

Bears top Lewis-Clarke

by Mitch Panciuk

Proving that bigger is not necessarily better, the U of A Golden Bear basketball team turned in a gutsy performance this past Thursday at the main gym against a taller Lewis Clarke State team.

In the 9th annual pre-season game to be played by these two teams, the Bears continued their dominance over our American counterparts with a commanding 89-72 final score.

The Bears took the lead at the 20 second mark when center Bill Lavergne hauled in a lead pass from guard Sean Chursinoff, and proceeded to dunk it to the delight of the fans on hand. By the half the Bears held a seven point, 39-32 lead.

Lewis Clarke came out strong to begin the second half, rallying to actually lead by one point after two minutes. The American team then made some costly turnovers, allowing the Bears to regain the lead, and then never look back.

Lewis Clarke head coach George Phiefer felt that the largest difference between the two teams was the fact that "we didn't start to get our offense rolling until well into the first half. The U of A press bothered us quite a bit at the beginning, and when we started to execute we were able to handle the pressure and make it a game. We made a few crucial turnovers, and we just couldn't come back."

Golden Bear head coach Don Horwood was quite pleased with the way his team played. Horwood said that he was "pleased with the way we showed mental toughness and drive to take it away down the stretch."

Thursday's game marked the return of center Bill Lavergne to the line-up after sitting out the past few weeks due to injury. However, Lavergne's return was overshadowed by the play of returning forwards Rick Stanley and Brian Halsey. Stanley was the Bear's top scorer with 18 points, and Halsey helped the cause with 14 points of his own.

Stanley felt that the experience of playing a tall team like Lewis Clarke is good, "so as to experience what it's like to go up against a tall team." This experience is felt to come in handy when the Bears play some of the taller teams as the race for the CIAU Championship becomes more and more of a possibility.

Mitch Panciuk is the colorman for FM-88 broadcasts of Golden Bear basketball games.

Bears win GPAC tourney

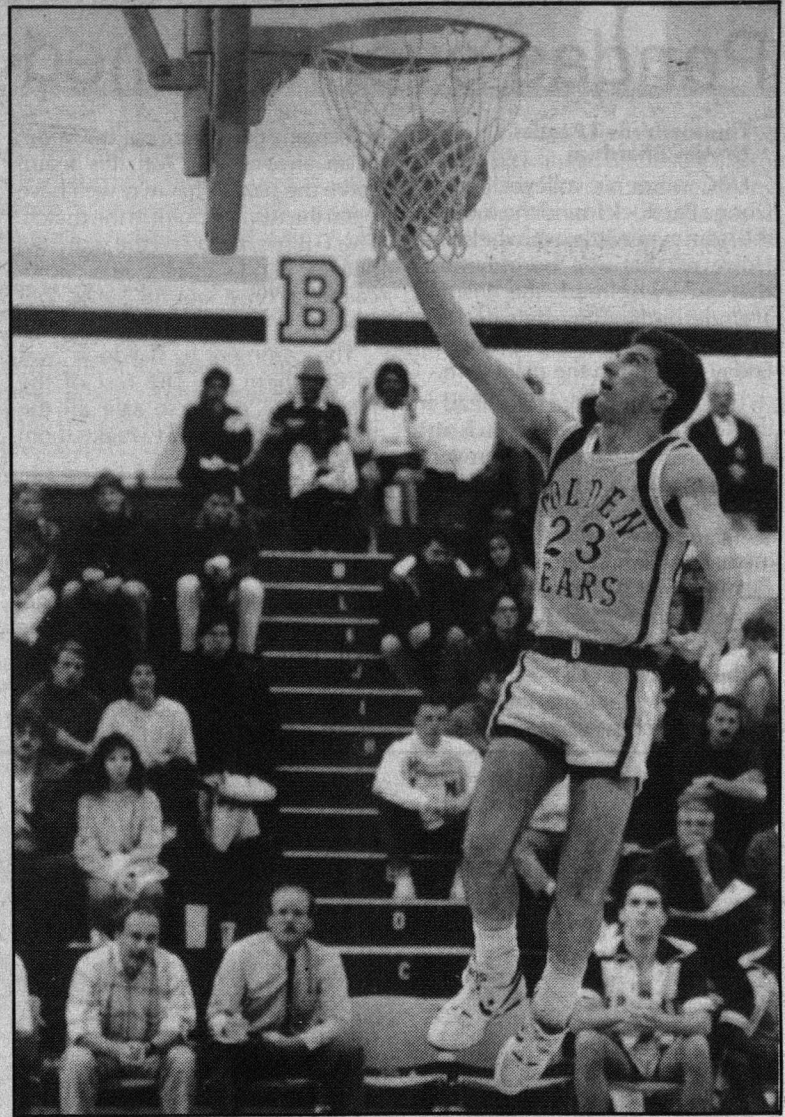
by Mitch Panciuk

Boosting their record to 7 and 0, the Golden Bear basketball team travelled to Regina this past weekend and cleaned house winning their fifth, sixth, and seventh games of the season.

After defeating the visiting Lewis Clarke State Warriors last Thursday, the Bears travelled to the GPAC pre-season tournament and on Friday night played the University of Manitoba Bisons. The Bears came out on the winning edge of that game, beating the Bisons 92-81.

Saturday saw the Bears take on the tough Brandon Bobcats, and squeeze out a tough four point victory 81-77. In the championship game of the tournament, the Bears took on the University of Saskatchewan Huskies in an offensive battle, which they won 104-90.

Head coach Don Horwood was happy with the weekend, but feels that the Bears didn't play well. "I think there's lots room for improvement. We made the mental mistakes



Golden Bear guard Dave Youngs puts in an easy two points

Colin Northcott

Sean Chursinoff was also voted as a that result from a lack of concentration more than anything. The effort was there all the time, just simple things like forgetting your man and not communicating on the court."

A couple of the Bears played outstanding on the weekend, and Brian Halsey led the way being recognized as the tournament most valuable-player. Fifth-year guard

first-team all-star. Horwood feels the fact the Bears won the tournament without playing particularly well, confirms what he has been thinking from the beginning of the season. "We feel that we have a pretty good team and we can play with anyone in the country," Horwood said. The GPAC tournament victory in Regina proves this fact.

Sweaters

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ers wouldn't hurt the championship atmosphere of the rink, either.

Over the past two seasons, the Bears have lost some fine players, and it would be nice to see their contributions recognized. Players like: #8 Dave Otto, #14 Parie Proft, #15 Jack Patrick, #16 Sid Cranston, #20 Dennis Cranston, #21 Stacey Wakabayashi, #22 Jeff Helland, #24 Curtis Brandolini, and #30 Darren Turner.

The same system could also work for other sports, like football and basketball. The University already recognizes its student athletes through things like the wall of fame; this would just be a more-visible method of recognition.

There are some fine seniors on the sports teams this year, and I'd like to see them get all the applause they deserve.

If any readers have some thoughts on this, drop me a line at *The Gateway*, Room 282 SUB, and I'll either print them, or pass them along to Athletics, or both.

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