

Bob Bain—versatility and experience valuable assets to bounceball Bears

By RON TERNOWAY

Have you ever seen a bow-legged sparkplug?

This is just one of the myriad of descriptions that apply to Bob Bain, versatile forward-guard for the bounceball Bears.

At a first glance Bob's legs make his very presence on the court seem incongruous but one only has to watch a little while longer to realize that the basketball court is his real element. He is an excellent dribbler, a fine shooter and possesses blinding take-off speed.

And he definitely is a sparkplug. Coach Barry Mitchelson sums up Bain in one word.

"Excellent."

"If you define a leader as one who does so by example, then Bob is surely the leader and the sparkplug of the team," he said.

"He just does everything well, and there is little more that I can say than that," added Mitchelson.

A native of Niagara Falls, Bain transferred to Alberta this year after three years at the University of Waterloo. He is married and has a four month old son, Christopher. Bob is very happy about his decision to come to Alberta and

has no regrets whatsoever. "Everyone is very friendly and helpful, classes are going well and I couldn't be happier," he said.

Although he played for three years for the University of Waterloo Warriors, including the 1967-68 National Championship team, Bob rates this year's Bruin team as the best he's ever been on.

"Larry (Nowak) and Dickie (DeKlerk) are the two best big men I've ever played with, and the guards are quick and good shooters. If we were to all put a good game together, there isn't a team in Canada that could touch us," he said.

He also feels that the Bears this year are a very closely knit team with a lot of team spirit. "I think that the big thing is that we hang around quite a bit together off the court, and that we share common interests," he said.

After the Christmas layoff and a couple of games with the College of Great Falls, Bob and the rest of Mitchelson's squad resume conference action this weekend.

The Bruins, leading the Western Canada Intercollegiate Basketball League with a 5-1 record, left this

morning for a crucial weekend series in British Columbia.

Barry's boys hold a slim one game lead over the undefeated UBC Thunderbirds (4-0) and the University of Manitoba Bisons, who have compiled a 4-1 record.

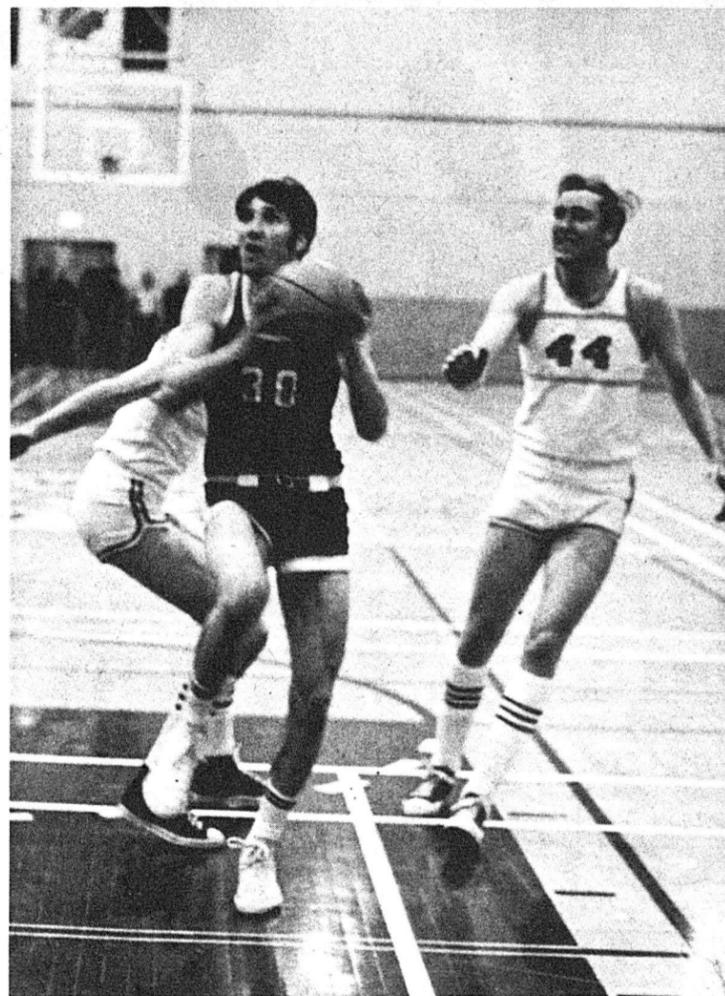
Tonight the Bears tangle with the University of Victoria Vikings in Victoria. The Vikings have a 2-2 record, but Mitchelson is not counting them out yet.

"The big thing will be to take these games one at a time. If we slough off against Victoria in anticipation of the next evening's game with British Columbia, we could be in trouble," he said.

Saturday the Bears move on to Vancouver for a contest with the highly-rated Thunderbirds. The game will be a real indicator of the relative strengths in the WCIBL this year, as most experts have predicted UBC, Manitoba and Alberta as contenders for top spot.

Mitchelson will have his club at full strength with the exception of rookie forward Brian Johnson who sprained his ankle in practice this week. Johnson will make the trip but is not expected to play.

The next action at home for the Bears will be January 23-24 as the two British Columbia teams repay this weekend's visit.



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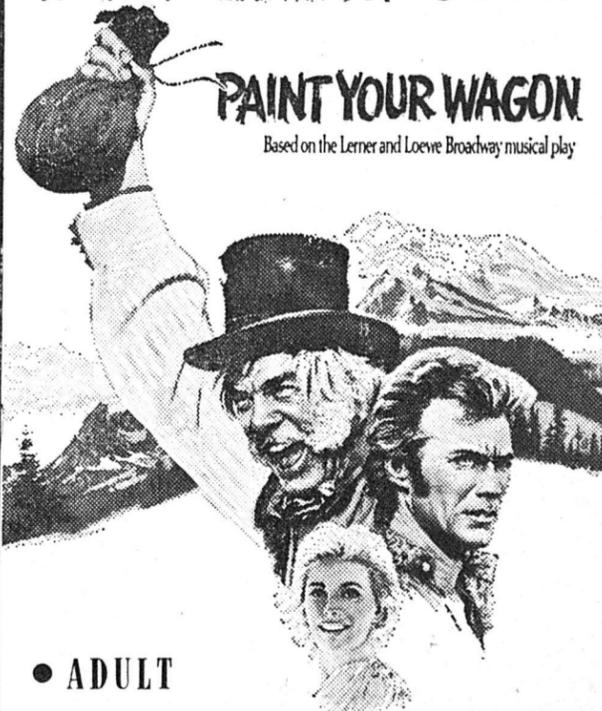
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