

Gateway Sports



Bill Kankewitt ... on the shovel

Don't concede the Golden Bear hockey team another nation championship.

Granted, they are a much stronger unit than last year's victors but strength isn't everything.

Competition made last year's team a champion while lack of it might just spell doom for this year's edition.

The 1968 hockey Bears were not the best college team in the country. Some experts say they weren't even the best in their own conference.

However, every game they played all season was a do-or-die struggle.

When the battle-scarred club finally emerged as western reps by winning their last six league games, they had little time to lick their wounds as they immediately headed to Montreal for the Canadian championships. There they were scheduled to meet superior eastern teams who had cake-walked to their respective conference titles.



ONE OF THE
... many fans

The fighting Bears, hungry for victory and sharpened by competition were able to blast their way past the surprised and overconfident easterners.

This year, the situation just might be reversed.

Clare Drake's 1969 Bear club has been hampered by lack of suitable competition. While they themselves are stronger, the other teams in the league are considerably weaker.

Add to this an almost non-existent pre-season exhibition schedule and you have team which is fat for the kill. The Canadian championships are a series of sudden-death games so a team just has to be ready. Coach Drake

doesn't agree that the league is weaker this season.

The chief gate-opener of the Bruins reasons that his charges are playing much better at home this time round and making the opposition look worse than they actually are. He points out that most of the Bear road games have been closely contested.

While I lack the head ganders credentials, I'm not alone in my belief that the league is weaker. A good number of ex-Bears also feel that the circuit is poorly balanced this season.

Drake believes that one of the most influential factors in his team's improved home efforts has been the outstanding crowd support shown by Bear fans. One certainly has to agree with him in this department.

The coach figures a series his pucksters will have in Denver against the U.S. champions the week prior to the Canadian championships will help to sharpen the club.

He is also making an effort to line up exhibition games against the Canadian Nats and Edmonton Monarchs in the near future.

Tracksters compete at hub city meet

At the Saskatoon Invitational Track and Field Meet held last Saturday the track team participated in its first official collegiate meet of the year.

The team gained a good deal of experience in having to master the sharp bends of the indoor track.

The relay teams, although they placed, found that practice on baton changes and bend running is still needed to gain the honors.

Several team members gaining places showed signs of approaching top form.

These include Nancy Robertson, Rick Spencer (75 yds.), David Beckman (2 mi.), Selwin Jacob and Lloyd Alexander in the pole vault.

The WCIAA meet at Winnipeg on Mar. 1 provides the team with great incentive to train with more purpose and dedication. The return of Ray Haswell and Dale Knutson in the middle distance events and Kathy Devaney in the sprints should strengthen the team enhancing its chances for an overall improvement in performance.

Hoop Bears ho-hum way to twelfth straight win

By JOE CZAJKOWSKI
Bears 79, Cougars 53
Bear 68, Cougars 53

Alberta Golden Bears made it 12 straight in WCIAA action over the weekend by downing the U of S (Regina) Cougars 79-53 and 68-53 in Regina.

Barry Mitchelson's squad had little trouble in posting the twin

victories. Regina, however, did provide the expected battle on the backboards. The Bear forwards experienced one of their toughest tussles on the boards this season.

Repeatedly the Cougars sent in five men for rebounds rather than just the forwards and this coupled with the Regina club's great height made it very difficult for the Bears to haul in rebounds.

In both contests, Friday and Saturday, the Bears had a little trouble getting untracked in the first half but them came on in the second.

CONTEST TEETERED

Friday's square-off saw Alberta work hard to retain a 34-29 half time lead. The contest teetered back and forth. First Alberta would build up a good lead and then the Cougars would come back to narrow the gap.

The second frame saw Alberta take control and outscore the Cougars 45-24.

Big gun for the Alberta crew was Warren Champion with 20 points. Bob Morris and Dick DeKlerk added 14 each and Larry Nowak chipped in 10. Don Blackburn wedged in 12 for the losers.

Saturday's match was almost a repeat of Friday's. Bears again started slow and then picked up momentum in the second frame.

On the other hand Regina started fast and had an 8-0 lead after only a few minutes. Bears recovered and were up 28-25 at the half.

In the second frame the Bears pulled away. Eventually the two clubs settled on a 68-53 win for the Bears.

Champion again was top marksman for the Bears with 24 points. Dave Swann played a good game filling in for DeKlerk who suffered from foul trouble. He scored nine points and Al Melnychuk and Larry Nowak contributed eight points each.

Next league action for the Bears will be in Winnipeg this weekend when the club travels down for a four game series: two games against the U of W Wesmen and two against the U of M Bisons.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	Pts
Alberta	12	12	0	24
Manitoba	12	9	3	18
Saskatchewan	14	8	6	16
Winnipeg	14	4	10	8
Regina	14	4	10	8
Calgary	14	3	11	6

Conference title near for Bears

By JOE CZAJKOWSKI

Twelve gone and all's well. Alberta's basketball squad is 12-0 in league competition with eight games remaining in the schedule.

With only one strong opponent for the laurels remaining, Barry Mitchelson's squad should be a shoo-in to take top honors.

That rival, the Manitoba Bisons, is a strong club but Alberta has already beaten the Bisons twice in Edmonton. This weekend Alberta comes up against the Bisons again, this time in Winnipeg.

Bear coach Barry Mitchelson predicts a great series in Winnipeg. However, everything is in Alberta's favor for that series.

The Bisons with a 9-3 record will have their backs to the wall; they would have to win both their games against Alberta just to remain in contention. A split would virtually eliminate the Bisons from the race.

Should the Bears lose two to Manitoba they could still take the league title but they would have to win all their remaining games to do so.

This would not be an impossible task since other than Manitoba only the two newest teams in the league, Winnipeg Wesmen and Regina Cougars, as well as the last place Calgary Dinosaurs remain on the Bear's schedule.

The Bears face the Winnipeg Wesmen this Friday and Saturday in Winnipeg and then come up against the Bisons Monday and Tuesday.

Should the Bears win all four games they will have top spot all wrapped up. Mathematically all other clubs would be eliminated and Alberta would enter the Canadian basketball championships.

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