Sports

Speaking on Sports

By RICH VIVONE

It could have happened like this.

A guy who had just completed his graduate thesis in physical education and was looking for a job. Not just any old job but one in which he had special interest, coaching maybe.

One day, he saw an advertisement on a bulletin board and it said the University of Manitoba was looking for a basketball coach who could also teach and had good qualifications.

Darwin Semotiuk, basketball player, football player, and all around guy, applied for the job. It was not the most promising position because Manitoba had recently notified the former coach his services were no longer required. This happens to people who lead teams to one win and a stack of losses in a season. It's not that everyone loves the winners, but there is a matter of decency.

The higher authorities at the University of Manitoba chose Semotiuk over a number of other people.

So he packed his bags and basketballs and went to Winnipeg. That city is different than Edmonton. It has been described by writers as nine months winter and three months bad skating.

Headed for the city of the Pan Am games

Winnipeg had the Pan American games and a world hockey tournament and is one of the few Canadian cities that experiences the menace of an authentic flood.

The university is a long way down the Pembina Highway and has a rich heritage. It has the worst hockey rink anywhere in the world, a bar slightly less than a stagger from the students' union building and a joint around the corner that sells 15-cent hamburgers.

It also had one of the very worst basketball teams anyone ever saw. When you lose every game but one, there aren't too many good things that can be said.

So Darwin Semotiuk unpacked his bags, introduced the boys to a basketball and told them to get acquainted.

The first thing to do was get rid of that magnificent mushroom cloud of defeat which was hanging over the gymnasium. The young coach grouped the boys together, told them the facts of the court and worked them into shape. Up and down the gym they went until they ran in their sleep. It's a great way to make them forget about losing ball games.

Always the problem of fundamentals

Then there was the problem of fundamentals. The coach was surprised when the things he practiced for a number of years and learned at Alberta were 'good ideas' to the team. The good ideas spawned better ones.

When Semotiuk took a look at the 1967-68 schedule, he couldn't be blamed for knifing the people responsible for it. Their first four league games were against the University

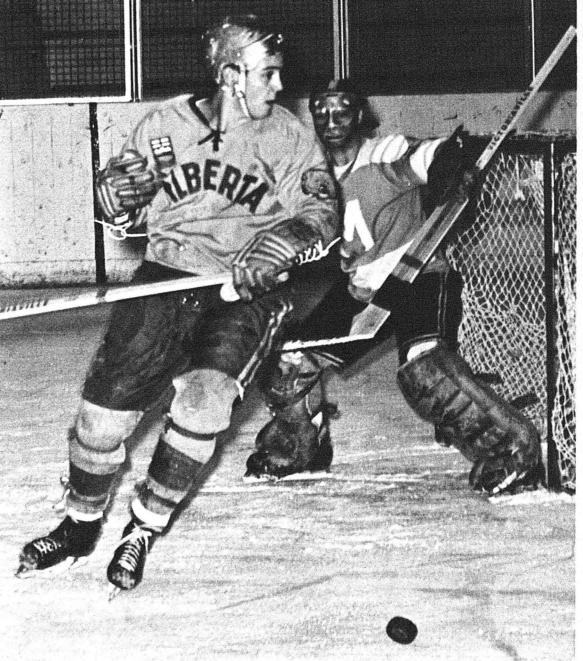
of Alberta. The first two were in Edmonton.

Anyone who thinks he didn't want to beat his old school ought to visit the head doctors. Nowhere in the world or anywhere else is there so fine a triumph as beating your former team.

Now that four game series is over. Semotiuk already has accomplished something no other coach at Manitoba has done in ten years. They have never won two consecutive games on the road in all that time. This takes in a lot of games and a lot of chances.

That says something for the job Darwin Semotiuk, basket-ball coach, has done at the University of Manitoba. This may be just the beginning.





-George Yackulic photo

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT'S TRUE
... to win the game, the puck must go in the net

Golden Bears prepare for big series with hockey Dinos at the weekend

So far this season the Golden Bear hockey club has dethroned the Imperials, corraled the Stampeders, buried the Miners and has been buffaloed by the Bisons.

This weekend the team will be out to fossilize the last remaining Mesozoic Saurian reptiles, the Dinosaurs.

The Bears tangle with the hockey playing Dinosaurs from the University of Calgary Friday and Saturday at Varsity Arena in a series of crucial importance. Game times are 8 p.m. Friday and 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

Coach Clare Drake has been working his charges hard in this week's preparatory practices. The emphasis has been on conditioning and headmanning the puck.

SAW-OFF

Monday the team battled to a 3-3 saw-off in a scrimmage game against the Edmonton Oil Kings.

The Bears will be missing several players for the Calgary encounters.

Wayne Wiste has left the team, at least until after Christmas, in order to concentrate on his studies. Len Zalapski suffered an ankle injury in Monday's scrimmage against the Kings. This, plus the

fact he's getting married on Saturday, puts a damper on "Zap's" hockey activity this weekend.



DALE HALTERMAN
. . . top netminder

Barry Robinson from the Junior Bearcats will probably fill one of the positions.

the positions.

League statistics released this week show that the Bears' Dale

Halterman is the circuit's top netminder. He has allowed only eight goals in four games.

Individual scoring statistics for the Bears, including exhibition games, show Jack Gibson leading the point parade. Gibson leads in goals with 11 and total points with 17.

"Jake the Snake's" linemate, Sam Belcourt, is second in points with 14. Ron Cebryk is the top playmaker with ten assists.

TOP 10 BEAR SCORING (including ex. games)

	GP	G	A	P	PIM
Jack Gibson	. 10	11	6	17	12
Sam Belcourt	10	6	8	14	6
Ron Cebryk	. 9	2	10	12	6
Wayne Wiste	. 5	3	7	10	4
M. Stelmaschuk	9	7	3	10	15
G. Braunberger	8	4	5	9	6
Milt Hohol	8	7	2	9	6
Dan Zarowny	. 10	2	6	8	18
Dave Couves	. 10	1	5	6	24
Jim Seutter	10	0	5	5	16

LEAGUE STANDINGS

		G	W	L	F	A	P
Sask.	***********	4	3	1	22	18	•
Alta.		4	2	2	12	8	4
Man.	rennanta.	4	2	2	8	12	4
B.C.	**********	4	2	2	15	15	4
Cal.	***********	4	1	3	12	16	2