

Bears need a win vs Dinos

by Ajay Bhardwaj

If the Golden Bear hockey team wants to repeat as Canada West champions the team they absolutely, positively have to conquer is the University of Calgary Dinosaurs. The two teams hook up in a home and home series on Friday at Varsity Arena and on Sunday at Father David Bauer Arena.

"We want to make sure we win the Friday night game," said winger Doug McCarthy. "We don't want to get behind the eight ball." That doesn't mean, however, that the Bears are approaching the weekend with a pessimistic outlook. "We definitely want to sweep," McCarthy said.

Last season the Bears beat Calgary both times the Dinosaurs visited Edmonton. The Dinos repaid the Bears' hospitality by winning both games in Calgary. However, the Green and Gold laughed best and laughed last, winning the Canada West final two games to one.

This year, though, things are different. "Last year we were both run and gun teams," McCarthy said. "This year we have the two best goalies in (Calgary's Peter) Fry and (John) Krill." Junior center and the Bears' leading scorer, Adam Morrison, echoed McCarthy's sentiments.

"The major difference is that we had Sid (Cranston) and Stacey

(Wakabayashi) last year. They were awesome offensive threats. Sid and Stacey really tore them up last year," Morrison said.

In light of this different type of game, both team's grinders will have to be at their best. "If it's going to be a 2-1, 3-1 game, it's going to be a grinder's game," said center Marty Yewchuk, himself a grinder.

Yet another grinder from whom the Bears will need a strong effort is Todd Gordon. The winger has yet to register a goal this year, but he does have five assists. "It's a little slump," Gordon said. "I'm not worried. I'm playing better."

In the playoffs last year, Gordon was, arguably the team's best player. He was good, particularly against Calgary. "I like the big games," Gordon said. "Against Calgary it's always a big game."

In a tight game a lot depends on the goalies. They must make the big saves to prevent a lead from dwindling or getting too big. Krill relishes the thought of such a game. "Last week I only got 20 shots, and you tend to start to day-dream," said the fifth year netminder. "You're bound to get a lot more shots (against Calgary). You have to think more positively about making the big save."

So what is the prognosis for the



Jeff Cowley

Bear defenceman Gord Thibodeau takes out his man. The Bears and the Calgary Dinosaurs meet for the first time on Friday night.

weekend? "The usual," defenceman Grant Couture said. "Hard skating and good hits. A lot of high tempo and a lot of flow."

On the bench: Center Dan Wiebe, who suffered a concussion last week, skated on Tuesday, and should be able to play on the

weekend... Morrison is fighting the flu bug, and has been for about a week... Calgary has lost its entire checking line from a year ago.

Pandas going for National Championship

by Ajay Bhardwaj

For the Panda soccer team, it all comes down to this final weekend. They've posted a 7-0-1 record through eight Canada West games this season and now they're just two wins away from capturing that elusive National Championship.

Last year at the Nationals, the Panda dropped a 1-0 decision to the University of Acadia on penalty kicks. They finished third in a four team round robin. This year the Pandas will face the University of Wilfrid Laurier in one semi-final, while the University of Acadia will tackle the University of McGill. The winners will advance to the final game.

Head coach Tracy David would like to see a round robin tourney instead of a one game, loser goes home. "We would like to see a round robin," David said. "The first game is a little hairy-scary. You have a lot more pressure on you. In a round robin you can get rid of

nervous energy."

Co-captain Sheryl Ferry agreed with her coach. "We can't wait till the last ten minutes of the game. We have to play hard all the way through."

Although the team had a near dream regular season, they know that they're not finished yet. "Everyone's a little confident," co-captain Nicole Poirier said. "But we don't know Ontario and Quebec very well, so we won't be overconfident."

"The team is really focussed," Ferry said. "We don't fear anyone. We've been like mailmen (we've always delivered)."

Early in the season David was concerned that she did not have an experienced enough bench to get through the year successfully. But to their credit, the Panda bench did come through. "Kerri Romanufa has been outstanding," David said. "She played the whole UBC game when Kelly Vandergrift was hurt."

"The bench players give us a kick," Poirier said. "They give us intensity when they come off the bench."

In their preparation for Nationals, the Pandas have been practicing at outrageous hours. On Tuesday they practiced at 6:30 in the morning.

They will encounter a three hour time change when they fly to Acadia. Their flight leaves Edmonton at 1:00 am and it will be five hours before they land in Halifax. David will let her players practice right away.

However, the players don't seem

to mind. "It's exciting," Poirier said. "It's not just the same routine."

Ferry feels that the Pandas have to give something to get something back. "Sacrifices have to be made," she said. "Prices have to be paid. If we come home with a gold medal it will be worth it."

Bears using GBI to get top ranking

by Mitch Panciuk

The U of A basketball Golden Bears are hoping to be able to use the fifth annual Golden Bear Invitational Basketball Tournament (GBI) as a springboard to a number one national ranking.

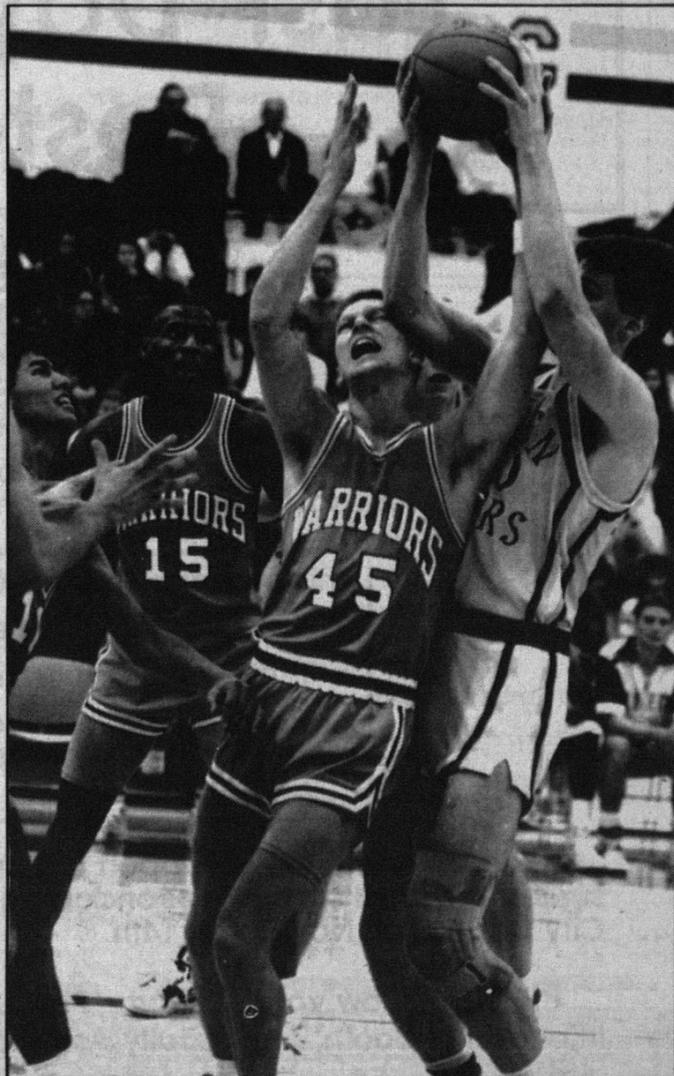
The GBI has established itself over the years as the premier men's basketball tournament in the country. Head coach Don Horwood feels that this is because "every year we get the best teams in the country."

The teams which will be in this year's tournament are: the University of British Columbia, Brandon University, the University of Calgary, Guelph University, University of Saskatchewan, McMaster, Winnipeg and of course the University of Alberta.

Horwood feels that this "is going to be an outstanding tournament," and that it "will give our team the confidence that we can play with any team in the country." According to Horwood "this tournament is the closest thing to national tournament experience that we'll be able to get."

Horwood's feeling is that if the Bears are able to do well in this tournament, "it can set the tone for the rest of the year. A lot of teams can win the National Championship, and we're one of them."

The Bears first see action on Thursday night when they take on former U of A assistant coach Steve Roth and the Saskatchewan Huskies at 8:30pm. Regardless if they win or lose, their next game goes Friday night at 8:30. All of the tournament games will be played in the main gym, and for Thursday, Friday and Saturday the games start at 2:00pm.



Colin Northcott

The Golden Bears easily defeated the Lewis-Clark State Warriors. They host their invitational tourney this weekend.



Sean Costall

The Panda soccer squad ran away from its competition this year. They go for a national title this weekend in Acadia.