

Cagers Thrill Crowd Upset Wizards 74-73

by Bob Dwernychuk

Two different games cannot claim to be "the best", but the superlative has to be applicable to both Bear-Dinosaur games played here last weekend.

Nearly 1,500 cage fans lived and died with each turn of Bear fortune as Mendryk's marionettes stole victory from the UAC Dinosaurs Friday, only to have their southern cousins return the compliment in Saturday's rematch.

Friday's 74-73 score showed a one point margin for the revitalized Edmonton squad, while the following night, Calgary edged the Bearmen 70-68 in a hectic overtime contest.

Playing inspired basketball Friday, the Bearmen controlled the court, leading 38-36 at the half. But victory looked more and more inaccessible as the Dino's soared to a 71-64 lead with less than two minutes remaining. Then an untimely foul on Dinosaur star Bob Babki clouded the Bear outlook even more.

PRESSURE TOO MUCH

The pressure was too much for Babki as he folded up on both his free throw attempts. Coming up with the important rebound the Bears charged down the floor to cash in a field goal.

With only half a minute remaining, Darwin Semotiuk found the range for a long set and two more points, putting the Bears only one point behind.

On the Bear's last thrust Mike Reitsma, the game's hero, alertly tipped in Semotiuk's next set attempt to win the game for the green and gold with only four seconds remaining. The climactic ending left the ecstatic Bear fans limp.

Mendryk's strategy was to let Lloyd Harris of the Dino's score as he pleased, while trying to contain the rest of the Calgary contingent. This was all-right with Harris as he obligingly scored an impressive 26 points.

Babki, who missed the free throw which would have put the Dinosaurs lead out of reach, still aided the Calgary cause by potting 19 points.

SMITH TOPS SCORERS

Guard Garry Smith was the top Bear sharp-shooter, garnering 22 points, while Ed Blott and John Hennessy amassed 13 and 11 points respectively.

From the opening whistle in Saturday's dramatic re-match, it appeared that the hot Bear cagers would pull off a repeat win over the then league-leading Dino's.

Leading 37-31 at half-time, the Bears soon extended their lead to nine points, the greatest point separation in the game.

Unrelentingly eating away at the Bear margin, the Calgary squad tied the Bears and then went on to score three unanswered field goals late in the last quarter.

This left the Bearmen fighting for their lives, and once again they proved themselves as, to driving cheers of "Go Bears, Go!", they scored six unanswered points to tie the game with a minute and fifteen seconds left.

Now it was time for the Bearmen to exhibit an admirable defensive display as Calgary slowly and cautiously worked the ball around in Bear territory, trying to time their basket so that the Bears wouldn't have time for a return thrust, and seeking a Bear defensive lapse.

BEARS FORCE OVERTIME

But the Bear defense withstood the attack, sending the tense game

into overtime with a 62-62 tie, and giving the 1,500 hoarse fans five more minutes of electrifying basketball.

But Mendryk's men were to be denied victory that night as two overtime field goals by Mike Reitsma and one by Smith were not enough to match the Dino's eight extra stanza points.

Six of these eight points came on free throws, while the pressured Bears found themselves missing all four free throws granted them.

Semotiuk did a fantastic job of covering Lloyd Harris while scoring nine points for the Bears and coming up with some important defensive rebounds.

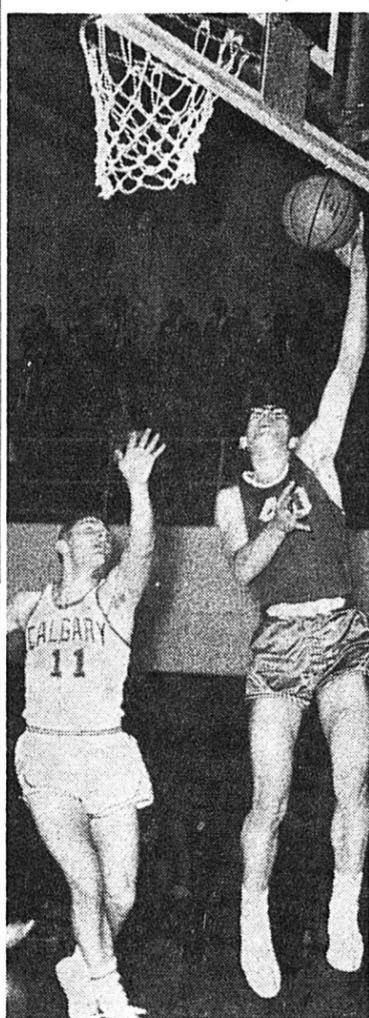
Once again, Smith lead the Bear attack, this time with 14 points coming on seven fieldgoals. Fisher and Korchinsky both got 11 points while playing a tremendous game.

Bob Babki, with cool efficiency, led the Dino's with 19 points, while Harris still managed to get 17.

After the impressive Bear showing last weekend, Coach Mendryk felt that he "couldn't ask anymore from the team." "The team played terrifically and they deserve all the credit," offered Mendryk, who also appreciated the partisan fan support at last weekend's encounters.

The Saturday bout was won by UAC, but they may not retain the two points given them for the win. WCIAA basketball rules state that a visiting team may dress no more than ten players. For Saturday's match Calgary dressed and played eleven men.

Although Mendryk is not demanding that UAC forfeit the game, he has notified the president of the conference of the illegality committed.



JOHN HENNESSY moves in for a left handed lay-up against Dinosaur defender Kit Lefroy. Hennessy scored 11 points as the Bears upset the Dinosaurs 74-73 Friday. Bears lost a 70-68 overtime decision Saturday.
photo by Jens Tabur

Sports Weekend Proves Fun, But Produces No Titles

by Sandy Kirstein and Mike Horrocks

After a week-end of fun and games (but unfortunately no wins) the four women's intervarsity teams, competing in gymnastic, swimming, and basketball events, returned home from Calgary.

The swim team achieved a good third place in the four-way swim meet.

The meet was won by Lethbridge with 101 points, and Calgary Y Sharkettes placed second with 80 points. The U of A with 59 points placed ahead of the U of S team who had previously defeated them in a fall meet.

DIVER RECORDS ONLY WIN

The only win recorded for U of A was in the diving where Bonnie McPherson won over a Saskatchewan entrant. Marilyn Kropp of the U of A placed third. Two more thirds for the U of A were won by Margit Bako in the Individual Medley and Paulette Price in the 100 yards breast stroke.

Lethbridge, one of the strongest clubs in the province won six out of the ten events. Calgary Y Sharkettes showed the recent improvement of their club especially in butterfly and breaststroke events.

Panda swimmers were by no means outclassed and continue to show great improvement. Jill Sharp swam strongly in the freestyle relay with Mary Amerongen, Diane Durda, and Bonnie Millar.

GYMNASTS THIRD

The three members of the gymnastics team, competing for the first time, placed third behind the U of S and Calgary Y teams.

Sheryl Hill of the U of A placed third in the individual standings.

The Saskatoon Aces defeated the U of S Huskiettes in the finals of the basketball tournament. The Pandas were winners of the consolation event.

During the tournament the Pandas played four games, one Friday night, and three on Saturday.

In their first game Pandas defeated the Lethbridge Senior Women's team 50-29. Lee Hopper led the Pandas with 11 points.

Saturday morning the Aces defeated the Pandas by 20 points. The Pandas were able to keep up with the Aces until the last quarter and then died out.

PANDAS SURPRISE UAC

In their second game on Saturday, the Pandas came from behind, surprising the University of Calgary offense with a zone defence in the second half and won 45-40.

In the final game the Pandas easily defeated the Calgary Maxwells.

The Junior basketball team, the Cubs, played two games against the junior U of S Puppettes and were defeated both times with scores of 17-15 and 28-25.

Cagers Take On Bisons

This weekend finds the invigorated U of A Golden Bears in Winnipeg where they play the U of M Bisons in a Friday-Saturday double header.

After the strong showing last weekend against the powerful Dinosaurs, Mendryk stated that "we expect to win both games, and that's all there is to it!"

	W	L	F	A	Pts.
UAC	7	3	725	673	14
UBC	5	1	388	326	10
Saskatchewan	3	3	360	343	6
Alberta	2	6	488	577	4
Manitoba	1	5	325	367	2

"Our fast break is beginning to come along and all players, even the big men, are running well," stated Mendryk, who added, "The tall kids are coming along and the inexperienced players are developing well now."

The coach believes that he will be going with the same lineup that did so well against Calgary.

In practice last Monday, Mike Reitsma, one of the stand-outs in the Bear-Dino's game, dislocated a finger, but will still be making the trip.

Bear fans will still be able to see the Golden Ones in action this weekend as the second half of the Saturday game will be televised on CBC-TV. Tune in at 4:00 p.m.

Father Bauer's T'Birds Topple Bears: Lead WCIAA

The Golden Bear reign atop the WCIAA hockey throne has come to an end — at least temporarily.

Father David Bauer's Olympic-bound UBC Thunderbirds handed the Bears 5-2 and 3-2 defeats last weekend in Vancouver to take sole possession of first place in WCIAA standings.

The wins marked the end of a 13 year drought for the 'Birds against the Bears and ironically, Golden Bear coach Clare Drake was captain of the T'Bird club which last bested the Bears on Jan. 24, 1950.

Bears started fast in Friday's game, opening up a 2-1 first period margin. However, the roof fell in the second stanza as the talented T'Birds rammed home four unanswered goals to coast in 5-2 winners.

Ralph Lortie and Pete Kelly, with two goals each, and Gary Unsworth handled the T'Bird scoring. Dave Carlyle and John Aubin scored the Bear markers.

Saturday, the T'Birds had to battle to the wire to edge the Bears 3-2. The winning goal came at 18:38 mark of the final period, and even though the Bears pulled goalie Dale Harder for the last minute they couldn't get the equalizer.

Center Pete Kelly, Mickey McDowell, and John Parker fired the BC markers, all three with the Bears short-handed.

Duane Lundgren and Terry Bicknell replied for the Bears.

Both games were played before big crowds who gave Father Bauer's ambitious T'Birds tremendous support.

Coach Drake was disappointed with the Bears' play in the series, especially their inability to score. Although the Bears had a fair share of the territorial play they couldn't crack the tough T'Bird defense.

The close checking T'Birds were content to play for the breaks, to play positional hockey and wait for the Bears to make the mistakes—a strategy which paid dividends. An impressive defense corps plus some excellent goaltending, combined with the Bears lack of offensive punch, allowed the T'Birds to move up into the unaccustomed height atop the WCIAA ladder.

Nevertheless, Coach Drake is optimistic about the Bears chances against the T'Birds when the BC squad visits Feb. 8 and 9. He sees no reason why the T'Birds should go undefeated.

His primary concern at the moment, however, is the U of S Huskies. Huskies, who earlier dropped 4-2 and 4-1 decisions to the Thunderbirds, dumped the Manitoba Bisons 5-2 and 9-5 last weekend to move into a second place tie with the Golden Bears.

Bears travel to Saskatoon this weekend to engage the usually tough Huskies in a crucial series. Drake feels that if the Bears can get by this weekend they should be ready for the return engagement with the T'Birds to settle the question of who shall represent the WCIAA at the national final at Kingston later this year.

Jr. Bears Start Drive

"We are starting the big move towards the playoffs." This is how coach B. H. McDonald described the junior hockey Bears' performance over the week and in the future.

On Tuesday, Jan. 22, the Bears lost to the South Side Red Wings by a score of 2-1. This being the latest in a long line of losses by 1 point to the Red Wings.

McDonald feels, however, that the players are back in shape and are no longer under tension from exams and exam results.

BEARS TROUNCE FLYERS

The Bears vindicated themselves on Saturday, the 27, by defeating the Community Flyers 12-1. This overpowering victory still leaves the Bears six points behind the Red Wings.

Bear players Joe Laplante and Gerald Stelmachuk led the scoring against the Flyers with 3 goal hat tricks. Ralph Jorstad picked up 2 goals while Vern McKay, Jim Ferguson, Gene Protz and Larry Craig scored one goal apiece.

Lone scorer for the Bear effort against the Red Wings was Brian Gillard.

In conjunction with minor hockey week, an all star Junior "B" team, including eight Bear players, will play an all star juvenile team at the South Side Arena on Sunday, Feb. 3.

In regular league play the Junior Bears play the league leading Red Wings on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Edmonton Gardens at 7:00 p.m. and on the following Tuesday, Feb. 5, they play the Community Flyers at the South Side Arena.

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