

Basketball teams: home at last

**Smith's
enthusiasm
uncontrollable**

by John Younie

Garry Smith, the exalted guru of roundball on campus, who also doubles as a sociology professor in the phys ed faculty, feels the first half of the CWUAA basketball season has followed the preseason form charts fairly well.

"With the exception of Lethbridge (Pronghorns) I think most of the teams are right where most everybody said they would be," Smith commented before practice on Wednesday. "Saskatchewan is dead last, but they've lost a couple of games by slim margins and Calgary's slipped a bit, but they had some injury problems."

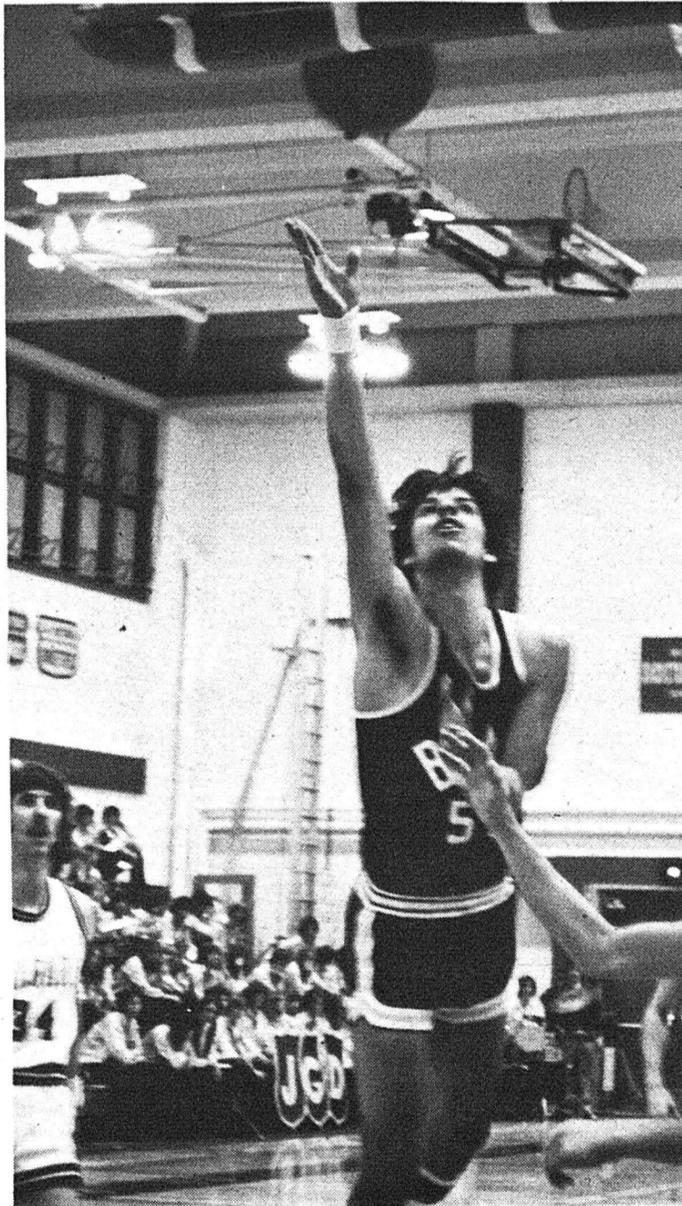
Smith feels the Bears have accomplished most of the goals they set at the beginning of the season. "We've played well, our rookies have gained confidence with the playing time they've had, and our injury situation is much better than last year. One goal we didn't achieve was to win three out of the five tournaments we entered. We won one, and consolation events in two others." Gee Garry, you can't have everything.

One thing that has Garry and the whole team waiting with baited breath is the arrival of the team's new warmup outfits.

"Understated elegance, is the only way I can describe them," Smith said, trying to

control his enthusiasm, "They have this neat little white diamond on the hip with an 'A' inside, it's really sharp."

Whether or not Bears have their warmups by this weekend, they still have to play the Pronghorns. Game time Friday and Saturday night for Bears is 8:30.



Bears' Jim Bonin is one of several potential all-conference players on the basketball team this year. He and his teammates get a chance to display their wares Friday and Saturday nights at Varsity Gym. Photo by John Younie.

CWUAA Men's Basketball Standings

	GP	W	L	PTS
UVic	10	9	1	18
UofA	10	7	3	14
UofL	10	7	3	14
UofC	10	4	6	8
UBC	10	2	8	4
UofS	10	1	9	2

Referee's discretion is disputed

by Pat Frewer

The women's IM program hits the ice and snow with one more cross country skiing class, Wednesday, January 31, and a round of ice hockey and curling approaching. Sorry for the confusion caused some of last week's cross country skiers. It seems we can check out equipment at 5 pm, but can't start the class on Pool Field until 5:30, due to another class being in progress there. During the slack half-hour last week, several people gave us up for cancelled. The show will go on next Wednesday at 5:30.

Women's racquetball happens January 31 and February 7, with limited court time and an entry quota. There will be both instruction and recreational play.

There's co-rec badminton Monday, Tuesday, Thursday for two weeks starting January 29. You may enter either the Recreational or Competitive league, and play on one of the three nights each week.

The men's program has seen lots of action in basketball and hockey. On the ice, in Div. II, the Muff Divers, Mech. Eng. and Theta Chi "C" have all won the

first two of their four games in league play. While Commerce and G.S.A. were battling it out in the arena one night, some culprits down below installed chunks of gelled meat dye in the shower heads. The result after the game was some fluorescent red hockey bums. No clues were left as to the identity of the pranksters, though I noticed the incident occurred during Engineering Week

Basketball finals were characterized by disputes with referees. One official gave a technical foul to a team for the poor conduct of its fans. He has

Sports shorts

by John Stewart

Its quite possible that some sports aficionados on the campus have misplaced their memories of basketball.

Due to a frustrating quirk in the schedule, Garry Smith's Golden Bears basketball squad played but one regular season home series before Christmas. However, as the result of this apparent inanity, the Bears play eight of their last ten contests at home, starting this Friday and Saturday when they meet the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns.

Resplendent in their stunning new warmup outfits and fresh from a credible performance on national TV, the Bears promise to be at the peak of their game this weekend.

Led by potential all-Canadians Brent Patterson and Pat Rooney, the U of A squad swept two games from U of Dinnies last weekend. The game, originating in Calgary, was the feature college contest of the week and did nothing to enhance the chances of both Rooney and Patterson becoming national all-stars. According to Smith, all Canadian selections are often the result of receiving ample national exposure. Both players, particularly Rooney (who is presently number two in scoring in the west), performed admirably in front of the cameras.

Rooney, Patterson and the rest of the Bears stand a very healthy chance of receiving more country-wide TV coverage this year. According to sources close to the Bears, they are a team that is improving each time out. Presented for second place in Canada West, the U of A group are very real threat to become number one in the conference, thus gaining a berth in the national finals, slated for the Calgary Corral March 8-10.

There appear to be a number of reasons for the upsurge of the squad after a disappointing season last year. Both Rooney and Patterson spent substantial portions of the previous season sidelined with injuries, but in 1978-79 the two leaders have remained relatively healthy. As well, Smith has been able to use this bench freely, receiving more than adequate performances from rookies Grant Ashlee, Ken Haak and Tim Ryan.

Second year transfer player Tom Groat has also made a substantial contribution to the team's fortunes, as has veteran Colin Fennell, who is taking a strong leadership role after a disappointing season in 1977-78.

Smith's two unsung starters, guard Jamie Thomas and forward Jim Bonin, have also meant much to the team this season. Their coach prophesies that either or both may earn all-conference honors at the end of the term.

The Bears begin play both nights this weekend at 8 pm and will be preceded by the Panda-Pronghorn games, which begin at 6:45 pm.

National senior finals

Volleyballers vying for chance

University of Alberta volleyball teams continue their quest for berths in national final events this weekend when they compete out of town in qualifying tournaments.

The Golden Bears are in Wetaskiwin this Sunday to play in the first of three tournaments arranged to identify Alberta's

representative for the Canadian Senior Men's volleyball championships.

Similarly, both the Pandas and the Junior Pandas travel to Calgary this weekend, vying for the right to represent the province in the women's national senior championships.

The Bears, competing in the

'AA' event, are scheduled to meet each of the five other teams in contention Sunday in robin play. The teams will be allotted points according to their finish in the event and at the third tournament (to occur in Calgary in mid-March) scores will be totalled and winner declared. The victorious team will then receive an invitation to the national finals.

Those teams competing in the three-tournament affair include the Bears, U of Dinosaurus, Calgary Volleyball Club, Edmonton Friars, M. Lazerte and Roofcraft Rams of Calgary.

The women's tournament format is identical to the men's except for one detail: it includes seven rather than six teams. Women's teams eligible are: Pandas, Junior Pandas, Calgary Volleyball Club, U of C Dinnies, Calgary Autumnns, Edmonton Friars and Strathmore Blues.

The Pandas and Bears have received written confirmation of entry from Student Government organizers in Tel Aviv. They are presently attempting to raise the necessary funds.