

Wrestlers down but far from out

by Walter Neilson

The U of A wrestling team headed to the coast this weekend for meets against UBC and Simon Fraser. A win against UBC was almost a foregone conclusion, but the Bears expected a tough fight against the Simon Fraser squad, which receives administrative support in the form of athletic scholarships.

When the smoke had cleared after Friday's action, the Bears were down but Simon Fraser was out.

After topping UBC in short order, the Alberta crew stepped right back on the mat for the confrontation with Simon Fraser. As expected, the west coast team was tough and with only the heavyweight match left, the two teams were tied with 24 points apiece.

That's when the action really started to liven up. With less than a minute to go in the match and the two big men deadlocked at 1-1, SF's heavy decided to butt Alberta's Bob Schmidt in the mouth, breaking his mouthpiece in three places. To the astonishment of all, the referee overruled the mat chairman's ruling of a caution against the Simon Fraser wrestler, and allowed the match to continue. This was just too much for Schmidt, who was bleeding profusely from the mouth, and he expressed his dissatisfaction by decking his opponent with one mighty open-handed swat. Naturally, Schmidt was disqualified, which

admonish Schmidt, however, when such flagrant abuse of the rules is allowed, with all of the advantage going to the home team.

On the brighter side of the ledger, the Bears gained wins from four of their wrestlers: Gordie Bertie at 118, Al Boychuk at 126, Michi Tanaka at 134, and Serge Gauthier at 158. Gauthier's win was against Jim Miller, who in the estimation of Bears' coach Bert Taylor is one of the best wrestlers in the country.

The Bears were a disgruntled crew Saturday as they headed south of the for another meet, this time against The University of Washington in Seattle. Washington, incidentally, was last rated as the number three team in the U.S., and have since knocked off number one rated University of Iowa. The Bears amply displayed that they, too, have no fear of highly rated opponents, as they won four of ten weight divisions in losing a close 27-21 decision to Washington. Winners for the Bears were again Boychuk and Tanaka, along with Ole Sorensen at 150 and Bob Schmidt in the heavyweights. Of note was the loss by Serge Gauthier, his first of the season. He was decisioned in a closely contested match by the West Coast champion.

So it was a weekend of both accomplishment and frustration for the Golden ones. The accomplishments were gratifying, and the frustrations should serve as great incentive as they train this week and next for the Canadian finals in Winnipeg on Feb. 18-19.

Bobcats, Bisons fall to Drake's Bruins

by Stu Layfield

Bears 8, Brandon 2
Bears 7, Manitoba 6

Thanks to some generous last-minute assistance from good old dame Fortune the hockey Golden Bears edged the Manitoba Bisons 7-6 on Saturday night. The come-from-behind victory, coupled with an 8-2 mauling of the Brandon Bobcats the night before, completed the Bears' second consecutive sweep of weekend series against W.C.I.A.A. Eastern Division foes and completed their regularly scheduled games on the road.

The fickle fingers of fate which favoured the Bears on Saturday evening were in fact the digests on a glove belonging to a Bison defender who attempted to stop a long, soft shot from just over the centre red-line by Bear captain Steve Carlyle. Instead of actually blocking the shot, the Manitoba defenceman only managed to change the puck's direction as it glanced off his outstretched glove, allowing it to slide past Bison goaltender Grant Clay who had been moving in the opposite direction to stop the original shot.

The winning marker came at the 18:47 mark of the third period in a wild and woolly contest marred by the incredibly cretinous officiating of referee Vern Ormshaw. Ormshaw somehow managed to call a total of 38 penalties without whistling down any of the Bison sticks which seemed to be spending more time on Bear helmets than on the ice surface. Ormshaw, who is considered so incompetent that he is not assigned any games in the Manitoba Junior or Senior leagues, the Western Canada Hockey League, or at Winnipeg Wesmen home games and so on, seems to be a favorite of the powers that be in the U. of M. athletic department. Some Bear fans may recall that it was Ormshaw's blatantly prejudiced officiating which literally handed last season's Manitoba-Alberta semi-final

series to the Bisons on a silver platter and drew verbal and written protestations from Bear coach Clare Drake.

The Bears jumped to a 3-1 first period lead on goals by Harvey Poon, Gerry Hornby, and Rick Wyrozub. But the Bisons struck back for two quick markers in the opening minutes of the middle stanza as the Bears found themselves playing two men short. However, Wyrozub and Bill Moores retaliated for the Bears before the end of the period to give the Green and Gold a 5-3 lead going into the final frame. But a combination of additional penalty trouble, some shoddy defensive play, and a determined effort by the Bisons enabled the Manitobans to score three straight goals to take the lead, 6-5, for the first time in the game. The lead was shortlived, though, as Poon tied things up with his second goal and the game appeared headed for overtime when Carlyle lofted his easy shot that surprised everyone by nestling comfortably in the corner of the Bison net.

Thus while the winning marker may have been tainted, there was little doubt that the Bears were the superior team on Saturday. The word seems to be out amongst rival coaches and players that the way to beat the small, but elusive Bear forwards is to physically intimidate them with continual jarring body checks. This in itself is fair enough but twice now this season, once in Calgary and last Saturday in Winnipeg, referees

have permitted this tactic to reach such absurd levels that the normally mild-mannered coach Drake becomes visibly distressed by the incidence of high sticking, elbowing and charging that makes a mockery of the game.

Friday night's encounter in Brandon belonged almost entirely to the newly-formed line of Randy Clark, Clarence Wanchulak, and Jerry LeGrandeur. Playing their first game together is a unit, the trio accounted for five goals and eleven points and were on the ice for six of the eight Bear goals. Wanchulak enjoyed his most productive game in a Bear uniform scoring a goal and assisting on four others, while wingers Clark and LeGrandeur each counted a pair of goals and an assist. Other Bear goals were scored by defenceman Bryon Baltimore and wingers Hornby and Dave White.

The twin victories enabled the Bears to maintain their share of first-place in the W.C.I.A.A. Western Division standings with U.B.C. Playing at home on the weekend, the Thunderbirds disposed of the Saskatchewan Huskies 8-2 and the Winnipeg Wesmen 5-0. Both the Bears and the T'Birds now have identical 14-2 records. This sets the stage for the most important series of the year thus far when the Bears host the T'Birds on Friday and Saturday nights at Varsity Arena. There shouldn't be an empty seat in the house as the two clubs battle for first place, home rink in the playoffs, and the Humber Cup.

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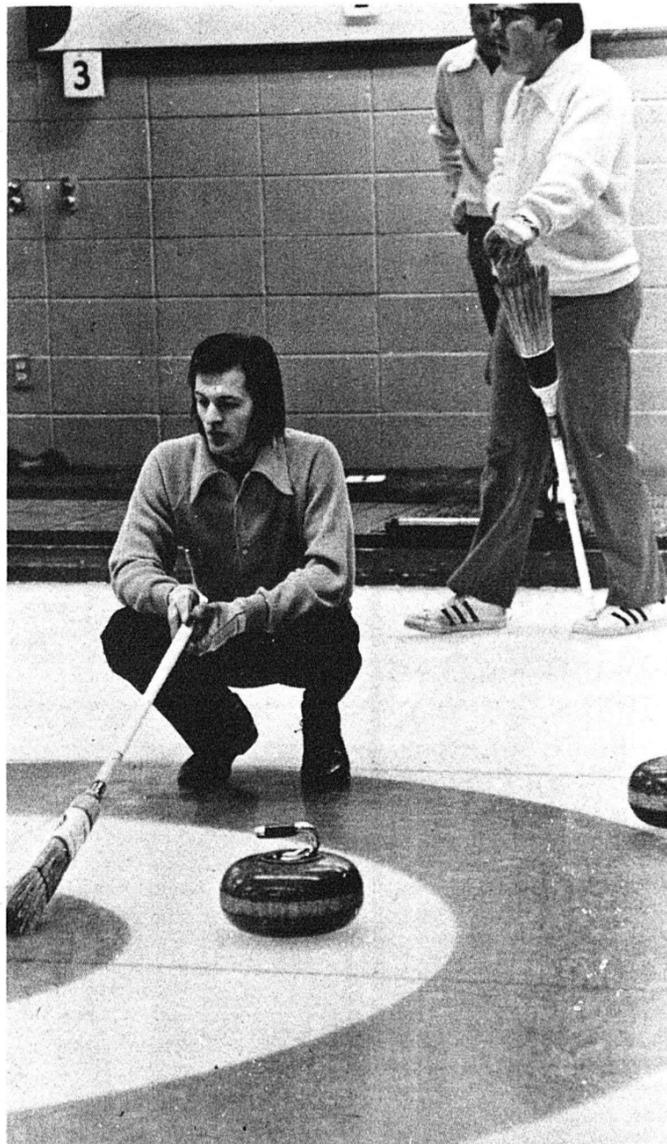
Mislaid plans

LETHBRIDGE- All did not go according to plan at the Lethbridge Invitational Judo Tournament held here on the weekend. At least, not for the Golden Bears.

Only one Bear, Casey Van Kooten, managed a title, that in the heavyweight black belt division. Van Kooten edged Bear coach Ron Powell in a close decision. In other black belt action, T. Gibo of Vauxhall tossed Frank Van Ginhoven of the Bears in the middleweight class for the win, while in the lightweight class Greg Senda of the University of Lethbridge edged Alberta's Guy Sunada.

Next action for Powell's squad is the WCIAA championships at the University of Winnipeg Feb. 19. In that competition the Bears will send Chris Pierce and Russ Powell to fight in the featherweight division, Steve Tan and Van Ginhoven in the lightweight class, and Peter Bo-Lassen and Richard Seibel in the middleweight section. Van Kooten along with Mike Brousseau will carry Bear colors in the light heavyweight division, while George Murphy and Al Schaeffer will represent the Bears in the heavyweight class.

Bears have been WCIAA champs for the last six years.



A STUDY IN CONCENTRATION—skip Ken Hunka (squatting) sizes up the next shot in the Golden Bear curling playdowns held on the weekend. Hunka's opposition in the final was Bill McCallum (in sneakers), and when all the rocks had been thrown McCallum emerged with a 7-6 win and a trip to Victoria. (See column, page 10).