



TAKING A BRIEF RESPITE from their 60-mile bounce-athon are, from left to right, Les McLeod and Bill Winship. The pair finished the 20-hour march shortly after 7:00 p.m. Tuesday. Both bounce-athoners give their feet a check before continuing onward. P.S. The smiles were definitely forced!

photo by Heinz Moller

Bear Cagers Out-Lucked And Out-Pointed But Show Good Potential For Next Year

by Bob Dwernychuk

This season has seen the Golden Bear Cagers, not quite able to keep abreast with their talent stacked competition, come up empty-handed many times.

But even if the Bears managed but six wins in 27 starts, they frequently treated fans to the tensesst, closest, cliff-hangers seen in a long time.

League powers, knowing only too well that the Bears were capable of pulling an upset anytime, respected the inexperienced Golden Ones.

Winning five of their 16 league contests was enough to put the game Bearman in fourth place, ahead of the Manitoba Bisons.

TEAM FORMED

With new blood flowing profusely through the line up, head coach Steve Mendryk was faced with the demanding task of rebuilding and uniting the Bears into an effective team unit.

Molding the adequately talented roster has, unfortunately taken all season, but some of the Bear showings in the later games seem to indicate that the job has been accomplished.

Six freshmen and four sophomores along with too few veterans provided the team with more than ample talent, but unfortunately lacked the necessary experience to withstand game pressures.

After only two weeks of practicing, the Bearmen opened the season against the Clowing Harlem Stars on November 2 and 3. The zany clowners, stocked with every cage trick in the book, romped to two entertaining wins over the combined Junior Bearcats-Golden Bear hoopsters, by 82-67 and 85-59 margins.

One week later, in another exhibition match, the Bearmen out-rebounded, out-hustled, and out-fouled the Lethbridge Nationals in a losing cause, which saw the Nats on the better end of a 75-58 score. In the encounter, first stringer Jeff Hake-man suffered a knee injury which sidelined him for the rest of the season.

It was down to Vancouver, the home of the powerful UBC Thunderbirds, for the first league games of the season. The November 20 match saw the fast break break the Bear's back as the 'Birds rolled to a 83-44 snow-job. The following night Mendryk's marionettes changed strategy, to better effect, but not good enough to keep the 'Birds from a 63-51 victory.

Our southern cousins were the the Bear's next opponents. The Northern Lights, from Havre Montana took the first match 71-60, but the Bearmen showed they would be tougher in the next game, played December 1. Here the Bears produced their first overtime thriller of the season as Jim Walker sunk the winning basket with less than twenty seconds remaining, bringing the final tally to 77-75 in the Bears' favour.

Another win and another loss was in store the following week in Saskatchewan against the U of S Huskies. Matched against the combined "talents" of the referees and the Huskies, the Bearmen went down to a 59-48 defeat. But the following night saw Bearman get a 62-56 win, their first league win.

DOWNFALL BEGINS

December 14, was the beginning of an eight game losing streak for the green Golden Bears. Against UAC Bearmen rallied admirably in the last half of the first game to run the contest down to the wire. But it

wasn't enough as Calgary edged them 68-66, and followed up the next evening with a 105-75 avalanche.

Two days later, the Bears, on an extended (and fruitless) roadtrip travelled to Havre, where they dropped two close contests 61-59, and 68-62 against the Northern Lights.

Starting the new year off at home the Bears dropped two exhibition matches against the Malstom Airforce Base Minutemen (from Montana). Only three points separated the squads in the first game, but the 86-63 Bear loss was followed up with another 95-72 defeat.

Nobody expected the Bears to beat the Lethbridge Nationals a week later, and nobody was surprised when the Lethbridge team rolled to two easy 89-83 and 95-72 victories.

Wonderful fan support drove the Bears to their best games of the season as they won a thriller against Calgary with only four seconds remaining. The next night, January 18, had Calgary winning an equally exciting game 70-68, but the league officials later awarded the game to Edmonton when they learned that UAC illegally dressed too many players.

Losing Smith in the process of losing two games against Manitoba proved costly to the Bears. Blowing a 17 point lead in the first game to loose 71-64, the Bearmen, without Smith's experience, (and his points) dropped the rematch 70-54.

HEARTBREAKERS

Close games seemed in vogue every time the Bearmen took to the floor, and two weeks later, against the U of S Huskies, the Bears dropped two close, home matches 64-63 and 68-62.

The Thunderbirds proved they deserve to be in first place as they whopped the hapless Bearmen 81-62 on February 22, and 75-59 the following night.

Last place was at stake the next weekend, but Mendryk played everyone except the timekeeper to give the entire team experience. And everyone excelled as the Bearmen controlled the courts to over-run U of M 70-60 and 68-53, to give them fourth place in the five team league.

Bounce-athoners Say "Never Again"

Two U of A students, Les McLeod and Bill Winship, added a new twist to the 50-mile-marathon craze last Monday by dribbling a basketball 60 miles.

The bounce-athon began Monday at 11:00 p.m. and concluded Tuesday shortly after 7:00 p.m. The 20-hour march included 12 circuits of the campus perimeter and two tours downtown to radio station CJCA.

Four students began the gruelling course as part of a U of A Radio challenge to Gateway. However, two were forced to drop out before the half-way mark.

PUB PARTY PRANK?

Asked why they did it, they replied, "First, to prove we could do it; second, as a result of the challenge and its acceptance; third as a part of the Pub Party festivities."

It was a long, hard, and often painful, journey. "We found the hardest period, aside from the last six miles, was between 20 and 30 miles. A 70-minute stop for breakfast and relaxation at 8:20 a.m. proved a life sav-

er!", McLeod stated.

The walkers were very pleased with the cooperation of Radio Society members, particularly Ralph Allen and Chuck Nelson, who ran errands, travelled beside them in a car for many miles, and generally offered encouragement.

After being told as much by three of Edmonton's finest, the marchers came to the conclusion that a trip to a psychiatrist would not be unjustified.

Would they do it again? "NEVER!"

Bear Pucksters Slide Down Ladder Of Success, But Future Looks Bright

By Ray St. Arnaud

Clare Drake, coach of the University of Alberta Golden Bears Senior Hockey team, termed the third place finish experienced by the Bears as "not too unsuccessful." This was the first time in 27 years that the Bears have sunk to this position.

The Bear finish can be attributed to one principal cause. This is lack of experience, especially in the forward position. The Bears could conceivably have scored more goals, but

they lacked polish in finishing plays around the net.

As a result of the Saskatchewan and British Columbia teams being stronger than in previous years, the lack of polish sent the Bears to defeat.

Because UBC won the league championship, the matter of Father Bauer attempting to develop a National team at UBC has again become a subject of some contention. There is one point brought out by Clare Drake that hasn't been previously that changes the perspective on the matter slightly.

Next year there will be two teams at UBC, the National team and the Intercollegiate team. The Intercollegiate team would participate in the regular schedule while the National team will play a series of exhibition games across the country. Players who tried to get on the National team but were unsuccessful would play on the Intercollegiate team.

Under this kind of arrangement Mr. Drake thinks the idea to be a very good one, despite the many problems facing the idea. He stated that he would not prevent one of his better players from advancing to the National team even though it

would weaken his own team. He believes it will be a tremendous boost to college hockey if it proves successful.

OUTLOOK SAME

Drake's outlook to next year sees the same kind of tough league. The Universities of Saskatchewan, BC, and Manitoba will all be improved, while the U of A Calgary, is an unknown factor.

Prospects for next year in relation to new players include a few from the Edmonton Oil Kings, two from the Saskatchewan Junior League and four from the Junior Bears. The Oil King players Drake hopes to get are Roger Bourbonnais and Doug Fox. From the Junior Bears Ralph Jorstad, Don Francis, Jim Fergusson and Joe Laplante may prove to be senior material. Holdovers that will prove helpful next year are Jack Nicholl, Dave Carlyle, Duane Lundgren and Dale Harder.

THE SPORTING LIFE
By Bill Winship
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