

It's a big weekend for women's athletics

by Don McCrimmon

Nobody on this campus knows anything about women's sports played on the intercollegiate level. One fairly sports minded hockey player said to me the other day at coffee "No shit, huh. I didn't know there was a Pandas volleyball team. What do they do?" Unfortunately, he caught me in the middle of a sip because I choked and spewed coffee all down the front of his shirt. Consequently, I never got a chance to tell him because I was too busy running to do any explaining but now that I've stopped running I can outline the women's intersarsity program this weekend.

Volleyball

The Volleyball Pandas and Bears are hosting the Fourth Annual Invitational Tournament

this coming weekend. Fourteen women's teams will be participating in the one-day event that is scheduled for the main gymnasium, west wing, in the Physical Education Building and the Education Building gymnasium. The tournament begins at 10:00 a.m. and will last throughout the day Saturday.

Of the fourteen teams the Calgary Premier Cals and Yorkton are regarded as the favorites. The Premier Cals have won the tournament every year since it began but it looks as though things might not be as easy as they have been in previous years. The Pandas this year are a much improved team when compared to last year's. This year they have a very strong team with seven veterans and five not-so-rookie rookies. They have also had the benefit of being able to spend most of their time perfecting their offenses and defenses without having to waste most of their practice time on basic fundamentals. At present they are more than ready to take on the Cals or Yorkton.

BASKETBALL

The Panda Basketballers hope to get back on the winning trail against the University of Lethbridge, after dropping two games to Victoria last weekend. As it stands the Pandas have a 1-3 win-loss record and would like to change it to a 3-3 before meeting the UBC after Christmas.

Coach Cathy Broderick feels that the home court advantage should be a big help but is concerned about her high-scoring rookie, Wendy Martin, who was sidelined with a sprained ankle against Victoria. Wendy has been recuperating well but is still a doubtful starter.

The Pandas will play the preliminary games before the Bear-Pronghorn contest. The Bear game is expected to get under way at 8:00p.m.

SWIMMING

Many laps have been swum (great word-swum) in

preparation for this weekend when the Golden Bears and Pandas host the tenth Annual Golden Bear Relays on Saturday. Thirteen teams will participate in the relay events. "It is one of the few relay meets in the province and it helps to build strong team spirit because most swim meets are individual contests," said Bear coach

Murray Smith.

Jasper Place and Killarney are favored to win the age-group competition, again this year while the Bears, last year's open champions, are favored to win the open competition. Jasper Place or Killarney, however, could provide strong opposition.

The relay events are scheduled for the swimming pool, west

wing, Phys. Ed. Building, beginning at 12:00 noon on Saturday. The diving events begin at 9:00 a.m.

CURLING

The Pandas curling team is

holding a round-robin tournament beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, at the Student's Union Building rink.

Six intercollegiate teams are entered in the bonspiel. There are two teams from University of Alberta, two from University of Saskatchewan, and two from University of Calgary.

Bruins battle for top spot with WESMEN?

by Stu Layfield

While the theme for this weekend's Golden Bear hockey action at Varsity Arena might be a familiar one, it does have a somewhat different twist this time around. With only infrequent exceptions, such as last season, the Bears are invariably in the thick of the heated competition for first place in the W.C.I.A.A., along with other such perennial powerhouses as the Universities of Manitoba and British Columbia and occasionally even the University of Calgary. This season both the Bisons and the Thunderbirds appear to have once again iced their usual strong teams, but at this stage of the schedule they have been forced to share their role as prominent contenders for the league championship with the upstart University of Winnipeg Wesmen.

In fact, heading into the weekend, the Bears and the Wesmen find themselves sharing first place with identical 4-0-0 records in league play. And Saturday afternoon these same Wesmen invade Varsity Arena to clash with the Bears in what could be a battle for undisputed possession of the league lead and retention of their undefeated, untied status.

"Could be" rather than "will be" because in order to preserve their winning streaks the Bears must defeat the University of Saskatchewan Huskies at Varsity Arena on Friday night and the Wesmen must beat the Dinosaurs in Calgary in the same night.

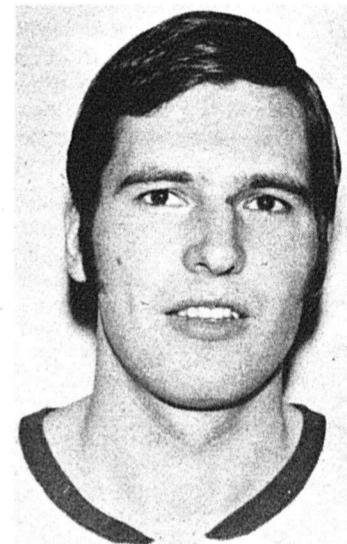
The Bears have already met and defeated the Huskies this year, capturing the Border Cup in Lloydminster October 30 by a decisive 10-2 count. The Huskies have strengthened their line-up since that meeting, however, particularly through the addition

of rangy Bill Hajt, a Western Canadian Hockey League All-Star last season with the Saskatoon Blades and third round draft choice of the Buffalo Sabres. But Hajt elected to complete his schooling this season and Buffalo's loss is Saskatchewan's gain, particularly since top calibre defencemen are always hard to find these days in any league. But the Saskatoon team still doesn't appear to be a threat for a play-off position, having lost their only two games of the regular schedule thus far to the Wesmen by scores of 4-3 and 6-3 two weekends ago. The Bears should have little difficulty in sending the Huskies packing off to Calgary, where they meet the Dinnies on Saturday, with their tails between their legs.

The Wesmen are an aggregation unaccustomed to the airy heights of first place in the W.C.I.A.A. The small Winnipeg school, an outgrowth of United College, usually finds itself on the losing end of a recruiting struggle with their larger, more prestigious, and usually more talented cross-city rivals, the University of Manitoba Bisons. But this season the Wesmen have come up with some highly-regarded newcomers, led by former Canadian National Team Member Jim Irving, to complement a number of returnees that include the likes of Al Abel, Bill Kearns, Joe Fras, and Kent Pownall, among others. Besides their two victories over the Huskies, the surprising Wesmen also twice defeated the Brandon University Bobcats last weekend, although the Bobcats who were considered to be the possible league darkhorses before the regular schedule got underway, were missing four defencemen from their line-up through

various injuries. So while the Wesmen remain undefeated at this time it is no doubt fair to state that they have not been severely tested as yet. If the Wesmen do manage to get past the Dinnies of Calgary on Friday night, which they may well do since the Dinosaurs seem to be having their troubles this season, it could make for a very interesting contest on Saturday afternoon.

In preparing for the weekend, Bear coach Clare Drake has indicated that he will likely start goal tenders Barry Richardson and Jim Coombs in one game each, although he is still undecided as to who will start Friday night and who will get the nod on Saturday afternoon. Off their training camp and exhibition game performances Richardson appeared to have won the regular netminding position, with Coombs assuming the back-up role. But Coach Drake alternated both goalies against both the Dinosaurs and the University of Victoria Vikings, and while Richardson's play has been commendable Coombs has done an exceptional job and for the present at least may have earned a continuation of the double goaler system. Coach Drake also confirmed that sophomore centerman Clarence Wanchulak will return to the line-up after missing last weekend's trip to Victoria with a knee problem; the "Skunk" will probably be back centering his



JIM COOMBS

...exceptional job

high-scoring wingers, Gerry Hornby and Bill Moores.

Friday night's game against the Huskies begins at 8:00 p.m. and

Friday night's game against the Huskies begins at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday afternoon's affair gets underway at 2:00p.m. The contests will be the Green and Gold's last league action before exams, and a pair of victories should leave them in a comfortable position alone atop league standings upon resumption of league play following the Christmas break.

Track and field

The Golden Bear and Panda track teams started their season off on the right foot last weekend as they won a dual relay meet against the University of Manitoba Bisons here in Winnipeg.

Although they ran second to the Bisons in most events, the Bears showed a lot of strength and received some fine individual performances. Rookie Ron Jackson showed his value by cracking off a 51.9 second 440 in the distance medley, and veteran Dale Knutson showed indications that he's ready for the season with a 1:58.5 anchor leg in the men's 4 X 880 relay. Barry Boyd, coming back from a

back injury that kept him out of competition last year came on strong with a 6.2 time in the 60 yard dash and a first place finish in the long jump.

Bears finished behind the Bisons in points, 56-54.

While the Bears were being nipped at the wire, the Panda crew were dumping the Bisonette squad 32-29 to lead Alberta to a 86-85 total point victory.

The outstanding performance of Liz Vanderstam in capturing the women's high jump (5'3"), the long jump (17'1/4"), and the 60 yard dash (7.4) was too much for the Bisonettes. Liz also ran the anchor leg of the 4 X 125 yard relay.

There are 1,000,000 events this weekend...

BASKETBALL

Friday 8 p.m.	Varsity Gym	Bears vs. Lethbridge
Saturday 8 p.m.	Varsity Gym	Bears vs. Lethbridge

CURLING

Saturday 9 a.m.	SUB rink	Round robin tournament
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HOCKEY

Friday 8 p.m.	Varsity Arena	Bears vs. Saskatoon
Saturday 2 p.m.	Varsity Arena	Bears vs. Winnipeg

SWIMMING

Saturday 9 a.m.	Varsity Pool	Golden Bear diving
Saturday 12 a.m.	Varsity Pool	Golden Bear relays

VOLLEYBALL

Saturday 10 a.m.	Main Gym and Ed. Gym	Tournament
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WRESTLING

Saturday 2 p.m.	West Gym	Bears vs. CALgary
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