

SPORTS

The saga of the Chicken continues

by Kevin Kaardal

Throughout the Kingdom of Edmontonia, a heralded cry could be heard. "The Chicken is coming! The Chicken is coming!"

Indeed he is! On Tuesday, November 6, the "Famous Chicken" will be appearing at the U of A Varsity Gym as the Golden Bears basketball team will square off against the Lewis and Clarke State Warriors.

The Chicken, alias Ted Giannoulas, is one of the most recognized sports figures in North America. Sponsored by a local radio station, he began his career in 1974 as the San Diego Chicken, mascot for the San Diego Padres. His employment was to last one week. It lasted five years!

The Chicken's popularity grew until his career ambitions began to conflict with the policies of the radio station. The courts were left to decide the issue. They ruled in favor of Giannoulas' right to work.

Since then, as an independent entertainer, the Chicken has drawn record crowds for many sports teams. His debut as a "free agent Chicken" drew a record crowd of 47,022 to a Padres baseball game. He later shattered this record as an anniversary appearance by the Chicken brought 52,000 fans to Jack Murphy Stadium.

The Chicken is appealing because his character is not a human dressed in a chicken suit; it is a chicken trying to act as a human being.

"He's not just a mascot. He is a legitimate comedian, the consummate pantomime," says Bears basketball coach Don Horwood, the man who suggested using the Chicken to promote U of A varsity sports. "I saw him in Victoria. Being a basketball purist, I was a little

skeptical at first, but coming out, I was laughing so hard I was in tears."

John Barry, the Men's Inter-University Athletics Co-ordinator (and the Chairman of the Chicken Committee), is also enthusiastic about Giannoulas' upcoming appearance.

"I'm optimistic about the promotion; the whole department is," says Barry. "It's a big risk financially. We wouldn't have gone through with it if we didn't feel it would be successful."

For the past three months, a group of eight people have been working on the Chicken Committee. This will be the most expensive and concentrated promotion ever put on by the Athletic Department.

Normally, the department would not commit so much time and effort to promoting one sport. As



The Chicken, alias Ted Giannoulas

Barry points out, "We try to be equitable in our distribution to ensure that all sports in the program receive enthusiastic and professional promotion. This promotion is being put on with that direction in mind. We want to promote all varsity sports."

"Basketball is just a logical vehicle in which to do this. It has the most consistent fan support (an average of one thousand fans per game last

season) and it doesn't have to compete with any professional teams in the city."

Working within the close confines of a basketball auditorium, the Chicken's spontaneous antics will be all the more exaggerated. He will be able to involve the audience more. This is important because, as Horwood says, "We're not just bringing in a promotion or a mascot; we're bringing in an

entertainer and we want Edmonton to be entertained."

Entertainment is something almost guaranteed for those willing to pay \$5.00 a ticket. As John Schullian of the Chicago Sun-Times says, "He's a little bit of Harpo Marx, a little bit of Marcel Marceau, and one who always makes the paying customers laugh."

Tickets are going fast. They are available at any BASS outlet.

Golden Bear Football

VS.

U of Saskatchewan Huskies

Saturday, November 3

1:00 pm • Varsity Stadium

All U of A students admitted free with valid ID card.



Defending Canada West Champions Golden Bear Hockey

VS.

U of Calgary Dinosarus

Friday, November 2 • 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 3 • 4:00 pm

Varsity Arena

All U of A students admitted free with valid ID card.



SAN DIEGO Chicken Night

Golden Bear Basketball VS Lewis-Clark State

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 7:30 pm • Varsity Gym

TICKETS \$5.00 at all BASS outlets & Athletic office in Butterdome

Tundra Bowl: Bears versus Huskies

by Eva Pendzich

This Saturday, 1 pm, at Varsity Stadium, the first place Golden Bear football team will host the Saskatchewan Huskies in their final regular game of the season.

A win by the Bears will ensure that the WIFL championship game will be held here Saturday, November 10.

The Bears have met the Huskies twice this season, defeating them both games, 49-17 and 17-13.

Once again, weather is going to be a major factor as temperatures plummet well below normal for this time of year. However, Jim

Donlevy, Golden Bear head coach, is confident that his players can handle it.

"It is all psychological. We have been practising all week and it (weather) has not seemed to bother us. We've played in conditions like this before and we will do it again. Once the players set their minds against defeating the elements it is

as good as done, and you can't beat that with a stick," said Donlevy.

If the players can handle the elements, then surely they will be

able to handle the Huskies.

Sidelines: Come out, be wild, enjoy hot wine (12 noon at the Pavilion), and cheer the Bears on to victory.

Basketball Bears place second

by Kevin Kaardal

The Golden Bears basketball team ended last weekend's Winnipeg Wesmen Classic with a 2-1 record, good for a second place finish in the four-team round robin tournament.

After absorbing an 81-67 loss to the Waterloo Warriors in the first

game, the Bears rebounded with two impressive victories over Winnipeg and Trois Rivières.

Mike Suderman and Mike Kornack were rewarded for their outstanding play by being selected first-team all stars.

Next action for the Bears is a four-team tournament in Regina next weekend.

Hockey Bears to host Dinosaurs

The Golden Bear hockey team resumes regular season play this weekend as they host the Calgary Dinosaurs.

It is a two game series, starting Friday at 7:30 pm and Saturday at 4pm at Varsity Arena.

The Bears current record is 3-1.

This past weekend, the Bears were the winners of the first Molson International University Challenge in Calgary. They outscored their opponents 57-7.

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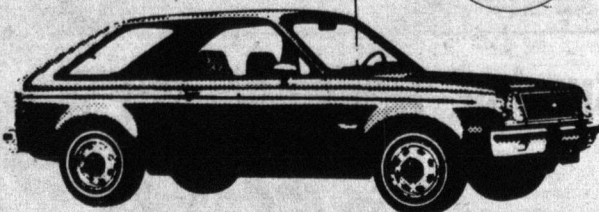
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