole Sorenson, 158; and Bill Brooks, 167.

Bertie, Barry, Finnell, Bowbiggen, Sorenson, and Brooks went undefeated in their bouts.

This weekend freshman Bear wrestler will be gunning for coach, Taylor, in the junior U of A junior invitational here on campus.

Once a year, Doc Taylor comes out of retirement for the tournament, providing his wrestlers a vent for their frustrations on the mat. He will wrestle in the 177-pound class.

Wrestlers from Calgary Premiers, Camrose College, Edmonton All-stars, Mount Royal, NAIT, Olds, Red Deer College and University of Lethbridge will compete in the West Gym. bt

## Bearcats still first

U of A Bearcats regained their hold on first place in the Edmonton Metro Junior Hockey League with a 5-3 victory over Northside Comets Friday in Varsity Arena.

Comets were outshot 33-23 with Barry Nabholz, Bob Markle, John Devlin, Rob McVey and Randy Phillips netting the goals for Bearcats.

Ron Lecuyer beat 'Cats' goalie Bruce Holder twice while Ernie Lazaruk potted the single for Northside.

Bearcats' next home game will be against Sherwood Park, Friday, Feb. 2, at 5 pm in Varsity Arena.

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