

Bears winless in finals

by Robert Lawrie

Bears 72 Waterloo 84
Bears 78 UPEI 94

The University of Alberta Golden Bears gained a berth in the National Tournament in Halifax by defeating the second-place Victoria Vikings two straight games in the best of three final just prior to Reading week.

In the National Tournament, the Bears became the sixth western team in 6 years to lose both their games and be knocked out of the running early. Against Waterloo on Thursday afternoon, the lead changed hands numerous times during the first half, with both teams enjoying leads of as much as 6 points.

The Bears were determined to show good against a Warrior squad that had already defeated them 3 times in tournament play. Alberta, however, uncharacteristically turned the ball over through various bad passes and steals. At the half however they were down by just 2 pts, 37-35.

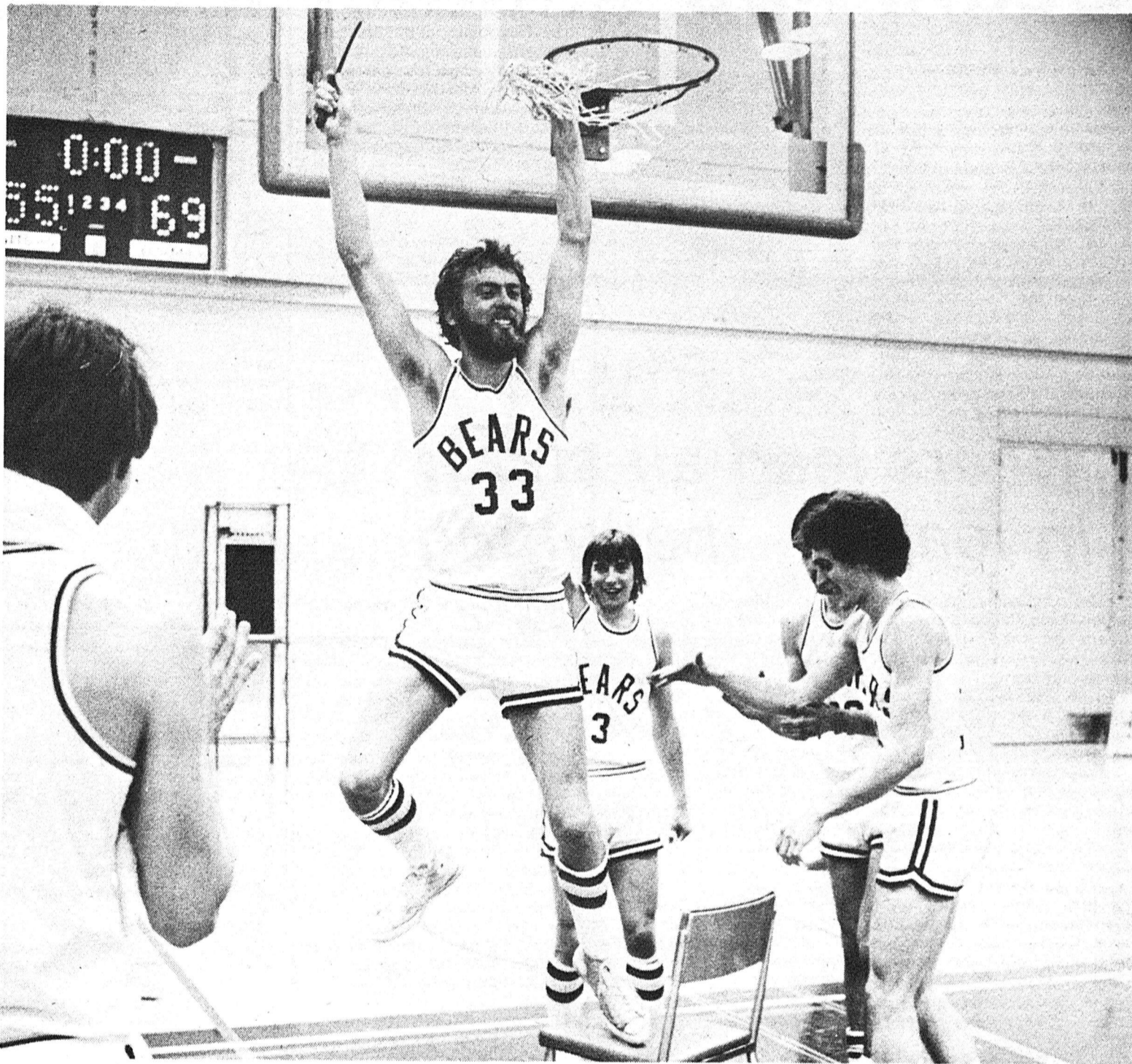
In the second half the Bears did not poorly allowing the bigger Waterloo squad to take a 12 point lead and control of the game. The Bears in fact, only hit for 6 pts in the last 8 minutes of play.

Doug Baker led the way for the Bears with 24 points. Center Lou Nelson of the Warriors who was a tournament star scored 26 pts.

In the consolation round on Friday the Bears came up against wild card UPEI Panthers. The Panthers who lost to Acadia the previous night were visibly more excited against the Bears. The Panther big men led by National All-Star team member Tom Kappos and Ray Millard effectively controlled the boards against the much smaller Bears. At the half the hoopsters were already trailing by 15.

Coach Smith substituted early in what was a nothing game and received strong efforts from everyone. The Bears were down by 25 at one point in the second half but managed to close the gap to 16 in the closing minutes.

Baker, again led Bear warriors with 26 points. Ray Millard and Tom Kappos of UPEI scored 30 and 26 respectively.



No strings attached...
Doug Baker cuts down the net after the Bears had won the Canada

West crown defeating the Victoria Vikings two games straight. Alberta wasn't as successful in the Nationals, however, failing to win a game.
photo Brian Gavriloff

"We found it hard to defend their big men," Smith said and added, "it was hard for us to get up for this game." UPEI out-

rebounced the Bears 52-31 which pretty much tells the story. The National final pitted

Acadia, the Atlantic Conference Champions against Lakehead of the Great Plains Conference. To win, Acadia had to stop 7'1"

Lakehead center Jim Zoet. Through somewhat dubious means and incompetent of-

ficiating, stop Zoet they did. It was obvious to most impartial observers that Zoet was being butchered under both baskets

yet Axemen centre Ed Shannon didn't receive even his fourth foul until late in the contest. Acadia

went on to win 72-63.

Tournament all-stars were Zoet of Lakehead; Mel Bishop of Lakehead; Gordie West, Acadia; Alvin Jessamy, Acadia; Frankie White, St. Mary's; and Tom Nelson of Waterloo. Ed Shannon of Acadia received M.V.P.

Basketball seasons ends on sour note for Pandas at National Championships

The National Women's Basketball Championships proved to be a wasteland for the women as well as the men this week.

Coach Debbie Shogan's Pandas travelled to Calgary and to face last year's defending champion Laurentian Vees in the opening game. Despite the former record the Vees have set up over the past few years Shogan says her squad entered the match ready to take on the best of women's basketball. Most of them verbalized a very positive attitude. Outwardly they appeared ready to play. Till about the five minute mark we played even. Then their big kid hurt us."

The Vees' big kid was 6'2" Jan Trombly, a native of New York who was the last cut from the U.S. national team. Trombly had 24 points in the game, and teamed up with two other Canadian National team members as the Vees cruised to a 49-21 half-time lead and ended up bombing the overmatched Alberta women 88-47.

"I'm really disappointed," said Shogan. "Not with the team but with everything that went on at the Nationals. Canada West has gone downhill in the esteem that it's held by the other leagues."

Trix Kanekens led the Pandas with 12 points while Amanda Holloway and Karen Johnson

had 10 apiece. Chris Critelli, a national team member, had 18 with Agnes Balsom adding 16. The Vees went on to defend their national title edging the University of Winnipeg Wesmenettes (who lost earlier this season to Alberta) 61-50, with Critelli leading the way with 20 points, including 16 in the second half. The Victoria Vikettes were once again upset in the opening round but won the consolation side, beating St. Marys 77-54.

The Pandas second game was against the St. Marys University Belles, with St. Marys coming out on top 74-56. The Pandas outscored the Belles in the second half 31-30 but never found themselves in the first half and

were never in the contest.

"In the first half I couldn't believe it," explained Shogan. "I nearly cried. They completely got blown off the court. They were very timid."

Shogan feels the rough ride against Laurentian may have carried over into the second game against St. Marys. "Psychologically it affected us a lot initially, in terms of the things we wanted to do on the floor."

Pandas were at a large handicap with Lori Chizik, the team's second leading scorer operating at less than 100 per cent due to a leg injury. "She's a tremendously strong player when she's healthy," said Shogan. "We just weren't the same team without

her. It was sad. She tried so hard but she just didn't have the speed and mobility."

Carol Turney, who led the Canadian National team in scoring at the '76 Olympics was top scorer for the Belles with 35 points. Debbie Steele added 16 for the winners. Holloway was high scorer for the Pandas with 23 points, while Faith Rostad and Kathy Moore had 8 apiece.

Despite the disappointing conclusion to an otherwise successful year Shogan felt the play of two first year players was noteworthy. "If we could salvage something it would be the play of Trix and Glynnis (Griffiths)."