

# SPORTS

## Golden Bears And Baskets

Since the back issues of The Gateway take us back only to 1917, we may assume that it was at that time the five wise men and a coach discovered the game of basketball on this campus.

Now in its 45th year, the sport remains a backbone of the athletic scene on campus. Its history records, years of success, years of failure, years when the team's best men were ineligible because of marks, years when the team couldn't even finance a road trip to Calgary.

The first years were plagued by the effects of the first World War. Lack of finances forced the cancellation of a trip to Calgary, Lethbridge and Raymond in 1916-17. The team did reach the Edmonton city league finals, but lost to Namao 56-36. The next few years were none too successful, the team lost out to Namao again, and in inter-collegiate play was beaten by U of S.

The 1920-21 season was a joyous one. The Bears swept the provincial championships, and reigned supreme for five years. In '24-'25 they lost to the YMCA, and lost the city title with the game.

Retaliation was quick, and revenge was sweet the year following, when the Bears defeated their former conquerors and regained the crown. The cup of victory was bittered with sickness on the team and lack of funds, which prevented the Bears from playing in the provincial finals. And in intercollegiate battle, the team surrendered again to U of S.

Victory in the province, and defeat in inter-varsity play remained the pattern for a number of years. The traditional defeat at the hands of U of S was repeated in '27-'28 and U of M replaced U of S two years later. That same year, Lethbridge took the provincial title from the Bears, and the Dark Ages came.

In '35-'36, the team looked better than it had for years. Everyone was enthusiastic, and afraid. An enemy coach called them the best team in years, a fantastic team. This statement was apparently inspired more by lack of confidence in his own team than a true assessment of the Bears, for this coach's own team trounced the 'fantastic' Bears soundly and took the provincial title.

Even if that team was overrated, it was a sign that things were looking up for the Bears. In 1937, the Green and Gold made the Northern Alberta play-offs and won. The year after, the Rigley Trophy was contested with the old foe, Saskatchewan. Although Alberta won two of the three games, they were clobbered on the third, and that was enough to lose the total points score, and forfeit the

trophy.

In 1944, for reasons lost in the mists of history, the Golden Bears lost the protection of the Amateur Athletic Union. Just what this meant, is also unclear. Aside from this blow (if it was one), the Bears had a very successful season. The Rigley trophy returned to U of A, and the Green and Gold settled an old score when they defeated U of S.

Mid-century was hailed around the world as the beginning of a new era. It may not have been for the rest of the world, but for the Bears it was indeed. U of A opposed UBC

for the inter-collegiate basketball crown, and won.

Those first fifties were the period of Ed Lucht, Don McIntosh, and other names still recognized in basketball circles.

UBC regained the intervarsity kingship in '53-'54, but that was the only dark spot in that era of brightness. The brightest season was '57-'58, when Dun Munro was voted "most valuable player" of the Western Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union, and coach Steve Mendryk was acclaimed "most valuable coach".

## Physical Education Building

# Sparkling Facilities

Adorning the expanding University campus, is the newly-built Physical Education Building. This composite building takes the place of the old Drill Hall and Varsity Rink which have recently been torn down. With its provision for new and expanded facilities, it has become a welcomed asset to the University.

Located directly west of the Students' Union Building, this large unit houses an artificial ice arena, a swimming pool, gymnasiums and special facilities for physical education and recreation.

The spacious main gymnasium provides facilities for basketball,

volleyball and badminton. Two banks of folding seats increase the seating capacity of the gymnasium to 2,700. Student dances are also held in the gymnasium. The smaller west gymnasium is used by the womens' service classes.

Found in the southern part of the building is the beautiful T-shaped swimming pool. A racing area of 25 yards by 42 feet is complemented by a deeper diving area. One metre and three metre diving boards are provided for diving enthusiasts. Underwater lighting, speakers and observation windows add to facilities provided. The spectator stands can accommodate 600 people.

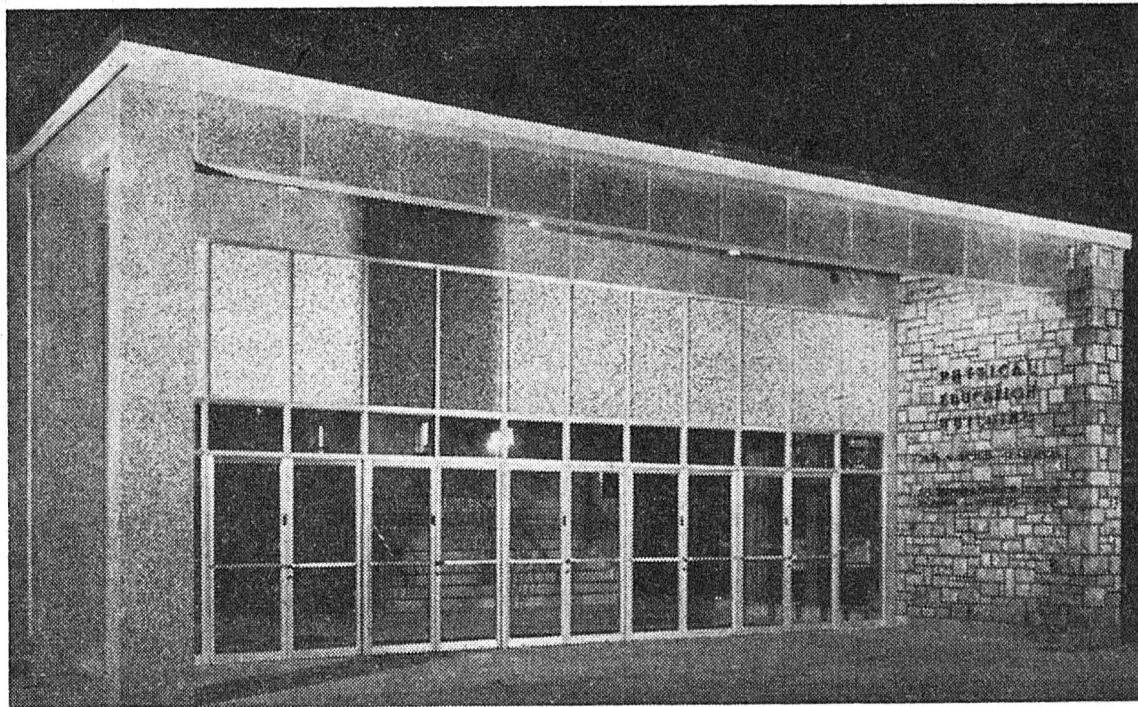
Composing the west wing of the Physical Education Building is the artificial Ice Arena. It has an artificial ice surface of 85 feet by 195 feet which can be taken out to bare the terrazzo floor for student dances and concerts. Skating, hockey, dancing, and curling can be accommodated in this area. The seating capacity is 2,800. The arena provides storage area and dressing rooms for the football team.

Other facilities included in the building include two handball and squash courts, a wrestling room, gymnastic room, dance studio, corrective gymnasium, weight training room, striking bag room, athletic training room, and research and testing laboratory.

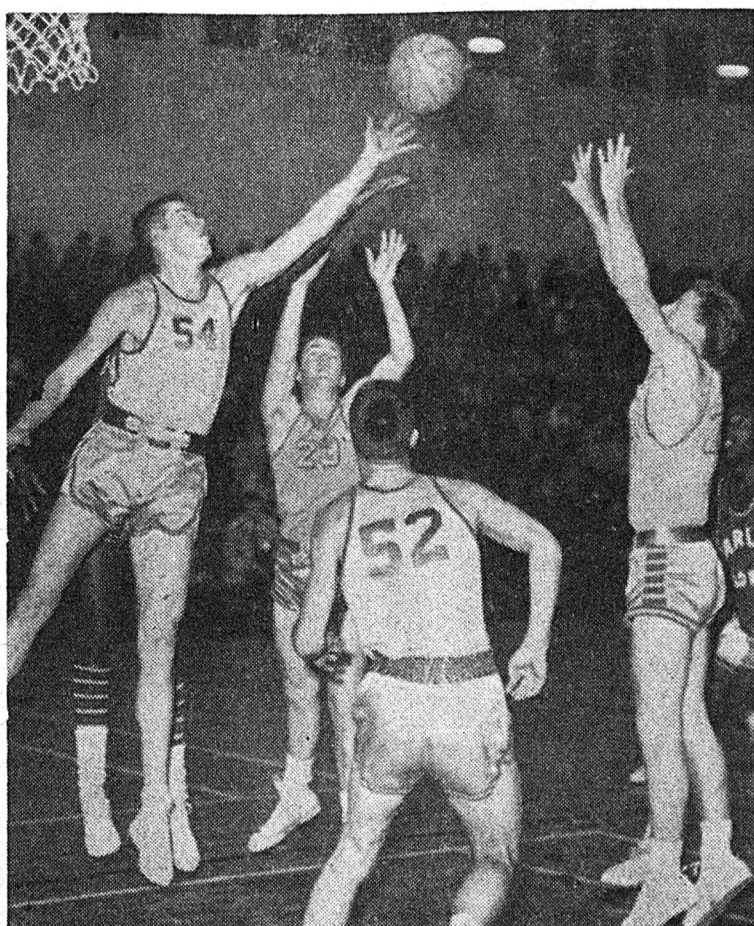
Three lecture rooms, one seminar room, and staff offices are used by the school of physical education. Locker and shower rooms can accommodate over 4,000 students.

The staff of the school of physical education instruct or supervise the bachelor of physical education program, M.Sc. program in physical education, the service program (required by all first year students), the teacher education program, intra-mural sports program, and intercollegiate athletic program.

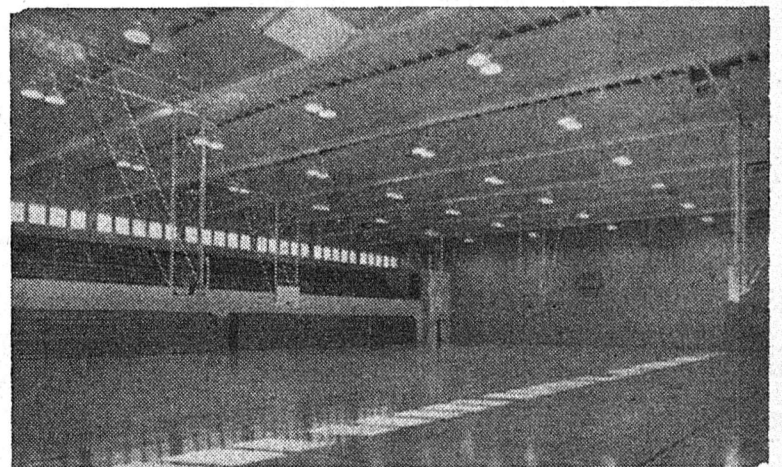
The physical education building, nicknamed PEB, is a gift from the provincial government, Friends of Winslow and Christian Hamilton, the Alumni Association and the students of the University.



MAIN ENTRANCE—PEB



R-R-R-REACH



NEW PEB GYM



SPLISH SPLASH

### FOOTBALL CONTINUED

season. Under head coach Steve Mendryk and his four assistants, Clare Drake, Murray Smith, Percy Daigle and Frankie Morris they finished a strong second to the powerful UBC Thunderbirds. The 'Birds were not affected by the long lay-off as they had kept on playing, during the ten year dry spell, in the swift Evergreen Conference, of the Northern Pacific States.