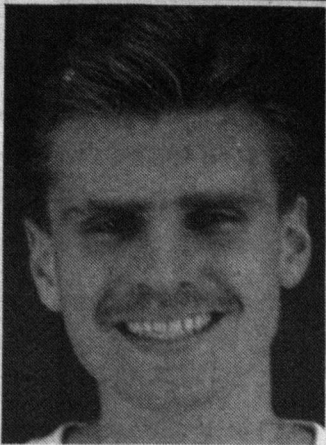


Bears get ready for new hoop season



Gord Stech

No politics

Look, I'm not coming from the left on this issue and I'm not coming from the right. I'm coming down the middle, running a draw play, one might say.

Regarding the solution to the NFL's current player strike, I don't think there's any room for politics. Goodness, the National Football League Player's Association (NFLPA) has enough problems on its Stickum-coated, green-back-grabbing hands already. Besides, this is the sports page, where we write about how right wings and left wings shoot rubber discs across ice surfaces instead of military explosives across Persian Gulfs.

What the NFL has with its players strike is a potentially tedious situation, a long mother. Supposedly, the players have some 300 topics and sub-topics to deliberate over.

Fortunately, the discussion of key issues such as health, turf, pension, and roster size, isn't deemed to be of any time devouring proportions. Unfortunately, the free-agency piece of the discussion pie could be a slice so mighty that even William "The Fridge" Perry would struggle with it if it was real pie.

This brings us to the chief question of the entire episode: Is free agency the biggest clog in the negotiation pipe, and if so, how long will it take to flush out? Some players say they couldn't give 2 sweatbands about free agency while the NFLPA's chief executive officer Gene Upshaw (and his band of loyal compensation-happy wanderers) says he won't stop fighting until he gets free agency or at least some steps taken towards it.

Do we have dissension here? You bet. And there's more. We have street scabs, fringe CFL players and even some NFLPA members trying to help salvage the 1987 NFL schedule. We have the loyalists, the solidarity preaching players, threatening the scabs with violence.

We have a personality clash between the strike's 2 chief negotiators in Upshaw and team owner rep Jack Donlan. We also have one great big pile of pre-stained laundry being approached by a mudslide.

I'm positive both sides are doing what they honestly believe is right, based on all the knowledge they've ever acquired on the matter. Unfortunately for the players, the owners have been given a free sneak preview of the hazards of free agency courtesy of Major League Baseball, and won't let it happen in their league. Unfortunately for the owners, they practically sent out greeting cards for free agency by paying their players outrageously high salaries in the first place.

NFL — p.15

by Philip Preville

He's got weeks before he even goes near another team, but Bears' basketball coach Don Horwood doesn't feel he has any time to waste. He's already made his cuts and finalized his 1987-88 roster.

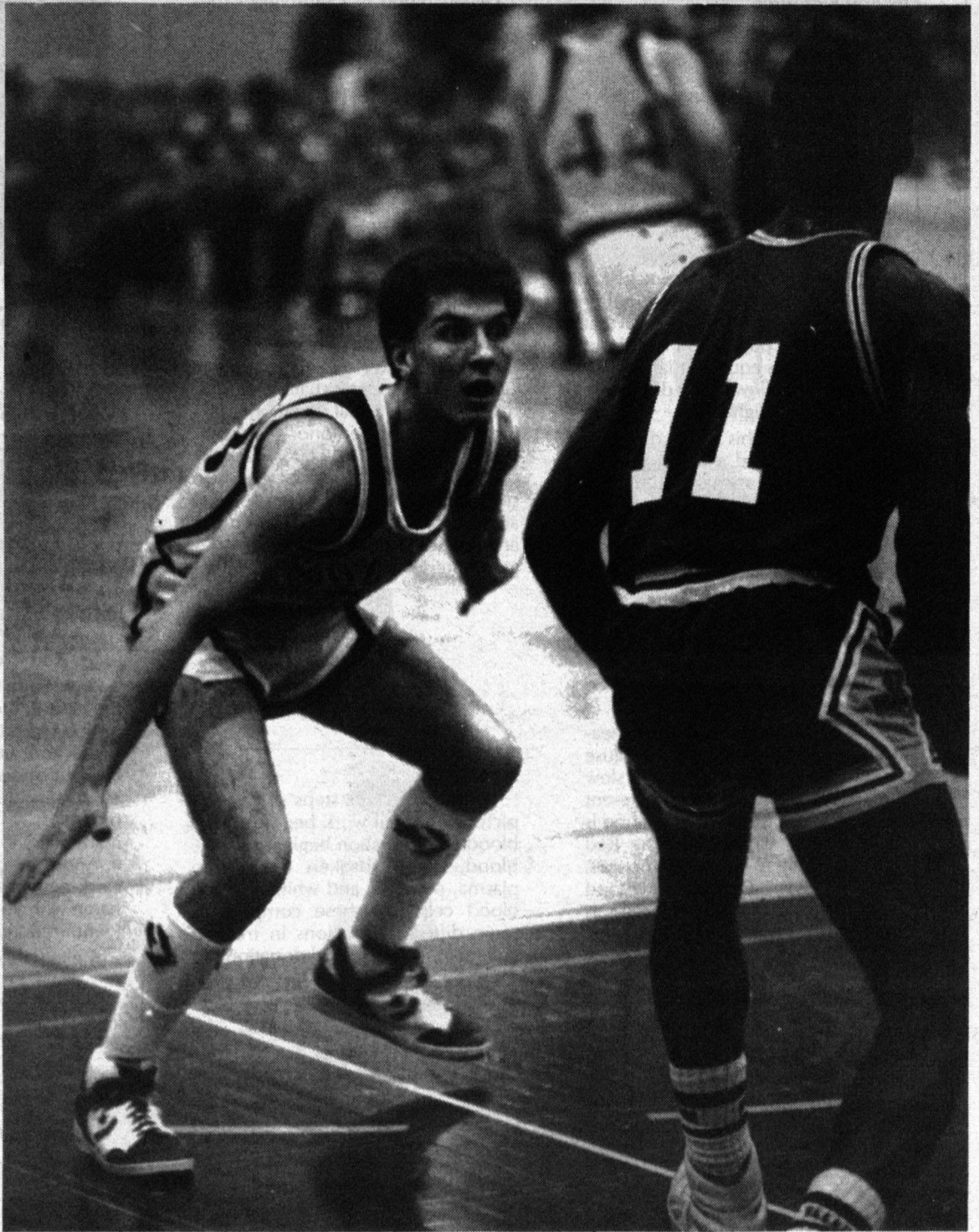
Only 22 players came to the Bears' tryout camp this year, 13 of which were invited by the powers-that-be, and the other nine coming in off the street to get warm. As it turns out, there were no pleasant surprises amongst the handful of walk-ons, and Horwood's hand-picked crop will stick with him for the rest of the winter.

Gone from last year's team are Mike Kornak, Dean Peters, and Mike Suderman (all three have used up their eligibility), Kevin Ottewell (to Grant MacEwan), Lorne Blatt (academic pursuits), and Ray Bergstra (a surprising no-show at tryouts). Among the returnees are fifth-year men Mark Baker, Chris Toutant, and Cliff Rowein, fourth-year post man Scott McIntyre, and third-year boys Sean Chursinoff, Ed Joseph, Sam Safadi, and David Youngs.

So many departures left Horwood with five holes to fill. That is a large number, but the ever-optimistic head coach feels he has found five top-notch prospects that will stay with his program, hopefully for five full years. Mike Frisby, a 6'4" swing forward from B.C., was the most valuable player in the high school AAAA provincial tournament with Henry Wisewood H.S. (Calgary). Ryan Smith is a guard from Ross Sheppard High in Edmonton. Brian Halsey is a 6'6" forward from Harry Ainlay Composite. Rounding out the new recruits are Bill Lavergne, a 6'8" post from Scona Comp, and Rick Stanley, a 6'9" post from St. Joseph's High School.

The four local boys have been targeted for the U of A basketball

HOOP — p.16



Returnee Dave Youngs keeps an eye on his Viking opponent

Bears to defend tourney crown

by Alan Small

The Bears hockey team is hosting the Molson Invitational this weekend at Varsity Arena. The Universities of Lethbridge, Calgary, and Saskatchewan will all try to knock the U of A from the three year reign they have over the event.

Saskatchewan, last year's CIAU

finalist, will be just as tough this year, as many of the veterans will be returning.

The Huskies' two top scorers from last year, Ken Morrison, and Adrian Sakundiak, are returning as well as their huge defencemen Wally Niewchach, Dave Butz, Reid Williams, Marty Hillis, and Ken Lov-

sin. The Huskies were 2-1 at the tournament last year, as their only loss came by the hands of the Golden Bears, 4-1. They ended up finishing fourth in Canada West play last year with a 16-11-1 record, but upset Manitoba and Calgary in the playoffs to become Canada West champions.

This will be the fifth time that Lethbridge will be attending the invitational. In all of the past years, they have been the doormats. This may change, however, as their program matures. Last year, they only lost to the Golden Bears 4-2, as they worked their way to a 6-22 record in Canada West play. The Pronghorns will still have the problem of scoring goals, since two of their best scorers, Gary Skoye, and Jim Orban will not be returning. They will however, have high scoring defenceman Jim Odland, the Gervais brothers, Gilles and Guy, and Mark Kabayama in their lineup as returnees.



The University of Calgary Dinosaur hockey club, perennial arch-rivals of the U of A, will also be attending but without the most prolific scorer in Canada West history. Paul Geddes, who set a new Canada West record for scoring, will be playing in Europe this winter. Last year, Calgary was formidable early in the season, and ended up leading Canada West league standings with a 23-5 record. The Dinos' were ranked Number one in the country last year for six weeks, from January 11 to February 23, but were kept out of the CIAU finals by losing to the Saskatchewan Huskies in the Canada West final. Western Ontario ended up getting the wild card birth into the nationals.



The Bears defend their Molson invitational title this weekend.