

Cagers Can't Win For Losing

The U of A Golden Bears are a basketball team you can count on. You can count on them to win or lose a game by less than a basket.

Friday's 64-63 loss to the U of S Huskies was no exception. Add to this the 68-63 defeat the following evening, and you come up with a winless weekend for the Bears.

In the first contest, the fast moving game was destined to produce a climactic last second victory for the luckless Bearmen, were it not for the officials, who seem to believe that if you don't make a call, you can't make a foul call.

Slowly eating away at an 11 point half time deficit, the Bears found themselves down only one point, with possession of the ball and only 15 seconds remaining.

SMITH FOULED

Smith then got the ball in Husky territory and went in for what could have been the winning layup. As he drove in, he was fouled by Husky Mel Huszti. Rather than try to finish the shot attempt, Smith chose to let his momentum carry him out of bounds and to wait for the referee's whistle, which never came.

The referee's blunder cannot be justified, for after the game, in the Husky dressing room, Mel Huszti, admitted to fouling Smith in the encounter.

Smith should have been granted two free throws, which would have been enough to win the bout for the Bears.

Although Smith played with a tender ankle which obviously hampered him on defense, he still man-

aged to lead the Bear snipers with 17 points, while Darwin Semotiuk was close behind with 15.

McNeil potted 14 points for the Sled Dogs while Roger Tourigny added 12 more.

NOTHING TO CHEER ABOUT

Bear supporters had nothing to cheer about in Saturday's dismal performance.

But the 180 or more spirited U of S supporters, half of which were in varying states of disrepair, lead by a ridiculous no peace band, saw their team coast home to an easy victory.

"We just weren't ready for them," explained coach Steve Mendryk, "They got the lead early in the game and held it for the whole game. We just couldn't catch up."

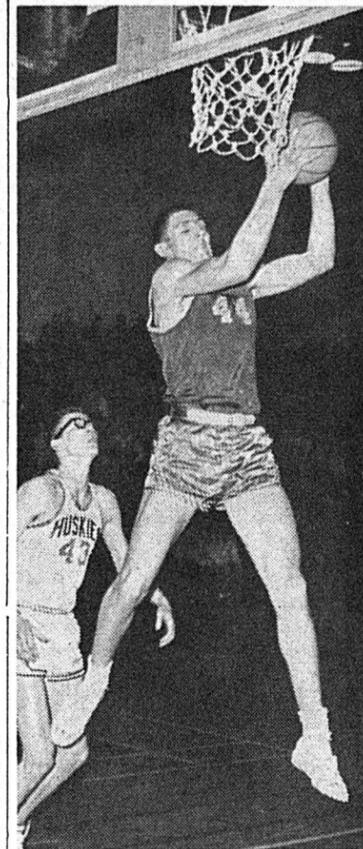
Playing especially effectively on defense, the Huskie cagers repeat-

edly stole the ball from the harrassed Bearmen. But it was the explosive Huskie fast break which killed the Bearmen, who learned the hard way the results of not getting back fast enough.

Nestor Korchinski lead the Bears on offense with 19 points, while Jim Fisher, who played equally well, sunk 11 points.

Smith was held down to eight points, an amount quite untypical for the sharpshooting guard who is usually good for around 20 points per tussle.

Bird-dogging Ed Blott was also held to only eight points on the basketball court, but was really in his element at the after-game party, when he attempted to steal one vivacious blond from one ex-friend, Gateway sportswriter!



NESTOR KORCHINSKY shows his usual good form at the backboard as he snags a rebound in Friday's 64-63 Bear loss to the Huskies. Korchinsky led Bear scorers Saturday with 19 points, although Bears suffered 68-63 defeat.

photo by Heinz Moller

Pandas Win Three Titles

In the Alberta Amateur Synchronized Swimming Association's Provincial Championships last Friday and Saturday, U of A swimmers won three titles.

The Panda swimtrrs, coached by Loretta O'Neill, won the Intermediate Duet Competition, the Junior Group Routine, and the Intermediate Group routine.

In a departure from previous practice, competitors were allowed to choose their own categories of competition instead of being placed in

competition on an age basis.

The two swimmers who won the Intermediate Competition were Dale Johnson and Marg Putnam, swimming in a number called "Chop Suey Chicks." They also joined with Shirley Etter, Sharon Johnstone and Phyllis Gitzel in the winning Intermediate Group routine called "Ghost Riders."

The Junior Group Routine team performed an attractive number called "Latin Tango" to win that section of the competition. The group members were Jo Gozely, Mary Paveuch, Lynne Gautier, Gail Smith, Vanna Bell, Donna Slovak, Peggy Goos and Judy Pulton.



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T'Birds Test Bears On Weekend

This weekend finds UAE invaded by hordes of VGW guests, all here for various reasons. But invaders from UBC storm PEB Friday and Saturday with only one purpose. Peter Mullin's Thunderbirds are out for two victories over the Golden Bears.

Game times are slated for 8:30 p.m. Friday night and 7:30 p.m. Saturday evening.

SMITH MAY NOT PLAY

The Bears will need all the help they can get, but "Smith may not be ready," Mendryk said and added, "If Smith isn't ready for the games, I just won't play him." Guard Garry Smith's tender ankle slowed him down appreciably in last weekend's cage encounters.

The powerful T-Birds are currently battling the UAC Dinosaurs for the league leadership and need two wins this weekend to put them in first place.

Winning the league title for the past five years attests to the awesome 'Bird cage strength.

Although Calgary is giving them a run for their money this season, the Thunderbirds still place well in latest league statistics. The field goal percentage department is sewn up by the UBC squad. Cook, McDonald, and Potkonjak placed first, second and third respectively. Cook has an impressive 50 per cent field goals.

UBC is also second and third in the freethrow percentage department of the league statistics.

T'BIRDS CAN BE BEATEN

Earlier this season, the Golden the UAC Dinosaurs. Last weekend this same Calgary squad upset UBC by five and fifteen points respectively.

Consequently, Mendryk feels that "if we can play two games as well as the one we played against Calgary, we will beat the 'Birds."

Just as the Bear coach would like to see games this weekend of the calibre of the earlier Calgary double header, so would he appreciate the same type of tremendous fan support offered at the same matches.

In the last VGW basketball matches two years ago, over 2,200 fans saw the Golden Bears play host to the Lethbridge Nationals.

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