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# A look at the Bears

## Nestor Korchinsky

This is part one of a series of three articles in which Lawrie Hignell, co-sports editor, talks to retiring players of the Golden Bears basketball team and asks them their opinions on basketball, refereeing and what they think the future is for the sport. Next week the interviews will be with guard Darwin Semotiuk and forward Ed Blott, while the final article will talk with Murray Shapiro and coach Gerry Glassford.

Nestor Korchinsky, six foot five inch centre with the Golden Bears basketball team, has seen four years of play in the WCIAA league and "would do it all over again if I had the chance".

As captain of this year's team, Nick (as his team mates call him) has enjoyed basketball but only wishes that he could have ended his career this year with the WCIAA championship.

A graduate student in phys ed, Nick ends his basketball as one of the best rebounding centres that the Bears have ever had, and presently holds the WCIAA record of 24 rebounds in a game, set two years ago (he broke the record last weekend in Manitoba, but it has not been officially recognized as yet).

"Basketball is a sport that has come a long way since I started," commented Korchinsky, "and it is gathering more interest at it goes along, especially in high school."

### FAVORS NATS

When asked about the Canadian National Basketball Team, he said, "From a player's point of view, I wouldn't mind seeing a national team for basketball as it is in hockey. I think some day it will come." (At present the team is be-

ing formed for the Pan American Games in Winnipeg this summer, but the team has not been selected each year, nor trained as much as the present national hockey team.)

Films of home and away games have not yet been introduced in basketball at Alberta as in football, and Korchinsky was quick to add, "I can't understand why not."

"I think they are invaluable. You see yourself on film, and the coach can show you when you were in the wrong position, or made a bad play, and help you to correct it."

### TRADE FILMS

When it was suggested that it would be quite an expense to take pictures at both home and away games, Nick said, "There might be an arrangement where teams would trade films. This might also be disadvantageous—if you had a real bad defense, it would be kind of hard to send the film to them, and let them exploit your weakness."

"Something has got to be done about it," emphasized Nestor, when asked about refereeing bias. "It can't go on this way. Some of the referees are good, but it is hard to get away from bias, and it takes real good ref' to do this."

"This bias can't help but affect the attitude of the players and of the team. Some people say, 'get impartial refs.' But bringing in a ref from another university could still bring bias—especially if it is a close match, whose outcome might make a difference for his home team. How can you get away from it?"

### COACHING TOUGH

It has been suggested that psychology plays a large part in coaching. Nick agrees with this and said, "It's a real challenge for a coach to get the players to play basketball, and get ten individuals co-ordinated together. I think this year, Mr. Gerry Glassford is a real



NESTOR KORCHINSKY

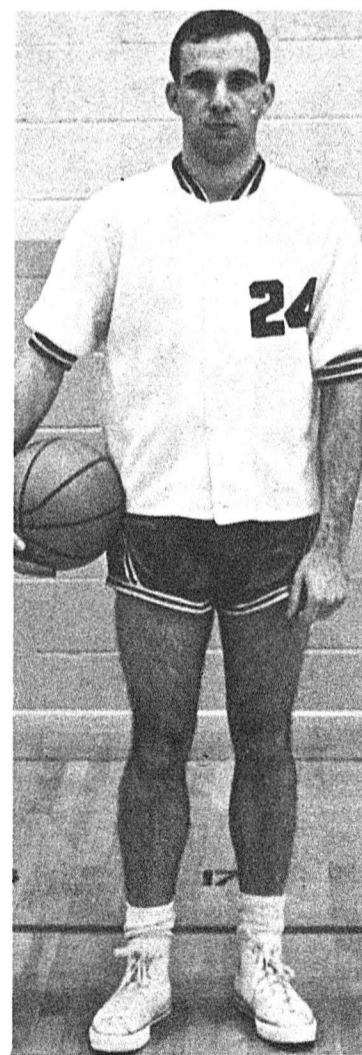
good thinking coach. He is very concerned about things like team morale and personality."

As for the league next year, Korchinsky said, "several of the teams are going to be definitely weaker" (due to loss of players who end their career this year).

"UBC is going to be the real strong team next year, as they are not going to lose anybody. Manitoba has no place to go but up. I can't understand why they didn't win more games this year, after the way they played last weekend against us."

Korchinsky is a prime exception to the rule that all the best basketball players come from the big cities. Nestor played all his high school ball in Vegreville and has really added strong support to the Bears in his four years of varsity basketball.

## Gerry Kozub



GERRY KOZUB

"University basketball has gone down a little bit since I started", comments Gerry Kozub, retiring forward of the Golden Bears. "In high school you get really good support, but there is a lack of interest in sports in general on campus."

"This university is an academic school, and most people have a lot of work to do."

A six foot forward who has played two years for the Bears and two years for the Junior Bearcats, Kozub feels that the lack of publicity, particularly this year, hurts the crowd turnout at games.

Gerry played his high school basketball at Victoria Composite and started playing the game in grade nine, during his last year at junior high school.

"My best year was last year with the Bearcats because it was the most enjoyable. I also did a little better myself last year," adds Kozub, who was the captain of the team under coach Alex Carre.

### NO SPIRIT

When asked about the Bears problem this year, Gerry said, "There were too many individuals and the team spirit wasn't there. This was mostly the players' fault and not the coaches."

Gerry had never played under two coaches before this year (coach Gerry Glassford and assistant-coach Alex Carre) but felt that this idea was much better.

"It is really helpful, because the coaches can help you twice as much and work with various positions."

Gerry did not play university basketball for his first two years although he did play in the Senior Men's league in his second year. At the end of that year, he was selected as an all-star to join the

Bearcats after they had won the Alberta Provincial finals, and played with them in Hamilton, Ontario, in the national junior finals.

### PREFERS GUARD

The next year he played guard for the Bears, and prefers this position to forward, which he plays on the Bears this year.

Although only six feet tall, Kozub was put in the forward position this year, partially because the Bears had four good guards, but mainly due to his excellent jumping ability. Gerry trained with weights one year, but feels most of his rebounding ability is just natural.

Kozub has consistently held his own this year in rebounding against his taller opponents, and has a good jump shot, although he has had problems with it at times.

When asked about the usefulness of playing against American teams in exhibition, Gerry felt that the team didn't learn very much.

However, he added, "You pick up a few things as an individual. It all depends how much interest you have and how much you want to learn to improve your own game."

"The lack of crowds definitely hurt the chances of the team in some of our close matches when we were still in contention for the title," mentioned Gerry, when it was pointed out that the Bears lost many of their Saturday games in the last five minutes of play.

Kozub believes, also, that the use of films is invaluable to the team, since "the coaches see the mistakes and can point them out."

Although it is Gerry's last year in university, he does not want to quit basketball and hopes to play for Senior Men's teams when he starts work in Lethbridge next year.