

# Bears pull away from pack

by Darrell Semenuk

Alberta 3 UBC 2  
Alberta 6 UBC 4

One team just dropped out of the race. And when the race only involves two teams that leaves it pretty lonely at the top.

The University of Alberta Golden Bears put 6 points between themselves and the UBC Thunderbirds by sweeping a pair of games at Varsity arena over the weekend. The Bears upped their record to 10-2 while UBC holds down second spot with a log of 7-5.

Despite winning their last 7 league games including all 4 in 1977 coach Clare Drake doesn't feel top spot is a sure thing, at least not yet.

"I'm not conceding first place to ourselves yet. If we can win 4 games from Saskatchewan we should be okay ... We're in a really good position. Let's face it were 10-2."

The Bears took a narrow 3-2 verdict on Friday night, one of a host of close decisions the T'birds have dropped in this building. UBC Coach Bert Halliwell knows the story well.

"We've been in this rink for the last two years and lost a lot of games like this. It's really tough on the guys."

The Bears led 1-0 after the first period on a power play goal by rookie John Devaney with league penalty leader Tom Blaney serving a two minute sentence.

The two teams traded goals



John Devaney (right) led the Bears to two wins over UBC by firing three goals in the weekend series, including this one in Friday's game.

photo Don Truckey

in the second despite the 18-9 margin in shots in favour of UBC. Peter Moyls beat Jack Cummings with a hard slapshot just inside the blue line but Dave Breakwell gave Alberta its lead back when he banged in a loose rebound in front of T'Bird goaltender Ron Lefebvre.

Jim Ofrim made it 3-1 in the third after some strong work by Kevin Primeau behind the net freed a loose puck that Dave

Hindmarch relayed to Ofrim.

UBC made things close when Jim Stuart stole the puck and waltzed in alone to score at 18:07. The Bears held the T'Birds to only 1 shot after that to preserve the win.

In Saturday's game UBC went ahead early on a goal by Bill Ennos while the T'Birds enjoyed a man advantage.

Devaney scored his first of two markers at 12:54 on the

power play, while defenceman Don Spring scored his first goal of the year to give the club a one goal margin heading into the second.

Stuart tied things with another power play goal for UBC but the Bears broke the game open with 3 goals in a 4 minute span. Randy Gregg notched the first on a hard wrist shot from 40 feet. Darrel Zaparniuk tallied 33 seconds later, while Devaney continued his hot hand with his

sixth goal of the year.

The first year player who the Edmonton juvenile league scoring last year has had so much hard luck around the net early in the year but has popped 4 goals in his last 4 games, including 3 game winners.

"It's my New Year's resolution to start to score," said Devaney after the game. "The puck's starting to go in with more confidence more than anything. Our line (Hindmarch, Moyls, Sosnowski) is starting to click."

Ted Olson added his second goal and third point in as many games to up the lead to 6-2 before UBC came back in the latter part of the period with 2 goals by Derek Williams.

A dejected Bert Halliwell offered few words after the game. "We didn't have it tonight. They played very well. I think we were a little tired from last night."

On the opposite side of the rink coach Drake was pleased with the total effort of his club. "I think we were a little more determined to play 3 periods. We slacked off a little in the third period because we played so hard in the first 50 minutes."

The Bears outshot UBC 19 in the game while the teams split the 20 minors evenly.

**Bear Bits:** Bruce Rolin suffered stretched ligaments in Saturday's game and will have leg in a cast for 2-3 weeks but surgery was necessary. Bears play 8 of their last 12 games on the road.

# Bears, Pandas continue sizzling pace

by Robert Lawrie

The University of Alberta suffered through southern hospitality but still managed to defeat the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns this weekend 88-72 and 72-69. Up against bus breakdowns, messed up hotel reservations, and the infamous Lethbridge officials the Bears remained calm and came away with two wins that further strengthened their hold on first place.

The first half of Friday night's game saw the Bears blow Lethbridge off the floor taking a 49 to 23 lead. The Bears fast-break offense was in high gear as they consistently beat the Pronghorns down the floor for uncontested jump shots and lay-ups. The Pronghorns were victims not only of the Bears' running game but also of a terrible shooting percentage (23%).

In the second half the momentum abruptly shifted in favor of the Pronghorns, who started to hit their shots from the floor and rebounded with the Bears. The officials seemed to close their eyes to any contact underneath the Lethbridge basket and when they made calls they were usually questionable offensive fouls against the Bears, notably Pat Rooney (who eventually fouled out).

Coach Gary Smith however, noted that "we were able to get some easy baskets that slowed their momentum down."

Brent Patterson played his usual strong floor game scoring 14 points and adding an impressive 16 assists. Doug Baker led Bears scorers dropping in 25

points with Keith Smith, Doug Lucas, and Steve Panteluk scoring 16, 14 and 13 points respectively.

"Lethbridge picked up where they left off Friday night," said assistant Coach Brent Foster, which best summed up the spirited Pronghorns performance Saturday night.

The much younger Lethbridge team dominated the Bears on the inside but the Bears still managed a seven point lead at the half. This lead would have surely been greater but the Bears missed many 10 foot shots they would normally have caged.

As in the women's games, the officiating again took its toll as Pat Rooney got into foul trouble early, for the second night in a row. The Bears could not buy an offensive foul under their own basket yet anytime the Bears had possession of the ball and contact was made the call often went against the Bears.

In the second half the Bears came out in a 1-2-2 zone defense in hopes of shutting off the Pronghorns from the inside. Lethbridge's Joey Shackelford found the range from the outside however, and a see-saw battle continued until 17:48 when Doug Baker's basket put the Bears up by 8.

Steve Panteluk showed flashes of his second team All Canadian form of two years ago, rebounding strongly and scoring 11 points. Doug Baker dropped 19 with Brent Patterson and Keith Smith scoring 14 and 10 points respectively.

**Rebounds:** Mark Jorgenson stayed at home nursing a bad back. Mike Abercrombie celebrated his 20th birthday but failed to match his previous birthday output of 35 points.

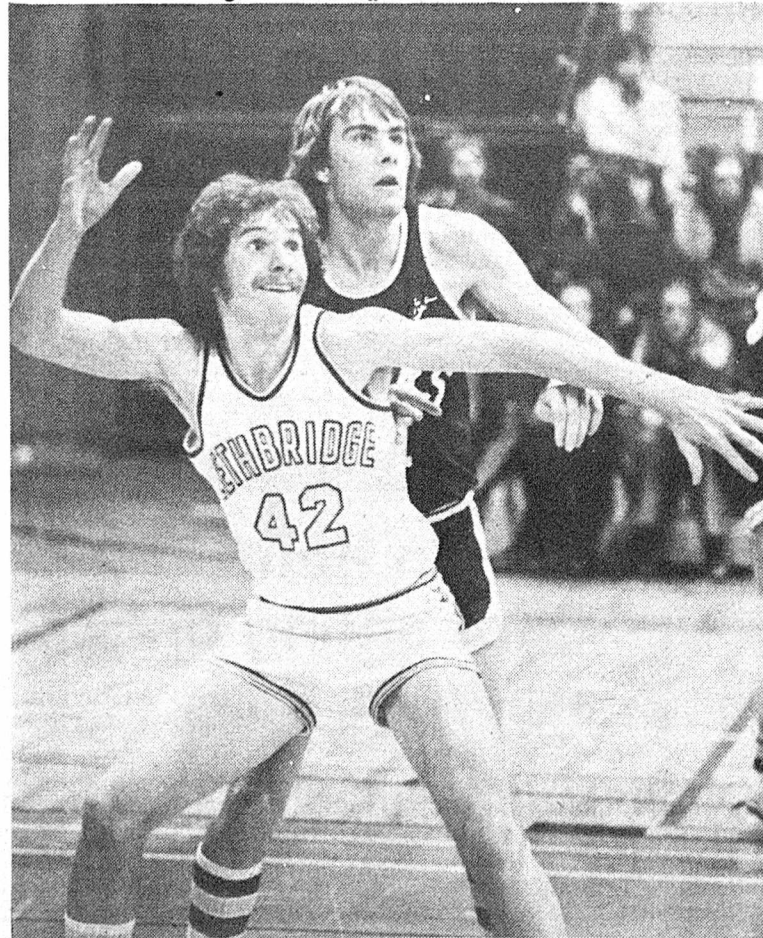
by Robert Lawrie

The University of Alberta Pandas continued their winning ways last weekend downing the University of Lethbridge Pronghornettes 80 to 41 Friday night and 65 to 35 Saturday night.

On Friday night the Pandas appeared to have little trouble with Lethbridge, streaking to a 48-20 halftime lead. The Pandas utilized their full court press to its fullest advantage causing

Lethbridge to turnover the ball 30 times. At times Lethbridge could not even bring the ball past center, giving the Pandas plenty of fast-break opportunities.

The start of the second half saw the Pronghornettes attempt to make it interesting, outscoring the Pandas 12 to 2 in the first ten minutes. The Pronghornettes' comeback was short lived though, as the Pandas came alive in the last ten minutes outscoring their rivals 28 to 9.



Alberta's Brent Patterson and Lethbridge's Jim Duxbury set their sights on something ominous.

photo Gail Amort

Amanda Holloway again the Pandas' scoring with points with Lori Chizik adding Debbie Yanota played a strong game for the Pronghornettes scoring 16 points.

On Saturday night, the Pandas again forced numerous turnovers but shot poorly again in zone (36% in the first half) the times brought the Panda offense almost to a dead stop.

The Pandas were only ahead by 6 points at the half but again put an offensive spurt together in the first ten minutes of the second half, outscoring Lethbridge 18 to 2. These points were primarily the result of Lethbridge turnovers in the mid court.

Faith Rostad played well coming off the bench scoring 10 points. Amanda Holloway, who was slowed down by foul trouble again led the Pandas with 14 points. Kathy Webber and Lori Chizik added 10 points apiece.

The officiating for both games was not only incompetent but clearly biased.

Coach Shogan was pleased with the composure her team showed under the adverse conditions caused by the officiating.

They remained cool when numerous fouls against them were overlooked, some bordering on excessive roughness. Amanda Holloway and Cole Elder will testify.

"We are happy to just get out of here with 2 wins," said Shogan who was visibly relieved after the second game.

The Pandas now have a stranglehold on second place in the West and short of a complete breakdown seem to be destined for the National Finals at Calgary in March.