

# Bears expect a winning year

By LAWRIE HIGNELL

The tallest Alberta team in years hits the court next weekend against the U of C Dinosaurs. They have high hopes of regaining the WCIAA championship which they lost to the Dinnies last year.

The Bears play a doubleheader against last year's champs and are shooting for top spot in the five team league.

With the appointment of head coach Gerry Glassford and former Bearcat coach Alex Carre as assistant coach the Bears have an excellent chance of claiming the crown.

Glassford, a 32-year-old University of British Columbia physical education graduate brings a lot of



**ED BLOTT**

... most improved Bear

coaching experience with him to the team and last year was assistant coach of the Bear squad.

During university Glassford played with the UBC Jayvees, Senior 'A' and 'B' Men's teams in Vancouver and Senior 'B' Men's in B.C.'s interior.

Gerry is presently on the physical education staff at U of A and working on his Masters degree.

Coach Glassford refuses to point out the star players on his team with the belief that it would tend to make 'the others think they're inferior.'

Glassford also has high respect for his assistant coach Carre who led the Bearcats to two championships in the last three years.

Carre, a former Bear himself (1960-62), is presently working on his MA at the university while teaching at Ross Shepherd High School.

The Bears return this year with much the same line up as last year with only the loss of forward Barry Mitchelson and centre Jim Griffin. Centre Nestor Korchinsky returning after a year's absence due to a football knee injury will certainly strengthen the Bears' offense.

Glassford tends to stress a running team so the Bears can expect to do a lot of fast breaking in an attempt to beat their opponents. As the coach puts it, "this means more players get into the game—I believe that if a boy comes to practice, he should be able to play".

Up front the Bears have the height and talent to control both offensive and defensive boards.

Centre Korchinsky, at 6'5" brings with him a year of experience and that was a great one for Nestor. A strong rebounder, Nestor led the league in 1964-65 in both offensive and defensive rebounds and has been rounding into form during the last few games.

A native of Vegreville, Korchinsky is showing a considerable amount of improvement on offense

as he has learned to drive both left and right with comparable ease. A good hook shot is one of Nestor's best and he has been shooting quite well in recent practices.

The old knee injury could slow Korchinsky's timing on the Bears' tight press but his strong board control and feeding ability on the fast break will make up for this minor fault.

Forward Ed Blott is rounding in to the most improved Bear this year and his jumping ability has turned him into a good defensive player on tall forwards.

At 6'6" Blott has used his height to advantage and improved his short jump shots until he is almost a certain score within ten feet of the basket.

Ed has had three years of Bear experience and previous to that starred with Ross Shepherd Composite. Blott is playing sharp positional basketball as the top man on the Bears' tight press and ties up the opponent's guards with his added height.

Ed has also worked on his offensive tip in shot and can now rely on it for two to four points a game. With good heads up ball during the season, Blott will be a top contender for one of the two all star forward spots.

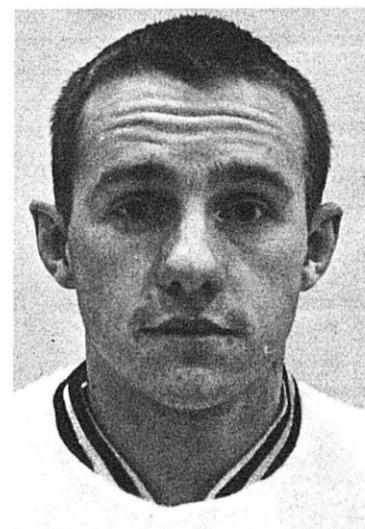
Murray Shapiro with two year's experience on the Bears is one of the toughest players to rebound against. Hailing from Lethbridge, Murray at 6'4" and 220 pounds, blocks out his man under the basket and seldom comes out on the losing end of a rebound that is tipped his way.

Shapiro is the only player with the Bears that shoots left handed and he has scored many a point from what seems to be the wrong side of the basket.

Murray is a bit slow at times when the Bears are moving the ball up the court but he seizes on any opportunity to steal the ball and last year tied many players when a loose ball was available.

At only six feet, Gerry Kozub seems to be poorly cast as a forward but his excellent ability at jumping has made him a tough player too on rebound.

A former Victoria Composite player, Gerry has one year's ex-



**DON MELNYCHUK**

... anticipates the play

perience with the Bears and two years with the Bearcats. Last year he led the league in scoring and paced the Bearcats to a Northern Division championship as co-captain of the team.

This year Gerry has been having trouble with his jump shot and has not clicked on offense as well as usual.

Normally, Kozub is deadly with his jump shot anywhere within thirty feet and the coaches hope

that the little problem will soon be cleared up. Gerry is a very conscientious player on the team and his hustling type of play will aid the Bears on their fast break and press.

The Bears have a number of good rookies this year but perhaps the one with the most potential is forward Warren Champion.

Champion starred at Victoria Composite during his high school days and his 6'5" height was an added advantage last year when he played on the Safeway Senior Men's team and helped them win the Alberta Championship.

Warren has an odd way of shooting his jump shot but it has proven also to be one of the toughest shots to check.

On defense Warren is very quick with his hands and is able to steal the ball frequently from his opponent. This ability along with his strong defensive rebounding is useful in the Bears fast break and Champion moves the ball out to the guards from under the basket with speed and ease.

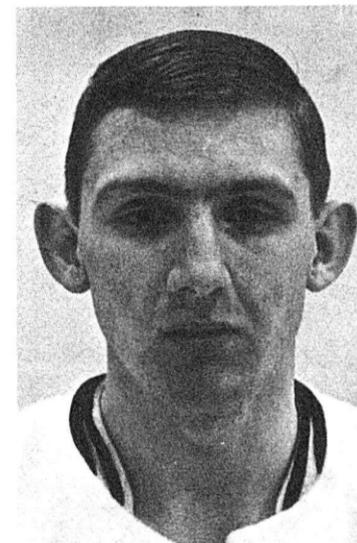
The guard slots on the team have been well filled this year with four returning Bears and one rookie.

Darwin Semotiuk, a star with the football and basketball Bears, has three years on the Bears and a year's experience on the Canadian National team when it toured South America two summers ago.

Darwin is an excellent outside shooter and is quick on offense to take advantage of the opposing team's mistakes. Semotiuk also controls the ball well when bringing it up the court and he made a fine

partner for Bruce Blummell last year on the Bears 'man-to-man' offense.

Blummell comes from the southern part of the province (Magrath) where basketball players grow and he is the best 'one-on-one' offensive player that the Bears have.



**NESTOR KORCHINSKY**

... rebound wizard

Bruce will score virtually every time if he is given the chance to beat his man on a drive. Being a good all round team player, Blummell has helped the Bears in the last two years and is certain to

come up with the key baskets this year.

One of the most underrated guards on the Bears last year was Don Melnychuk. Don played his school ball also at Victoria Composite and brought with him the makings of one of the finest defensive guards in the league.

Melnychuk is very quick on his feet and has learned to anticipate on defensive players to the point where he can easily tie up or steal the ball from his man.

Don last year played only sparingly but when called upon he made the fans wonder why the Bears were saving him on the bench. He can hit consistently from the outside with his jump shot and will shoot if the plays aren't clicking.

Guard Bill Buxton returns for his second year with the Bears and has looked sharp on offense and in the shooting column. Bill is a good driver but mixes his drives with quick and accurate jump shots to keep his man honest.

Randy Spencer rounds out the guards for the Bears and, as a rookie, looks like a potentially good dribbler. Forward Rob Lougheed in his sophomore year has good height advantage at 6'5" but needs to be more aggressive on both offense and defense.

Centre Cecil Blackburn at 6'5" played high school ball at Pincher Creek and needs some experience in college ball. His height could be in his favour if he worked on his jumping for offensive and defensive rebounds.

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