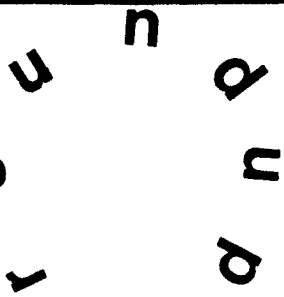


# SPORT



# Bears host Birds in show-down for league lead.

by Stu Layfield

With the possible exception of the November visit of the US National Team and a superb goaltending performance in a losing cause by the Manitoba Bison's Grant Clay, local hockey fans have had little to get excited about at Golden Bear home games so far this season. For the Bears have handled the likes of the Calgary Dinos, Saskatchewan Huskies, and others in rather routine fashion at Varsity Arena. None of the games could be described as a fan's delight.

Fortunately for the multitudes who appreciate good, fast hockey action this situation should remedy itself this Friday and Saturday nights when the high-flying UBC Thunderbirds arrive for their much-awaited, all-important weekend series with the Bears. Both teams share first place in the W.C.I.A.A. Western Division with 14-2 records in league play and currently rank as co-favorites to represent the conference in the C.I.A.U. championships in the spring. Game times Friday and Saturday evenings at Varsity Arena is 8:00 p.m.

With the Golden Bears, Thunderbirds, and Calgary Dinos obviously the class of the eight-team WCIAA league and the Bears and T'Birds engaging in a neck-and-neck battle for first place all season, it has long been apparent that which ever of the two front-runners that could take three of their four games from both the Dinnies and the other league-leader, while at the same time avoiding upsets at the hands of any of the additional five teams, would probably finish in top spot. Naturally the easiest way to win those three out of four is to sweep both games at home and split in the opposition's arena.

Thus far the Bears have fared better than the T'Birds in this respect since the Green and Gold were able to earn a 5-3 victory in the first game of their weekend series in Vancouver before losing the second contest to the fired-up T'Birds by a 7-4 margin. That's a win on the road for the Bears and a loss at home for the T'Birds. In addition to their loss to each other, both the Bears and the T'Birds have dropped a game to the Dinnies. Only once again the Bears have the edge here, since they lost to the Dinnies in Calgary, while the T'Birds were defeated at home. The Bears won both their games at Varsity Arena against the Calgarians on the first weekend of the regular schedule to capture the necessary three of four from the Dinnies. But the Thunderbirds have not yet played the Dinos in the Cowtown; that they will do next weekend while the Bears are hosting the winless University of Victoria Vikings in the last weekend of regularly scheduled action.

What all this means, in case the reader has not yet figured it out, is that the schedule seems to favor the Golden Bears. If

Alberta does gain their three victories out of four games against UBC defeating the Thunderbirds on Friday and Saturday nights, then the Bears are virtually assured of first place since they aren't likely to lose to the hapless Vikings next weekend. If both clubs manage a victory a piece then the Thunderbirds still must win both games in Calgary to finish with the same record as the Bears, again assuming the Bears will

sweep the Vikings. Only if by some strange circumstance the Thunderbirds should attain their three out of four versus the Bears the hard way by winning both weekend games at Varsity Arena, are the Bear's backs against the wall. Then the Dinnies would have to win both encounters in Calgary over the T'Birds while the Bears clobbered the Vikings to enable the Bears to back into first place.

However, this latter situation isn't very likely to develop. Since Coach Drake and his skaters are hardly the type to allow the schedule and the hated Dinos to be the determining influence. And if the opportunity to virtually clinch first place at Varsity arena this weekend doesn't supply Coach Drake with sufficient motivational vitamins for Golden Ones, he can always feed them stimulating reminders that it was the same Thunderbirds who defeated them in the championship game of the Hockey Canada Invitational Tournament during the Christmas holidays. This gives the T'Birds a two victory-to-one edge in games between the two teams this season. But it's most unlikely that Carlyle, Couves, and their teammates will need any reminding.

Furthermore, there's the matter of the Eric W. Hamber Trophy, which for the past 22 seasons has been the symbol of hockey supremacy between the Golden Bears and the Thunderbirds. First awarded in the 1949-50 season and presented annually ever since, the Hamber Trophy has been captured 17 times by the Bears and only four times by the T'Birds. But two of those Thunderbird triumphs have come in the past two seasons. And they currently lead this season as well. Awarded to the team which scores the most goals against the other in regular league games between the two schools, the T'Birds hold a 10-9 edge after the two games in Vancouver.

Like the Bears, the Thunderbirds are a swift-skating, high-scoring club. They're led by captain Bob MacAneeley, last season's record-setting scorer, and current league-leading point-getter, and veteran winger Rich Longpre, the most valuable player in the Hockey Canada Tournament in Vancouver. MacAneeley is a former Edmonton Oil King standout, as is T'Bird goaltender Ian Wilkie, a former U of A student now taking law at UBC. Former Regina Past and Saskatoon Blade scoring star Laurie Yaworski and Calgary Centennial defenceman Arnie Pederson are other Western Canada Hockey League graduates who are playing for the Thunderbirds.

In addition to the importance of the games to the two teams in their struggle for first place in the Western Division and home ice in the playoffs, a number of interesting individual battles should also be taking place. Thunderbird netminder Wilkie and Golden Bear netminder Barry Richardson are both vying for the back-up goaltender's position on the Student National Team which will represent Canada in the World Student games at Lake Placid, New York in late March. MacAneeley and Bear center Dave Couves are also prime candidates for the team,



## ACTIVITIES

Last Wednesday evening the finals in the Co-recreational Contract Bridge Tournament were held. Wendy and Gar Rothwell hung on to capture the title by edging Maureen and Elmer Strumecki. On Sunday Emily Melynychuk and Mike Palynchuk put it all together to take top honours in Co-rec Bowling. They had a three game total of 1137. Heidi and Ross Barton came in second with 1058.

In Men's Bowling, Ed Hoyes of Engineering and G. Jealicki of Lower Res shared top individual honours with a three game total of 736. The high single of 308 was bowled by P. Wellesman of Commerce. Law captured the over-all championship and Dentistry came second.

3 on 3 Basketball came to a close on Monday and the Arts and Science team of Eric Grimsrud, Geroge Blakeney, and Paul Hugstead emerged as winners in 'A' event. They narrowly defeated Roy Boettger, Jim Henshall, and Harry Campbell of Law.

Ken Wong and Bob Chen of Medicine captured the Badminton Doubles title on Tuesday night. They upset S. Lee and H. Teh of Lower Res in the finals. The singles is still in progress and a winner will be declared Tuesday, Feb. 15.

The finals in Field Hockey were to be held on Tuesday evenings, but a conflict arose at the Kinsmen Fieldhouse. They will be rescheduled in the near future. Law is waiting to play either Kappa Sigma or Geology in the final. Volleyball started Tuesday evening and it is once again time to make some riske predictions. P.E. 'A' led by the "Pony Soldier" will be pressured by Chinese 'A' and Law 'A' for the Division I title. In Division II Law 'B' appears to be the power and 3rd Mac looks the best in Division III.

The results of basketball, cross-country skiing, wrestling, and bowling have been added to the unit standings. Law is starting to increase their lead over Dentistry in 'A' Conference. Law has 1873.5, Dentistry has 1538.3, and Arts and Science has 1444.5. Things are a little bit more crowded in 'B' Conference. St. John's is on top at present with 814.5, but L.D.S. is close behind with 791.5.

The deadline for games in squash, racquetball, and handball has been extended to Thursday, February 17. A single elimination playoff for those on level one will follow.

The deadline for the final events of the year, slalom skiing, table tennis, and snooker, is Tuesday, February 15 at 1:00 p.m. Skiing will be held at Lake Eden on Saturday, February 19. Table tennis will be held in the Education Gym on Sunday, February 20, and snooker will be held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, February 21, 22, and 23 at SUB.

Our 'Athlete of the Week' is G. Jedlicki of Lower Res. George is advancing to the finals in Singles Badminton and as we mentioned earlier, he shared first place in Bowling last weekend.

## Track team off to WCIAA finals

The University of Alberta Golden Bears and Pandas track teams are busy preparing for the Western Canada Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships, which will be held in Saskatoon Saturday.

Alberta lost a dual meet against the University of Saskatchewan last weekend but recorded some excellent individual times according to coach Brian McC Calder. The Pandas defeated the Huskie-ettes by 13 points, but the Huskies dumped the Bears by 16 to take the meet.

Alberta expects to send at least 30 athletes to the WCIAA finals. John Brown in the 1500 metres; Dennis Campbell and Dale Knutson in the 800 metres; Romain Gutter in the 40 metre dash; Marvin Pollock, Don Kraemer and Fred Gutoski in the pole vault. Norma Ferguson in the 40 metre hurdles; and Liz Vanderstam and Brenda Walsh in the 300 metres are given excellent chances of winning events.

University of British Columbia is favored to win the conference title.

## Synch finals in Winnipeg

The Pandas synchronised swim team travels to Winnipeg Saturday for the WCIAA finals.

Pandas are defending Western champions and are favored to repeat the trick this year. Pandas have a veteran team including solo champ Linda Mekus.

The Universities of Calgary, Saskatchewan (Regina and Saskatoon), and Manitoba will also be competing.

## Bearcats host meet

The junior Golden Grapplers are hosts for an invitational meet Friday and Saturday.

Competition is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Friday in the Main Gym with semifinals and finals going at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday.

The meet will be the largest held on campus this year, with 13 teams competing including the host Bearcats. The Bearcats, along with NAIT and Vermillion Agricultural College, are favored in the tournament. Matches will be held in ten weight divisions.

## Gymnasts tackle UBC

The Panda gymnasts are also on the road this weekend, as they travel to Vancouver for a dual meet with the University of British Columbia.

UBC has been the national gymnastics champions for the past two years but lost to Alberta earlier this year. The Pandas are undefeated in competition thus far. "Our biggest competition in the Western finals will come from UBC," said coach Sandra Hartley, a former UBC team member.

The WCIAA finals will be held in Calgary Feb. 18-9.

## Alberta foils everyone

WINNIPEG--Last weekend the University of Alberta fencing team added yet another batch of medals to their growing collection.

After enduring a twenty-one hour bus trip (fencing is considered a minor sport, and, consequently, survive on a minor, almost non-existent budget) the Alberta crew still managed to dominate the annual Winnipeg Invitational Fencing Tournament, which attracted teams from the University of Saskatchewan, University of Winnipeg, the University of Minnesota, and the aforementioned Alberta squad.

The women's team of Wanda Wetterberg, Helen Sachs and Nina Shiels captured the women's foil team title for Alberta, while the Golden Bear men's teams managed to place second and third in the team foil competition. The men's epee team of Tom Freeland, Ken Dye and Eugene Heinemann were second in the team competition. Only the men's sabre team of Dye, Alex Pozniak and Helmut Mach failed to finish in the top three for Alberta.

On the individual side of things, Wetterberg won the women's foil title with Shiels third, and Heinemann put on quite a one man show capturing both the individual foil and epee titles.

In all, Fran Wetterberg's fencers captured 16 of 48 medals and captured the Grand Aggregate Points Title.

Next action, and likely another herd of medals, will come for the Alberta fencers Feb. 25-6 at the WCIAA finals in Saskatoon.