

# SPORTS

*Basketballers want a national ranking*

## Golden Bears sweep easterners



Centre Gord Klootwyk vies for the rebound

by Kevin Kaardal

A national ranking. A Christmas present that has for the past two years eluded the Golden Bear basketball team (despite their victories over top ranked opponents) is virtually assured them this year thanks to a simple equation: exposure plus wins equal a ranking.

Coach Don Horwood took care of the exposure factor of the equation when he designed his first season schedule and changed the focus of the Bears exhibition season from playing American teams to playing Canadian ones. His foresight in enticing Eastern Canadian university teams west has given the Bears unprecedented exposure to

the Eastern voters who, incidentally, make the ranking decisions.

The second factor in the equation, winning, is something the Bears have done with great regularity this season. After three wins this past week, the Bears record stands at 9 wins and 2 losses against Canadian competition and 10-5 on the year.

This past week, the Bears took every advantage Horwood provided by bringing the University of Ottawa Gee Gees, the University of Western Ontario Mustangs, and the University of Brock Badgers into Varsity Gym. His team responded to the opportunity and defeated all three.

On Wednesday Nov. 28, the Bears met the Ottawa Gee Gees. The Gee Gees did not match up in size or experience, boasting nine freshmen and two sophomores to the Bears' eight juniors, two sophomores, and two freshmen. The Bears' tallest player is 6'9" while the Gee Gees' is only 6'6".

Despite the lack of size and experience, Gee Gees proved to be stiff competition in the first half. This was due in part to poor blocking out performances by the Bears on the defensive boards. This gave the smaller Gee Gees a lot of offensive rebounds (11 for the game) which resulted in a lot of garbage baskets.

Mark Baker's five unanswered points late in the first half pulled the Bears to a 45-37 half time lead. After this, the Bears never looked back, winning easily 81-64.

Chris Toutant put on an impressive show. With gymnastic grace, he scored on some pumping jump shots, building his point total to a game high 24 points.

Dick Price's deft passing skills were key to the Bears' fast break which in turn helped speedster Mike Kornak reach his game total of 15 points.

Patience shown by the Bears on offense resulted in a lot of inside play, where Mike Suderman was able to score 22 points.

On Thursday night, cold shooting in the first half by Suderman and Toutant kept the Mustangs close. Tom Demeo and Gerry Couzens picked up the slack, however, scoring a crucial eight points late in the first half to give the Bears a 48-45 half time lead.

In the second half, Suderman and Kornak were able to find the

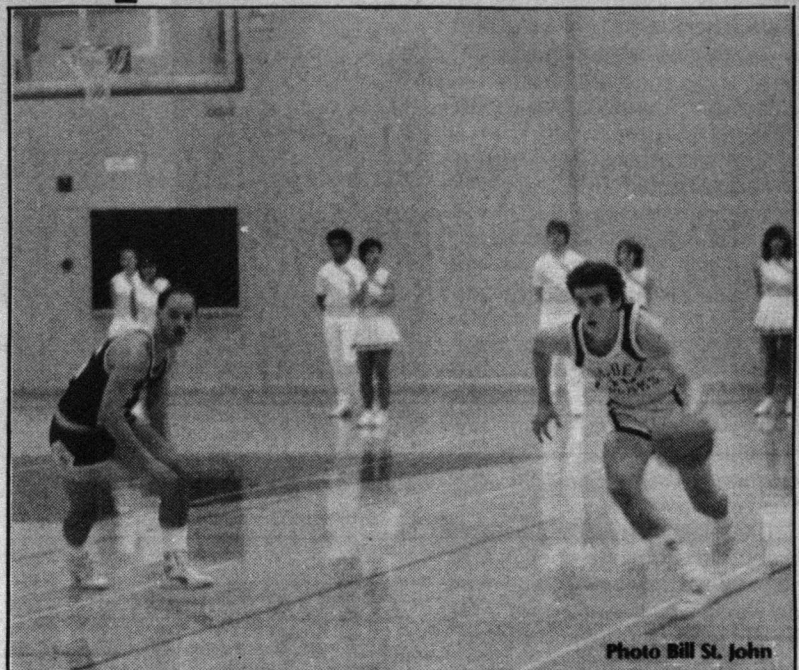


Photo Bill St. John

Guard Dick Price heads upcourt

range. Suderman increased his half time total of six points to a game high 23. Kornak finished with 15 points, and Toutant and Baker finished with 12 each. High scorer for the Mustangs was Peter Vande Bovenkamp with 20 points.

In the final game of this three game Eastern exhibition series, the Bears defeated the Brock Badgers 89-65 in what should be described as a chippy contest. The Bears' "Big Three" (as the Edmonton Journal's Ray Turchansky dubbed Suderman, Kornak, and Toutant) toyed with the Badgers. They outscored the team by themselves (71-65). Suderman led all scorers with 30 points; Toutant had 21 and Kornak 20.

The Badgers' Rob MacRae put on an impressive outside shooting display, netting a total of 22 points.

Despite these important victories, the Bears have to work on two aspects of their game: consistent and intense play and blocking-out skills. These must improve if they hope to do well on Jan. 3 in the Calgary Classic - a tournament which features top teams like the University of Victoria, Lethbridge and Waterloo.

## U of C spikes opponents

by Tim Heidt

This weekend's North-Am Volleyball Tournament, hosted by the University of Alberta, belonged to Calgary. Both male and female teams captured top honors.

The tournament started on Friday night with the Pandas playing the Canadian National Team. Despite the obvious mismatch, the Pandas played some of their best volleyball of the season. In the first game, the Pandas played the Nationals even in the early going before eventually succumbing 15-5. The Nationals easily handled the Pandas in the final two games. They beat them 15-3 and 15-4.

The Bears, however, had a very good tournament. They made it to the semi-finals before losing to Calgary.

In the first game, the Bears had "the bull by the horns, but had to let him go." They squandered leads of 8-1 and 14-10 on the way to an 18-16 defeat.

In the second game, the Bears appeared drained from their earlier setback. They lost 15-10.

The big upset of the tournament came when Calgary defeated the heavily favoured Calgary Volleyball Club-Older and Wiser team. It was one of the best matches of the tournament.

In the first game, Calgary rallied from a 12-4 deficit to win 16-14.

In the second game, the Older and Wiser Club lived up to expectations, thumping Calgary 15-6.

In the third and final game, Calgary once again wasted an 8-3 lead and allowed the Older and Wiser Club back into the game. With the

score 8-7 for Calgary, it looked as if the Older and Wiser team would move on to win the game. The

Dinosaurs, however, were able to rally and they defeated their opponents 15-9.



Dinosaurs capture North-Am title.

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