

—Perry Afaganis photo

**BEARS' CHAMPION TRIES FOR TWO AGAINST ROBIN FRY**  
... referee missed this foul, along with many others Saturday in Calgary

# First-place finish looks far, far away

By LAWRIE HIGNELL

The Golden Bears all but eliminated their chances of finishing first in the WCIAA this year as they dropped two games to the first place University of Calgary Dinosaurs over the weekend.

Friday night the Bears lost a close match in overtime 81-77 and came back Saturday to find that two biased referees had joined the Dinnies to help them down the Bears 94-71.

In Friday's action the Dinosaurs started strong and used a press to hold the Bears and build an 11-6 early lead.

The Bears came back strong on good offensive play by Don Melnychuk and rebounding from Nestor Korchinsky and closed the gap to 17-13.

**EASY BASKETS**

However the Bears failed to play a good man on man defense and often let their men slip into the clear for easy baskets.

Late in the half the Bears started to settle down and control the boards and they closed the score to 39-35 at the half.

The Bears finally found the range as they started the last twenty minutes of play and surged ahead on three quick baskets by Ed Blott and good outside shooting from guard Bruce Blummell.

For ten minutes the score repeatedly changed hands as the teams played good basketball.

With six minutes remaining the Bears jumped to a 69-65 lead and increased that lead by two as Korchinsky hit on a tip-in shot.

**WENT INTO STALL**

The Bears then went into a stall with under three minutes left in the game but lost the ball and the lead.

Blott hooped twice to push the Bears to 75-71 and again the Bears stalled. A missed foul shot and two baskets from forced steals on the press, tied the game 75-75 at the end of regulation time.

In the five minute overtime period, the Bears received two costly fouls on which the Dinosaurs scored four points and they failed to regain the lead as the scored ended 81-77.

Top scorers for the Bears were Ed Blott with 23, Bruce Blummell with 19 and captain Korchinsky with 18.

The Dinosaurs were led by guard Ken Shields with 24 while Robin Fry and Wayne Thomas hooped 14 each.

**STRONG COMEBACK**

In Saturday night's affair, the Bears came back strong, considering the close match they had lost the night before, but the addition of two new players (referees) to the Dinosaur roster proved to be the Bears downfall.

In the first half, the Bears kept

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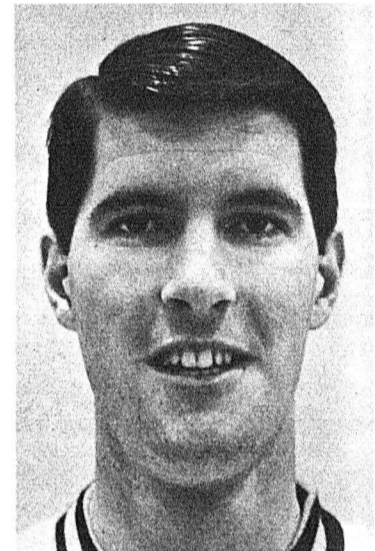
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right with the Dinosaurs although they never held the lead and they only fell eight points off the pace at one point in the first twenty minutes.

At the half, the Bears trailed 36-32 and were led by forward Warren Champion (who had failed to score the previous night) with 16 points. For the Dinosaurs WCIAA scoring leader Robin Fry hooped 13 and was followed closely by Hans Schamp with nine points.

Then the second half started and as Darwin Semotiuk put it, it was



**ED BLOTT**  
... 37 point weekend

obvious that there was no way that we were going to win. The Bears were hit for seven straight fouls, some on disputable calls and several on very bad errors by the officiating staff.

**BIASED OFFICIALS**

The referees evened the fouls somewhat later in the game as the Dinosaurs disguised rough play became all too obvious and they even tossed Calgary guard Dale Stuckey out of the game for throwing a fist at Bear forward Blott.

But the loss of captain Korchinsky early in the second half due to five fouls proved to be an added turning point as the Bears lost their team leader and top rebounder.

Guard Darwin Semotiuk, who the night before had only hooped three points, was switched to the forward slot in the second half and was the Bears leading scorer in the last twenty minutes with 13 points despite the Dinosaurs illegal tactics.

**BIG GUNS**

Top scorers in the game for the Bears were Warren Champion with 19, Ed Blott with 14 and Darwin Semotiuk with sixteen points.

For the Dinosaurs, Robin Fry hooped 22 while Bill Mucklow scored 17 and Hans Schamp potted another 16.

The two losses left the Bears tied for second spot with the UBC Thunderbirds who swept two weekend games from the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, 92-63 and 104-60.

The Thunderbirds now look like the best chance in the league to dethrone the Calgary Dinosaurs and the two home games in Vancouver against the Dinosaurs could prove to be the deciding factor.

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