

## Bears and UBC split in hoop foulfest

Randal Smathers



Wendel Clark is within two weeks of returning to the NHL. Look on his game, ye North Stars, and despair.

Now that Stupor Sunday has passed, I thought I'd throw out some ideas on the state of sports fandom in January. (Stupor Sunday, for those of you who are unaware of this momentous occasion, is that first Sunday of the new year when you stagger out of bed and in front of the TV to watch Bob Costas & Co., only to discover that there is Only Religion on TV).

The Super Bowl game will feature mountains of print: a hype-to-thrill ratio of approximately 12 billion-to-one. Unfortunately, it has become trendy to report on the hype, which means that we get not only stupid information about the game, fans, coaches, players, players' wives, team mascots, and cheerbimbos, but also about reporters, TV crews, and my personal nemesis: the stupidest question sweepstakes, where all the reporters make jokes about what stupid questions the other reporters are asking.

In case you're interested, I'm taking the Bengals because they have the best mascots, the best helmets, and because Joe Montana always seems like a weenie on TV.

The NHL is once again being castigated for violence, this January, and I can certainly see why. Judging by the highlight films, the NBA is having way better fights this year. After all, who wants to see a couple (comparatively) little guys — wearing all sorts of protective gear — fighting, when you can see a couple of seven-foot mutants slugging it out, wearing nothing but short pants and sneakers. Now that's entertainment: just like watching Bugs Bunny cartoons.

Speaking of violence, the Brandon Bobcats are coming to town this week, and the U of A Golden Bears should pound, kick, maim, stomp, beat, kill, mutilate, and generally outplay their victims-du-week.

The CFL is back in the news, which can be good, but is usually bad. It's bad again, because although Labatt's is willing to throw a lot of money the league's way, there is a nagging suspicion they are just trying to get a foot in the door in case the NFL winds up in T.O. somehow. Not that sports fans should be concerned, though, because there's always Arena football, if you're desperate.

Fortunately, there's also baseball — spring training's only four weeks away. There, maybe that'll help you get through January. Good luck.

by Alan Small  
UBC 76 Alberta 75  
Alberta 85 UBC 79

It's a surprise that the referees could still breathe, for they were busy blowing their whistles on the UBC T-Birds and the Alberta Golden Bears basketball teams last weekend at Varsity Gym.

UBC were the recipients of most of the fouls, and were fortunate to escape from Edmonton with a split with the Golden Bears.

Both games were similar — the Bears jumped out to an early lead, but some key shooting at the end of the first half and the beginning of the second gave the T-Birds a chance for victories. Only the endings were different.

"I think that both teams have so much respect for each other," said UBC head coach Bruce Enns after their Friday night victory,

"I told him he was playing a little soft out there." — Horwood

"a lot of the defensive stuff that both teams normally do, they didn't do today."

The Bears had plenty of chances in the first half to knock the T-Birds out, but needless turnovers cost them. They led by eight points with seven minutes to play in the first half and by nine with 85 seconds remaining. The wheels fell off in the last minute, as the Bears committed careless fouls in the offensive zone, giving the T-Birds three bonus opportunities late in the opening 20 minutes. They cut the Bears lead to only four points by halftime.

"There's no secret to it," said the exasperated Bear head coach Don Horwood, "they got 13 offensive boards. You can't let a team like UBC get that many chances." The Bears were held to only seven offensive rebounds in

the opener.

The U of A also had the T-Birds in foul trouble. Both Mike Clarke and Al Lalonde, UBC's top scorers, had their playing time cut considerably due to foul trouble. Clarke was held to only one point in the first half.

The Bears opened the lead back up to nine points early in the second half, but a 16-6 run during the middle of the quarter gave the T-Birds the lead. The game saw-sawed until the last minute when the T-Birds grabbed a one point lead with 17 seconds remaining.

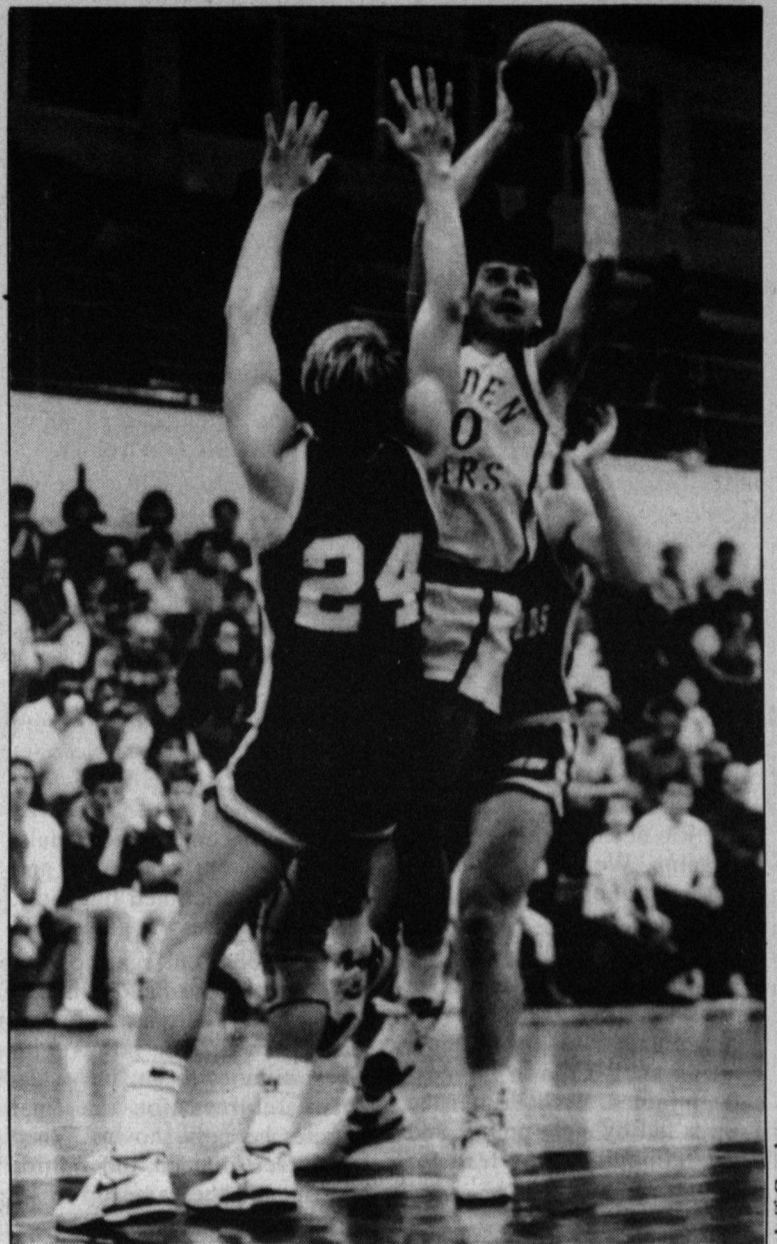
The Bears tried working the last shot play, but Dave Youngs missed the shot with three seconds left and that was all she wrote.

"We did everything we could do down at the end," said Horwood. "We got the ball into people's hands, we got the shots we wanted. We just couldn't do it."

Youngs was the top scorer on the floor with 19 points. Forward Ed Joseph scored 18 as well for the Bears. UBC was led by Jason Leslie, who scored 18. Lalonde scored 15 before fouling out with two minutes to go. If Alberta needed more UBC foul problems to get a split, they were granted their wish on Saturday, as UBC committed 33 fouls. By game end, all of their starters had at least four fouls on them. After the game, Enns wasn't exactly singing the praises of the Edmonton refs.

"The City of Edmonton has more good officials than any other city in the conference," Enns stated, "but despite that, we need to have one visiting official. Maybe a Calgary official or something like that."

The turning point in the ball game was an 8-0 run by the Bears. Their defence shut the T-Birds down for 5:10 seconds, and in that time, they had stretched out an insurmountable nine point bulge. The second half was dominated by Bill LaVergne, who scored 18 points, and made up for a poor first game. He didn't play all that well in the first half of the



Bear guard Sean Chursinoff puts one up in front of T-Bird forward Diego Marchese.

Jeff Cowley

finale either, but his teammates got him fired up at halftime.

"(Frisby) got me going actually," said LaVergne, "he said I wasn't playing tough in the first half. I really played brutal."

"Give LaVergne a hell of a lot of credit for the last five minutes," said Enns. Clarke, who was going up against LaVergne all weekend scored 23 points to lead the T-Birds, was shut down late in the ball game, when the T-Birds tried to get him the ball.

"I told him he was playing a little soft out there," said Horwood of LaVergne's first half performance. "I think that riled him up a little bit."

Youngs was tops on the scoring sheet again, as he notched 24 points in a game where both he and point guard Sean Chursinoff played nearly if not all of the 40 minutes. Chursinoff scored 19. Besides Clarke's 23, Lalonde was tops with 14 before fouling out once more.

## U of A gathers hats

by Alan Small

The Golden Bears found out this weekend that you needn't go all the way to Mexico for some sombreros. Lethbridge is as far as they had to travel.

The Golden Bears walked all over the hapless Horns by scores of 14-5 and 10-2.

Three Golden Bears scored four hattricks in the two routs. In game one, Wes Craig, Stacey Wakabayashi, and Rob Glasgow, all scored three times. Craig had six points on the night, while Wakabayashi and Glasgow each totalled five.

Al Tarasuk scored twice, and singles went to Doug McCarthy, Sid Cranston, (who also had three assists) and Adam Morrison.

Bear head coach Clare Drake was undoubtedly pleased with Alberta's performance, but said,

"we were a little careless in the third period."

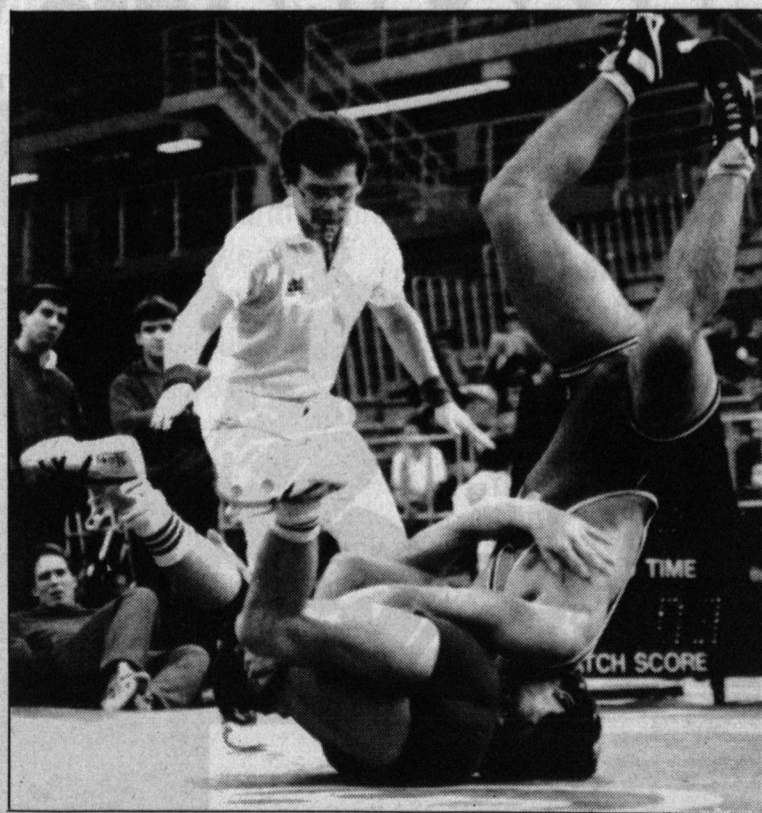
More of the same continued in the second game, as Wakabayashi scored his second hattrick in as many games. Singles went to Howie Draper, McCarthy (who had four points on the night), Todd Gordon, Dave Hingley, an Glasgow.

Glasgow had his best weekend in his two-and-a-half years as a Golden Bear, as his seven point effort gained him Canada West player of the week honors.

"He played really well," said Drake, "he really broke out and got some points."

The Bears did not make up any ground on the conference leading Calgary Dinos however, as the Dinos swept a pair of games from the UBC Thunderbirds in Van-

HAMMERED — p 13



Kevin Kezama slams Todd Gregory, or is that the other way around? They were part of the Golden Bear Open last weekend.

Paul Menzies