

# SPORTS

## Bears work for win

by Allyn Cadogan

Saskatchewan Huskies can't read. If they could, they'd know that the University of Victoria bequeathed the role of league doormat to them last spring and they'd play accordingly.

As it was they made U of A's hockey Bears work for their 4-3 win in Saskatoon's Rutherford Rink last Saturday night.

"This is a rebuilding year for us," said Saskatchewan coach Dave Smith in a pre-game interview. "We have only five players returning from last year. Our rookies are talented, though, and given time, we'll win our game."

"We're building for the future," he continued. "We know we won't win many games this year, but we've taken a positive attitude. We don't want any more of these 14-1 games."

Bears came out Saturday night playing as if they expected to win by divine right, or something.

Coach Clare Drake had moved Steve McNight to defense to cover for Bob Beaulieu, out with a knee injury, and also did a bit of juggling with his forward lines.

Huskies played a close checking game and managed to keep the score down to 2-1 for Bears in the first period, and to 3-3 in the second.

"That hurts, it really does," said Smith after Clarence Wanchulak tucked in the winner at 10:51 of the final stanza just ten seconds after Husky Wayne Knowles went to the penalty box for holding.

Even though Huskies "don't expect to win many" they

display a much more confident attitude than the previous year's edition did. The new coach who comes to Saskatoon after two years coaching in the Austrian National League is very optimistic that he can produce a good team. The optimism has definitely rubbed off on his players.

Saskatchewan goalie Kevin Migneault played a good game last weekend. Smith feels that Migneault is the best goaltender in the league and plans to spend the Christmas break shoring the defense in front of him to lower that 5.3 goals against average that puts the lie to his belief.

Coach Drake, on the other hand, plans no major changes over the break.

There will be two intersquad games and a game against a St. Albert Intermediate team to keep the men in shape for the upcoming Molson International Hockey Tournament. The tourney features Bears, U of Calgary Dinosaurs and the Polish National Team.

Bears travel to Calgary on the 27th to take on the Dinos and return home to play the Polish team in Varsity Arena the 29th and 30th.

"We're looking forward to this tournament," says Coach Drake. "It will be interesting to play an international calibre team. The Polish team is in the 'A' class which makes them one of the top six amateur teams in the world."

Information regarding game times and ticket prices can be obtained from room 116 of the Physical Education building or by phoning 432-3616.

## Super 'Cats

by Doug Merrill

At times the junior varsity Bearcats have allowed themselves to become almost totally offensive-minded. After all, what team wouldn't with a goals-per-game average of 12, and with victories of 19-1, 15-2 or 14-1 behind them. They have also been allowed to skate away unscathed after committing many basic errors because of the obvious weakness of the opposition.

It so happened that the Sherwood Park Knights displayed few of these weaknesses last Friday and consequently were able to hold Bearcats down to a mere 3-1 victory, their tightest game yet, till the next night.

Saturday a quiet Bearcat bench watched and waited for the game to break in their favor as it always had in the past. And they waited and waited and waited. But it didn't break for them and the Sherwood Park hockey club held on to its tenacious 6-5 lead till the final buzzer.

Bearcats didn't play an exceptionally bad game nor did Knights outplay them by a long shot. In fact it looked as though 'Cats had control more often but the hustling Knights were always there to check them at crucial points, pouncing on several loose pucks resulting from clearing mistakes made by Bearcats.

Despite the six goals against, Hank Barrie played a strong defensive game leading the team with a goal and an assist. The three well-balanced forward lines

distributed the remaining four goals among themselves, one to Darcy Lukenchuk, one to Randy Phillips, one to John Devlin with defenceman Jim Kosochowski getting the other.

Gord Stewart led Knights with three goals while Grant Quist netted the other two.

Thursday night in St. Albert seemed more like a practice session for Bearcats with coach Dick Wintermute emphasizing positional play and clearing drills rather than letting his team go on another goal-getting spree.

St. Albert scrambled about trying to hold off the rushes of Bearcats and did reasonably well, keeping them down to a 6-1 victory.

Again Barrie played a good defensive game as did Kosochowski.

Lukenchuk and Brian Sosnowski seemed to be having a bit of trouble getting the puck from their skates to their sticks and accounted for four missed breakaways, but nevertheless played well.

Though Sherwood Park has provided the toughest competition for Bearcats this year, there is still no doubt in the mind of this writer that 'Cats are the best Junior BB team in the city.

They have a chance to prove this in another game against Knights tomorrow night at 8:30 in Varsity Arena. As expected, Bearcats were dropped from the Capital Junior Hockey League. Indications are that they will be unable to enter the

## Klondiker - a real classic

by Peter Best

U of A will host the sixth annual Klondike Classic basketball tournament over the Christmas break, December 27-30.

The Classic features high school and university teams in several days of some of the most entertaining basketball the city sees each winter. In past years the university teams especially have produced good, close, high-scoring games. As Chuck Moser, assistant athletic director, puts it, "We've had some rippers."

Again this year the Classic is shaping up as one of the better sports events on campus. Golden Bears coach Barry Mitchelson is sure "It's going to be an awfully good tourney."

In the university division Bears will play a round robin tournament with Lakehead University, University of Guelph and Western Montana University.

They will play two games per night at 7:15 and 9 p.m.

beginning Thursday, December 27 with Lakehead meeting Western Montana and Bears taking on Guelph. On the 28th it'll be Western Montana and Guelph in the early game and Alberta versus Lakehead in the nightcap. The 29th sees Guelph playing Lakehead followed by Bears and Western Montana.

On Sunday the 30th the top two teams after the three days' competition will play off for the championship at 3 p.m.

Guelph should provide crowd-pleasing basketball, according to Mitchelson. Coached by Garney Henley (perhaps you've heard of him in another line of work), the Ontario school has a short team but one with plenty of speed to run a hat fast break.

The Lakehead-Bears game should be a real entertainer since it was the team from Thunder Bay that knocked U of A out of the national playoffs last spring.

Western Montana is rated one of the top teams in their conference. They've already beaten Great Falls University,

who stopped Bears twice in exhibitions earlier this fall.

For the high school draw U of A will invite eight teams to compete in a single knock-out tournament.

The four top schools from Edmonton and four teams from rural Alberta will take part. Invitations will go to the leaders of the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (CAHPER) tournament being held this week.

Play among the high schools begins the 28th with games at 1, 2:30, 4 and 5:30 p.m. The winners advance to the semi-finals while the losers go into a consolation event with games at the same times on the 29th.

The consolation final goes at noon of the 30th, followed by the championship at 1:30.

Tournament passes good for all 17 games can be purchased in room 116 of the Physical Education building for \$2.00 for students and \$4.00 for adults.

All games are in the main gym.



The U of A Whoop-de-doo Club's annual dance featuring the smooth sounds of Denise and the Trollops playing to the famous "Turnips and Cordwood motif" was spoiled by the invasion of these oddly dressed rowdies who were uninvited. Future dances, we are told, will be guarded by vicious rats, trained to kill.

## Duck fight

The annual Christmas duck fight will not be held this year due to a lack of interest on the part of the contestants.

"Who the hell cares about a stupid duck fight anyway?" said Mr. David Twaddle, this year's promoter of the annual event. "Last year's crowd was sparse enough for us to consider making this somewhat drastic

move. Advance ticket sales were down so far that we instinctively knew that duck fight days had gone the way of the dodo, steam engine and surgically removed hemorrhoids."

The duck fights had once been the pride of Edmonton, drawing crowds of up to eight million per show.

This writer is sorry to see such a noble institution go up the tube.

No more will the stirring roar of the crowd stir the mighty gladiators on to greater acts of violence than one could see in any other contact sport.

Relegated to the dusty past are the names of such famous warriors as Mike, Poo and Marv. A high mass will be spoken for the demise of a local institution in front of the Royal Bank building this Tuesday at 11 am. No flowers please. Any contributions may be sent to the save the banana fund care of the GATEWAY office, room 282 SUB

intermediate league playoffs as they haven't played any regular season games which is a prerequisite for entering the finals. Barring entry into this league, the next action the Juniors will see after Friday will be a tournament at NAIT on the 28th through the 29th of December. If you're confined to Edmonton for the holiday season, the tournament will provide top junior action.

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