

Manitoba's Bisons Convincing Thrashing Basketball Bears

WINNIPEG—The prospects of a bleak, arduous winter loomed for the University of Alberta's basketball Golden Bears over the weekend.

Steve Mendryk's Bears, defending WCIAU basketball champions, were convincingly and unceremoniously thrashed by a potent crew of University of Manitoba Bisons in a pair of games Friday and Saturday at the U of M field house.

The gory details were: Manitoba 76, Alberta 53 (Friday); Manitoba 83, Alberta 59 (Saturday).

Thousands of persons viewed the

Saturday feast—the game was telecast throughout the western provinces.

The Manitobans showed a sharp-shooting, well-balanced outfit that outplayed and out-rebounded the Bears, as well as out-shooting them.

The Bears suffered from lack of height, and were unable to get loose on their close plays. They were forced to shoot from far out much of the time, and their shooting was not accurate enough to keep them even with the home squad.

UBC Thunderbirds, who trounced Saskatchewan Huskies twice in Saskatoon, are tied with Bisons atop the loop, while Huskies share the

cellar with the Bears.

The struggle to get out of the cellar should be resolved this weekend when Bears host Saskatchewan at the University gym Friday and Saturday nights.

The script was similar in both Bear-Bison games: Bisons took command early, and never looked back. They lengthened their lead as the games progressed.

Centre Harry Beleshko and forward Jack Hicken were Bears' big guns. Beleshko, improving every time out in his new pivot slot, sank 18 Friday and another 12 Saturday. Hicken, consistently one of Bears most dangerous men, tallied 14 Friday and 21 Saturday.

Field goal shooting averages told much of the story. Bisons canned 45.2 per cent in the first game, and 41.2 in the Saturday affairs.

Bears, who had trouble adjusting to the wooden backboards after the glass at University gym, counted on 25.4 per cent from the field Friday and 28.4 Saturday.

The huskier, slightly taller Mani-

tobans also came out best in the rebounding. They plucked off 43 strays Friday, compared to 28 for Bears. Saturday, Bisons out-rebounded the visitors 54-35.

Both games were rough affairs. The referees tooted down 45 personal fouls in the first game, and 50 on Saturday.

Behind The Backboard

Harry Beleshko's improvement at the centre slot, which he just took over last fall, was one of the few bright spots in the Bear performance. . . . Second stringers Alex Carre and Geoff Lucas also showed up well. . . . Most of the Bears didn't

know the Saturday afternoon game was being beamed back to Edmonton until the game was over. Apparently the decision wasn't made to send it outside the Winnipeg area until Saturday. . . . With Bears down 20 points late in the final half of Saturday's tilt, a U of M yokel convulsed the audience with "Put Parker in". . . . Alex Carre picked up what may be a fractured nose, and Maury Van Vliet injured his ankle. . . . The Manitoba fans still love to hate Bear captain Don Munro. He got plenty of hooting, especially Saturday. . . . The weather in Winnipeg was, for once, humane. It was slightly above zero.

Leo's Boys Beat Bears

Golden Bears were outscored 4-2 by the strengthened Oil Kings Wednesday night at the Edmonton Gardens, despite the fine two-goal effort of Vern Pachal.

The game was the second between the clubs under international rules in preparation for King's game with Moscow Selects on the twenty-ninth. Bears won the first game 6-3.

Kinglets, who used six Central Alberta Hockey league forwards and Ponoka's Eric Patterson in goal, led 1-0 after the first session on commerce student Bob Marik's goal.

In the second period, Bears swarmed around the Kings' net, but couldn't buy a goal. Patterson, who had let eight pucks by him in a league game

the night before, kept the Oilers in the game.

Midway through the period Jim Hodgson led a rush while killing a penalty to Pachal. Centreman Pachal stepped on the ice from his penalty, took Hodgson's pass, and drilled a high shot to the far corner which beat Patterson.

The 1-1 tie was shortlived, however, as another former Golden Bear, Bobby Goebel, scored nineteen seconds later to put the Kings ahead 2-1.

In the third period, a fourth line picked up by the Kings from Red Deer Rustlers, Rehill, Dorohoy, and Moch, loomed large in the Bear defeat. Winger Reehill beat Bill Brennan in the Bear cage on a shot tipped in by Pasutto. After Pachal had closed the score to 3-2, centre App Dorohoy closed the scoring when he took a long shot which Brennan had well covered until it deflected into the net off a Bear defenceman's leg.

Bears outshot the All Stars 41-34 over the route, but couldn't finish off their plays around the net.

Dzurko again played a peerless defensive game and was especially fine at getting the puck out to the forwards.

Pachal's second goal was the gem of the night. He stole the puck from a King defenceman and broke away alone to score with a low shot from fifteen feet out.

Leo LeClerc, Oil King manager, was not impressed with the performance of either team. "Terrible! They all looked awful. I don't care if we use an All-Star selection or both teams in shifts; I'll bet anyone the Russians will win by 12 goals."

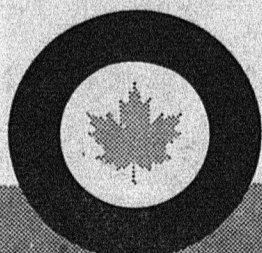


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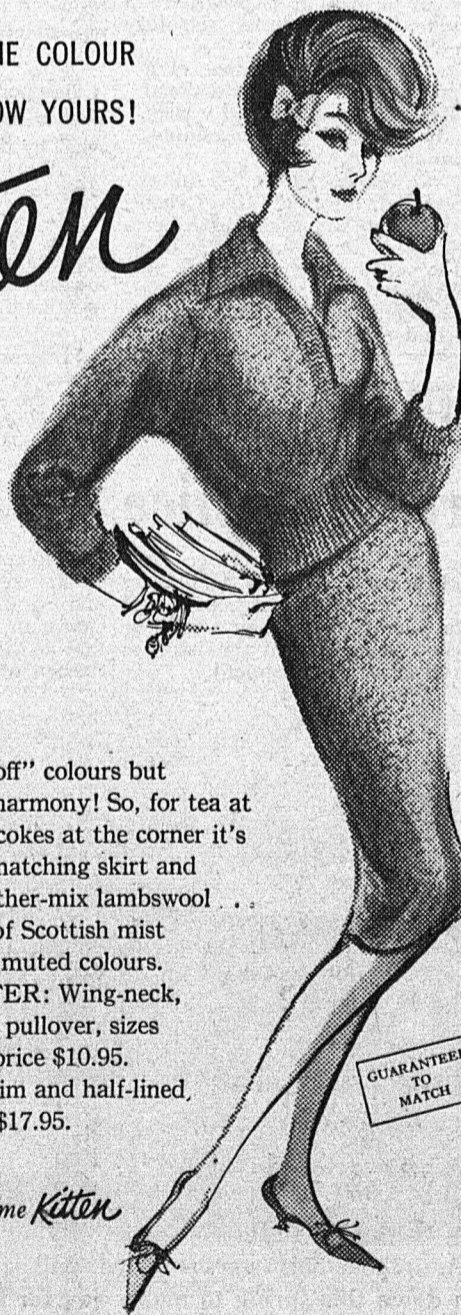
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