

Wins Put Bears In Fourth Place

by Bob Dwerynchuk

The Bears are better than a fifth and last place club. Few people believed this, but last weekend the Golden Ones drove this fact home in no uncertain terms.

Finding the U of M easy prey, the Bearmen, in their best form this season, massacred the Bisons 70-60 Friday and 68-53 Saturday.

Their clean sweeps moved the Bears into fourth place, ahead of the beaten Bisons.

Both nights saw the Bearmen chalk up at least a ten point margin early in the first stanzas and expertly control the harrassed Bison's scoring to the end.

"I didn't feel that we played any better or any worse," Bear coach Steve Mendryk said, "but when the other team went into their press, this time we didn't collapse."

Only about 200 fans each night watched the reinigorated Bearmen effectively out-shot, out-re-

bound, and out-play Manitoba.

At last Bear bench potential was tapped most convincingly and Mendryk and the deserving Bearmen tasted the sweet wine of success.

BENCH STRENGTH EXCELLS

Bear cagers who had sat out most of the earlier games were given their chance of the season to gain experience, and nobody can claim that they let anybody down.

Fred Shandro left Friday's game early to get two stitches for a bleeding cut to the head, but gamely returned for the remainder of the game. In the following encounter, Shandro showed his stuff as he netted three of four field goal tries in the short time he was in.

"Forward Doug Hayes played the best he has played all year," according to Mendryk. Hayes scored 15 points in the double header, handling the ball well on offense, while holding his own on defense.

SMITH LEADS BEARS

Although plagued by a tender ankle, guard Garry Smith, as usual, masterfully directed traffic during Bear offensive thrusts, while leading the scorers with 16 and 21 points for the two nights.

Most of Jim Fisher's 20 points in the double header came on extremely stylish hook shots from close in that completely buffaloeed the Bisons. "Fisher did a tremendous job on Robert Fry," said Mendryk. Fry scored 33 points in one game against the Bears earlier.

Nestor Korchinsky, besides scoring 16 points in the weekend, was unquestionably master under the backboards. His 16 rebounds Friday nears the league record of 19 rebounds in one game.

Keeping the Bison field goal percentage down to 22 per cent, and out rebounding the Manitobans by 22 in Friday's contest was indicative of the Bear's fine defensive display.

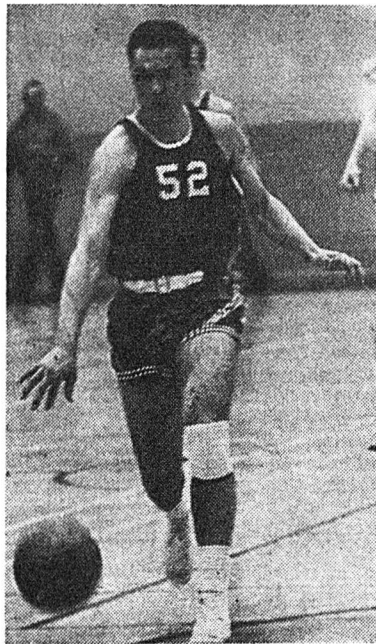
Over the two game series, Semotluk got 15 points, Reitsma 6, Strifler 5, and Blott 5.

For the Bisons last weekend, Mills netted 28 points, Mitchell 22 and Fry 21.

BEARS AWARDED UAC GAME

Even if the Bears played only two games this weekend they came up with three wins. Before Friday's encounter, Mendryk received a letter from the WCIAA President stating that the "disputed" home game against UAC has been awarded to Edmonton. Calgary won the game while illegally dressing too many men.

Consequently the Bears are now two games up on the Bisons, but the Bisons play U of S this weekend. The best Manitoba can do would be to tie the Bears for fourth, and what would then be last place, the position the Bears have been trying to vacate all season.



FRED SHANDRO showed typical Bear drive in Friday's contest, returning to the game after receiving two stitches for a head cut. He also sank three of four set shot tries attempts Saturday.

photo by Jens Tabur



NESTOR KORCHINSKY, practicing a set-shot here, snagged 16 rebounds in Friday's game, nearing the league mark of 19 made in one game.

photo by Jens Tabur

Bearcats Make Up Nucleus Of Playoff-Bound Champs

Hamilton is the next stop for Alex Carre's Husky all star team.

The Edmonton Huskies, who Friday evening captured the 1963 Alberta Junior Mens' Basketball championship, have secured a berth in the Canadian Junior Mens' playoff in Hamilton March 18.

Thursday's contest saw the Huskies score a tight 54-44 victory over Jack Kenyon's Mount Royal College Cougars. The Huskies, suffering from stage fright and unconscious marksmanship on the part of the Cougars, fell 11 points behind in the third quarter. However they exploded in the final quarter to score the impressive victory.

Guard Gaalen Erickson topped the

Husky scoring with 18 points, John Simonsen and Lyden Hutchinson found the distance for 13 and 8 markers respectively while Wayne Welsh followed with 7.

HUSKIES CONFIDENT FRIDAY

A much more confident Husky squad romped to a 56-41 victory in Saturday night's contest. Tight defense and terrific rebounding enabled the All-stars to grab a 16-8 first quarter lead; they never looked back.

Gaalen Erickson again paced the scoring with 13 successful attempts. Wayne Welsh and Rich Bowering found the mark on 12 and 11 respectively.

The Husky line-up journeying to Hamilton March 15 is dominantly Bearcat players. Guards Dwight Jensen, Wayne Welsh, Gaalen Erickson; forwards Rich Bowering, and Brent McMullen; and, center Linden Hutchinson constitute the Varsity contribution to the All-star squad.

Additions from other city teams in the Husky league are guard Jerry Kozub, center Bod Lindsay, and forwards John Simonsen and Al Shaw.

CARRE PLEASED

In commenting on the two game sweep of the series Coach Alex Carre stated that "although the boys were nervous and tight during the Thursday game, they came on real well in the Friday contest."

Varsity gym is hosting the Husky league final this weekend as the Varsity Bearcats pair off against the CJCA Tigers Friday evening at 5:30.



I was right — all the Golden Bear basketballers needed was a little incentive.

Rumors of a vigilante committee intent on staging a "friendly" mass lynching no doubt were the major motivation behind the Bears' recent double victories over the U of M Bisons. Perhaps a motion to create a permanent vigilante committee would be well received among Bear supporters!

Actually the twin victories, witnessed, ironically, by the smallest crowds of the season, were surprisingly easy. Bears played the same kind of basketball they have most of the season—but with much better results.

At times it seemed as if the Bisons were doing their damndest to crawl into the league cellar. Now that they are there I hope they enjoy it. We have—for many years!

During the two game series coach Steve Mendryk gave all the players a chance to play—and with surprising results.

Rookie Fred Shandro, who should have callouses on his posterior for all the time he's spent on the bench throughout the season, came up with two good games at the guard position. He showed lots of hustle, a good shot, and aggressiveness. He was rewarded with two points Friday and six points and two stitches to the head Saturday!

From his play it appears all he needs to see regular action is experience—something he couldn't get on the bench. Oh well, as usual, there's always next year.

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The U of S basketballers proved to be spoilers last weekend by coming up with a 49-47 victory over the UBC Thunderbirds. The T'Birds must have been confidently counting the days until the national final when they were shocked out of their complacency by the defeat. The Husky victory meant a first place deadlock for the T'Birds with the UAC Dinosaurs—and hopes of reaching the national finals must have looked bleak.

A league ruling on a disputed game, however, has assured the T'Birds the league title. Acting on a protest by Bear coach Steve Mendryk the league has awarded the Bears two points the Dinosaurs claimed by virtue of their overtime victory here Jan. 26.

This is indeed sad news. Much as it hurts to say it—the Dinosaurs, Llyod Harris et al, are the best team in the league and deserve to go to the national finals. More about this later.

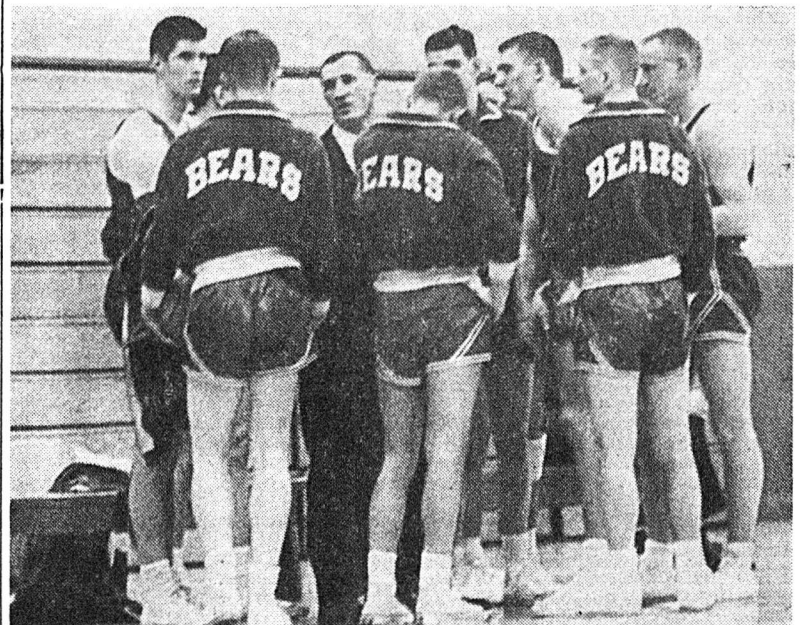
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It looks like I put my money on the wrong horse! Ron Anton's rink, while giving it a heck of a try, failed to bring home the bacon last weekend at Saskatoon. The talented Bear curlers placed second behind a U of S entry, which says a lot for the calibre of WCIAA curling.

However, the fencing team filled the "gap" admirably by taking U of A's fourth and last WCIAA title this season. Our showcases are not exactly full, but thanks to our fencers, wrestlers, swimmers, and racqueteers (tennis variety) they are not as bare as Mother Hubbard's cupboard either!

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I wish all those who cashed in on my "hot tip" last week would cut me in for a percentage of the profit. I just might be needing it in the next few days!



FROM THE GLUM EXPRESSIONS on their faces, nobody would think that the Golden Ones were winning during this time out. Here they listen intently to serious words of wisdom from their sage coach. Mendryk capably juggled the entire lineup, playing everyone except the cheer leaders, as the Bear men rolled to two easy victories over the buffaloeed Bisons.

photo by Jens Tabur

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