Basketball Bears seeking

by Brad Clark

"In general the winner of the fight is likely to be the animal that is on its home territory rather than the animal that is bigger and stronger.

Jame W. Wonder Zanden, Social Psychology

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Unlike John Houseman's favorite investment firm, the Golden Bears basketball squad did not acquire a playoff berth the oldfashioned way; they did not earn it. Despite their 2-8 record, the Bears will participate in the Canada West elimination series as tournament hosts. The key word here is "hosts." Home court advantage is a very real phenomenon; the home team wins 67 per cent of the time in professional basketball. The Bears too have played their best basketball at

Therefore, they have to be con-

sidered legitimate contenders for the CWUAA Basketball title.

Both Golden Bear victories were at home. Of the three games they lost in Varsity Gym, two were decided in the last 30 seconds. They lost all three games by a margin of only nine points combined. And, in all three home losses they were without their pillar of salt, Mike Suderman.

Home crowds for the Bear's games this season have been loud and rowdy. The Bears are assured of more of the same Saturday afternoon in their 3:00 p.m. matchup with Lethbridge, as it's "Cheer for Beer" time again.

Fans can really play an important role in a playoff game: they rattle opposition free-throw shooters, they let the officials know when they have missed a call and they help motivate the home team.

Playing at home also allows the Bears to focus on the task at hand. They don't have to worry about flight schedules, loading and unloading buses, chemical toilets or managing measly allotments of meal money. There can be no screwing around on the girlfriend while at home.

Bear's head coach Don Horwood is confident going into this weekend's tournament. His team is coming off a victory over Saskatchewan and has been preparing in earnest for the playoffs.

"There's a really good feeling at practice," Horwood said.

It is definitely a new season for the Basketball Bears. They opened their regular season with a couple of losses on the road. It would certainly be nice to see them open the "post" season with a couple of victories at home.

Soccer gains more popularity

by Dave Boyd

The dissolution of the Canadian Professional Soccer League and the imminent demise of the North American Soccer League make one point remarkably clear. It is more exciting to play soccer than to

Further evidence for this point is provided by the looming popularity of indoor soccer at the U of A. The status of this sport is rapidly approaching top levels as the for-

mat of this intramural activity was switched from a double knock-out tournament to a league system this

In semi-final soccer action, Geology romped to a 7-0 whitewashing of the Latin Connection. The other semi-final was also onesided, as the African Students Association shut out Mackenzie Hall 5-0. The final between these two high-powered offensive squads fulfilled its explosive potential. The African Students Association team captured the championship, outscoring Geology by a 5-2 margin.

In Men's Intramural Badminton action, Robert Adji won the 'A' title (for expert players) while the 'B' event was taken by J. Kirchner. The beginners or 'C' event champ was Dave Toukishina. Meanwhile, in the double competition, John Loren and Bill Fluet were victorious in the 'A' event while K. McGreer and On Wong captured the intermediate title.

All would-be participants in the Intramural Slalom Skiing meet should note that due to cold weather before reading week, the race was postponed until March 16. Also note that the event has been moved from Val Gardena, Italy, to Hidden Ridge in Edmonton because of snow condition.

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