

Taylor leads Vikings to sweep

by Alan Small
Vikings 82 Bears 77
Vikings 110 Bears 81

The Bears basketball team saw the end of the road after Friday night's game with the Victoria Vikings in the Canada West semi-final.

An outstanding effort by Viking guard Graham Taylor nailed down the first game for the hometown Vikes and took the win out the Bear sails for Saturday's game, that the Vikes dominated.

Taylor scored 26 points Friday night in a game that had no team on top by more than one or two

points, at least until the Bears were called for an over-and-back foul, giving the Vikings the chance to break the Bears' backs. They did.

"It was a great, great ball game," Bear head coach Don Horwood said. "Not only did Taylor make 26 points but he is such a good passer as well. He had six or eight assists.

"He mesmerized our players," said Horwood.

Taylor was the difference in the game. At the beginning of the year, he was the third guard behind Vito Pasquale and Geoff McKay, but his performance on Friday night was

probably his best all year.

"If he has a normal game," Horwood said, "we would have won it."

The Bears goal was to win the first game, because, as history showed, it would be a very difficult task to take two games in a row from the Vikings, CIAU's third-ranked team, especially in their own gym.

"We really thought we were going to win that game," Horwood said. "We couldn't win Friday and win Saturday and Sunday. A win on Friday would have made it a totally

different situation."

The second game seemed a formality after the tough loss for the Bears, as the Vikings came out like gangbusters early in the game had a thirty point lead going into the locker room at halftime.

Horwood then assembled the troops for one last ditch attempt at the win, which would have extended the series to a third and deciding game. They broke out the full court press and had whittled the Viking lead down to ten points with five minutes left.



"I told them 'Let's take a run at these guys,'" Horwood said.

Lightning, in the form of Graham Taylor, struck again as he then went down the court and sank a three-pointer that also sunk the playoff hopes of the Golden Bears.

"Taylor came down and shot from the NBA three-point line and hit nothing but twine," Horwood said. "It really burst our bubble."

After that the Vikings started to run away with the score, ending the game with the 29 point victory. Victoria stays at home for the

Canada West basketball finals as they take on the fourth-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies, who upset the UBC Thunderbirds, two games straight in Vancouver's War Memorial Gym. The winner will be going to Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the CIAU Championships, while the loser will have to chew on its nails and wait to see if they'll make it as a wild card.

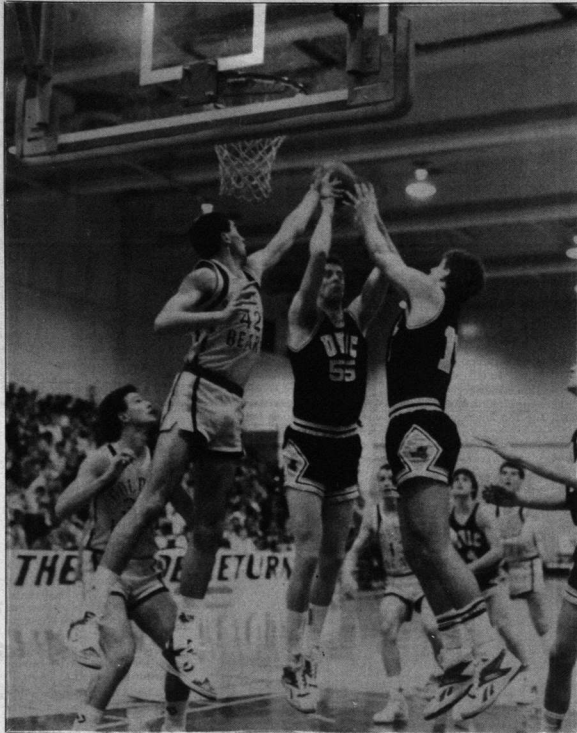
The series should prove to be a hot one, as Huskie center Byron Tokarchuk is fresh off a 77-point weekend against the T-Birds. In the final game, which the Huskies won 104-101, he scored a phenomenal 49 points and 16 rebounds to lead the Huskies. He didn't have a shabby first game either, as he scored 28 points and eight rebounds in a 92-90 Dog win. He was awarded with the CIAU player-of-the-week for his efforts.

It would seem logical that as Tokarchuk goes, so go the Huskies.

Horwood also believes that Tokarchuk will be the key to the Canada West final.

"Saskatchewan should have a better shot than we did," Horwood said. "They match up better size-wise."

"If Cord Clemens and Spencer McKay do a job preventing Tokarchuk, Victoria should win. The Huskies will win if he is the dominant player."



Bear Rick Stanley fights for a rebound with Viking Cord Clemens (55).

Photo Paul Menzies

SU GENERAL ELECTION ATTENTION!

No Nominations were received for the following positions:

- President Athletics
- VP Men's Athletics
- "NO" Side for the Referendum

Nominations are now open until
1700 HRS
on FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Forms are available from the Receptionist
 in Rm. 259 SUB

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