



Let's get ready to rrrrum-ble

"... And now, let's get ready to rrrrum-ble. Our feature event is in the middleweight division. Twelve rounds of boxing for the World Boxing Council title." The usual start to a most unusual fight.

"In the blue corner... this fighter weighed in at a surprising 159 pounds (when you consider he weighed almost 190 only months go). His record was 64-1 before the Deluge, and 20-3 since. He is a perfect example of why fighters should retire before they get old... formerly a great three-time world's champion, now a washed-up bum: Roberto Duran... Duran." All true, except that Duran looked in great shape. His chest was bigger around than his waist for the first time this decade — could he be ready?

"And in the red corner, the champeen. He weighed in at 159 and three-quarters pounds on his second try. Twelve years younger, bigger, and stronger than the challenger, in his recent fights this fighter has developed a reputation as a slugger. A paper champ who's far from unanimous in his weight class, but an overwhelming favorite with the sports books. He has a record of 25-3 with 16 k.o.'s... Iran "The Blade" Barkley... Barkley."

This really looked to be one of the worst mismatches in recent years, but Duran changed the scenario early. Showing determination and defence which he seemed to have lost years before, Duran came through with a classic performance. He got stronger in the late rounds, winning at least three of the last four, and flooring the (younger, bigger, stronger) champion in the penultimate frame.

Still, it went to the judges, who could have easily given Barkley extra credit for being busy, or who could have failed to note that Duran was slipping most of what The Blade was throwing, and given the call to Barkley.

Last Friday night, Duran gave a performance worthy of his old reputation as one of the toughest men ever to enter a ring. He has lost some of his animal instincts, to be sure; the ones that led him to spit on Sugar Ray Leonard's wife before their first fight. He even hugged Barkley after their bout, but I doubt that he'll ever be remembered as a gentleman.

Still, this fight and one more similar performance against Leonard this year could let Duran go out a champion, near the peak of his game. I only hope that he succeeds.



Vince Ashton (L) trips up Golden Bear Howie Draper. The Bear shelled NAIT 11-4. Story on p 16.

Rob Galbraith

Clutch win puts Bears on top

Bears host playoffs vs Manitoba on Friday

by Alan Small

Alberta did it but they did it the hard way.

The Bear hockey team, down a pair of points before reading week, had to get two more points than the Calgary Dinosaurs in the final four games of the Canada West schedule to finish first.

Despite the fact that Alberta managed a 2-2 record in the final four outings of the year, they finished in first place after the 112 game season.

Both Alberta and Calgary, who finished in second, had to play Manitoba and Regina in their final two series. While Alberta only managed a split at home to the lowly Regina Cougars, Calgary was swept at home by the Manitoba Bisons. That left the Bears in first place with only two games remaining.

The Bears, needing a sweep to

guarantee first place, complicated matters by losing their first game with the Bisons 4-2. Calgary defeated Regina, leaving them in first again. On Saturday night, the Bears beat the Bisons, and coupled with a Regina win over the Dinos, the Bears were back in first to stay.

The playoffs start this weekend,



and one will be a matchup from last week. The Bears host the Bisons at Varsity Arena for a best-of-three series. The winner plays the winner of the Saskatchewan-Calgary matchup two weeks away.

This season, the Bears have

taken three of four games over the Bisons, including both games at Varsity Arena (5-1, 6-2). Games one and two take place Friday and Saturday at 7 pm, while the third and deciding game of the series, if necessary, will occur on Sunday afternoon at 2 pm.

Bear forward Stacey Wakabayashi won the scoring title in Canada West this year with his 79 point season. Only linemate Sid Cranston has had a better year in Canada West history, as the fifth year winger had an 80 point season last year.

Despite not losing his points record, Cranston did lose his goal and assists marks. Saskatchewan's Ken Morrison scored 40 goals, eclipsing Cranston's 34 of a year ago. Also, Cranston's linemate Doug McCarthy, broke the captain's assist record. McCarthy set up 46 goals this year, one more than Cranston had last season.

Hockey

C.W.U.A.A. STANDINGS (Final)

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Alberta	28	21	7	0	206	105	42
Calgary	28	21	7	0	173	116	42
Saskatchewan	28	19	9	0	159	111	38
Manitoba	28	16	9	3	134	91	35
UBC	28	13	14	1	135	118	37
Regina	28	9	16	3	128	147	21
Brandon	28	6	21	1	94	190	13
Lethbridge	28	3	25	0	87	238	6

Results:

February 24: Alberta 2 at Manitoba 4
Calgary 6 at Regina 4
Lethbridge 3 at Sask. 11

February 25: Alberta 6 at Manitoba 2
Calgary 5 at Regina 6
Lethbridge 2 at Sask. 12

SCHEDULE:

March 3-5: CWUAA SEMI-FINALS (Best of 3)
Manitoba at Alberta
Sask. at Calgary

March 10-12: CWUAA FINALS (Best of 3)
At home of higher place
semi-final winner.

* Alberta awarded first place. The teams tied their four-game seasonal series at 2-2, but Alberta outscored Calgary 19-18.

Pandas finish first. Again

Bears win third on ruling

by Alan Small

For the fourth year in a row, the U of A Panda gymnastics team are Canada West champions.

Last year's national all-around champion, Diane Patterson, took the west title that was held last year by teammate Michele Hannemann. Hannemann finished third in the competition.

However, in the individual

events, Hannemann won three of four over Patterson, who took a first place in her specialty, the uneven parallel bars. Hannemann won the rest.

On the vault, Patterson, finished third behind Hannemann, she finished second Hannemann on the floor. On the bars, Hannemann finished fourth. Monica Kmech, who was fourth overall, finished fifth on the bars, second on the

balance beam and the floor exercises. Michelle Graham, who finished fifth overall, also had sixth place showings on the bars and the balance beam. Dana Albert finished second on the beam and sixth on the floor.

The western win should leave the Pandas in fine shape to defend their national title.

On the men's side, the Bears finished third, on a technicality. The Bears actually finished

fourth, but the Calgary Dinosaurs were disqualified for not using the required four all-around gymnasts. That moved the Bears to third, one place lower than they finished one year ago.

Individually, Joe Freedman finished sixth in the overall. He also had a third place finish on the parallel bars. Brad Law finished ninth overall and also scored a 17.05 on the pommel horse, good enough for fourth place in the west.

Rob Reid's 40.7 score in the overall competition should get him to the nationals as well, held on March 10 in Calgary. Last year, the Bears finished sixth in the country.