

Gateway Sports

Bill Kankewitt's Column

We're number one.

Last season was a great one for the Golden Bear teams. Canadian titles in hockey, football and gymnastics firmly established University of Alberta dominance on the national collegiate sports scene.

Now that we have made those easterners sit up and take note, its time for us to appraise the situation in our own backyard.

There's no doubting our present supremacy, but we are sadly lacking in one crucial department.



CLARE DRAKE

Fan support has ranged from downright pathetic to fair at best. Hockey is the only one of the three major sports that fans have shown a consistent interest in.

Our eastern counterparts certainly have the laugh on us here. They regularly jam their stadiums, arenas and gyms to capacity.

There is no excuse for the fan apathy that has existed in football, basketball and the other intercollegiate sports on this campus.

Calibre wise, the sports are of a high level. This is evidenced by the increasing number of college football players readily making the

transition to pro ball. Many of our swimmers and wrestlers are placing well up in international competitions.

In Clare Drake we have the most successful collegiate coach in North America.

Our facilities as a unit are unequalled in Canada.

Thanks to the all inclusive students union fee, admission to campus athletic events is gratis. What more could Joe Q. Fan want?

Why pay \$5 or more to get frustrated watching the Eskimos lose. Here Joe Q. can take his gal to the game, pay nothing, witness an exciting brand of football and if that isn't enough, the good guys usually win.

We need school spirit

Athletically we have a great year in store for us on campus. The football and hockey teams appear to be even stronger than they were last year. Basketball is advancing and we have many outstanding individuals competing in the other sports.

It may sound corny, but what we need is a lot of school spirit. A little spirit(s) never hurt anyone.

It is up to you and I to get off our collective butts and get out and support the teams. We can do it individually or in groups by either talking up the events or getting a bunch of friends to go as a group.

Organizations such as fraternities, clubs, and residences should sponsor group ventures to the events perhaps tying it in with their own dances or the like.

Once we establish the tradition of team support the process will rapidly catch fire with incoming frosh.

It is only then that functions such a "Homecoming Week" will take on some serious meaning.

Saturday, Sept. 21 will mark the football Bears first game of the season. Let's show them that we appreciate the effort they are putting forth in an effort to bring us another national crown.



You win some, lose some, and . . .

Last season was a great one for Golden Bear teams. There was the agony of defeat, the face of indecision, the spirited action of hockey and the ups and downs of basketball

and figure skating. Last and most important the sweet taste of the victory party . . . and there were plenty of those.