

Top spot in sight for Cagers

by Robert Lawrie

The Bears basketball team swept a pivotal series from second place Calgary this weekend, winning 86 to 76 on Friday night and 86 to 70 on Saturday. The two largest, and most vocal crowds of the season were on hand as the Bears all but clinched first place in the Canada West league this season.

The Bears, threw a new wrinkle at the Dinosaurs, playing a 2-1-2 zone as well as pressing with a 1-2-1-1 zone. The poor shooting Dinosaurs could not solve these defences for the most part but kept close through their tough rebounding and the shooting of guard Greg Hess.

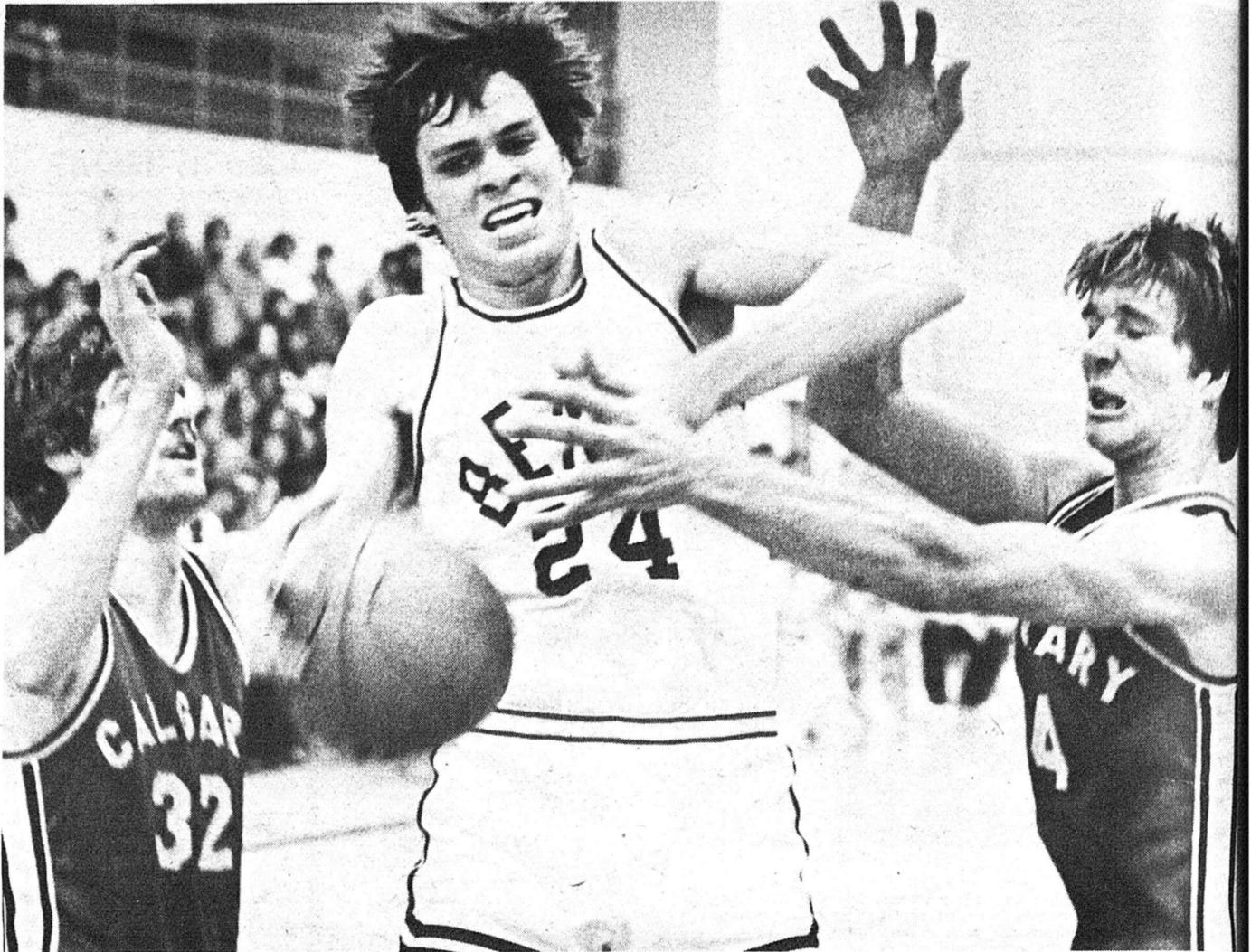
The Bears opened the second half with a 9 point lead but exploded offensively, outscoring the Dinosaurs 20-8 in the first 8 minutes with the Bears having as much as a 24 point lead at one point.

The Dinos retaliated with a tough press and strong rebounding, limiting the lead to 10 points but never closer. Friday night's game was the most entertaining of the year and for a change the usually apathetic fans showed their appreciation for the fine play of the Bears.

Bear scorers were led by Doug Baker and Pat Rooney with 18 points. Mark Jorgenson played his best game in the college ranks, scoring 14 pts and rebounding strongly. Greg Hess led the Dinnies with 20. Lyle Leslie dropped in 15 points.

Saturday night's game was the most physical of the season, with Calgary staying much closer for most of the game until the closing minutes.

Calgary had numerous fast break opportunities foiled by Brent Patterson who forced the Dinnies into about 6 offensive fouls. The Bears built up a 13 point lead at one point but Calgary closed the gap to 7 at the half.



Elbows flying...

Doug Lucas keeps two Calgary players at bay during weekend action at Varsity Gymnasium. The Bears took both games, and with it a virtual lock on first place.

The Bears increased their league leading record to 13-3 with only 4 games remaining in the schedule.

Photo Bob Austin

The Dinosaurs again tried to compensate for their poor shooting by rebounding aggressively but the Alberta big men did a credible job against the much bigger Dinosaurs.

Doug Baker continued his

fine play both offensively and defensively as well as scoring 25 points, many from the third row of the bleachers. Keith Smith played his best game in recent weeks, scoring 17 points in front of his family. Doug Lucas added 18. Greg Hess was the top man

for the Dinosaurs scoring 24 with Ian McKay adding 12.

Coach Garry Smith was pleased with the team's performance commenting, "we had a game plan and followed it well." He added that "our new defence hurt them."

Rebounds

Pandas Lori Chizik and Karen Johnson are expected back in action next weekend. Steve Panteluk dressed but did not play for the Bears again this weekend.

Hockey Bears clinch first place

by Darrell Semenuk

If they could find the book they'd try and re-write it. Well, add a few paragraphs anyway.

The book in question is the CWJAA hockey record book. It doesn't exist, so the Bears have to make do with the memory of coach Clare Drake to confirm their "unofficial" records to date this year.

The list grew this weekend when Alberta handed the second place UBC Thunderbirds with two losses, a 3-2 overtime decision and a 7-3 verdict.

The marks attained this weekend include:

* longest winning streak in one season — the Bears broke the old mark of 11 after their 3-2 decision on Friday in Vancouver.

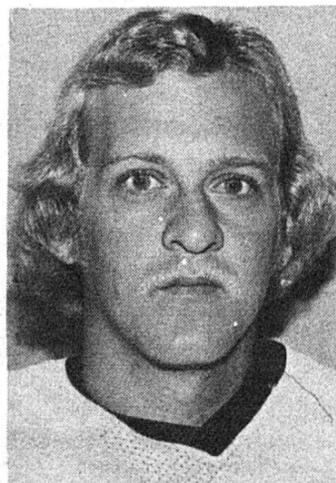
* most penalty minutes in one game — the two teams racked up a total of 197 minutes in Friday's game, including 11 game misconducts, six of them to Alberta. The Bears had 107 minutes to UBC's 90.

* longest shutout sequence by a goalie — Jack Cummings went 155 minutes and 25 seconds before allowing a goal. The streak started on January 21st and ended February 5th at 6:35 of the second period.

Back to ordinary everyday happenings, the two wins increased Alberta's record to 16-2 and puts a 14 point bulge between themselves and the Thunderbirds with 6 games remaining.

In Friday's game the Bears outshot the Birds 18-2 at one point in the first period and with goals by Jim Ofrim and Bryan Sosnowski were leading 2-0 before the fireworks began.

The Bears were just killing



Jack Cummings

off a double minor to Ted Olson when UBC tough guy John Dzus and Bear netminder Jack Cummings began to jostle in front of the net. The two former teammates and roommates with the Vancouver Nationals of the Western Canada Hockey League then came to blows. Cummings described how the incident started; "He was in front of the net roughing me and I gave him a shot and all of a sudden he gave me a two hander over the face. That's how I got cut. (3 stitches worth) I just lost my cool."

Needless to say, with all the cumbersome equipment he lost the fight. The Alberta players were slow to react to Cummings' plight and it took Olson, who came charging out of the penalty box, to finally pull Dzus off the netminder. The actions cost Olson 19 minutes in penalties, including a game misconduct. The Bears were forced to play another 7 minutes shorthanded, that, added on to Olson's previous double minor meant the team played 11 consecutive minutes a man short. The remaining players on the ice, with the exception of UBC netminder Ron Lefebvre were handed game misconducts for being involved in an altercation while a fight was in progress. The Alberta players

banished in addition to Olson were Kevin Primeau, Frank Clarke, Randy Gregg, Sosnowski and Cummings. Dzus, Bill Ennos, Tom Blaney, John Jordan and Tom Onno were the UBC players getting the night off early.

The remaining 53 seconds were tacked onto the second period to enable the referee to sort out the penalties and give the players a chance to cool off.

When play did start in the expanded second period it took only 10 seconds and 1 shot for the 'Birds to connect on the power play, with Ross Cory deflecting a shot past Ted Poplawski. Jim Stuart added another goal on the power play at 3:22 to knot the score.

The penalties had put UBC back in the game but considering that Drake was operating with only 11 players the team did an excellent job.

"The penalties to Ted for coming out of the box really hurt us," said Drake. "But it was a commendable gesture. I think we did quite well just giving up 2 goals."

The third period was scoreless and it took Ofrim's 2nd goal of the game in the 10 minute non-sudden death period to keep the Alberta win streak intact. The Bears outshot UBC 40-27.

Saturday night Alberta capitalized on the shaky play of Dave Fischer in the UBC net to coast to a 7-3 win. The Bears scored on their first two shots in the opening period, their second in the middle stanza, and put 3 of their first 4 shots past Fischer in the third.

Dave Breakwell and Greg scored just 39 seconds apart in the first period and Breakwell added another in the second period before UBC came back with 2 goals by Stuart and Mark Matthews to pull within one.

Whatever momentum UBC had built up to that point dwindled away when Mike Broadfoot's deflected shot from 25 feet floated down like a lazy pop fly over Fischer's shoulder and into the net.

T'Bird coach Bert Halliwell thought the fluke goal was the turning point. "We were really coming on until that 4th goal shot us down. There's not much else I can say. Alberta played so well. That's the best game they've played against us of the six, but none."

Other Alberta scorers in the game were Dave Hindmarsh, Primeau and Darrel Zaparniu while Bill Ennos closed out the scoring with UBC's final mark midway through the final period.