

GATEWAY To sports

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In the swim

Wisecracks 'n' Witticisms

By Mike Horrocks

This is the time of year when coaches and sports writers retire to examine their consciences, soak their heads and make good resolutions for next year.

After a less than successful season both the Bears and Pandas can retire and lick their wounds.

Coach Murray Smith of the Bears is going to lose a number of top performers; Eric Haites, the "finest swimmer ever to represent the university," according to coach Smith, is moving to McGill. Terry Nimmon and Larry Maloney are leaving and John Byrne is probably retiring.

Some of the workhorses will remain, like Art Hnatiuk, who was heard to remark after the gruelling 200 yard Butterfly final: "there I was, absolutely level with Griffiths (UBC) and Halliday (U of S), and then that damn starter had to fire the gun." Others, like rookies Andy MacLure and Rick Wilson can be expected to improve on their ex-

tremely promising start in competition.

With UBC out of the conference the Bears will have the rapidly improving Huskies to face. The Pandas, on the other hand, are hoping that the UBC women will stay in the league. They're saying fifth time lucky.

As coach of the Panads, yours truly had a wonderful time. On the trip to Saskatoon (with Panda Volleyball and Synchronized Swimmers as well as the speed team) I felt as out of place as an unbearded male at the Classic series of the Film Society—but it didn't last. As the only man to go with 35 women my wife made a point of seeing me off with both children in attendance.

At the final the girls tried harder and swam faster than I believed possible; not only the stars, but swimmers like Helen Kesner, Lynda Norman, Gail Anderson, and team captain Bonnie Millar. Bonnie put her back into everything (including a revolving door) and faculty adviser Pat Meadus proved again that she is the best one-woman cheering section in the Western Conference.

Ball Bouncing Basket Bears Simply Haven't Got Shares

By Dave McLaughlin

In recent years the Golden Bears have not been a serious threat in WCIAA basketball competition.

This year has been no exception.

Bears have provided the fans with a few thrills and have given the opposition some bad moments this year, but taken as a whole their performance has been somewhat disappointing, especially when one reflects on the potential that was evident at the beginning of the season.

Our team was one composed mainly of veterans: Gary Smith, a fourth year man and always a star; John Hennessy, described as 100 per cent improved over last year; Jim Fisher, a heads-up ball player; and Nestor Korchinsky, the second best rebounder in the league last year. Along with these came guards Darwin Semotiuk and Fred Shandro. For height we had 6'4" Doug Haynes.

NEW COACH

New personnel included a coach in the guise of Jim Munro who brought four years of experience as assistant coach and a new outlook on how to play winning basketball.

Add to this a bright new prospect in the person of Doug Krenz from Drake University along with freshmen Lynden Hutchinson, Gerry Kozub and Don Melenchuk.

It looked like the Bears were going to roar this season. To coin a phrase, their roar was worse than their bite. The cagers captured only 9 wins in 26 starts. Granted they dropped five games by four points or less but these games could have been won with a little drive and something called desire.

DEFEATED BY WORSE CLUBS

The inexcusable fact is that Alberta suffered defeat twice at the hands of two inferior clubs. I refer to a 74-72 loss at the hands of the Manitoba Bisons and a 80-56 drubbing by Calgary.

And then there was the last game of the season when UBC walked over the crippled Bears 102-53. Maybe BC had a better team, but not that much better.

The four games Bears lost to Saskatchewan are somewhat more justified but with a little more effort I feel we should have been able to pull at least one upset.

BEST STARS

Bears started out the season against the Harlem Stars in Varsity Gym on Nov. 9. It was a great be-

ginning as Bears struck pay dirt in the form of a 66-60 win. The following night the Stars hit back to the tune of 72-55.

Northern Montana College were next on the list as the Golden ones came up with an 87-76 win and then went down 74-73. The following weekend Bears missed out completely on a four game jaunt through Montana.

Alberta opened their WCIAA season at home against Calgary, getting off to a running start by defeating the southern club 67-57 and 56-52. Bears looked good and the victories seemed to come easily. It was then Malmstrom Air Force Base at Varsity Gym. The visitors went away with one win in two starts and Bears looked to be in their prime. A week later they continued the trend with a double win over Manitoba Bisons.

At this point Bears had seven wins in 14 starts but their future was pretty black. They had yet to meet either Saskatchewan or British Columbia, considered to be Alberta's

toughest opposition.

DOWNHILL SLIDE

Munro's boys were destined to win only two of the remaining 12 games and drop from first to third place in the standings. The downhill trip consisted of severe maulings at the hands of each of the other four clubs, including Manitoba and Calgary who Bears had previously beaten easily.

Picking an all-star team from the league this year is difficult but for my dream team I'd have to pick Dave Way (UBC) at centre with Robin Fry and Gary Goebel (both U of S) as forwards. Guard positions go to Terry Little (U of S) and Bill McDonald (UBC).

About this time the cry "wait til next year" begins. Bears will lose only Gary Smith and Doug Hayes and, we hope, not as many games. Coach Munro comments "We'll have the best guard combination in the league next year with Shandro and Semotiuk."

Barry Rust Reviews Sports

Don Risdon went to Kingston. I didn't.

Therefor, much as I am tempted and feel obligated to expound, I leave most of the discussion concerning the National Hockey Champions to the man who was there.

However, lest it go unsaid, the win couldn't have happened to a more deserving team or coach. At risk of becoming monotonous, Bears fought back from the most demoralizing odds all year, and every bit of recognition they receive is due them.

To say that Bears deserve their title is not to suggest they are fortunate or require any justification for victory. They are the best college club in Canada, they proved it in Kingston and that's that.

Ron "Butch" Hyde, who captained last years championship McMaster University, termed this club different only in the fact that it was a team in every sense of the word, rather than a composition of stars. A team that stayed united, fought for themselves and the man who directed them. Their victory is a tribute to their spirit. Let's leave it at that.

Alberta started the season with a national championship and they ended it with one. Not bad for a season.

Oh, there were a few disappointments. We lost the swimming championship and didn't win the basketball title, but then no one really expected we would. Of course I could go on to list all Alberta's achievements and failings and expound on the reason for each, but that would be old hat wouldn't it?

From the Golden Bowl came a host of exhibition offers. Bears finally settled on University of Toronto. Blues will be here in September.

Hockey Bears lose only four players but every one a real star. Ian Baker, Jim Flemming, Dale Rippel and captain Dick Wintermute will be missing when Clare Drake calls the roll next fall.

But you can expect Drake to do a real recruiting job—he always does. Rumor has it that Austin Smith, Most Valuable Player two years ago, is anxious to return and that Roger Bourbonais is looking Bears' way along with Oil King Doug Fox. Rather adds up to a possible second National Championship doesn't it?

Ian Baker was named Most Valuable Player this time around. A number could have received it but if they'd asked me I'd have gone the same way.

And its time for some Rusty Cup awards:
Basketball All-Stars:

Guards—The balloters may not agree but I can only go with what I saw and at that it's difficult:—Ken MacDonald (UBC), Gary Smith (Bears).

Center—Dave Way (UBC). Not much doubt here.

Forwards—Robin Fry (U of S), Dave Mills (U of M).

Most Valuable Player: Mills.

Hockey All-Stars:

Defence—Dick Wintermute (Bears), Alex Young (U of S).

Center—Jim Flemming (Bears).

UBC's Peter Kelly was scoring champion but Jim gets my nod for all-round play.

Right Wing—Ian Baker (Bears)

Left Wing—Bob Parker (UBC).

Goal—Dale Harder (Bears).

Most Valuable Player—Still Baker, mainly for goals when they counted.

Best Defenceman — Wintermute, easily.

Best Bear basketballer—Once again

Garry Smith. This guy leaves Alberta without an honor probably due him. If one had to pick an outstanding Bear athlete over the past seasons, he would be a near unanimous pick. He and Doug Haynes are the main losses from the Basketball squad and Smith's play and leadership will be sorely missed.

Best PA Announcer—Bryan Clark in a runaway.

Hard Luck Guy—Brian Harper; runner-up Earl Gray.

Best Coach—A toss-up between Drake and Gino Fracas.

Best Boss—Ole Shep.

The Gateway finished second to the weekly McMaster Silhouette in competition for best sport pages. I mention it not as a point of pride, though I was proud to have edited such pages, but rather in way of recognition for the staff.

With but a few exceptions, this staff was comprised of rookies. The honor awarded the Gateway is a tribute to their ability as writers and most of all their dedication for which I am grateful. My thanks go out to Don Risdon, Dave McLaughlin, Gary Kiernan, Brian Flewelling, Mike Horrocks, Larry Duignan, Brian Watson, Lee Hopper and the many correspondents who all assisted in making "Gateway to Sports."

Also I owe a debt of gratitude to Ed Zemrau, Clare Drake, Gino Fracas, Jim Munro, Murray Smith, Managing Editor Bill Winship and a host of others who assisted me throughout the year.

To you the reader, I trust you have found the coverage adequate. To borrow a phrase, its been a pleasure.

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Players**

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Judo For You In Gym Tomorrow

Fourteen clubs invade U of A tomorrow to compete for the Team Championship trophy put up for grabs by the U of A Club.

The University of Alberta Judo Club sponsored event will also produce the four black belt contestants who will represent Alberta in the Canadian Championships in Vancouver on May 9.

Among the various clubs will be Jasper Place, Lethbridge YMCA, Cold Lake RCAF Base and Penhold RCAF Base, as well as teams from U of A and one from UAC.

U of A's colors will be upheld by the likes of Fred Mannix, Dave Ingledew and Jack Slobodan. Some of their toughest competition is expected to come from the Jasper Place Club led by 18-year-old Ron Powell. The man to watch in the Black Belt championships is two-time champion Henry de Graaf from Jasper, Alberta.

U of A coach Ray Kelly expects his club "to provide good representation despite the fact we have mostly new inexperienced members."

The tournament goes in the main gym, PEB, at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow.

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Note to U of A Judo Club Members: CBXT will be taping a show on the Judo Club Sunday, March 22. All are asked to be present by 10:00 a.m. in the Main Gym, PEB.