

Running back to Edmonton

by Karl Wilberg

Last weekend the U of A track team's strength in the speed and field events was not surprising. However, the conference final's transfer from Saskatoon to the Kinsmen Fieldhouse is surprising. Consequently, one could expect similar performances from U of A athletes during the February 15 and 16 finals.

As usual, the U of A showed strongly in the men's and women's 50m hurdles. Sue Farley won, and Pierre Derocher placed second in the finals. In addition, Jack Sugget won the 50m final with a 5.8 second time.

Interestingly, in the longer spring events coach Gabor Simonyi has decided not to use Ian Newhouse, a World Student Games competitor. Gabor hopes to use Newhouse's eligibility for next year.

Still, the U of A did well in the 200m, with Frank van Doorn taking first with a 21.9 second run. Gabor mentions Margo Howe faced tough competition in the 200m final to place fourth.

Although the U of A's success on the short track events

is not new, the team has some new field athletes. For instance, the relatively inexperienced shot-putters took first, third, and fourth. The U of A's Mike Howser led the U of A squad with a 13.66 throw.

In addition, the U of A placed well in jumping events. Vladimir Dzavik took second and Brian McFadden third place in the triple jump. Dzavik placed third, and McFadden fifth in the long jump even that was won by Jack Sugget. Dave Alton took third in the pole vault and Mike Wolfram third in the high jump.

U of A women also placed well. Carol Boyd leaped to a second place in the long jump, and Loretta Amerongen finished second in the high jump.

Although having the conference finals here is an advantage, the CIAU meet conflicts with the Edmonton Journal games. Gabor states he will "have to coordinate things" and use sparingly his athletes eligible for both events. The U of A will have Sugget, Van Doorn, Farley, Howe, and Newhouse eligible for both events.



U of A's strengths are the sprint and relay events.

One event Gabor would like to make more popular is the pole vault. Consequently, a clinic is being held this weekend at the U of A. The clinic is designed for people with some track ex-

perience and will run at 1:00 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday.

Still, with or without many pole vaulters, the team will do well at the conference finals. Just as interesting, though, will be

team members' results at the Journal games. National CIAU finals may exist next year and the near future will be an indication of the U of A's chances at the event.

Vikings plunder

by Ernie Lotz

The basketball Bears had an exciting series last weekend with the third-ranked Victoria Vikings. This was obviously the feeling of the spectators who cheered loudly and clapped throughout the games.

On Friday night Victoria came out strong, especially in the rebounding department. However, Bear's player Jim Bonin kept them in the game with his consistent shooting. When all went bad, Bonin, cool and collect, came through. Jamie Thomas also gave the Bears some extra confidence, coming on in some hot streaks.

Perhaps the most outstanding effort in the first half came from Blaine Haines. Haines came off the bench to lead the fast break and control the game. Haines, who is an excellent defensive player, shut Victoria's top guard down to almost nothing.

Soon, the Bears came alive and pulled to within five. They forced some key turnovers and converted to leave with a half-time score of 48-43 in favour of Victoria.

What coach Heaney talked about at halftime is not known, but it must have been inspirational because the Bears came out flying. Jamie Thomas hit quickly from a smooth pass from Bonin.

Tim Ryan scored two buckets on offensive boards and scored on a steal to get the Bears to within 1 point. Jamie Thomas started attacking from the outside with some key passes from Brent Patterson. This put the Bears on top by 2 points. They looked as if they were going to walk away with the game. However, all good things must come to an end.

Victoria came back to trail

by one point with three minutes left. Jeff Gourley hit to give the Bears a 3 point lead with 2 minutes left. Victoria came back again to score 5 quick points, within a minute left, to go ahead 82-80. The spectators yelled, "go Bears go", but changed their note to disappointment, when Victoria stole the ball. The Bears had one chance to tie up the game with 8 seconds left, but they failed. After the game coach Heaney just shook his head in disbelief.

Top scorers for the Bears were Jim Bonin with 21, Jamie Thomas with 16, and Tim Ryan with 13 points. The Bears shot well from the floor with a 49% average, but the loss's major cause was Alberta's falling short to Victoria in the rebounding statistics.

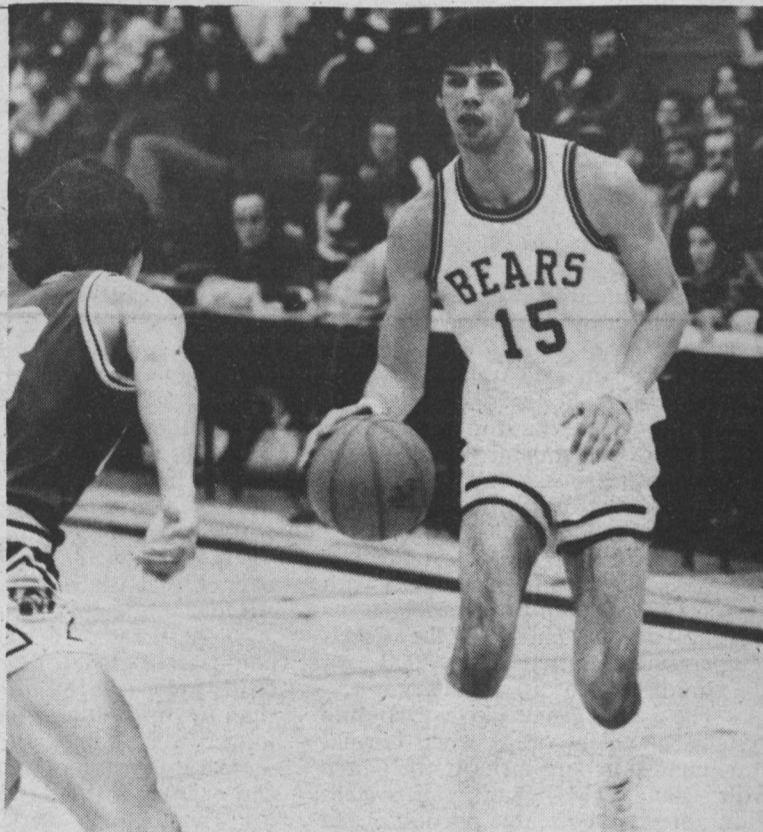
The second game was also a thriller in that the game was close all the way. The half score was 41-35 for Victoria, but the Bears couldn't pull it off in the end and lost 81-73. Top scorers were Jim Bonin with 15, Brent Patterson with 14, and Jeff Gourley with 14 points. Thomas and Groat also added 10 a piece for the Bears. For the Vikings, Billy Loos marked up 24 points and Rene Dolcetti collected 19.

The Bears played very well in not turning the ball over, committing only 11 turnovers to the Vikings 23. Perhaps the determining factor in the loss was the below par shooting percentage of 38%. Rebounding also hurt the Bears.

The losses this weekend were not entirely negative. Coach Heaney says, "The team is really playing well, above my expectations at the beginning of the year." The Bears are very competitive with top teams in the country who have been surprised by their performance. This is something of which the players as well as the coach, I'm sure, are proud of.

In outlining the playoff picture, the Bears are very much in contention. They must of course win the next 6 games against Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Lethbridge. This is quite possible. Their record would then be 11 wins, 7 losses and would mean they would probably have to split with Calgary on their last regular season weekend. The players have a good feeling about playoffs and are working hard to this goal.

The last home game weekend left is on February 22 and 23. The 22nd will be "Fan Appreciation Night", for the great support the fans have given the Bears. Get out there both nights and show the Bears our appreciation for their hard work throughout the season.



Bears did not lose on turnovers but on shooting.

Vikettes must work

by Dora Johnson

This past weekend the basketball Pandas did not improve their league standings any, but gained some prestige on the national scene. Although the Pandas were defeated in both games against Victoria, the Vikettes had to come up big, as neither game was easy.

On Friday night, the Pandas lost to Victoria 76-59, in a game that put two Panda starters on the injury list. In the first half post Janet Bosscha sprained her ankle and was out for the rest of the game. Rookie Annette Sanregret suffered a broken nose which kept her from play the rest of the weekend.

The Pandas came out hard in the start but seemed to lose their momentum, until the last 5 minutes of the game. Unfortunately it was too late at this

time as Victoria had already built up a strong lead. The major factor in the Pandas' loss was Carol Tourney-Loos, who scored 32 points to lead the mighty Vikettes to another victory.

Saturday night the Pandas came out fighting and managed to take care of the thorn in their side — Tourney-Loos. Through excellent help and recover defense Loos was kept to only 19 points which allowed the Pandas to close the range on Victoria.

At the end of the first half the Pandas lead Victoria 30-24 but were trailing 38-32 by the end of the first 5 minutes of play in the second half. The score finally evened out at the nine minute mark (42-42), but the Vikettes then pulled away taking advantage of crucial Panda turnovers and the bonus ruling. The Pandas came up short losing 65-53. Coach Shogan was pleased

with the Pandas' effort "it shows that we have improved;" (at the beginning of the season the Pandas lost to the Vikettes by 44 points; in their last game by only 12). She chalked up the turnovers to inexperience, which would improve over time.

Trix Kannekans again came up top scorer for the Pandas with 40 points, while Sarah Van Tighem ran second with 23.

The next 6 games are very important for the Pandas as they need to win all of them in order to keep their national ranking. At the present time the Pandas are rated 6th. These games with the Vikettes did not change the Panda's ranking but showed them as even stronger, more competent national playoff competitors.

This weekend the Pandas travel to Saskatoon to tangle with Pat Jackson's ever-dangerous Huskiettes.