

Chursinoff led the Bears offensively...

Vikings squeeze by Bears

Bears just pretenders?

Vikings 67 Bears 66
by Mitch Panciuk

The Golden Bear basketball team suffered its second one-point loss at the hands of University of Victoria Vikings in as many nights, Saturday night before almost 1750 fans at the main gym.

In the second night of a series which saw the number five ranked Vikings come into the U of A's gym ranked below the number one ranked Bears, the teams continued the physical and emotionally-taxing play which has traditionally characterized their match-ups.

The Bears jumped out to a quick 10-2 lead less than three minutes into the first half, but the Vikings quickly regrouped. Victoria went into a 1-3-1 zone defense and were able to narrow the gap to two points by the 10 minute mark.

The teams went into the dressing rooms for the half-time break tied for the second time in two nights, this time 36-36. The second half featured end to end action which did not see any team take more than a three point lead. With 1:44 left in the second half, veteran guard Sean Chursinoff drove to the Viking hoop and gave the Bears a two point lead.

However, 29 seconds later second-year Viking guard David McIntosh once again came in off the bench and hit a three-point shot which proved to be all that Victoria would need as the Bears were unable to score in the final one minute and 15 seconds.

to Grant MacEwan Community College and then on to Victoria.

In addition to Ottewell's strong performance on Saturday, Viking head coach, Guy Vetric, credited the Victoria victory to the "tradition of the team. People talk about the pressure, pressure, pressure—you're talking about the UVic Vikings. Tonight they just went out and won."

"Kevin Ottewell was the difference in the game. It wasn't the number of points he scored, but when he scored them."
— Horwood.

Golden Bear head coach Don Horwood said "Kevin Ottewell was the difference in the game. It wasn't the number of points he scored, but when he scored them." Ottewell played his first season for the Golden Bears before transferring

National team member and third-year Victoria guard Tom Johnson felt that it was the Bears who had more pressure to deal with than did the Vikings. "All week with what Horwood was saying in the newspaper puts a lot of pressure on his team," Johnson said. Considering that it's only half-way through the season, Johnson predicts that "the team that will win this conference will go 15-5."

Both Vetric and Johnson credit the Bear's success to the play of fifth-year co-captain Sean Chursinoff. Vetric referred to Chursinoff as "a tough little iron-man," and with him "the Bears aren't dead—they're a long ways from dead."

Mitch Panciuk is the FM-88 color-man for broadcasts of Golden Bear basketball.

Pandas try but lose

Vikings 71 Pandas 58
by Mitch Panciuk

In what could be arguably called their best effort of the season, the Panda basketball team gave the second-ranked Victoria Viking squad a run for their money on Saturday night at the main gym, but came up a little short at the finish.

After losing by 12 points on Friday night, the Pandas came out fired up and trailed the lady-Vikings by just four points at the half, 38-34. Panda head coach Diane Hilko felt that Saturday's performance was "the best" that the Pandas have demonstrated all year.

Hilko said that "this is what I've seen all year in practice," and the success that the Pandas had in Saturday's game just "sort of proves to them what I've been telling them—that we're a good team."

The second half featured the Pandas remaining four to nine points behind, and at one point the Pandas trailed by just two. However, CIAU games are 40 minutes long

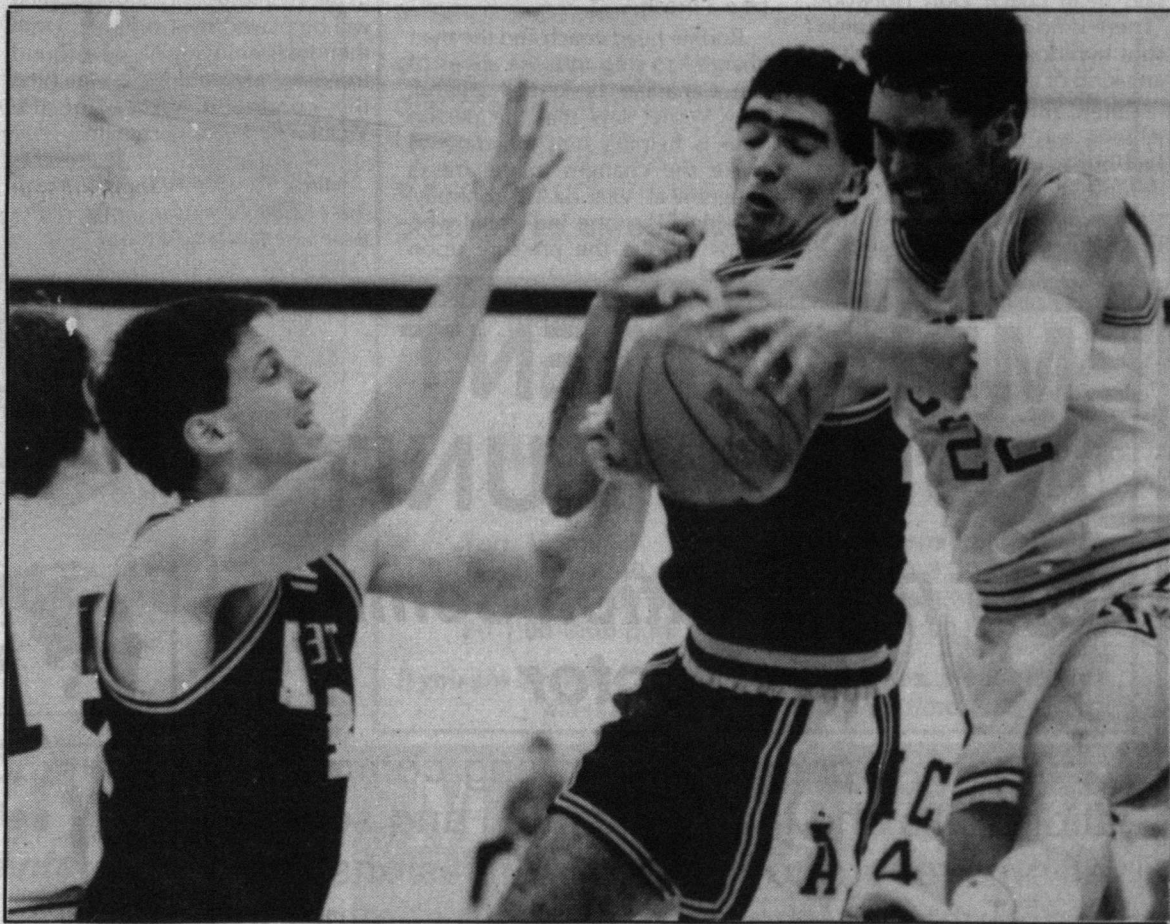
and the Pandas just couldn't last as long as the physical Viking team.

"We missed some easy baskets with about two minutes left in the game, and those could have put us ahead," said Hilko. "What killed us was our rebounding" as Victoria shot only 32 per cent in the second half, and Hilko feels that the Pandas had "difficulty keeping position against the bigger Viking players."

While the Pandas lost the game by 13 points, the game marked a turn-around of the team's desire as they played with the Vikings all game long. Third-year centre Joanna Ross improved her game considerably over the night before to lead the Panda's with 18 points. Ross was only able to account for six points Friday night.

As well as Ross, Hilko felt that the team as a whole picked up their intensity and played with more "heart and soul and everything else" that they needed to play with. After two very respectable showings

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...but Clint Hamilton of Armstrong, British Columbia, helped to shut down Lavergne and Stanley.

Ron Sears



Randal Smathers

Check the definition of basketball in the dictionary: "n game in which a goal is scored when the ball is dropped through a kind of basket hung from a ten-foot pole." It doesn't begin to explain the game.

Now check the sports thesaurus: hoop, b-ball, roundball. Associated terms: driving the lane, rejection, slam, board. There is such a mystique built up around the game, and so many sports fans I know are so passionate about it; that I thought I should make another try at watching it.

Not that I haven't tried. I used to go to the odd game in high school. I saw the UVic Vikings play when I lived there, and that was

the year when the Supersonics won the NBA title, so I'd get their games on TV (with the worst play-by-play homers I've ever heard: "DJ"—that was Dennis Johns on—"to JJ"—some other guard named Johns on—"Downtown"—a player, Downtown Freddie Brown, not a location in Seattle—"into The Big Guy"—Jack Sikma, the center—"HE SCOOOOOORES!"—about forty times a game). It took me two months just to decipher the broadcasts. I've always watched the Final Four, but more for the spectacle than the sport. I follow the Bears fortunes in our sports section. Other than that, I never paid any attention to the game; frankly, it bored me spitless.

It always seemed to me to be the most artificial of sports: the line between charging and blocking changed with every call; after butting bodies all the way down the floor one guard would go up for a shot and suddenly his roller-derby-style opponent didn't dare breathe on him for fear of drawing a foul; they have a rule which involves—according to a ref I know—"the principle of verticality." Most every game

comes down to the last minute, but everyone gets excited by free throws in the first half.

Other curiosities: in a 122-123 NBA game, the winning coach credits his defence with the win; the last fifteen seconds often take five minutes to play; and they have a "jump ball" rule, but they never jump for the ball, giving it instead to whichever team has "the possession arrow" pointing their direction. I understand the purpose is to make the jump balls fairer for small players, but this is the sport for pituitary glands gone berserk, so why bother?

On Friday, everyone I know in campus sports was at the gym for the hoop game, so I figured I'd go and maybe pick up some pointers. I sat through the Pandas game, which was a blowout, and therefore inutterably dull. There were some fine athletic plays by both clubs, but I was left cold. The highlight was learning that the referees were named Larry and Darryl. I was hoping for some great "Newhart" heckles, but they never materialized.

The Bears game was better. In fact, it came down to the buzzer, literally, with the Bears

having the ball and a chance to win the game. I tried to cheer for the Bears, but it was a workmanlike effort. When I left the gym I tried to spit, but found I couldn't.

The game hasn't changed a bit. UVIC's coach threw about eight tantrums (that part is called "working the ref"). One of their players threw a tantrum (that part is called "throwing a tantrum"). Guys all over the floor looked totally confused by every second foul call. At the end of the game, one team called a timeout, after which everyone went out and lined up, then the other team called a timeout. That happened twice, but I forgot to time the last minute, which lasted at least half an hour. Players ran over each other without penalty, but then touched another's fingers as they shot and drew fouls (to the heartfelt cry of "All ball!").

And—this was the highlight for me, and I swear it happened—one of the more ardent fans, seated a couple of places away, stood up after a collision under the basket (on the rare occasion when the call went against the home team) and moaned: "Verticality, ref, the principle of verticality!"