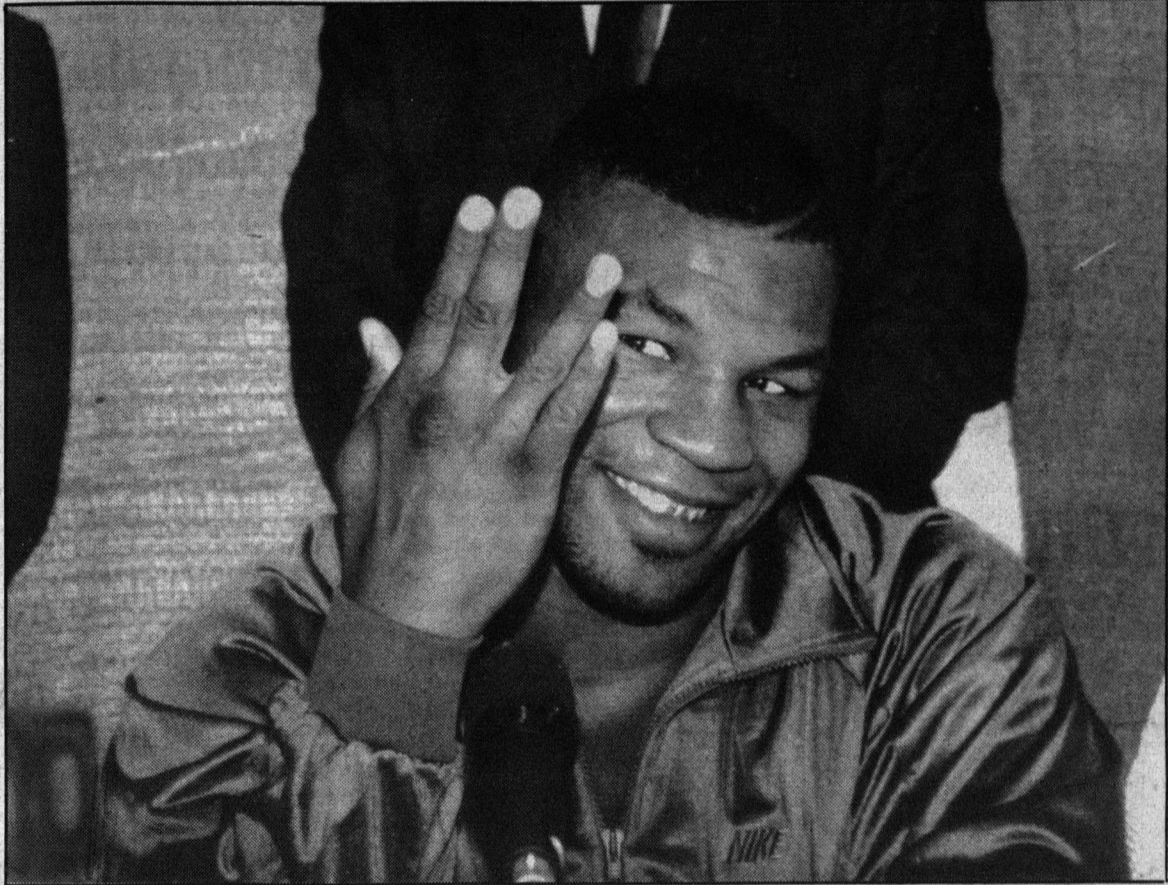


Paul Menzies



Ron Sears



Full court press

by Mitch Panciuk

The Panda's basketball team is moving right along as they make the adjustment from training camp to the regular team practice schedule. Coach Diane Hilko has been working hard at making the transition between trying-out for the team, and now being on the team squad. But Hilko likes the fact that there is a lot of competition within the squad forcing the veterans to "play harder and play better so the level of intensity is raised making the team better."

Even with the nagging injuries to returning players like guard Leslie Lacroix and forward Celeste Bazinet, the Pandas' offensive alignment is starting to become balanced. The rookie players have a surprisingly high level of experience and are picking up on the system quickly, so quickly that Hilko is confident that putting the ball in the hoop will not be the same problem that it has been in recent years.

The Pandas' are going to be the biggest team in terms of height that we have seen here at the U of A a long time. One of the characteristics of the Pandas in the past was that they were a very quick team in the backcourt, and Hilko does not see that changing. The Pandas have been able to "score a lot of points off the defense", and this will continue because while getting taller, they haven't gotten slower.

With only nine practices between now and the Alumni game, Hilko is going to concentrate on making sure that what the Pandas' know how to do, will be done well.

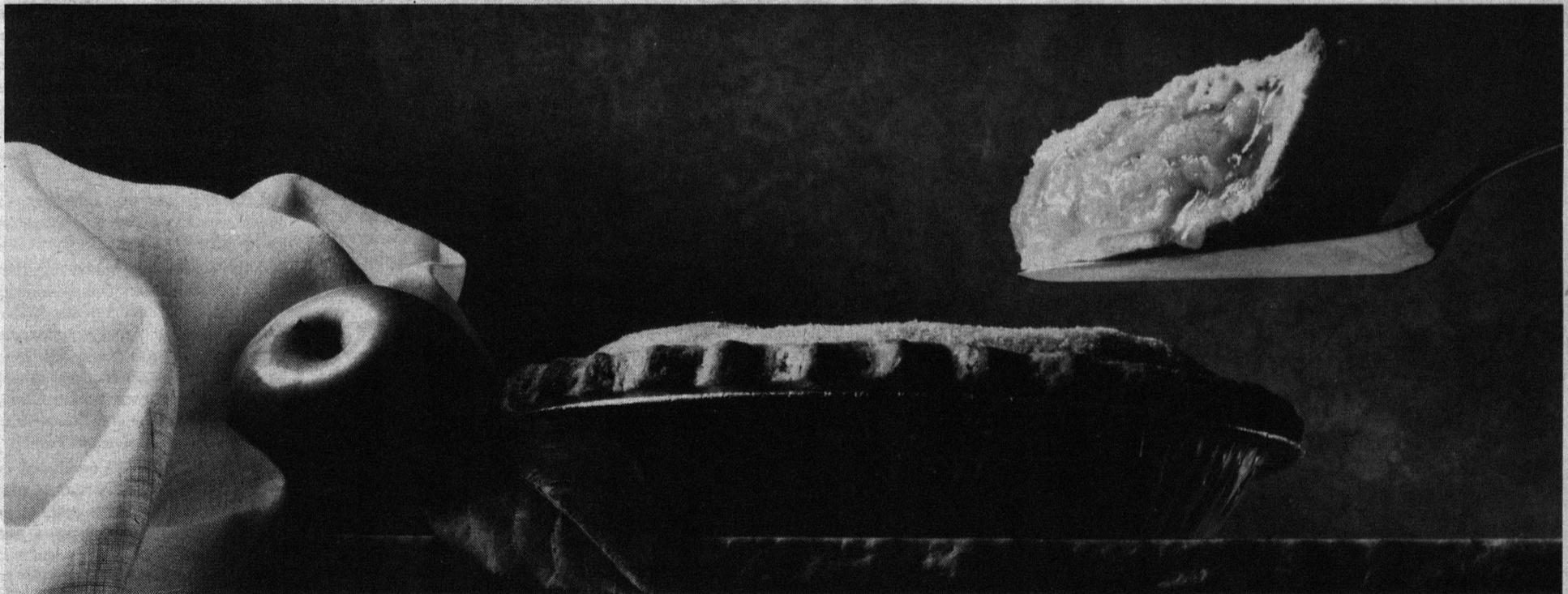
Mitch Panciuk is the color commentator for FM88.5 for Basketball.

September got the year's sports teams off and running. The Golden Bear football team, coming off a 1-7 season, found itself 2-2 at the midpoint of the season. The Bears dropped a close 18-9 decision to the UBC Thunderbirds in Vancouver. But they crushed the University of Manitoba Bisons 38-0 in their home-opener. In the second of the two game home-stand, the Bears were beaten 8-7 when their kickers went one for seven against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. Last week the Bears surprised everyone by beating number two ranked Calgary 29-26 in Calgary. The week was also highlighted by Trent Brown's selection as CIAU player of the week.

The hockey Bears began their exhibition schedule in September. The Bears will begin the season minus four stars from last year's team: Stacey Wakabayashi, Sid Cranston, Wes Criag, and Darwin Bozek. The Bears beat the Oiler rookies 7-6.

The Bears' and Pandas' soccer squads began defense of their Canada West titles with 4-0 thrashings of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

And Mike Tyson is coming to Edmonton. He'll meet Donovan Razor Ruddock on November 18 at the Northlands Coliseum.



AMERICAN PIE.

ALCAN ALUMINUM.

Vivian Merrill's famous Northern Spy apple pie. Photo: Adrien Duey.

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