

GATEWAY SPORTS



Bears Fly To Meet 'Birds

Starting off the '62-'63 WCI AU Basketball schedule this weekend, the U of A Golden Bears fly to Vancouver where they will be out to cage the powerful UBC Thunderbirds.

The Thunderbirds won't exactly be easy birds as they have not lost a conference game in three seasons and have not lost at home to the Bears in at least four seasons.

Also attesting to the 'Bird's strength is their upset victory against the Lethbridge Nationals two weeks ago. The Lethbridge squad, member, are the Canadian Basketball Champions and Canada's representative in the struggle for world amateur basketball supremacy.

Last year's edition of the BC squad led the conference in almost any department you might name. They also had the highest shooting average—one of the sore spots on coach Steve Mendryk's Alberta team.

Replacing last year's coach, who is now Athletic Director and swimming coach, Peter Mullins will be directing an experienced, talented lineup, in-

cluding 6'7" centre Keith Hartley and 6'5" Mike Potkonjak. Both played senior league basketball at the coast.

Guard Laurie Predinchuk, last season's top rookie will be returning to bolster the Thunderbird's lineup.

IRREPLACEABLE VOID

But losing the very talented Dave Way to the Lethbridge Nationals created an irreplaceable void in the 'Birds roster. Way was last season's top league rebounder—besides averaging an impressive 17 points per game.

Bill McDonald and Lance Stevens, two skilled hoopsters originally de-

stined for the UBC team, are also playing for the Nationals.

Mendryk left yesterday to see the Thunderbird-National tussle scheduled for last evening and will meet the Bearmen for their Friday-Saturday contest.

After their good showing against the Lethbridge Nats, the Bears looked good while making the Lethbridge team work for their win here two weeks ago. Coach Mendryk feels "anything can happen" when the 'Birds and the Bears tangle.

The Bears have a "well balanced team with real potential" but they lack experience and their shooting average will have to improve.

FIVE FRESHMEN MAKE TRIP

There are ten talented freshmen vying for positions and five will be making the trip to Vancouver. Along with these skilled newcomers are the remainder of the squad, all more than adequately skilled.

This poses a problem for Mendryk and he plans to shift the lineups for road trips to give all the upstarts and equal chance to prove themselves under game conditions. Finding the right combination may be costly win-wise, but "once the team jells as a unit they should become a strong contender," according to Mr. Mendryk.

Calgary and Manitoba also clash this weekend in Calgary in the only other conference contest scheduled for Friday and Saturday.

The following weekend the Bears play host to the Northern Montana College Lights in their first league home game.



JIM WALKER

... Bear guard

Volleyball Practices Start Monday 4:30 p.m.

Golden Bear Volleyball practices begin Monday, Nov. 26 at 4:30 p.m. in the main gym.

The Golden Bears, three time WCIAU champions (and still reigning), will be coached again this year by Costa Chrysanthou.

The Bears will have two teams in a newly formed ten team city league which will begin with a tournament Dec. 15. As well they will compete in the WCIAU, Western Canada and Alberta Championships to be held in Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton respectively.

Practices will be held weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:30-6:30 p.m. All who are interested in volleyball are urged to turn out on Monday.

I hate to keep flogging what appears to be a dead horse, but there still remains a slight chance that the Golden Bears footballers will play in an East-West final.

The fate of intercollegiate competition at a national level will be determined this weekend when the executive committee of the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union holds a meeting originally scheduled for April.

Football, no doubt, will be of immediate concern for the delegates. However, it is extremely doubtful that an East-West game will materialize unless the government comes through with the necessary financial backing. Even then the problems of arranging such a game are many, and it might be Christmas before the competitors got on the same football field.

Assuming that all technical problems are solved there still remains the question of an opposition for the McGill Redmen.

We, in Alberta, are convinced that the Golden Bears are the logical contender. However, the UBC Thunderbirds are not so willing to give way in favor of the Bears. The West would be forced to decide its representative by executive decision and this is bound to disappoint someone.

There is another factor to take into consideration—the Maritime Conference, which, quite rightly, will want to be a part of any national intercollegiate championship.

While the chances for an East-West football final are slim, the CIAU delegates have an excellent opportunity to make plans for national finals in hockey, basketball, and cross country.

There has already been a proposal that a hockey final be played at Kingston, Ontario, and a basketball final at Windsor, Ontario, at the conclusion of their respective seasons.

With the recently formed CIAU behind East-West playoffs it is to be hoped that such playoffs will become a regular feature of intercollegiate athletic activity and not dependent upon the individual initiative of a few universities, as in the past.

While it is regrettable that an opportunity for a national final has been lost, the establishment of a CIAU governing body should make the chances that it will happen again negligible.

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The Golden Ones, basketball types, are off to meet the T-Birds, according to some a tough team but lacking in depth. My only comment is that if they lack in depth, God help the other WCIAU teams when they get it! Already this year they've beaten Canada's best team—the Lethbridge Nationals—and must be rated favorites to retain the WCIAU title they've held for many years.



Comes the season of mid-winter revelry, pagan festivalia, and cathartic purgation. Comes jollity, and drunkenness, nocturnal bacchanalia and the release of hibernal frustrations.

The Saturnalia? Chanekha? Christmas?

No!

For it were Grey Cup time in Canada when seals were broken, bottles quaffed. Season of shouts and bellowed hootfulness; and many parties lasting to the early hours of the day. Parades of happy maidens wearing little clothing in sub-zero weather and marching to the rhythm of the drum. Cowboy hats and Eskimos.

Whence comest this emphasis upon sports in the deep mid-winter? The Americans have their Rose Bowl; the world its Olympics. Aha, perhaps there is the answer, for did not the Greeks have their Olympics, and in the winter, too?

But our answer lies much deeper. There is no Northern Hemisphere society which does not have a festival coinciding with the winter solstice. The Saturnalia was found to be entirely satisfactory until a group of pious ones decided to mix it up with Christmas. Lo and behold if the revellers did not switch the rites to the New Year.

For a relatively long period this was found to be satisfactory but it did not satisfy man's desire for the ritual. Christmas as it came to be involved more and more with Religion—and unfortunately with commercialism—was not the answer. Nor New Year's because it had no blood involved.

As Man's outlook became shallower and shallower, it was logical that sports should take a more important part in his life, and during all portions of the year. The sedentary beast wallows before his TV set and desires non-inflicting entertainment of an emotionality which is

of absolutely no importance. Football is the most satisfactory sport of all because pound-for-pound Mr. Sagbely could be a football player.

To return to the theme directly Christmas became a mockery of the Hibernal ritual, and Mr. Slouch had found a new interest in football. It was easy enough in his mind to approach the new rites with a religious reverence which no sacred ritual could evince. The Rose Bowl, the Grey Cup, the Macdonald Brier, these become the source of his mid-winter spring into a last spasm of inspired lethargy before the baseball season.

Mr. Lionel Chevrier has stated that the Grey Cup is in the National Interest. Understanding the situation as we do, we do not doubt that Mr. Chevrier was correct. It is consoling to know that the members of Her Majesty's Opposition are taking an interest in the soul cleansing of the Canadian people.

If you still have doubts about the ritual of the Football Game just compare it to the World Series which have as much importance but do not attest to nearly so much ceremony.

Happy Grey Cup and a Merry Rose Bowl.



The United Church of Canada On Campus

Chaplain: Rev. Vernon R. Wishart, M.A., B.D.

Office: St. Stephen's College

Phone GE 3-0652

Chaplain's Hour - Tuesday at 10:00 p.m.

Topic—

"Virtue - Passe?"

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Telephone GA 2-2856