

Marshall's Beat

A weird one? On these cold wintry evenings, when it is even too frigid to play pootsie, it is customary for fourth-esters to gather round the old hot stove for a small session of wagging. This wagging bit often becomes quite fantastic and sometimes just pure hog-wash. Take this latest dream which someone blurted forth the other night in the close quarters of our beloved office(?).

Several of the best second guessers on campus had gathered for a session and the stories were ranging, finally, from tremendous one man efforts in the crooshul tiddly winks games to fantastic 93 point hands in pootsie, when one of our quieter types came up with this dandy.

It seems the quiet one had once covered a team, which played in one of Western Canada's swift leagues, that could do anything. He had them winning every game by ten goals or more and occasionally by twenty. Of course, he added that they were undefeated as they swept to their league championship.

It was a rather short schedule in which his heroes hammered home 148 goals, an average of 11.4 per game, to the oppositions 31, an average of 2.4 per game.

Well, that was alright, but the fellow didn't know when to quit. Next came his favorite player, who picked up 63 points in 13 games for a phenomenal average of 4.8. Man, when this fella spins one he really puts the icing on it. He had another player on the team averaging 4.2 points a game for 54 points.

This much we could swallow as stories tend to pyramid in these things anyway. First of all just a little padding and then pffff! But when he came up with this "greatest weekend" story, that did it. This apparent rookie to the finer arts of hot stoving just when to far. He claimed, without even smiling, that his all conquering heroes once won a weekend doubleheader by a total score of 32-2, and he had the audacity to add that they had an off night in one of the battles.

Now remember, he was talking about a team in one of Western Canada's fast loops. That last one did it, the most honorable members of the hot stovers couldn't take it anymore. They needed proof. After all 32-2, with an off night thrown in!

The silent one quietly got out an old edition of The Gateway and there it was. It was all true, in black and white for the whole world to read if they were so inclined. His hero's were the 1956-57 edition of the Golden Bears. The for and against statistics were accurate and his hero with the 63 point, 13 game season was, who else, Vern Pachal. The second scoring "phenom" was Vern's great winger Billy Masson and the fabulous weekend was in Brandon where the Bears won 21-2 and 11-0.

As we slinked away through an Arctic air mass the same thought kept drifting through our mind: humph, we thought we were covering the greatest Bear team of all time, that's quite a record to match.

Short Shots . . .

This weekend's affair in Varsity gym receives the "must" label as the Golden Bears are compelled to win both ends of their double-header if they want to dream of retaining their championship. Monk, our most accurate adviser, has put the hex on them though; he sees the T-Birds by a goodly spread.

The blade Bears open their hockey wars in Manitoba to-night, without four of their brightest stars. Vern Pachal, Al Laplante, Vic Dzurko and Doug Messier will all miss the trip as they are playing for the CAHL All-Stars against the Russians tonight. Seems as though Leo LeClerc has seen the light. The Monk sees the Bears in a sweep but a closer fit than many think.

We sat in on a very enjoyable event the other night, the swimming meet at Victoria Composite high school. The meet featured synchronized swimming and a diving exhibition by a provincial champion. As a real rookie in this field we found the synchronized swimming quite amazing, but these mermaids made it look easy. Pat Austin's University swimmers did very well, as Lorreta O'Neil, a pretty co-ed won the Senior figures competition and won second in the solo competition, placing her second for the aggregate trophy. In the team competitions, Miss Austin's girls pressed the famed Aquadettes right to the wire before giving up first place.

It seems the UAB has been a little disturbed with the sports coverage of late, but before too many stones are thrown they should do a little housecleaning. We found things very lacking in the last basketball series (University of Saskatchewan), no programs, no public address system at the game, and none of the color attached to college sports. The UAB should get together with the promotions committee for every game, not just the big ones.

And chumlies, The Gateway is not an advertising organ designed to attract fans to your games; it is a newspaper.

UBC Thunderbirds Favored To Beat Basketball Bears Tonight

One of the big treats of the varsity basketball season is in store for local hoop fans tonight and tomorrow when the classy, powerful, UBC Thunderbirds appear at the University Gym to tangle with Steve Mendryk's Golden Bears.

It will be the first time in many years that a UBC basketball team has appeared on the U of A campus. The games are slated for 8:15 pm. both nights.

Thunderbirds stepped into the Western Canada Intercollegiate Athletic Union sports program this year after more than a decade in the tough U.S. Evergreen Conference.

At present, 'Birds lead the WCIAU basketball loop with four straight wins, two apiece over Manitoba Bisons and Saskatchewan Huskies. Each of their victories has been by more than 20 points, which gives an indication of the UBC club's strength.

Golden Bears are currently tied for second place with Manitoba. Each team has two wins and two defeats. Bears are the only team in the league that has not yet played UBC.

The Bears and the 'Birds did meet in a post-season series in Vancouver last March, however, and it may give some clue to how this weekend's games will go. In that series, Bears won the first game, then dropped the next two.

This year, however, Bears are generally conceded to have a weaker team, while UBC is just as strong, if not stronger than in 1958-59.

UBC will provide a powerful starting lineup in guards Ken Winslade and Dave Dumaresq, and forwards Barry Drummond, Norris Martin and Wayne Osborne. The starting forwards average nearly 6'4" in height, a good two inches over Golden Bears.

Bears will be at another disadvantage: they go into the series without veteran guard and team captain Don Munro, who injured his heel in last weekend's action against Saskatchewan. He may be out another week or more.

For this reason, Mendryk has had to shift his starting lineup to bring more height onto the floor.

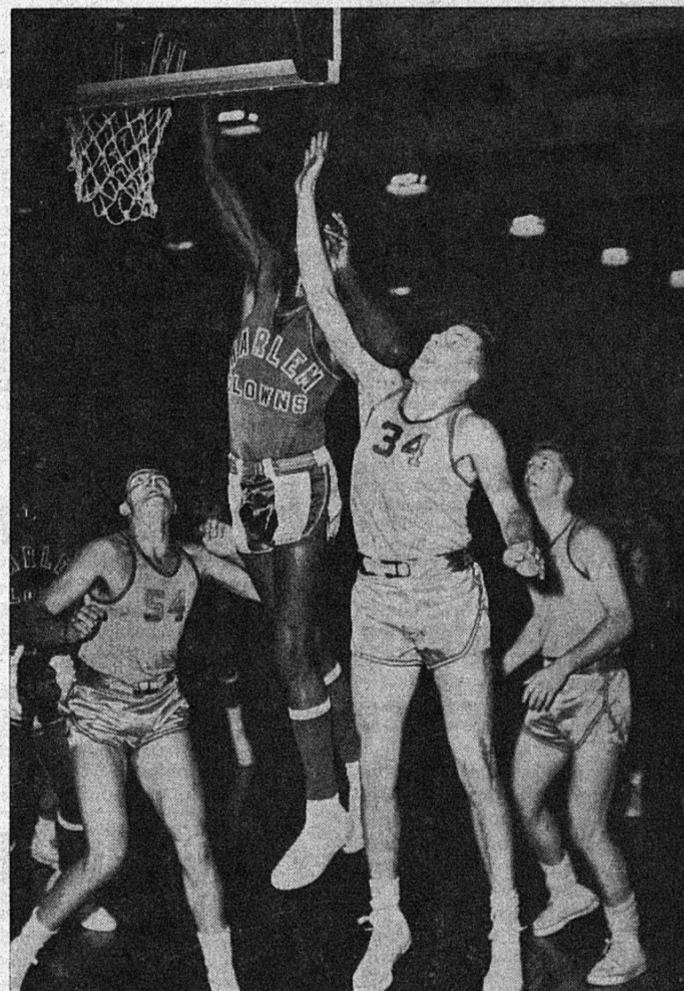
Mendryk said Tuesday rookie forward Alex Carre, biggest man on the Bear team at 6'3", will start at forward, along with Maury Van Vliet and centre Harry Beleshko. This means

forward Jack Hicken will move back to guard to take Munro's slot along side Dave Thomson.

Bears have been named underdogs for the series, but coach Mendryk says that the outcome depends very much on his team's

shooting.

The Bears have been shooting at a weak 30 per cent in WCIAU play this season, although they have been playing well enough on the floor. If they can "get hot" against UBC, they could provide the upset of the season.



Clowns and Bears in a playful mood, but the picture changes this weekend when the Bears go up against the UBC Thunderbirds in games which could be large factors as to whether or not the Bears retain the League championship.

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