

In the Bears' Den

with Joe Czajkowski

Over-confidence is a deadly opponent. At the beginning of the season almost any team feels that it's unbeatable.

The Golden Bear basketball squad was no exception. After all, didn't the club get off to a great pre-season start. And things were looking better all the time.

League play commenced and the Bears went undefeated until Christmas. Sure the club had some very close games but Alberta did win. It's irrelevant that the games could have gone the other way.

The Christmas season came and the club continued to improve their won-lost record at the expense of a couple of inferior teams while gorging themselves on holiday goodies.

Then came the O'Keefe Tournament, just another trophy to add to the growing collection.

The Supercontinental rolls into Saskatoon at 3:15 a.m. Saturday and the fun is interrupted for a few hours sleep.

Then, up bright and early Saturday morning for breakfast and a pre-game warm-up. To the game at 11:45. The sky falls in. Loss number one is recorded.

With revenge in their hearts the squad comes out at 2:30 p.m. the same day to face their next opponents. Determination wins out and so do the Bears. They're in top spirits again.

It's party time. The club won and now they deserve some fun. Only 4:30 p.m., and next game isn't till noon tomorrow. Where's the nearest bar? Where's the nearest party?

And it was a beautiful night.

The last of the fun-seekers comes staggering in at 6 a.m. Oooo . . . my head.

Another early breakfast and another pre-game warm-up. And the team is . . . ready?

Let's go wipe out the Commodores. So they go. The team is sluggish on the court. No legs. No spirit. Fans wonder why.

These are the Alberta Golden Bears, number one team in the West. They're undefeated in league play. They're going to be champions . . . or are they?

The Bears lose. Again.

It's a long season ahead.

There's a lot of soul searching going on. The team has learned a lesson. Champions aren't made by acclamation.

Champions aren't made on easy living. Preparations are being made to meet their next opponent. They must lick over-confidence.

Don Melnychuk, veteran guard of the Bears, has left the team. Don, who already holds two degrees from the U of A and was enrolled as a grad-student, became disenchanted with his studies.

He was the second highest scorer on the team and had earned himself a reputation as a charging guard. When he was on the court he was the floor general and controlled play.

We're sorry to see him go. He was a valuable asset to the team and Barry Mitchelson is going to have a difficult time replacing him.



DON MELNYCHUK . . . leaves team

Bear hoopsters drubbed at O'Keefe tourney but hope to gain revenge against Huskies

By JOE CZAJKOWSKI

Alberta Golden Bears dropped a pair of games in O'Keefe tournament play in Saskatoon last weekend.

They triumphed only once to finish sixth in the eight team tourney.

Coach Barry Mitchelson attributed the team's poor showing to mental errors on the part of the Bears. A member of the squad simplified this statement. "We were just too over-confident," he said.

In its first outing Mitchelson's squad dropped a close 88-86 overtime decision to the Calgary Cascades. This eliminated any chance Alberta had of entering the finals. The Bears were then relegated to the consolation series.

Here they handily swept over the Saskatoon Molsons 87-45 earning them the right to face the Saskatoon Commodores in the consolation final.

But then the over-confidence

bug struck again. The Bears went down to defeat for the second time, 70-62. The club remains undefeated in league competition but their overall record now stands at 14 wins and three losses.

This weekend the Bears make another journey to Saskatoon, this time to face the U of S Huskies in a big series. The Bears will be placing their league leading position on the line.

SASKATOON TRAILS

Saskatoon trails the Green and Gold by only two points. The Sled Dogs are an improved ball club and will be very tough to handle.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

	P	W	L	Pts.
Alberta	6	6	0	12
Saskatchewan	8	5	3	10
Manitoba	6	4	2	8
Winnipeg	8	3	5	6
Regina	8	3	5	6
Calgary	8	1	7	2

INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

	FT	FG	T Pts.
W. Champion	23	54	131
D. Melnychuk	13	32	77
B. Morris	11	27	65
D. DeKlerk	11	22	55
B. Rakoz	12	18	48
A. Melnychuk	3	17	37
L. Nowak	5	15	35
I. Walker	2	12	26
D. Swann	8	3	14
A. Skujins	1	6	13
M. DeLeeuw	2	2	6

B'ball Pandas win at Red Deer tourney

The Panda basketball team won all the marbles at the Red Deer Invitational Tournament January 11.

The Albertans, never pressed, had little trouble disposing of the Red Deer Merchants in posting a 59-28 triumph to open the action.

An all-star team, composed of players from Olds, Camrose and the Merchants, were the next victims, falling 61-21. The Pandas quickly captured the lead and were in command throughout.

Camrose and the Pandas met for the first time in the finals, Saturday evening. The game was close for the first two quarters, but then the roof fell in on the Camrose club and the Pandas prevailed 31-21.

Cathy Gulasha, a four year veteran, led the winners in the final game with seven points.

Coach Jean Harvie was pleased with her team's performance in the first two games, but was disappointed with things in the final match. She felt that the team could have played far better basketball than they did.

Connie Snaders, in her second year with the club, suffered a severely sprained ankle, and is a doubtful starter for this weekend's series with the U of S Huskiettes.

Game times Friday and Saturday are 8:00 p.m., in the Main Gym.



BALL, BALL, IN THE AIR

. . . come, come, come to me

Rings and rings

Nominations are now being accepted by the Awards Board for the presentation of gold rings, silver rings, gold pins, and silver pins to deserving students who have been involved in university activities.

Nomination forms may be picked up at the receptionist desk on the second floor of SUB. Nominations must be returned to the receptionist by January 25, 1969.

Student Cinema presents...

"Cat Ballou"

Jan. 17 7 p.m. TL11

Interviews for teaching appointments

with the

County of Vermilion River 24

(Lloydminster-Vermilion, Alberta area)

will be conducted at the student placement office

Thursday, January 23 & Friday, January 24

For interview appointments, contact the Placement Office, Fourth Floor, Students' Union Bldg. 432-4291

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