

# Hoop Bears swept like yesterday's dust

by Alan Small

"It was bloody awful," said Bear coach Don Horwood.

Horwood's worst nightmare came true last weekend as the Bear basketball team was smoked by the best team in the CIAU. The Victoria Vikings were anything but fine hosts as they handed the 6-10 Bears losses by scores of 83-59 and 85-62.

"They're 16-0 for a reason," said Horwood. "They really put the pressure on us defensively, and that took us out of our offence."

The Golden Bears were close after the first half of the opener, 33-31, but a scoring drought in the second half gave the Vikes an easy 23 point win.

"We got the ball where we wanted it. We got it inside for short jumpers, but we didn't score for five minutes," Horwood said. "We should be making 50% of those shots."

"We seem to be intimidated by them," added Horwood.

The scene would be similar to the one at Varsity Gym when the two teams tangled during the Christmas break. The Bears shots would hit nothing but iron while the Vikings borrowed some of the Argo bounce from their sailing cousins.

"You can't call them easy shots," said Horwood, "but if we make half of them, we're back in the ball game." The Bears didn't, and they were out of it.

Before the trip, Horwood said his inside players, particularly Ed Joseph, would have to start picking up the scoring pace. The increased production didn't start last weekend on the island. Their guards once again led the Bears, as Sean Chursinoff scored 24 and Dave Youngs scored 12 points. Geoff McKay and Dale Olson scored 17 apiece to spark the Vikings.

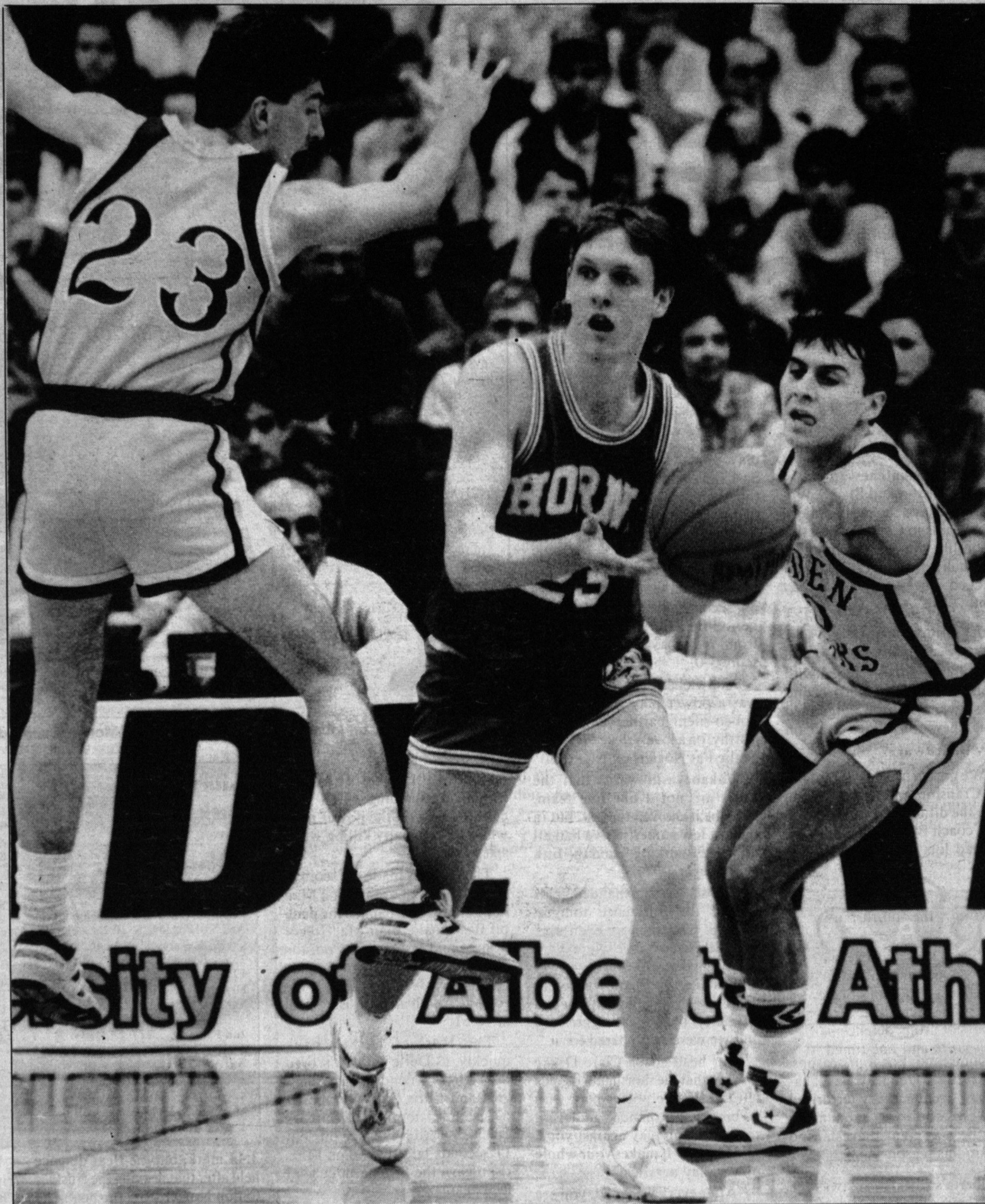
Friday night's loss affected the Bears well into the second game of the series. They were down plenty in the first half, and to keep it to six points at halftime. Chursinoff had to can a three pointer as well as a pair of free hrows.

The pivotal play was early in the second half. Chursinoff stole the ball, passed to Youngs, who missed a pull up jumper from five feet. The Vikings grabbed the rebound and hammered a three-pointer for the dreaded five-point win.

"That play really broke our backs," Horwood said. The Vikings sharp play in the second half wasn't exactly what the chiropractor ordered as they cruised to another 23 point win.

"During the second half, we felt the same way we did after we got beat by Calgary," Horwood said. "We bounced back from that one to sweep Lethbridge. I know we can play better than that."

Once again, Chursinoff was tops among the Bear scorers with 26 points, while Joseph came back on Saturday and scored 13. Fifth year forward Jerry Divoky and former Golden Bear Kevin Ottewell paced Victoria with 18 points each.



Rob Galbraith

## Bear double team

**Bear guard Dave Youngs (L) and Sean Chursinoff (R) guard Lethbridge's Jamie McLellan. Against Victoria, the pair of senior guards were the only consistent Golden Bear scoring threat.**

## Bears back in 5th, but not out

The two losses the Bears sustained also left them behind the pack for the final two playoff spots in the Canada West conference.

The Lethbridge Pronghorns managed to split a pair with the second place Calgary Dinosaurs. The split gives the 'Horns a 7-9 record, one game ahead of the Golden Bears.

The UBCT-Birds also moved

to 7-9 as they swept a series against the lowly Saskatchewan Huskies last weekend. The pair of wins left them tied for third spot, and the Bears in fifth place in the conference. Only the top four teams make the playoffs.

"We can still finish in third place if we win all four of our games," said Bear boss Don

Horwood. The Bears host the Huskies for a two-game series this weekend at Varsity Gym. They then finish the season with the T-Birds.

To the Bears favour, the Pronghorns and the T-Birds face each other this weekend in Lethbridge. A sweep by the Bears and a split in the 'Horn-Bird series, would put the Bears

in third again, leaving them only to win one game in Vancouver to finish third.

Finishing fourth would also get them in the playoffs, but the Bears would face the Vikings, who are undefeated in conference play this season. Finishing third would leave them to play the Dinos, a much easier team to upset.