

Jeff Cowley

Mark Smith and the Bears fell to the Vikings last weekend.

Vikes end Bear season

by Alan Small

The Victoria Vikings ended the Golden Bear basketball season for the third year in a row. Victoria defeated the Bears in two games straight on the island by the scores of 83-71 and 90-81.

"They won the series, but I think we made them win it," said Bear head coach Don Horwood. "We pushed them to the wire in both games."

In the opening game of the best-of-three series, the Bears led by three points with five minutes remaining, but then the McKay gang struck again. Spencer, the 6'9" forward, sank a clutch jump-hook shot to move the Vikes within one point. Then Geoff, the 6'4" guard, sank a three pointer to put the Vikes ahead to stay.

The Bears didn't help themselves, as their offence was shut down late in the game by Victoria's matchup zone defence. The Bears turned the ball over five times in a row, before they could adjust, and when they did, it was too late. The Vikes sailed to a twelve point win.

The Bears were led by Ed Joseph, who scored 23 points, in what Horwood described as "his best game of the year." Sean Chursinoff also scored 29 points.

The story was the same on Saturday, as the game was tied at 70 late in the second half, but then the Vikes turned it on and rolled to a nine point win. This,

despite a brilliant performance from Brian Halsey, who scored 31 points on a night where everything he put up found a way to get in the basket.

"Hopefully he's going to mature and get out of the hot-cold

problem he's had," said Horwood, who's seen the sophomore forward throw bricks just as many times as he's seen Halsey throw swishes this season. "The really good shooter still shoots well when he's cold. When he's hot, he's brilliant."

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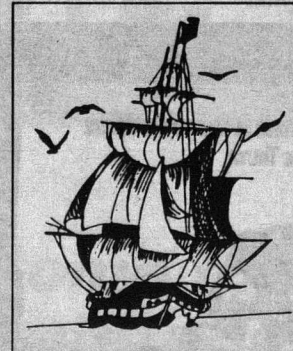
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