

Ron Ternoway

corner

from my square

Men's curling has got to be unique among intercollegiate sports.

First of all, it's the only intercollegiate sport in which teams play off against each other to determine a representative of the University, rather than the standard practice of trying out for the team.

Secondly, it's the only intercollegiate sport in which the teams must pay for the privilege of competing.

And thirdly, this year anyway, it's the only intercollegiate sport in which the average age of the University of Alberta representatives is 33.

It was a case of the old-timers showing the young whippersnappers how on the weekend as the Bill McCallum rink swept through the Golden Bear playdowns to earn the right to represent the Golden Bears at the WCIAA playoffs in Victoria Feb. 24-6.

McCallum, with his rink of third Jack Isaman, second Chuck Noble, and lead brother Doug McCallum, edged Ken Hunka's foursome 7-6 in an extra end final game to become 1972's Golden Bears. Hunka, who qualified from the 'B' side of the double-knockout draw after an early loss to McCallum, forced the final game with a 6-1 romp over McCallum, the 'A' winner, earlier Sunday.

Hunka, who trailed 6-5 coming home with last rock advantage, had a golden opportunity to win the game in regulation ends as McCallum racked on a guard attempting to freeze with his last shot of the end. Hunka had only a free draw to the house for two points and the win, but booted it as he came up short. With last rock on the extra end, McCallum made no mistake as he chipped out an attempted freeze by Hunka with his last rock for the victory.

The Golden Bear title is just one of a growing list that McCallum has picked up this curling season. Bill, who is over here at the University for just one year on a bursary (he's a NAIT instructor of vocational education), is still alive in the men's Consols playdowns, being one of the six rinks to qualify out of Edmonton. Curling out of the Granite curling club, McCallum finished third in the Edmonton Carspiel, and was tops in the Yuletide spiel. He was also next-to-last in the Masters, but he doesn't like to remember that one.

"We've been very lucky this year, just as we were in the final game," said McCallum. "I've been keeping track, and out of 26 games that were determined by last rock, we've won 25."

"The best skip we ran up against in the playdowns," continued McCallum, "was Brian Heller in the first round. He called a good game, and made a lot of pressure shots." Heller, who skipped the Doug LaValley rink, took McCallum to an extra end but lost to the eventual winner on a close measurement in the first round of play.

On his way to the 'A' title McCallum also stopped Hunka and defending champion Neil Fleming. Fleming lost to Hunka in the 'B' final. Eight rinks took part in the playdowns.

Women's selections

Meanwhile, on the women's side of things, coach Jolly Drever announced her selections for the Panda curling team that will travel with McCallum to Victoria in a couple of weeks. Like most intercollegiate teams, the Panda curling team was chosen from a group of girls who tried out for the team, rather than the playdown method used in men's competition. Sunday Jolly announced that Trish Stelter, Glynis Edwards, Donna Treble and Faye Redden will make up the 1972 Panda crew. Miss Redden will have the added responsibility of carrying the honor of GS 626, as she is the only female type in fourth year honors computing science.

Neither the Pandas or Golden Bears curling squads have won a WCIAA title in a long time, but this year could be the end of the drought. With the experience and consistency of McCallum, and if the earlier Panda invitational bonspiel are any indications, the gang could return from Victoria with two titles.

Bears one win away from division title

by Ron MacTavish

Victoria 47, Bears 59
Victoria 57, Bears 67

With an unexpected helping hand from the Calgary Dinosaurs the Golden Bears find themselves atop the WCIAA west standings after the weekend fray.

Using a swift striking, yet consistent attack, the Bears wore down the slower Victoria Vikings who were forced out of their conservative patterns by poor shooting. The real surprise of the weekend, however, was in the Dinosaur - Thunderbird series which saw the Dinnies upset UBC 67 - 59 in the Saturday contest.

With two mid-week games remaining against the T-Birds, the Bears need only a split to emerge as league champions, a likely occurrence in light of the Bears' seasonal record against UBC.

Displaying some of their steadiest ball of the year the Bears out-hustled, out-muscled, and out shot the Vikings on their way to a 59-47 win Friday evening. Scoring nine straight points in the closing minutes of the first half, the Bears bolted away from the Vikings who had managed to stale-mate the contest at nineteen all.

From there on in the Vikings were easy prey for the Bears who seemed to delight in letting each player have his moment. In the first half Mike Frisby and Brian Hart supplied the offence while the final twenty minutes saw Bobby Morris and Wallace Tollestrup pumping in the baskets. In the evening, Morris and Frisby emerged with 13 points to pace the Bears production while Tom Holmes and Gord Hoshal with 17 and 16 points respectively led the Vikings.

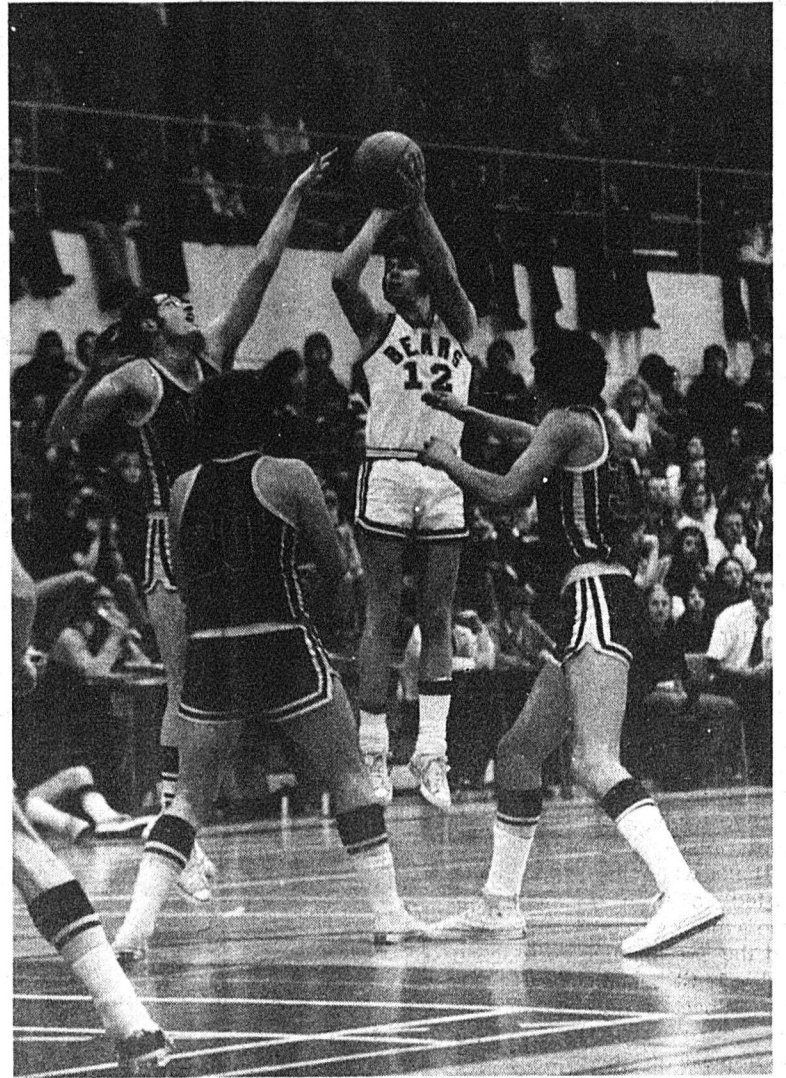
The Vikings low point total was in part a reflection of their 29 per cent field goal average and in part a measure of the Bears tenacious rebounding. With thirty defensive rebounds to their credit, eleven of which were plucked off by Frisby, the Bears seldom allowed the Vikings a second chance to score, an extreme disadvantage to a team that prefers a control game.

In the final game the Bears had things their own way as they established an early, never to be challenged lead. The previous evening's loss had eliminated the Vikings from playoff contention and this event seemed to have a demoralizing effect on the team.

The Vikings' lack of fire was clearly illustrated in the shooting and rebounding columns. The Bears managed to score on only 34 per cent of their field goal attempts, but they were able to grab 28 offensive rebounds and it was these second chances that proved disastrous for the Vikings. Mike Frisby, who did not turn in one of his better offensive games, was allowed repeated attempts to convert missed shots. His persistence paid off as he scored 13 points, most of which were of the garbage variety.

Bobby Morris pumped in 19 points to lead the Bears while steady Marty Lyons added six field goals. For these two veterans it was their last regular season home game appearance and in honor of their meritorious service, they were awarded individual trophies in a tear-filled half-time ceremony.

In the Viking's loss Tom Holmes contributed 15 points to lead his team attack. Holmes, an exceptional outside shooter for a



—Ray Dallin photo

LEADING BEAR SCORER
...is field general Bobby Morris

big man, is also strong near the basket, but the Bears match-up zone forced him to the periphery of the court where he lost his effectiveness as a rebounder.

If the Bears continue their consistent play they should manage at least a split with the T-Birds, whose supposed home court advantage looks specious

in light of the Dinosaur upset. But then it should be remembered that the UBC loss on Saturday was the first such regular season, home court defeat in over three years.

The Bears should heed the wise words of that old prognosticator Barry Mitchelson and play it "one game at a time".

Pandas runners-up

If this weekend is any indication of tournaments to come, then it bodes ill indeed for the volleyball Pandas. They rated second place in the Alberta Open Invitational held here, which in itself sounds good, but the team that grabbed first place were the Calgary Dinnies, the girls that the Pandas will have to beat this weekend in order to advance to the Canadian Intercollegiate finals.

In the wee hours of the morning (9 a.m.—a time at which, statistics show, only one student in 347 is not in bed), the Pandas ran head-on into the wide-awake Dinnie girls. When they opened their eyes they were on the tail end of two scores, losing 15-10 and 15-4. Coach Sue Neill was overheard to quip, "It's a good thing nobody was awake to see it. Our girls looked terrible."

Somebody played reveille, however, before the Pandas squared off against the Calgary Premier Cals. It was a defensive struggle that saw the Pandas making few, if any, mistakes, winning easily in two straight games, 15-13 and 15-8. With the possible exceptions of Claudia Garrett and Barb Styles, the Pandas weren't overpowering in the spiking department, being content with just finding the holes in the Cal defence.

In the next series with the Junior Cals, the Pandas stuck to their strategy of laying in the weeds and waiting for the breaks to come their way. Their strategy paid off as they

steamrolled over the hapless Cals to the tune of 15-6 and 15-9.

Meanwhile, on other courts, the Dinnies had also won a couple. The stage was set for the Pandas and Dinnies to meet in the finals. The turning point of the finals came with the temporary loss of both Susan Seaborn, who was struck in the eye with a hard spike, and an impressive 9-2 lead. By the time Susan had recovered, the Pandas had lost most of their momentum and the Dinnies were ahead 1-0 on the strength of a 15-13 victory. Although the Pandas won the second game 15-10, it seemed as if most of their desire had deserted them. In the final game of the championship, the Panda defence broke down, making error after error, with no one player being singularly responsible. The Calgary girls seemed to be affected just the opposite way as they ended the tilt 15-6 to take the trophies away from the Alberta troupe.

Volleyball is a very psychological game and often a win or a loss can be chalked up to being either "psyched up" or "psyched out". The cause is unknown but sometimes a team came play brilliantly one moment and the next one look like a herd of cleaning women. Such was the case with the Pandas this weekend. But, if the girls can get themselves mentally prepared for the second round of the WCIAA finals, they have a very good chance of coming home with the Western title.