

Gateway

Sports

Speaking on Sports

By STEVE RYBAK

Yes sports fans you too can get in on some of the action.

O come on now, don't be bashful, there's a basketball team out there, somewhere, just begging for your vocal support. The largest crowd at any basketball game this year has been 40, at least here in Edmonton. Even more people showed up at the Golden Bear Invitational Wrestling tourney two weekends ago. And wrestling is not known as a spectator sport here in Canada.

Why the poor attendance? What can one blame it on? A poor selling job by public relations? A losing team and lack luster performances? The general catch-all, apathy? A genuine lack of campus spirit? What is the matter with fans on campus?

It's probably a combination of all factors, most of which should not be applied to this up and coming series. Sorry chief, forgot about the lack of spirit and the over abundance of apathy. After all the game will feature what has to be the two most evenly matched basketball teams in the WCIAA.

In their last meeting in Calgary in December the Bears took the first game 72-69 but dropped a 56-51 decision to the Dinosaurs the next day. The Bears currently share the basement with the U of S Huskies, only two points behind the Dinosaurs. Two wins and the Bears could leapfrog into sole possession of third place in the league standings with a 3-5 record. And then the Bears face the Huskies in a home and home series and the UBC T'Birds twice.

A 7-7 record, with a little luck

It is somewhat conceivable that the Bears could end the season with a 7-7 record, but only if they play the calibre of basketball they are capable of.

A winning team does a lot to draw crowds out to the courts. Last weekend in Winnipeg the Bisons beat the Huskies twice, and played to almost a full house. The Bisons, co-league leaders with the UBC T'Birds, drew standing room only crowds for three series this year. That's over 2,000 people game.

I wonder what a thousand people look like in the main gym. There haven't been that many in two years, and last year the Bears tied the Dinosaurs for second place in the league. You used to pay to get in to the games last year and the years before, now you get in free. What more could you want.

Well, for variety there should be a hard fought pair of basketball games (both the Bears and Dinosaurs have as much chance as a snowball in hell of catching the league leaders); nobody wants to end up in the cellar, especially these two teams.



squamish game was the main attraction, not the basketball game.

When the Bears played in Calgary they only had each other and the cheerleaders for support. They seldom have much more when they play at home.

And at the time outs and maybe half time, you'll have a double attraction, or should one say, almost twenty. Would you believe the cheerleaders from Calgary and our own girls. Who knows, even the band may have heard of the games too. And last but not least the sports editor may show up for one of the games.

Or maybe do you need more gimmicks to make you come out to the games. Three years ago they played the Canadian Squamish Championship game at half-time. We challenged Calgary, they sent up a full 41 man team and 200 supporters, we beat them, but lost the championship by ending up the winning team. Come to think of it, the

Wins over Dinosaurs would get Bears out of league cellar

In WCIAA basketball action this weekend, the University of Calgary Dinosaurs visit the U of A Golden Bears.

Earlier this season in Calgary, the Golden Bears split a double-header with the Dinosaurs. They won the first 72-69, but dropped the second 56-51.

The Bears may switch to their pressing game which proved successful against the Winnipeg Wesmen. In Calgary, they stayed in their zone defence with unfortunate results.

Rookies Al Melynychuk and Bryan Rakoz have been the Bear leaders in recent games. Larry Nowak, second in rebounding in the conference, saves his best games for WCIAA clubs.

The Dinosaurs lack height but cannot be underrated. Rookies Barrie Bennet, Wes Balderson and Glen Alexander provide the Dinosaurs with fine outside shooting.

47 POINTS

Muscular Al Kettles barged through the Bear defense for 47 points in two games. He leads the WCIAA in rebounding and is second in scoring. Jim Christie, a football player who joined the basketball team in late December, has regained his shooting touch. Recently he hit for 20 points against UBC, the strongest team in the conference.

The Dinosaurs have one major advantage over the Bears. They wrote exams before Christmas and have had two weeks to prepare for the Bears. Last week, the Bears held only irregular practices.

The Dinosaurs will attempt to erase the memory of two crushing defeats, 99-54 and 111-76, suffered at the hands of the UBC Thunderbirds. With a pair of victories, the Golden Bears can escape the WCIAA cellar.

Game time, at main gym, is 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.



BEAR LARRY NOWAK (52) FIGHTS FOR BALL
—Ken Voutier photo
... in Bear, Dino tilt earlier this season

Alberta swimmers take titles upsetting Saskatchewan team

By JOHN BOYD

The U of A Pandas and Bears surprised their competition, themselves and their coaches last weekend in the swimming meet in Saskatchewan.

The U of A swimmers took both team titles in the meet with the Pandas trouncing Saskatchewan 67-37 and Manitoba 67-31 while the Bears followed their lead with a 62-51 upset over the U of S and a 74-34 win over the U of M.

Biggest surprise in the meet came in the diving events. Mike Hawks, Jeff Thomas, Gailene Robertson and Colleen Kastings, all from U of A, placed high enough in all events to take both diving competitions.

Rae Edgar of the Pandas broke the WCIAA conference record in the 100 yd backstroke and then went on to lead the women's relay freestyle team to another record breaking victory.

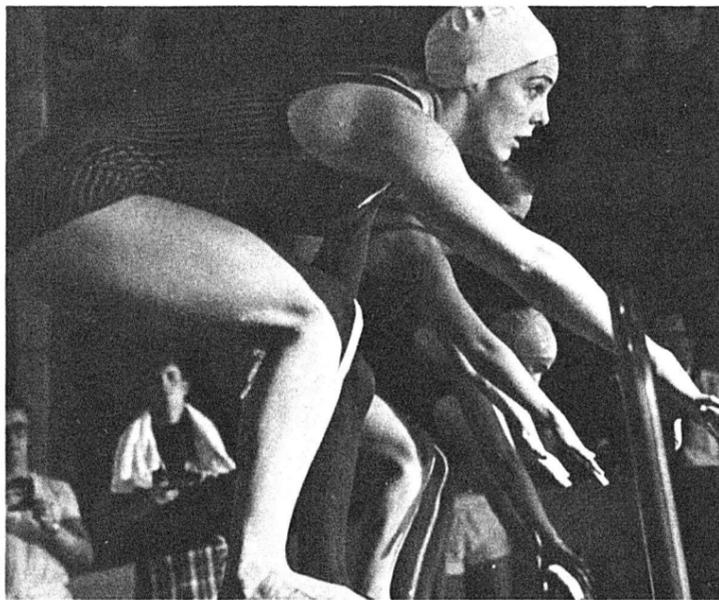
The Bears performed just as spectacularly.

Doug Dean and Andy McClure teamed up to take the first and second in the 200 yd. freestyle. Mike Morrow, Nograv Penny and Bruce Cameron divided all the first and seconds in the 200 and 500 freestyle and the 100 yd. butterfly between them, while Jim and Tim Barton, Pat Pierce and Mike Morrow took the 400 yd. freestyle relay.

CAN-AM GAMES

The 16th annual Can-Am games, will be held this Saturday at 2 p.m. in the university pool. Over 100 events are planned for the more than 120 swimmers from across Canada and the U.S. who will be in attendance. The swim meet is an age-class competition.

Canadian swimmers stand their best chances of winning in the 15 and up open competitions since most of the college-age American swimmers won't be able to make it to the meet.



ALBERTA'S RAE EDGAR

... sets league record in 100 yd. backstroke
—Hutchinson photo