

# sports

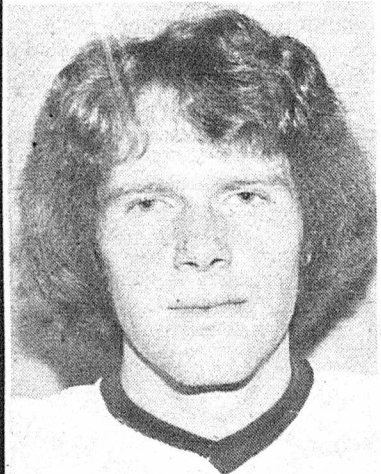
## Drought ends as Bears find key for success

by Darrell Semenuk

The date was January 17, 1975. That was the last time the University of Alberta Golden Bears won a hockey game in Calgary's Foothills arena.

They lost 9 consecutive times over that period, including league and playoff games before finally breaking the code for success. After losing Friday's game 5-4 in overtime the Bears came back with a near perfect performance, winning 4-1 on Saturday.

Calgary came back from a 4-1 deficit to win the first game, their only win in six starts. Alberta struck for two goals 12 seconds apart in the first period with Dave Hindmarch and Jim Ofrim scoring. Calgary came back on the power play with a goal by Rick Williams before the period had ended.



Randy Gregg

Alberta upped it to 4-1 with goals by Ofrim (his 2nd) and John Danko. Dinosaur forward Joe Miller cut the margin to 4-2 when he deflected a point shot by Russ Hall. Then Calgary capitalized on Don Spring's misfortune. The Golden Bear defenceman got the puck tangled up in his skates at the blueline, stepped on the puck and fell, creating a 2 on 1 break which Chris Helland converted at 19:03.

Alberta tried to protect their one goal lead in the third, generating little offence themselves while Calgary mounted increasing pressure for the equalizer. The dam broke at 15:28 when Jerry Bancks walked around two Alberta defencemen and put the puck up over Jack Cummings's shoulder to send the game into a ten minute overtime period.

It took only a minute and 21 seconds for Bob Laycock to give Calgary the lead when he beat Cummings with a high wrist shot. The Dinos concentrated on defence for the remaining 8½ minutes in the non sudden death period to eke out their first win of the year.

Prospects didn't appear much brighter for the Bears heading into the second game with forward Rick Venance out with a broken knee-cap, suffered in the first period of Friday's game. Another veteran forward, Brian Sosnowski, re-injured his back but opted to dress for the game despite the painful injury. Because of the injuries Coach Clare Drake had to juggle his three lines for the game, having only 10 forwards.

What resulted was, Alberta coming up with a nearly flawless performance in what had to be their best game of the year under less than favourable circumstances.

"It's the most consistently tough we've been defensively this season," beamed an elated Drake after the game. "Last night we seemed to lose some spirit in the third period. Tonight we did just the opposite. We could have played for another hour without them scoring," said Drake.

As it was, Calgary had less than a half dozen chances to score all night. The only puck that got by Cummings in the Alberta net was a power play goal by Russ Hall in the opening period. The puck went off the glove of Kevin Primeau and deflected past Cummings, who kicked out 21 shots, while Bob Galloway handled 24 of Bears' 28 shots. Hall's goal offset an earlier marker by Dave Breakwell who beat Galloway on a pretty effort, cutting around a defenceman, swooping in on net and flipping the puck up over the Dinosaur goaltender.

Darrell Zaparniuk and Bruce Rollin made it 3-1 after the second. Zaparniuk's goal came after the puck went off his skate and into the net. Calgary protested vociferously but the referee let the tally stand. Zaparniuk added another goal in the third when he picked up an errant pass and beat Galloway from 25 feet.

In the final analysis though, it was the defence that took the game away from Calgary. Drake singled out Randy Gregg in particular. "I think Randy Gregg in particular, two great games," said Drake.

The second year rearguard put his finger on the prime reason for the team's success in Calgary's rink after their long drought. "We really did play well defensively but that's because the forwards were forechecking really well and the defencemen were really tough."

"It's the first game I've really enjoyed all year," said Gregg. There's no better recipe for enjoyment than waiting a year and a half for it. Now that the team has found the ingredients needed to come up with a win in Foothills arena maybe they'll really start cooking. Now that's food for thought.

## Bears #1 in West

# Powerful offence keep Cagers on top

by Keith Steinbach

The U of A Bears are off to a fast start in the Canada West League as they made it four in a row with a pair of victories over the U of Victoria, 79-77 (OT) and 96-90.

The overtime victory was salvaged after Alberta let a 17 point advantage slip away. Mike Abercrombie sunk the decisive shot with 54 seconds left in the overtime period making it 78-77. Victoria then missed three successive chances to win the game before Pat Rooney took control of a rebound with seven seconds left. Rooney then finished off the scoring with a free throw after drawing a foul. Grant Boland necessitated the extra period by tying the game at 74 with 15 seconds left in regulation time.

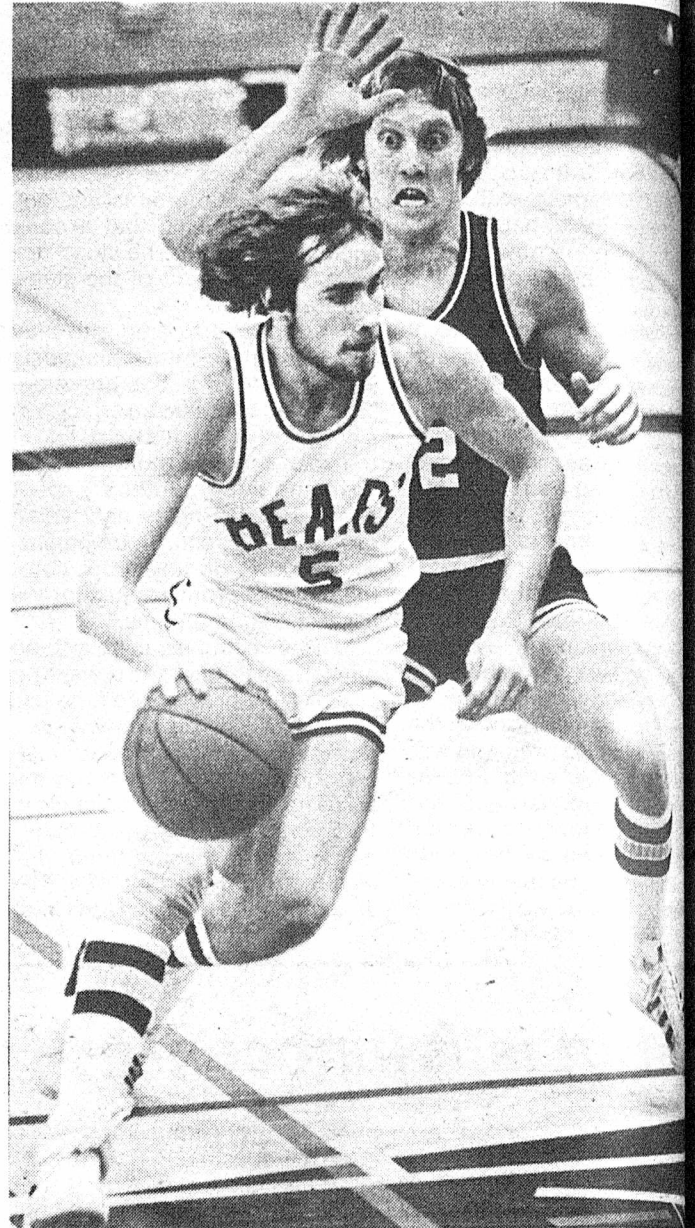
After the game Bear coach Gary Smith said, "We should have blown 'em out again. We did keep our poise on defense, though, in the overtime."

Both teams shot 35% from the floor and 80% from the foul line. The difference was that the Bears made 17/21 foul shots while the Vikings made 13/17. The Vikings made one more field goal than the Alberta team (32-31). Rebounds favored Victoria slightly 37-35.

The top players for Victoria were Lee Edmondson with 19 points and 18 rebounds and Robbie Parris who scored 16 points. Alberta got another good effort from Doug Baker who swished 22 points and garnered 10 rebounds. Pat Rooney also played strongly collecting 17 points and 13 rebounds. Brent Patterson and Keith Smith chipped in 13 and 10 points respectively.

Saturday's game started off with the Bears sinking their first four shots from the field and looking very good in general. The Vikings battled back to briefly take the lead at about the 6 minute mark before coming out on the short end of a 48-45 half-time score.

Alberta worked a 1-2-2 zone defense which enabled the Bears to get a 25-22 edge in rebounding. Shooting in the game was phenomenal with the Albertans shooting 52% from the floor while the Vikings made 49% of their shots. Both teams shot 66% from



Brent Patterson, (5) considered one of the premier guards in college basketball by his coach Gary Smith, speeds by an agile Victoria player. photo Brian Gavriloff

the foul line. The Victoria team was led by Jim Duddridge who collected 27 points and shot 57% mainly from outside the key. Lee Edmondson also contributed 25 points and 9 rebounds.

Only the five starters for the Bears reached the score sheet and all five shot 50% or more from the floor. Doug Baker had another excellent night filling the hoop with 34 points. He shot 54% from the floor and collected 6 rebounds. Baker has averaged 29.5 points per game for the first four league games. Keith Smith made 19 points by shooting 69% and Pat Rooney collected 18

points and 8 rebounds. Scott Panteluk hooped 17 points and Brent Patterson scored 13 points but had 13 assists.

Coach Smith praised the whole team for their effort, especially Patterson for his play. "I think he's a better player than Martin Riley (All-Canada guard from Manitoba)," said Smith. The Bears will prepare for their journey to the East which is composed of exhibition game against the Guelph and the Naismith Cup Tournament in Waterloo weekend.

## Unfortunately for Bears prediction holds true

Last week's prediction that the 1976-77 Canada West Men's Volleyball picture would have five tough, well-balanced teams in it could not have been more accurate. In Calgary, on the weekend, in the first of three C.W.U.A.A. tournaments, a team could have finished first or last depending on just where and when it made little errors.

In the five team round-robin, the Golden Bears ended up with a 1-3 record which could have been 3-1 just as easily.

At the conclusion of Saturday's play, the team was standing with a 1-1 record, having lost 3-1

to the University of Victoria, (all matches are best of five affairs), and defeating Calgary 3-2. On Sunday morning, the boys came out like a pack of awakened hibernating bears, had UBC on the ropes 2 games to 1, and were leading in the fourth game. However, a couple of costly serving errors and missed blocks allowed the T-birds to squeak out a win. UBC's momentum, gained in that particular game, carried them through to win the match 3-2.

In the final match of the tournament against U of Sask, a

similar thing happened, a match ended up 3-2 against the Bears.

Considering the lack of tough competition the Golden Bears had had prior to the Calgary tourney they did not and the old sports cliché, that of the matches could have just as easily gone the other way in favour of the U of A, holds true.

They can now look forward to the big annual U of A Invitational Volleyball Tournament on the 2nd and 4th in Mid-January, to further sharpen their skills.