

Bears Were Top West Representatives

By Alex Hardy

HALIFAX—The national basketball championship hopes of University of Alberta Golden Bears were officially pronounced dead at the weekend.

But at the same time, Golden Bears played a large part in the birth of a successful Canadian championship in the cage sport.

They gave the West top-notch representation in a tournament dominated by two Eastern teams

a fast-breaking offense and stifling press to build up a 20-point lead by the final buzzer.

The coach was far from disenchanted, however.

"We proved we could stay with them. If we hadn't lost two players on fouls, we could have made things awfully close. As it was, we ran out of gas."

"Whenever I turned around it seemed I had a fresh man to check who was as good as the man he replaced," was how guard Darwin Semotiuk summed up Windsor's amazing depth.

"Still, I'm positive we could take them at home," Semotiuk added.

was as close as they could get, as Carleton froze the ball in the final minute.

The championship final was a see-saw affair, with never more than six points separating the two clubs.

Windsor trailed most of the opening half, but left the court leading 38-35. At one point in the fourth quarter Lancers threatened to bust

the game open, but Acadia rebounded with three straight baskets.

The Axemen forced overtime when guard Peter Pike dribbled through the entire Windsor team to sink a layup in the final minute of regulation time.

Windsor couldn't stop Steve Konchalski, a superb jump-shooting forward from Elmhurst, N.Y. Kon-

chalski piled up 27 points in the final. In Acadia's opening game he clicked for 41 markers to break the tournament individual scoring record by nine points. The performance earned him the most valuable player award.

Acadia jumped ahead in the overtime frame, then played a ball control game to force Windsor into several costly fouls.

Americans Dominate

HALIFAX (Staff) — University of Alberta Golden Bears entered last weekend's Canadian college basketball championships with two strikes already against them.

Golden Bears offer no athletic scholarships and, consequently, fielded a team at Halifax that consisted solely of Canadian boys.

Contrast this with the situation at the universities of Windsor and Acadia. Windsor boasted 10 United States players in its lineup, while Acadia had seven. Both offer benefits to Yankee athletes to lure them north.

Small wonder, then, that Windsor and Acadia met in the title game. Alberta and Carleton U of Ottawa, neither of which has any Americans, were relegated to the consolation final.

For all their recruiting, Windsor and Acadia weren't far superior to Alberta and Carleton.

Bruin coach Jim Munro summed the situation up best.

A reporter asked him how many Americans he had on his team. Munro shook his head and replied: "What? And here I thought this was the Canadian championship."

Judo Meet Saturday

U of A judo club is sponsoring an invitational tournament in the west gym Saturday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Registration is at 6 p.m. on the same date.

Clubs from Saskatchewan and Alberta will compete. Spectators are welcome.

Muscle Injury Hits Bear Star Hennessy

HALIFAX (Staff) — Some days you can't win for losing.

That oldie about summed up the feelings of Alberta's Golden Bears last weekend, as they attempted to shrug off the shock of losing starry forward John Hennessy for the Canadian college basketball championships.

Hennessy, a 20-year-old who was playing in his third season with the Golden Ones, was hurt on the eve of the team's first game in the national finals. He suffered a pulled hamstring muscle in his leg, and couldn't walk without a limp.

"It wasn't much of a climax after three years of hoping to get into

the championships," the dark-haired arts student mused.

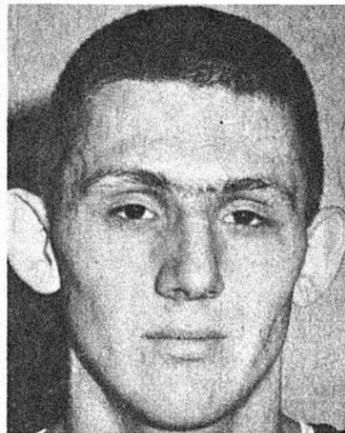
Bruin coach Jim Munro agreed.

"It was a bitter blow to our title hopes," he said. "The players pinned John with the nickname 'Excess Luggage,' but it was all in jest. Seriously, we all missed him out there."

Hennessy expressed a desire to play, but the coach would have nothing of it.

"He's too valuable to risk permanently damaging his leg," Munro said.

Hennessy received heat treatment at a Halifax hospital during the weekend and noted a slight improvement in his leg when the team returned home Sunday.



NESTOR KORCHINSKY



DARWIN SEMOTIUK

who recruit American stars. Golden Bears do no such recruiting.

This year's four-team championships were the closest in the three-year history of the tournament, and removed all doubt as to the West's ability to compete with the high-powered East.

"This tournament showed that no part of Canada plays a far superior brand of ball than the other areas," said tourney director Gus McFarlane of Mount Allison University.

Golden Bears lost both their games, but the defeats weren't due to a lack of skill on the part of the starting five. Alberta's bench hasn't reached the strength of the East, and coach Jim Munro was forced to go most of the way with his regulars.

"Alberta was the best team I've seen come out of the West," said starry University of Windsor guard Bob Horvath. Horvath, who was named to the tournament all-star team, has played in all three Canadian finals held to date.

Golden Bears lost their first game 98-78 to defending champion University of Windsor Lancers Friday night. The defeat dropped them into Saturday's consolation final, where they were edged 75-71 by Carleton University Ravens of Ottawa.

Acadia University Axemen, meanwhile, pushed past Carleton 83-79 to gain the other final berth.

The final was a barn-burner, with Acadia taming heavily-favored Windsor 92-87 in overtime. It was Windsor's first loss in three years of chasing the championship.

Icy cold at the start of the Windsor game, Bears found themselves trailing 20-5. But they kept their heads and roared back into a four-point lead midway through the second quarter. A late burst gave Windsor a 53-62 half-time edge, but few were discounting Alberta's Green and Gold.

Golden Bears found themselves mired in trouble in the second half, when forwards Jim Fisher and Gordon Fester fouled out.

Forced to go with only four regulars, Munro saw Windsor use

Semotiuk, centre Nestor Korchinsky and guard Fred Shandro all performed brilliantly in a losing cause. Korchinsky amassed 20 points and hauled down 15 of Alberta's rebounds.

Shandro also notched 20 points, while Semotiuk counted 16. Other Alberta point-getters were Barry Mitchelson and Fisher (seven each), Fester (four), and Garth Hillman, George Monkman and Bill Strachan (two apiece.) Top man for Windsor was forward Marty Kwiatowski with 17 points.

Saturday night Golden Bears couldn't get untracked against scrappy Carleton, although they led 18-8 at one point.

Mitchelson was a standout for Alberta with 21 points, Semotiuk hooped 17, Shandro 14, Fisher nine and Fester eight. Korchinsky added three, Bruce Blumell and Hillman two each.

Golden Bears trailed by 11 points with less than four minutes left, but pecked away until they reduced the deficit to three points. It



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