

Speaking on Sports

By STEVE RYBAK

To see good hockey on campus, you have to see the Bears lose. But to see good basketball . . . well, wait until next year.

The 1967-68 basketball squad is a green team. They have only three players who have seen any previous intercollegiate action—Bruce Blumell, Warren Champion and Bill Buxton. The rest are rookies, including first year coach Barry Mitchelson.

But that is no reason for the Bears to have a 1-5 record in intercollegiate play. The only team they have been able to beat consistently are the University of Winnipeg Wesmen. The Bears' four victories over the hapless Wesmen were exhibition games. The Wesmen are the only intercollegiate team in Western Canada who are more inept than the Bears.

This edition of the Bears has one glaring failure—a lack of aggressive players and a team leader. They have no offence and very little defence. They can't rebound nor have they a consistent scorer or playmaker.

Champion: a big question

The biggest question mark on the team is Warren Champion, "God's gift to women, basketball and tennis". When things are going his way Champion will play basketball, but when they're not he'll just stand around warming the ball.

When he does get hot Champion will hit almost 70 per cent from the floor. But that is all he will do—shoot, and shoot from the outside. Champion has not learned to drive for the basket. The only rebounds he does pull down come few and far between on offence. If he makes up his mind to rebound he can control both boards, but then there is no one left to shoot.

The Bears have only one offence series. The U of C Dinnies solved that in the first three minutes of play and sat in the Bears' lanes all night long.

Ian Walker had one bad night and was benched the next game. For the last month and a half he has been shooting with one eye on the basket and one eye on the bench. Buxton, an outside shooter, is having the same split vision.

Lack of guards hurts team

Blumell is having a bad year—he doesn't have another guard to play with. Last year he was paired with Darwin Semotiuk. This year the entire load is on Blumell. Al Melnychuk is the only back-court man with an eye for play-making and he's been getting more court time lately.

Dave Swann is a nice guy, too nice. If someone bumps him under the basket, Swann will move without too much argument. He'll probably apologize for being in the way. Walker doesn't have the weight to stay under the boards in heavy going.

Defence is not one of the Bears strong points. The U of M Bisons riddled every defence the Bears threw at them. The only team the Bears have been able to defence are the Wesmen.

The Bears look well on their way to a 1-12 season. At one time Mitchelson was looking for a double Bear victory over the UBC Thunderbirds. It was a nice dream, wasn't it.

U of A track squad finishes fourth at Kinsmen's intercollegiate meet

Last weekend's intercollegiate track and field meet at the Kinsmen Field House supplied the U of A track team with its first chance to prove its worth since it was or-

ganized less than a month ago.

Two records were broken in the sixteen event meet. Wilf Wedman of Simon Fraser gave the "olde heave-ho" to the Canadian Indoor

high jump record with a leap of 6'9¼". Al Kane of UBC vaulted into the spotlight for a new pole vault of 14'¼", four feet higher than the rest of his competition in the meet.

With over 150 athletes competing and more than ten universities and colleges represented, the infant Alberta team left many people agog with its surprisingly strong finish in fourth place.

Not to be held back, UBC dominated the meet with a final result of 50 points, 20 ahead of second place Simon Fraser. Third spot was captured by Saskatchewan with 27 points, edging out Alberta by three.

DISTANCE STRENGTH

Alberta's main strength lay in the distance running; Ray Haswell grabbed a first in the half-mile, Larry Dufresne eked out a third in the sprint, Ed Frost a third in the mile and Mike Bullard second in the two mile. Haswell anchored the relay team's second place finish in the two mile relay.

Salina Warawa gave Alberta its only mention in the women's competition with a second in the high jump.

The rest of the team had to be satisfied with what may be referred to as "slim pickins".

The final consensus among the athletes and coaches of the U of A squad shows a growing optimism . . . "all we need is a little more time and training to put Alberta at the top."



—Neil Driscoll photo

BOTTOMS UP

. . . U of A's Salina Warawa hurdles bar at Kinsmen track meet



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