



Panteluk (54) leaps for arrant rebound photo by Peter Johnstone

Bears' hustle key to first-place climb

Bob Bain's basketball Golden Bears have proven this season a little hustle can carry a team a long way.

Bears penchant for extra-effort was more obvious Saturday night as they completely demolished and demoralized University of Victoria Vikings 69-46 before about 2,000 spectators in the Main Gym.

The resounding victory pushed Bears past the idle Lethbridge Longhorns (5-1) into first place in the Western Intercollegiate Conference. Alberta has dropped only two of their eight games but, ironically, the losses were inflicted by the same Vikings last November in Victoria.

Bears' hardly scored their revenge Friday night in an uninspired 64-56 win over Vikings. Some of the players said it was the first time this season they really weren't ready to play.

But the Bear coaching staff, Bain and his assistant Andy Skujins, scrutinized Vikings' and altered their game plan somewhat for Saturday's encounter.

"We felt they were a good shooting team when we gave them the time," said Bain. "We didn't realize how poor ballhandlers they were until last night. And they did a good job versus our zone defence, so we had to go to man-to-man."

Determined to give their fans a better show, Bears harassed Viking shooters right from the opening buzzer, forcing eight turnovers within the first five minutes.

By the half, their exuberant play had caused 18 turnovers.

Centre Mike Frisby came up with another strong performance in pacing Alberta with 23 points, most of them occurring in the second half. Frisby, as usual, got into foul trouble and was lifted two minutes into the second half for Dave Holland. Holland promptly earned his allotted five fouls and was hurriedly replaced by Frisby.

Being only one foul away from total banishment, Frisby sparkled, scoring 13 of his points in the last ten minutes.

Bain indicated Art Uhl would have been thrown into the breach if Frisby has fouled out.

Rugged play of Steve Panteluk and Brian Hart aided Bears to a commanding 33-17 lead at the half. On one occasion, the red-haired Hart missed a shot from the head of the key and scrambled under the frontboards to snag his own rebound.

Besides patrolling his own backboards with reckless abandon, Panteluk added 7 points, while teammate Tom Solyom tallied eight points.

Against the Bears' tenacious man-to-man defence, Vikings shot a miserable 28 percent from the floor in the opening half, as compared to the 67-percent performance the previous night. In the second half, Victoria was never a threat to wrestle the lead away from Bears, who maintained a 20-point margin until the game's end.

It proved to be a particularly rough contest, with 45 fouls being called by referees Harry Bullen and Alex Carre. In addition to Holland, Wally Tollestrup of Bears and Chris Hall and Tom Holmes of Vikings were fouled out.

Other leading scorers for Bears were Solyom and Panteluk with 12 and 13 points respectively.

The sedulous work of Panteluk propelled Bears to their victory Friday night. The six-foot-three freshman contributed 18 points and ten rebounds.

Vikings exploited the Bears' zone defence in the first half, as they seemed content to pass the ball and to shoot only for the sure basket.

With the score deadlocked 35-35, Bain first employed some man-to-man defence to hurry Viking sharpshooters. Pouncing on some ragged Viking play in the second half, Bears took a lead that was threatened late in the game by the good shooting from Hall and Holmes.

But Bain McMillan, resembling a flanker more than a basketball player, converted three breakaways into baskets and put the game on ice.

Bears host University of Calgary Dinosaurs this weekend in the Main Gym. With the Longhorns close behind, they must continue to win.

"Now, at 6-2, we're in first place," notes Bain. "We'd like to stay there."

Couves' scoring leads pucksters

U of A's hockey Bears started the new year off right as they flew back into town early Monday morning with three wins under their belts.

With the two easy victories, 15-2 and 4-1, over Victoria, and the all-important 5-4 defeat of UBC, they have jumped back into a rather crowded first place in league standings. Alberta now boasts a 7-2 record as opposed to 7-4 records held by Calgary and UBC.

Dave Couves vaulted into first place from ninth in league scoring as he tallied 11 points-six goals and five assists-on the weekend for a total of 21.

UBC's Bob Murray now trails in second place with 17 points while Rick Wyrozub jumps from 15th place to tie with Calgary's Ron Gerlitz in third with 16 points each. Wyrozub picked up four goals and four assists on the weekend while Bob Beaulieu, Gerry LeGrandeur, Marcel St. Arnaud and Bruce Crawford got 7 each.

Vikings played a tough close-checking game Sunday, giving their goalie Murray Finlay plenty of support. And Finlay was hot to say the least.

He stopped 36 shots in the second period alone, compared to 7 fired at Alberta's Craig Gunther who played good stand-up goaltending all evening.

The game was a touch and go affair until the last ten minutes when a goal by Couves seemed to break Finlay's elan.

Vikings scored first at 13:55 of the opening period when Jim Inglis sneaked the puck in low past Gunther's glove side, but Wyrozub retaliated for Bears less than two minutes later.

At 10:58 of the final period, Couves caught Finlay down in the net and flipped the puck over his legs to make it 2-1.

"I think if Victoria had got another goal before we did, we'd have had a lot harder time coming back," commented Couves.

A short-handed goal by Wyrozub and the final marker from Bruce Crawford ended the game 4-1.

"I think it was conditioning that told on us at the last," stated Vikings coach Ron Maxwell. "We were hitting hard all night, and after yesterday's performance, I've got to be pleased with our play tonight."

Alberta skated circles around Victoria Saturday afternoon with over half the Bears roster making bids for the scoring race. Couves netted four and Wyrozub, Crawford and St. Arnaud tucked in two each. LeGrandeur, Clarence Wanchulak, Gerry Hornby and defenseman Ross Barros and Paul St. Cyr tallied singles.

Victoria's first goal came at the midway point of the opening period when Larry Hackman slapped it in from the corner, catching Barry Richardson out from the net.

Finlay left the ice after allowing the third Bears goal, a slider that he should have stopped. He was replaced by Greg Larsen, Victoria's new second string goalie, who allowed Wyrozub to make it 4-1 for Bears three minutes later. The score was 6-1 at the end of the first period and 11-1 at the end of the second. Finlay returned for the third stanza but still allowed four more markers for Alberta.

"A couple of the guys have told me that they don't worry if a puck gets past them because they know I'll stop it," said Finlay. "It gets depressing when they count on me to do it all, and I just wasn't up for tonight's game."

"We only have three players here on hockey scholarships," added Maxwell. "Quite a few of the guys went away and worked over the holidays, and for many of them this was the first time they'd skated since returning to school. We're just not in condition."

But it was the big one with UBC that got Bears rolling for

the weekend. St. Arnaud drew first blood for Alberta as he slapped a hard one past Fred Masuch from center ice.

However, Thunderbirds replied with three goals in less than two minutes and it was wild, exciting hockey for the rest of the night. The house was standing room only and the fans nearly took the roof off as Alex Dick and Brian DeBiasio each blasted one past Richardson's glove side. Then Rick Longpre picked up a loose puck at the blueline and went in alone to make it 3-1.

Undaunted, Bears, took the play back into 'Bird territory and Barros caught Masuch sprawling in a scramble. Couves scored twice in less than a minute to end the period 4-3 for Bears.

Birds presented a strong offense in the final two periods, but Bears played tight defensive hockey to keep UBC from scoring. Defensemen Barros, Beaulieu and St. Cyr gave outstanding performances while Randy Bock, a new face on the Alberta roster, was especially impressive as he supplied the team with a much-needed policeman.

When he's hot, Richardson's glove hand has reminded many people of a snake striking, and he was definitely up for the game Friday night. Hoots of "just lucky" from the crowd changed to awed silence and finally to enthusiastic applause each time Richardson came up with another save.

Three minutes into the third period, Oliver Steward caught Masuch down in the net and gave Bears a two goal lead. But Wanchulak took a cheap slashing penalty with just three minutes left to play and Doug Buchanan capitalized. It was a thrilling last two minutes as UBC tried everything to tie it up.

"I'm hoping that UBC game did a lot for us mentally," commented coach Clare Drake. "It's good to win those tough games." ac

Huskies outpoint weary U of A wrestlers

Golden Bear wrestlers were in a unique situation last weekend. They gave a tournament but nobody came.

Well, almost nobody. Bears expected seven teams to show up Friday night in the West Gym for the Golden Bear Invitational but only the Edmonton All-stars, Edmonton Club, Vermillion College and University of Saskatchewan Huskies made an appearance.

The heavy snowfall that accompanied the weather disturbance which hit Alberta last week forced three teams, University of Idaho, Northern Idaho College and University of Calgary, to stay home. It also forced Bears to hold up in Vancouver on their way here from a Christmas junket to sunny California.

These factors contributed to their 76-75 loss to Huskies in the tournament. Though Bears lost the meet, they had a valid complaint about a lack of competition.

We just didn't have enough teams in it," team manager Bill Hallett said. "Saskatchewan won four weight classes, we won six. But where we finished first, they finished second. For all our wins, we got 18 points over Saskatchewan."

After the long California trip over Christmas, four Bear wrestlers went home to visit their families.

Ole Sorenson, the Olympic competitor, John Barry, a former Canadian champion, Andy MacLeod and Dennis Cleaver were missing from the line-up.

The trip also took its toll on the physical condition of some of the Bears. Eighteen husky men piled into three cars and

travelled 2,000 miles, making stops at San Jose, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Bakersfield.

Bears struggled into Edmonton last Thursday, and had only one day of rest before the meet.

Despite these misfortunes, Dr. Taylor wasn't discouraged with his team's performance on the weekend. "We won the matches we should have."

Alan Boychuck walked away with the 134-pound class while Bill Robertson had little trouble taking the 142-pound category.

In the 150-pound class, Bill Dowbiggan had his toughest bout with another Bear, Dave Fennell. Dowbiggan beat Fennell

17-2.

Bill Brooks defeated Al McMillan of the All-stars to capture the 158-pound class, while Blaine Kjolten placed first in the 177-pound division.

The other Bear winner was Helmut Gerlat in the 167-pound class.

In other bouts, Bears' Gary Brow lost a tough 9-5 battle to Huskies' Jim Wiste, who was a silver medalist in the Canada Games. Brow had held a 4-0 lead in the first round.

Russ Horvey and Jim Kemp, both of Saskatchewan, triumphed in the 118-and heavy-weight-divisions respectively.

Alberta cops first track meet

The U of Alberta hosted the third annual U of A - U of S dual track and field meet on Saturday, Jan. 6 and came away with its first win in three years.

It was the Pandas that salted away the win for the U of A, as they defeated the Huskiettes 67 to 38 over the 9 events and two relays. The Bears however fell short of the U of S Huskies, dropping a 74 to 62 decision over 11 events and 3 relays.

Individual stars who highlighted the meet were U of A's Doreen Jones and Liz Vanderstam accounting for 19 and 18 points respectively as well as running on winning relay teams for the Pandas. Event winners such as Shauna Miller 1500 m, Brenda Walsh 600m, and Sue Hoffart 1000 m, showed the strength of the Panda squad.

The Bears showed a good balanced effort and a lot of improvement over last year. Good efforts by Darrell Menaid

1500m,

Bob Cote 600m, Brian Asselstine 1000m, Jim Young 3000m, Barry Boyd 50m, Romain Gutter 50m, and Long Jump, Ron Jackson 300m, and Chris Knight 50m hurdles helped to lead the attack against Huskies.

The climax of the meet came in the Women's 300 metres when U of A's Liz Vanderstam unofficially became the second woman in North America to run under 40 seconds. She sprinted the distance in 39.8 seconds, only 4 tenths of a second off the North American Indoor Record formerly held by Brenda Walsh of the U of Alberta. In two weeks, Liz has really come on strong, winning the Saskatoon Knights of Columbus Invitational 400 metres and placing second in the Invitational 200 metres.

Next weekend the Bears and Pandas travel to Winnipeg for the Knights of Columbus Indoor meet.