

Canada West basketball

Bears scrap and claw way to two

by John Younie

If basketball games were judged on artistic merit instead of who can score the most points, the U of A Golden Bears would not have been awarded top marks for their weekend performance. Fortunately, it isn't done that way, as the Bears fought and clawed their way to a sweep of University of Lethbridge Pronghorns, 79-69 on Friday and 76-67 on Saturday, to pull four points ahead of the southern Alberta squad in the standings. The teams had entered the weekend tied for second place.



Bears' Jim Bonin probably didn't have as much fun here as Connell did taking the photo.

Friday's game saw Alberta ahead by ten at the half, only to have the scrappy Lethbridge team score the first 11 points of the second-half and take the lead. Bear coach Garry Smith then went to his bench and inserted Tom Groat at center. Groat responded by scoring 9 of the next 11 points, giving Bears a ten point lead they never relinquished. Smith felt Lethbridge played as though their backs were to the wall.

"They're like cornered rats," he said, "they're going to have to split here and in Victoria to make

the playoffs. They played good, gummy basketball tonight."

Pat Rooney led Alberta with 17 points and 15 rebounds. Grant (I'm not from Pouce Coupe) Ashlee scored Bears first six points and finished with 14 points and seven rebounds. Ashlee was yanked in favor of Groat in the second half, he seemed a little overmatched against the looming presence of Lethbridge's six-foot-seven Ernie Hill. Hill finished with 11 points and fifteen rebounds. Tireless Brent Patterson scored 16 points for Alberta, and Jamie Thomas had 12. As a team, Bears shot 41% from the floor. Lethbridge, who shot 42% from the floor, received 18 points from Perry Mirkovich. Jim Dixbury added 11.

The story of Saturday's game was the play of Dave Reich, who came off the bench to replace guard Brent Patterson, out with stretched ligaments in his foot. Reich had one of his best games of the season, scoring 15 points - many at crucial times when the score was close - in leading the Bears to the victory.

"They knew Brent (Patterson) wasn't playing, so they were doubling more on our backcourt," Reich said afterward, "that put the pressure on Blaine (Haines), Jamie (Thomas) and myself. We did alright, but it got a little tiring near the end." It was Reich's first game back since dislocating his elbow a month ago.

The first half of the game was close. The lead changed hands six times, and the score



Tom Groat came off the bench Friday to pour in points. Photo by Jim Connell.

was tied four times. The Bears slowly increased their lead eight points at the intermission 43-35.

A curious lapse at beginning of the second-half which has hurt the Bears season, happened again, allowing the Pronghorns to tie the score at 50. Alberta settled down, regained the lead and went on to the win. Coach Smith felt charges have had better game. "It wasn't too artistic," he commented, "but it's still worth points in the standings. The press gave us trouble with Brent out; he usually slices through it."

For the umpteenth time, Rooney led all Bear scorers with 16 points. James Thomas scored 14. Alberta, which grabbed defensive rebounds shot 40% from the floor. Lethbridge again led by Perry Mirkovich with a game-high 17 points. Ernie Hill totalled 12 points. Pronghorns shot only 36% from the floor.

BEAR FACTS

Brent Patterson completed a rare five-point play in Friday game, when a double foul was called on Lethbridge and Pronghorn coach John Affler received a double technical foul for complaining too loudly.

Patterson's status is questionable for this weekend series against UBC. His future might be placed in a cast this week.

Following weekend action UVic is in first-place, the Bears are second and Lethbridge third.

Hockey Bears take firm hold on first place

by Shaune Impey

Any Calgary Dinosaur hopes for finishing first in the Canada West University Athletic Association (CWUAA) hockey standings are virtually extinct after they dropped a pair of weekend games to the visiting University of Alberta Golden Bears.

The Bears, by virtue of their 6-2 and 5-1 victories, are sitting at the top of the standings with twenty-six points and have an eight point bulge over the second-place Dinosaurs. The remaining two teams, Saskatchewan and the UBC Thunderbirds, are floundering in third place with eight points each after splitting their weekend series.

Barring a complete collapse by either the Bears or Calgary, these two teams will finish first and second respectively and meet in the best-of-three CWUAA playoff.

The Bears were never behind in their games against the Dinosaurs as tight checking and strong goaltending stymied the Calgary squad at every turn. Although the shots on goal in the two games were almost even (Bears outshot Calgary 38-37 on Friday and 31-30 Saturday) the majority of Calgary's efforts were from bad angles or long range whereas the Bears shots were often good scoring opportunities.

On Friday night the Bears opened up a 2-0 lead in the first

period on goals by Jim Causgrove and Dale Ross. Causgrove's tally came on the powerplay after the Dinosaurs had taken three minor penalties in less than four minutes. A fine individual effort by Robin Laycock brought the Calgary squad within one goal as he made a rink long rush before firing the puck past netminder Ted Poplawski. Greg Skoreyko scored the eventual winner for the Bears with fifty-one seconds remaining in the opening period. A long clearing pass by defenceman Larry Riffin gave Skoreyko a breakaway from the center red line and he made no mistake in whipping the puck through the legs of Calgary's Terry Kryczka.

Ted Olson and Mike Broadfoot notched second-period markers to give the Bears a 5-1 margin after forty minutes of play. Olson's goal came off a rebound from Chris Helland's shot after Teddy had worked hard in the corner to keep possession of the puck and then made a centering pass to Helland in front of the net. Though not credited with an assist, Causgrove did most of the work on the fifth goal. His persistent checking caused Calgary's Randy Joevenazzo to cough up the puck to Broadfoot at the Dinosaur blueline. Broadfoot skated in unhindered and beat Kryczka with a quick slapshot from thirty feet.

Defenceman Don Spring and Joevenazzo traded goals in the final period to round out the

scoring.

The Bears took six of eleven minor penalties and both teams had two fighting majors. Stan Swales took on Paul Murray and Teddy Olson tangled with Jeff Neufeld in the two fights. Olson and Neufeld started swinging after Teddy thumped Neufeld with a solid check that popped

out the plexiglass along the top of the boards.

Dave Hindmarch was lost to the Bears midway through the first period after receiving a mild concussion. Hindmarch was hit in the side of the head by a vicious elbow, courtesy of Neufeld.

Saturday's contest was

Merger talks

CWUAA and GPAC

by John Stewart

A proposal has been forwarded and tentatively accepted by representative members of both the Canada West University Athletic Association and the Great Plains Athletic Conference to merge the two interuniversity athletic leagues.

Contrary to a report that appeared in the *Edmonton Journal* last Friday the proposal does not include a "full interlocking hockey schedule." Nor does it mention a "partial interlocking schedule for basketball" that will be included in league standings, as the *Journal* implies.

In fact the proposal, which apparently only needs the CIAU rubber-stamp approval, suggests that those interlocking games scheduled in basketball will have no effect on league standings.

Conversely, CWUAA and GPAC competition in gymnastics, swimming, track and field, wrestling and cross country would occur in the form of

single-conference championships. (It is important to note that each of these activities presently conducts a solitary championship meet; all other competition is termed exhibition.) The report states that in such circumstances GPAC member teams would "compete in the CWUAA meet" and "CWUAA playing regulations and eligibility rules would apply to GPAC institutions competing."

The committee studying the proposals entertained and adopted two alterations to present CWUAA regulations regarding conference representation at national championship competitions. "With respect to wrestling it was agreed that a request would be submitted to CIAU to allow two representatives per weight class" to compete in the nationals. As well, the committee agreed to request that the CIAU increase cross country "representation to the winning institution team plus

almost a carbon copy of the previous night, as the Bears again exhibited strong defensive play.

Ross, Broadfoot, and Jim Devaney best goalies for the Bears in the first period to beat the Green and Gold a 3-0 after twenty minutes.

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the top seven (if they are not the winning team), to apply to Conferences."

At the present time schedules are being drawn up to be circulated, for reaction, later than February 15. However, the schedules will include an increase of extra games for the Golden Bears hockey team (bring their total for the 1979-80 season to 32), as the *Journal* stated. The hockey team, instead, will have the number of league games increased by four, to bring the total to 28. The additional four contests will include "weekends...set aside for interlocking play (one at home one away)."

The Bears basketball schedule will also have an additional four games, of an interlocking nature, attached to their schedule next season. The *Journal* erroneously claimed that the U of A basketball team would have their schedule extended from 25 to 29 contests.