

Bears practice is underway daily as they work towards their first exhibition game on Oct. 17. photo Rob Schmidt

# Suderman returns to maturing lineup

by Danny Schnick

The maturing of the Bear's core players and the return of veteran forward Mike Suderman will give this year's hoop team a good shot at knocking off some of the best teams in the country, says coach Don Horwood.

"We played very well against some of the best teams in the country last year and I don't see why we can't continue to play well."

The Bears are presently in camp preparing for their season opener against the Alberta Alumni on Oct. 17.

After cutting the 28-man camp in half in only three days, Horwood hopes to "red-shirt" one or two players to get his active roster down to twelve. To "red shirt" is essentially to hold a player from playing for a year to fill the gap of a veteran who has used up his eligibility in the next year.

Surviving the flurry of cuts were three rookies: Ray Bergstra, a 6'6" forward from McMaster; Kevin Ottewell, a utility player from Victoria; and Edmonton's own Lorne Blatt, a 6'4" forward from Harry Ainley.

Although it seems that Horwood has a heavy axe when it comes to cuts, he does have a greater purpose. In order to avoid a wholesale re-building year he adds only three or four rookies to his roster each year.

"There were some good young players in camp but there were only a few openings. This is a

difficult line-up to crack," stated Horwood.

"Of course the key for us this year is the health of Mike Suderman. He gives us a better shot at beating the best teams. He's the player that could make the difference."

"Another advantage is that all our other guys are a year older. Players like Scott McIntyre, Mark Baker and Sean Chursinoff have really improved over the summer."

Although the Bear's veteran Gerry Couzens is now ineligible, Horwood feels that strong veterans like Mike Kornak and Dean Peters can fill the leadership gap. Besides, Couzens is still contributing his inspirational input as an assistant coach.

The first real test for the new Bears?

"Our first road trip will give us a good indication where we stand this year. We play Brandon, Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba, all teams that rank very high nationally," says Horwood.

### Free Shots

Fortunately the Bears are practising in the Main Gym as the Pavillion still smells like the bottom of a brewery vat, courtesy of **Bear Country**... **Mark Smith**, a second year player, will likely be red-shirted because of knee problems. The team will make their annual preseason journey south of the border in early November, stopping for games against **Pepperdine University, Cal. State Fullerton, and Nevada Reno.**

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that I could play some forward this year. But it doesn't really matter as long as I play somewhere."

In practice the coaches have him alongside Clark, himself a sturdy 6'1", 190 lbs.

"After losing those guys it's a nice surprise to get two seasoned veterans all of a sudden," said Curtis Brandolini. A former Portland Winterhawk, Brandolini played against Clark when the latter was with Kamloops in the WHL. "Clark is an excellent defenseman. We had quite a rivalry going with Kamloops and I can remember him well," said Brandolini, this reporter's vote for team captain, replacing the departed Ron Vertz.

Along with Steve Cousins and Howie Draper, that leaves four spots open, for the mean time.

There are still 18 forwards in camp, ten of them returning veterans. With Proft able to move up, chances are that Drake will keep eight pointmen and thirteen forwards.

**Bear Pause** — The rest of the draw for this weekend goes like this: Calgary/Lethbridge at 4:15 Friday, Calgary/Saskatchewan at 4:15 Saturday, and Saskatchewan/Lethbridge at 11:00 a.m. Sunday... A daily pass for students is \$3.00, for non-students it's \$5.00.

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**Wednesday, Oct. 15** marks the day that registration will be cancelled for those who have not paid at least their first term fees.

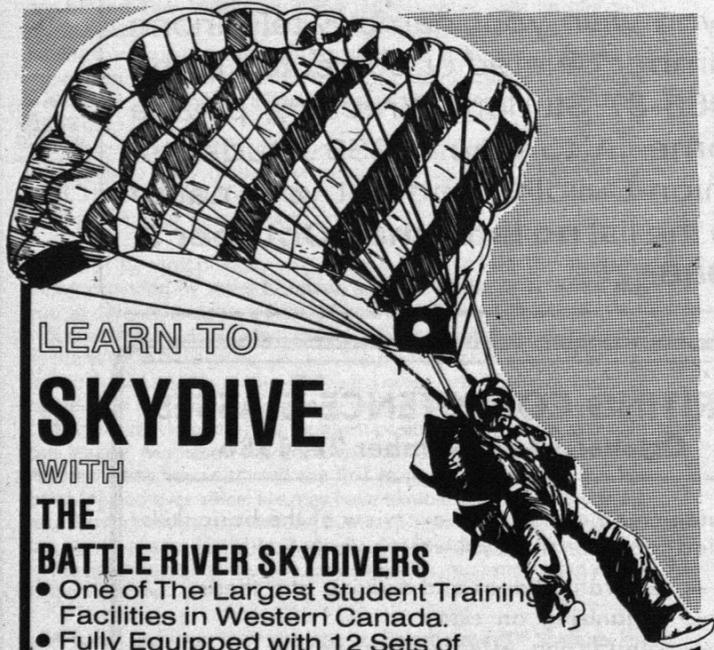
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