

Bear cagers crush Lethbridge

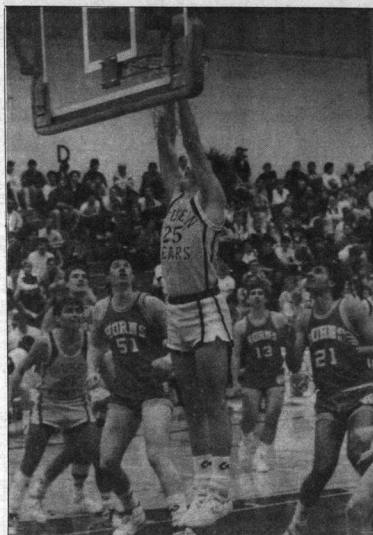


Photo Paul Mercier

The Bear's Mark Baker (25) shoots a bucket against U of L.

by Alan Small

Bears 77 Horns 61
Bears 109 Horns 72

The Golden Bear basketball club kept their playoff hopes alive with a pair of wins over the Lethbridge Pronghorns.

The Bears set the tone for the two game set with a 15-4 run early in the first game. Then shortly before halftime, the Bears scored 12 consecutive points in 2:07, which effectively nullified any possible Lethbridge comeback.

"(The run) really broke their backs," Bears head coach Don Horwood said, "if we don't beat this

trouble early in the first contest and ended up fouling out. The Bears got to show off their offensive talents on Saturday night, as seven Bears got into double figures and only guard Cliff Rowein was kept off the scoreboard.

"If anyone told me we'd win a game by that much this year, I wouldn't have believed them," Horwood said.

The game didn't look too hot from the start, as the Horns came out to a 9-2 lead, sparked by some great offensive plays by Lethbridge's Heggie, who led all scorers in the second game with 25 points. The Bears came back and were winning 20-16 before they went on a 17-4 tear that ripped the heart out of the Pronghorns. By halftime, Alberta was leading by 23 points.

"It's the best we played all year this weekend," Horwood said, "they're telling now, they've lost their confidence. I feel sorry for them."



A pair of freshmen looked sharp for the Bears. Forward Brian Halsey scored 13 points in limited time in the second half and for the first time showed the form that made him a star in high school for Harry Ainlay.

Ryan Smith, a freshman guard, also had a hot game as he played throughout, and was one of three Bear scorers with 14 points.

"Those guys are quality players," Horwood said, "they're going to have a good four and a half years here, I hope." The Pronghorns got into foul trouble once again, as Heggie, Blaskovits, and starting forward Garth Van Gaalen all had fouls early. Heggie also showed some frustration late in the game when he took a couple of shots at Bear forward Ed Joseph.

"He gave me a shove and a punch," Joseph said, "afterwards he said I took a dive and I didn't." The Bears host the UBC T-Birds on the 29th and 30th at Varsity Gym.

team at home, we don't deserve to be in the playoffs."

The first game was an inspired defensive effort for the Bears before the home crowd, their first game back in the new year.

"We kept the intensity level high right from the tip off," Bear guard Sean Chursinoff said, "We played great defense. That's what Alberta is known for."

Bear guard Chris Toutant and David Youngs led the Bears with 16 points each, while the Horns Ryan Heggie scored 14 to lead Lethbridge.

But the most catching statistic is the nine turnovers that Pronghorn point guard Jamie McLellan had. The tenacious Alberta press burned him many a time throughout the series. The Horns were also hurt by the fact that Heggie and center Paul Blaskovits both got into foul

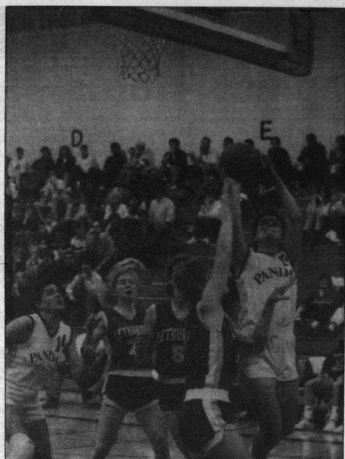


Photo Paul Mercier

Panda Michelle Durand (right) takes a shot against the Pronghorns.

Pandas swept again

by Alan Small

Pandas 62 Alberta 57
Horns 59 Alberta 52

After last weekend's action against the Lethbridge Pronghorns, Panda coach Diane Hilko has little to say about basketball referees.

"I was just amazed at the terrible refereeing," Hilko said after Friday's five point loss, "they missed blatant tackles out there. I just get ticked right off when they can't call the basic fundamentals like travelling."

The Pronghorns got off to a quick start in the first game, and led by six to eight points throughout the first half. At halftime, the score was 34-26 for Lethbridge.

The Pronghorns tried to run away with the game in the second half and with 3:45 left in the game, led the Pandas by 12 points. The Pandas though, just about pulled the game out as they scored 11 unanswered points at the end of the game. With :48 seconds left in the game, Michelle Durand missed two foul shots that might have given Alberta a chance.

"That was very tough," Hilko

said, "it's probably tougher on her."

In the second game, both teams came out very slowly offensively. With six minutes gone in the game, the score was only 3-3. The Pandas then went on a 13-6 run but the Horns came back and by halftime, the score was 29-29 in one of the most sleepy halves of basketball this year.

The second half was not much different as halfway through the second frame, only fifteen points were scored between the two teams. Again, Hilko thought the refereeing was less than adequate.

"I'm not one who complains about referees, but the last two nights they've been god awful," Hilko said, "I'm upset that they have to play such a major factor in the game."

The Pronghorns had an eight point lead with six-and-a-half minutes remaining, and held on for a seven point victory.

"When teams start rolling and start pulling ahead on us, we have to huddle ourselves together and talk," Hilko said, "we have to do that a lot more."

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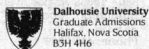
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