

Sports



Randal Smathers

Something remarkable happened on campus last weekend, something which passed almost unnoticed.

The Golden Bears lost a hockey game at home. I expect you're sitting there waiting for the remarkable bit. If so, you missed it.

You see, the last time the Bears lost a game at home — one that counted in the standings — was one year, eight months, and 26 days earlier: February 11, 1987.

Oh sure, they lose the occasional exhibition game here — the West German Olympic team, the one that surprised everyone last year in Calgary, beat the Bears by a single goal last spring — but those hardly count. They also lost an exhibition game to the Calgary Dinos in last year's Golson Molgon Bearvitational (or whatever they call their preseason tournament).

They even lost a game in last year's playoffs, beating the Huskies two games to one.

Clare Drake wasn't aware that the last time UBC had beaten or tied the Bears here was 1983, but UBC was. They acted like they just won the Stanley Cup after their 10-9 OT win last weekend, mobbing their goalie and waving a captured rubber "Thunderchicken" around their heads.

To put the streak in perspective, the Bears had not lost in 18 home games in the regular season, far short of the NHL best (Montreal went 34 games without a loss in *Le Forum* in 1976-77), but the Oilers best, 12 straight in a 40-game season, pales by comparison.

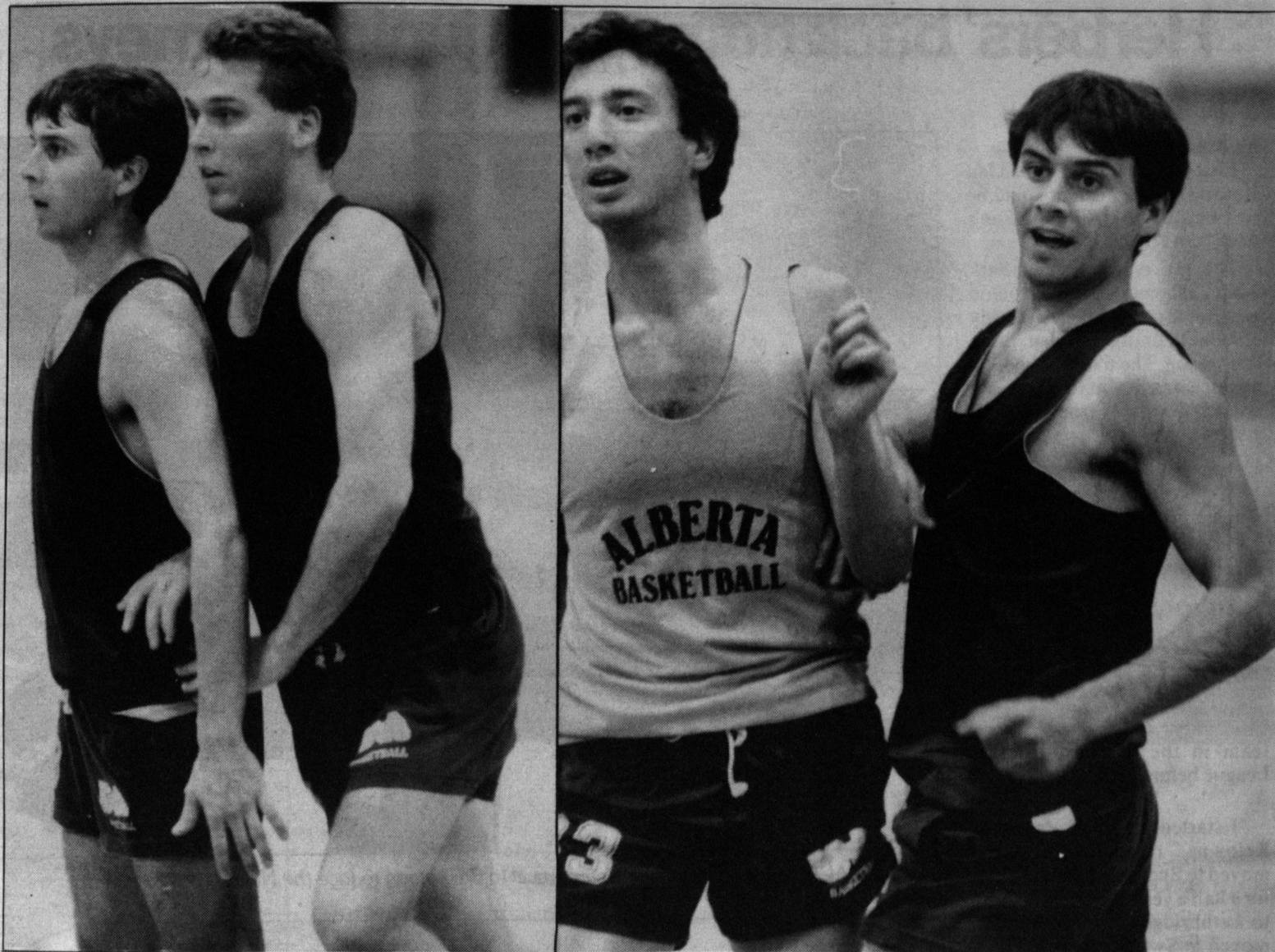
Of course teams like the '83 Oilers or the '77 Habs played before packed houses, while the Bears struggle along in front of a few hundred fans — that's how their phenomenal home record can go unappreciated.

Last year, the second game against Calgary was packed, thanks in large part to now-captain Sid Cranston's efforts in promoting a cheer for beer. The effect was impressive from the pressbox, and must have terrified the Dinos. With a turnout like that on a regular basis, the Bears might be unbeatable at home, literally.

But hey, I'm not going to give you a lecture on supporting the home team. They're doing fine without you, thanks very much, and besides, the concession lineups are shorter this way.

If you are interested in seeing a powerhouse hockey team, their next home game is Tuesday against the Canadian Olympic team, 7 pm. Tickets are three bucks.

You're welcome.



Rob Galbraith

Practice poses

Bear Sean Chursinoff gets guarded in practice by Mike Frisby (inside left) and Lorne Blatt (inside right). Chursinoff has turned into one of the team leaders, of a youthful Golden Bear basketball squad. The Golden Bear Invitational starts today at 2 pm.

A change of scenery for Chursinoff

by Alan Small

Bear guard Sean Chursinoff is the last remnant of the starting lineup that won the last Golden Bear Invitational basketball tournament two years ago.

Back then, Chursinoff was a sophomore, starting his first full season at point guard, and had the least amount of experience among the starters. Now he anchors a young team on the way up, going into the same tournament.

"This team can't compare to that team. Suderman and Kornak are Golden Bear legends." — Chursinoff.

ment. He is also one of the top point guards in the country.

"He's been one of our tangibles for the last couple of years," said Bear head coach Don Horwood, "he's proved in high school and here that he's a winner. He's a leader."

Chursinoff came to the Bears in 1985 and in a half year forced veteran Gerry Couzens into the shooting guard spot. He's held the point guard position (the quarterback of the offence) ever since.

"We knew he had the potential of making the lineup in his first year, the first time we talked to him," said Horwood, "although

last year was disappointing for him because sometimes he didn't make the smart decisions on offence."

"I had a good knowledge of how to play the university game after playing with the provincial team," said Chursinoff, about his freshman year at the U of A, "It wasn't that hard adjusting to their style of play."

"It usually takes quite a while to master an offence," Horwood

says, "ours has a lot of options in it. The point guard always has to be creative."

Chursinoff gives a lot of credit to Dave Youngs, who has been in and out of the guard position in his first three years. This year, he takes over at the off-guard spot.

"I rely on Dave a lot," says Chursinoff, "we share the job of bringing the ball up (the court)."

Going into the Invitational, Chursinoff sees a Bear squad that

is totally different from the one that won the last Golden Bear Invitational on a last second basket by Mike Kornak.

"This team can't compare to that team," admitted Chursinoff, "(Mike) Suderman and Kornak are Golden Bear legends, but this team is slowly making its statement. We've got guys like Bill Lavergne, Mike Frisby, and Brian Halsey who are just second year

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Tourney draw has Bears concerned

by Alan Small

Two years ago Bear coach Don Horwood devised a master plan to get the Bears into the final game of the Golden Bear Invitational. Not only did they get to that final game, but they won it, the only time the Bears have won their home tourney.

This summer, when Bear coach Don Horwood was scheming, one could say he outsmarted himself, and gave the Bears a tough task to make the finals.

The Bears go up against the Manitoba Bisons in the opener on Thursday night (8:30), but if they win or lose they go up against either the Western Mustangs, perennially a top five team in the country, or they may play the Regina Cougars, (Friday 8:30) who

defeated the defending CIAU champion Brandon Bobcats two weekends ago.

Horwood's plan was to stay away from the Bobcats but Horwood says their guards aren't as good as they were last year. The Bears faced them two weekends ago but only lost by five points and could have stolen a victory.

Both teams are undefeated this season and are on the top of their game; the Bears are still a young club and young clubs tend to be inconsistent.

"The thing is we don't know anything about Laurentian," said Horwood, "it was either them or Manitoba. Manitoba is a team like us."

"We saw them two weeks ago," said Bear guard Sean Chursinoff, "they have the same

talent as us but they have a little more depth."

Western Ontario and Regina tangle in the opener at 2 pm, Thursday. At 4 pm, UBC and Laurentian meet, while at 6:30, Brandon and Calgary play. Add those to the Bear-Bison match-up, and the Golden Bear Invitational stacks up well with any tournament in the country.

POST UPS: Friday and Saturday's games are at the same times... Adult day passes are \$5, \$3 for children... The Department of Athletics will pull a lucky name out of the hat, for their draw for two all-expense paid trips to the Grey Cup in Ottawa, on Saturday night... Horwood had no fearless predictions for the tourney, "I've found that I'm a better coach than a predictor," he admitted.