

Guard Sean Chursinoff launches an outside shot. The Bears swept Saskatchewan on the weekend to remain unbeaten.

## Controversial call gives b-ball Bears win

**Bears 102 Huskies 85**  
by Philip Preville

Maintenance crews are currently patching a hole in the roof of main gym left there by Husky coach Steve Roth when he quite literally exploded and took a double technical foul late in Friday night's basketball game against the University of Alberta Golden Bears.

Call it the Wrath of Roth.

With 3:18 left on the clock, the Bears were beginning to pull away, and had built up a twelve-point lead. Husky guard Brian Scherban was carrying the ball when Bear defender Sean Chursinoff forced him out of bounds. Roth, not known for his temper, hit the roof. Chursinoff sank all four freethrows which resulted from the double-T, giving Alberta a 16 point lead, 98-82, and effectively put the game to rest. The game ended 102-85.

"It's easy to get upset when the officiating is as bad as it was tonight," said Roth, a former Golden Bear assistant coach who used to let Don Horwood do the livid routine. "You simply cannot play defense with your hand on the ball carrier's hip. It's in the rule book. The officials let them do it all night."

Roth denied that the move was strategic. "The game was already over at that point. Their fifth-year player pushed our first-year player out of bounds, and the referee was right there, he saw it all. I'm going to fight for my players when that sort of thing happens."

"Steve was frustrated, and I can understand that," said Horwood, who always seems to have ongoing conversations with the referees, but was particularly silent on this Friday night. Horwood, whose team was playing their first game since being ranked tops in the nation earlier in the week, was not pleased with his team's defensive

performance. "There's a tendency to take Saskatchewan lightly, and we definitely showed a lack of intensity on the defense. I'm not happy that Saskatchewan scored 85 points against us."

Chursinoff, for one, agreed with his coach. "We've just gotta be more aggressive on defense," he said after the game. "If we can do that, we'll be unbeatable."

The Bears, playing their first conference game at home, executed a fullcourt press from the opening jump, striding to a 20-8 lead only 6 minutes into the game. Bear forward Ed Joseph, starting in the place of flu-riddled Brian Halsey,

guard formation: David Youngs choreographed the offense for a variety of forwards through the end of the half. This strategy proved particularly ineffective, as the Bears had difficulty finding high-percentage opportunities, and were forced to throw up some rather ugly shots before the 30-second clock ran out on them. On defense, they became sloppy, and the Huskies worked their way to within three points with seven minutes to go. The Bears went to the dressing room with a 48-43 halftime lead.

The Huskies took the lead early in the second half, but from that point on Chursinoff, arguably the best guard in the CIAU right now, dominated play. Chursinoff, demonstrating an uncanny court sense, dictated the game's tempo both on defense--through tremendous ball pressure--and on offense.

"We have an offense called 'spread', where I get to go one on one at the top of the point," he said afterwards. "That's usually when I pick it up--it fires me up." Aside from setting up a ton of baskets, Chursinoff ended the game with 22 points. David Youngs also had 20.

The Bears' inside game was silent but strong: Rick Stanley quietly picked up 23 points, while Bill Lavergne added 15. Both posts displayed lots of finesse inside, although not much power. Both have been suffering from knee problems, and although the worst seems to be over for Stanley, Lavergne may need arthroscopic surgery. "Bill was a little tentative," said Horwood of Lavergne's lack of aggressiveness. "We've talked about it, and in practice he powers up well, but there may be some added pain in the knee that's interfering."



put on a show for the fans, working hard in the paint for a spectacular tip-in, blocking a shot or two and even showing some three-point prowess.

Joseph's aggressive play soon got him into foul trouble, though. "Ed was a little out of control," said Horwood, "but, in a way, we want that. We want Ed to go out and be aggressive and be charged up, but he's got to be a bit smarter out there."

Alberta's lead slowly disintegrated. Chursinoff also picked up two early fouls and sat out the last ten minutes of the first half. Horwood then opted for a one-

## Pandas take "lucky" win

**Pandas 83 Huskies 81 (Friday)**  
by Philip Preville

Panda coach Dianne Hilko didn't hesitate to answer whether or not she felt her team's win was a lucky one.

"Yeah," she said. "We were very lucky." Her directness was surprising, but it was just that simple. The Pandas showed a lot of desire, but not much composure, on Friday night as they snuck out of the main gym with an 83-81 victory over the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

To their credit, the Pandas never allowed the Huskies to take the lead throughout the game. They got off to an excellent start, and had built up a 12 point lead before the twelve-minute mark of the first half. However, this soon proved to be short-lived, as the Huskies slowly but surely chipped away at the Panda lead with strong ball pressure and an effective full-court press.

Alberta started the second half strong as well, holding a 66-59 lead at the 11 minute mark, but the Huskie press did them in. One minute and twenty seconds later the score was 66-66, and it was all nail-biting from there.

The Pandas showed a tremen-

dous amount of perseverance in the last nine minutes, demonstrating good passing and bursts of speed on offence. Tracey Henger dominated for the Green and Gold, driving the key for some crucial scoring plays to keep them ahead. Henger finished the game with 17 points.

"Tracey likes to get away with stuff sometimes, little tricks that worked for her in high school," said coach Hilko of the energetic second year forward. "Not tonight, though. She played a great game for us."

Alberta also put their height advantage to good use, as 6'1" centre Joanna Ross led all Panda scorers with 20 points. "Joanna always gives us a tough time," said Huskie coach Irene Wallace... We have to be more aware of her, and do more blocking out." Stacy Wilson and Krista Thiessen each tallied 19 for the Huskies.

Wallace was pleased with her team's play. "We're a twelve-freshman lineup," she said, "and we figured that if we had a shot at anybody, it would be Alberta. If not for the first eight minutes, I'm sure we would have won."

Hilko wasn't nearly as please with her team's performance. "They

just didn't handle the pressure," said Hilko. "One change in the opposing defense made them cave in."

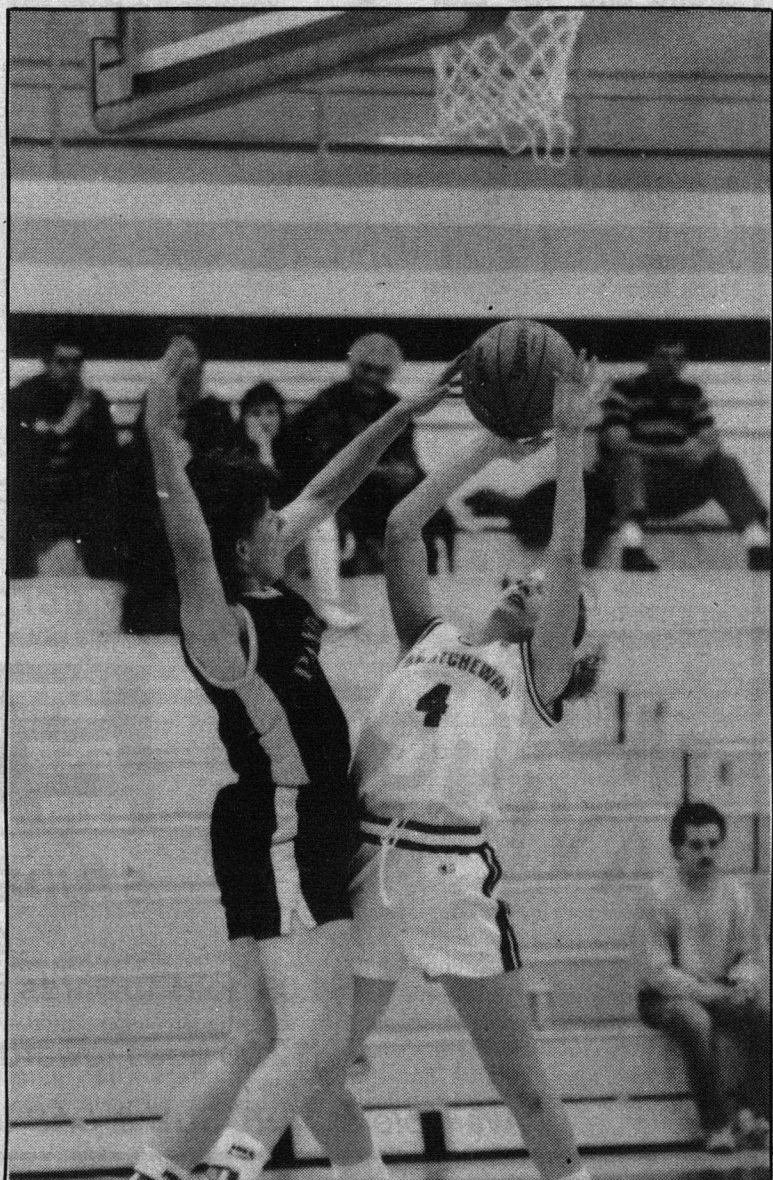
"They showed a lot of composure at the very end of the game, though, and I was pleased to see that. They showed they could win the close ones."

Actually, breaking the press was only half the Pandas' problem. They were successful at breaking the Huskie press about half the time, but seemed to hear footsteps behind them and failed to convert good passes into baskets, especially in the first half. They managed to blow a good handful of lay-ins off the press-break.

"We keep getting the high percentage shots, and missing the little bunnies. The players can do it in practice."

"Maybe it comes down to that mental toughness thing. We need to stay tough for at least 37 out of 40 minutes."

**Stuff & Things:** Hilko is anxiously awaiting the return of two key players from injuries. Guard **Lorna Stielow** (bum ankle) should be back by Christmas. Forward **Tracey Cook's** broken finger, however, is still indefinite.



Kevin Law