

Bears are national champs

by Karl Wilberg

Young teams often have difficulty in play-offs. Inexperience is often an excuse for a deterioration in play. However, the Bears soccer team will not need that excuse because they beat the top ranked teams in Canada. The Bears proved that a young team is not only prone to sinking for a big game, but are as liable to rise to the match.

Coach Peter Esdale, named coach of the year Sunday, stated after the first playoff game that the Bears had not peaked. However, last Thursday's match against Laurentian and Sunday's game with St. Mary's proved the Bears had peaked, and at the time time, too.

Those last two games, the semi-finals and Sunday's national championship match were the best the Bears had played this season. The Bear's attack was sharp and a sometimes weak midfield became unbeatable. Unfortunately for the Laurentian Voyageurs and the St. Mary's Huskies, it became apparent the Bears had a balance the opposing squads lacked.

Thursday's game, played in a chilly Clarke stadium, showed a changed Bear midfield. Loose balls and air balls often lost in previous games were being won and sent to the flanks. From the flanks forwards would send crossing balls to the center. Still, against Laurentian, the improved midfield was not enough to decide the game until overtime began.

The Bears defense successfully covered the Voyageur's top scorers, Oscar Albuquerque and Lou Nagy. Rob Mosele shadowed Albuquerque and prevented the speedy forward from carrying an attack.

The Bear's offense was

unable to score until they outlasted the Voyageurs in overtime. However, there was really nothing wrong with the U of A offense in regulation time. The Bears pressured well in the second half and used the flanks well. On the other hand, crossing balls were inaccurate and plays developed a little slowly. In addition, Laurentian's keeper, Carlo Greco, made important saves.

Finally, late in the first 15 minutes of overtime the Bear's attack took advantage of the Voyageur's growing fatigue and Rudy Bartholemew kicked a rebound past a surprised Greco. The Bears had been pressuring all night, but only in overtime did the Laurentian team tire. The second 15 minute overtime half ended with the Voyageur's disintegration and a Claudio Perusco goal as well as a header scored by Franco Bruni.

The highly respected Laurentian team stood up poorly to the 3-0 loss. Their coach Greg Zorba later blamed the weather but it was apparent the Bears had risen to the challenge where as the Laurentian squad sank into bickering infighting.

After the stunning demise of the Voyageurs, the Sunday game against a slower St. Mary's Huskies was anti-climactic in the quality of opposition. However, the Bear's game had never been as tight and as balanced. They were explosive and from the start dominated St. Mary's. Right away the Bears midfield proceeded to win air balls and send them down the flanks. This type of game had been practised all year and emphasised running and conditioning. Consequently, the Bears had a real advantage on the wide pitch at Clarke stadium.

The Bears offense was obviously at a peak. Rudy Bartholemew and Ase Ayobahan played their best



Bear's Brian Wilson (on right) kept close watch on sporadic St. Mary's attack.

photo Russ Sampson

games since the season's start. Phil Webb strengthened the flank and Lorenzo Antonello played his usual aggressive game. The Bears used Webb and Bartholemew to exploit St. Mary's weak right flank.

The Huskies seldom carried the attack in the first half. Their midfield was out-muscled and their attack remained undeveloped because the U of A maintained a close man-to-man defense. Also, one of St. Mary's leading forwards, Ross Webb, was shadowed by Marc Olivieri and prevented from loosing a good shot at goalkeeper Bill Akam.

The half saw chances develop because the Bears were

using long balls down the flanks and precise crosses in front of the Husky keeper. However, good saves by keeper Mark Clark and wide kicks by the U of A preserved the 0-0 score until the next half.

In the second half the Bears continued pressure and finally, after 15 minutes of play, Ase Ayobahan blasted the ball into the net's top left corner. The scoring play had been set up by Bartholemew after a Bear's corner kick.

In response, the Huskies tried to attack, but the Bear defense was close. Akam made good saves and Kent Fargey used his height to break up attacks.

St. Mary's midfield tightened up in the last 15 minutes and eventually the Huskies were able to sustain an attack. Still, Ayobahan took a rush downfield, and near the crease, passed to Bartholemew. Bartholemew picked up the pass and booted it past Clark.

In spite of the 2-0 score the Huskies returned the attack and forced the Bears to rely on the defense. Consequently, the game's last minutes became a defensive match. Time ran out for St. Mary's and the Bears emerged as national champions.

Coach Esdale and assistant Bob Halpern credited "the kids" and Esdale said they "realised they had to come through today." Esdale mentioned the accurate passing in the game was a necessity for a championship match. More interestingly though, Esdale believed his team had peaked.

The Bears have two All-Canadians, Mark Olivieri and Lorenzo Antonello, but the entire team was responsible for the victories. The Bears have potential and used it well. Their youth is not a disadvantage because the Bears now still have no where to go but up.

Play it again Pandas

by Dora Johnson

On the November 2 and 3 weekend the Bears and Pandas basketball teams travelled to Manitoba for exhibition games against the universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba. The Bears came up zero and two as they lost to Winnipeg and again to Manitoba.

The Pandas chalked up two wins, beating Winnipeg 52-44 and trouncing Manitoba 95-59. A big factor in both wins was the Panda's ability to cause turnovers that proved costly for the opposing teams.

This past weekend the Pandas travelled to Calgary for their first league games. The Dinnies had met the Pandas in the Panda pre-season tournament with the Pandas coming out on top 51-50. The two games played this weekend again ended in 51-50 scores.

On Friday the Pandas began slowly, but picked up in the second half. Forward Sarah Van Tighem stated "we probably would have beat them by more than one point if we would have played hard for the whole game."

The Pandas switched from a man-to-man defense to a 1-2-2 zone defense early in the game. This almost stopped the Dinnie's offense completely.

The zone defense was not

quite as effective on Saturday night however as the Dinnies began shooting. The Panda zone seemed slow. Trix Kannekans explained: "we had to be more conscious of the key as Calgary flashed more players into the middle."

The Pandas switched back to a man-to-man defense in the second half's latter part and

slowed down the Calgary scoring rush. Consequently, the Dinnies ran out of time and came up short 51-50.

Big shooters for the Pandas on the weekend were Trix Kannekans with 39 points and Jan Bosscha with 20. Janet Pashevich led the Dinnies with 36 points.

Bears are blocked

The Bears volleyball team has started its season well. However, the Calgary Volleyball Club defeated the Bears in the final round of the Calgary meet held this weekend.

Coach Hugh Hoyles said the team won its pool Saturday, beating the Calgary Volleyball Club second team, Drumheller, Medicine Hat college, Mount Royal and the U of Lethbridge. The Bears went on to play the U of C Dinosaurs and, according to Hoyles, "handled them well."

However, the Bears came up flat for the Sunday 1:30 match with CVC. Hoyles mentions the pressures involved with playing many games to explain for the Bear's loss. Hoyles says "getting up for all those matches (Saturday)" resulted in the team losing their "mental edge" Sun-

day.

In addition, Hoyles states the CVC have "good setting and forced the Bears to use a slower "high outside game" rather than a quick attack they have been practising. Consequently, the Bears were defeated 15-10 and 15-6.

In any case the Bears beat the CIAU teams and are expected to rate well in the West conference. Another level they compete in are Alberta open tournaments. Hoyles seems as eager to win that championship as the (CIAU) West conference.

Still, the season is new and the Bears should do well. It is clear Alberta will not be an easy win and the results will as Hoyles says, "be interesting".

Once more: Olys vs. Bears

by Nets Impey

Sunday evening a combined squad of Golden Bears and Saskatchewan Huskies travelled to Camrose to play an exhibition game against the Canadian Olympic hockey team.

Before a packed house of close to 1200 fans, the Olympics skated to a 5-2 victory.

The Olympics outskated and outplayed the Bears for most of the game but hard work and good goaltending by Brad Hall and Doug Senyk kept the game close throughout.

The Olympics, with former Golden Bears John Devaney, Randy Gregg, Dave Hindmarch, and Don Spring, played a solid skating and passing game enroute to the victory. They got goals from Devaney, Glenn Anderson, Warren Anderson, Tim Watters and Doug Buchanan.

For the Bears, Ray Hudson and Ace Brimacombe were the marksmen. The prettiest goal of the game was scored by rookie Brimacombe. He gathered in a Michel Broadfoot pass and split the defence with a burst of speed before beating former Canada West all-star goaltender Ron Paterson cleanly with a good wrist shot to the glove side.

The rematch will be played this Sunday in Varsity Rink. The Bears will combine with the Calgary Dinosaurs in the contest. For the Olympic team it will be their only Edmonton appearance before heading to Lake Placid in February.

Anyone who wants to see fast-paced, exciting hockey should be on hand Sunday evening at 7:30 in Varsity Rink. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.