Bear lighties/heavies roll

by Ajay Bhardwaj

There's no place like home for the University of Alberta wrestling tearn. The grapplers hosted their annual University of Alberta Wrestling Classic on Saturday. The Bears grabbed third spot in the team results and they showed well individually, too.

"Some wrestlers wrestled quite well and some of the less experienced wrestlers showed some things that I didn't think they had," U of A coach Mike Payette said. "But there were some veterans who made some errors that it was not good to see. I don't expect those types of errors out of those individuals. We certainly will work on those errors in practice and we won't see those errors again."

Vang loannides was one of those wrestlers who performed very well. The smallest wrestler on the team, loannides won the 52 kilogram weight division. loannides was aided by the fact that Wade Spelrem and Pascal Bonnet wrestled in the 57 kilogram weight class. If all three had wrestled in the same division, they may have swept the entire division, or, at worst, denied one another a medal. "It was a surprise that Pascal stayed up a weight class because Pascal he hasn't been down at all this year. On the other hand, Wade moved up because he

wanted to see what the competition was like at the weight class higher," said loannides, who usually wrestles in the 48 kilogram weight division. The wrestlers usually train together. "It's the best situation I've ever had for training partners." However, since 52 kilograms was the lowest division in the meet, that's where loannides decided to distinguish himself.

"I would say that if the two of them had been in the weight class it would have the three us who finished in the top three, no question in my mind. The wrestlers who were in the weight class were all accomplished." He defeated Chris Kell of the Regina of Moose Jaw Olympic Club in final 5-3.

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Bonnet finished a disappointing fourth in the 57 kilogram weight class. "Strategically he wrestled a poor match," Payette said."He had it at the end, he was winning and he didn't have to do anything, he just had to stall for 45 seconds and he didn't. He went for a throw that wasn't there that wasn't there and was a poor throw at best."

"I made a bad move and it cost me the match," Bonnet said.

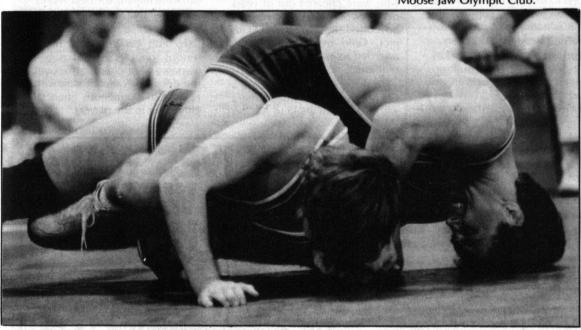
While the diminutive loannides

was dazzling in the lightest category in the tourney, the Bears' heavies were putting on a pretty good show of their own. Cam Petty and Frank Collins finished two-three in the heavyweight division behind Scott Reeves of Saskatoon. Petty's placing came as a bit of surprise because he's only been wrestling for two months. However, Payette had expected him to do well. "It turned out to be and easier tournament than the other ones I've been to (Simon Fraser and Calgary). But I'm pretty proud of what I did." Petty pinned his first three opponents quickly, the fastest being 17 seconds. Like the smaller wrestlers, Petty and Collins are pushing each other and it's helped.

"It's good to have a guy your size to work with instead of working with smaller guys," Collins said. "We should push each other harder."

The Bears' Ron Morie finished fifth in 61 kilogram weight division. Bryant Diachuk and Pat Flynn finished fifth and sixth in the 82 kilogram weight class. Meanwhile, Wade Wishloff finished a strong second in the 90 kilogram division after he'd moved up from the 82 kilogram division.

The Saskatoon Wrestling Club won the Classic, while Calgary finished second. Salisbury finished fourth followed by the University of Regina, the Underdogs, the Moose Jaw Olympic Club.



The Bears' Pascal Bonnet (top) finished fourth in the 57 kilogram weight division in the Bear Wrestling Classic. The team finished third overall.

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