

# THE FREE PRESS SPORTS

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## The Sunday PLAYBOOK

### ► Mintenko climbs Frisco

Geoff Mintenko is climbing the walls — literally. The 16-year-old rock climber is in San Francisco this weekend with the Canadian climbing team, attending the Touchstone international competition. Last year Mintenko placed seventh in his division at the competition. This is the last scheduled competitive climb this year for Mintenko who recently returned from the Youth World Climbing Championships in Amsterdam. There he ranked 44th in the world out of the over 60 climbers who qualified for the 16 and 17-year-old boys division.

### ► Karatekas at provincials

Twenty-five Prince George karatekas will be travelling to Kamloops next weekend for the 2000 Karate BC Fall Provincial Tournament. Two PG clubs are sending athletes to the tournament - 19 from the Nechako Karate Club and six from the Prince George Chito-Ryu club. Competition begins Saturday, with martial artists competing in both kata (forms) and sparring.

### ► Skaters try to make cut

Sixteen skaters from the Spruce City Skating Club are cutting up the ice this weekend in Prince Rupert in the Cariboo North Central Region qualifying competition. Skaters who meet or beat the pre-set standards advance to represent the Cariboo North Central Region at the BC Sections Championships in Coquitlam in mid-November. Also, selection for the Northern BC Winter Games will take place at the qualifying competition.

### ► The Cats come back

The Cougars wrapped-up their six-game roadtrip through the eastern division on Friday. The Cats get most of the week off before they invite their old rivals, the Kamloops Blazers into the 'plex for a pair of games Friday and Saturday night. Prince George and Kamloops have clashed only once before this season, a game that the Cougars lost 7-4. It was also the last game goalie Marty Maurice was between the pipes for the Cats. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m. for both games.

## Alpha Wolf

*Brent Sevigny  
comes home to lead  
the UNBC pack  
this season*

By DOUG BROWN

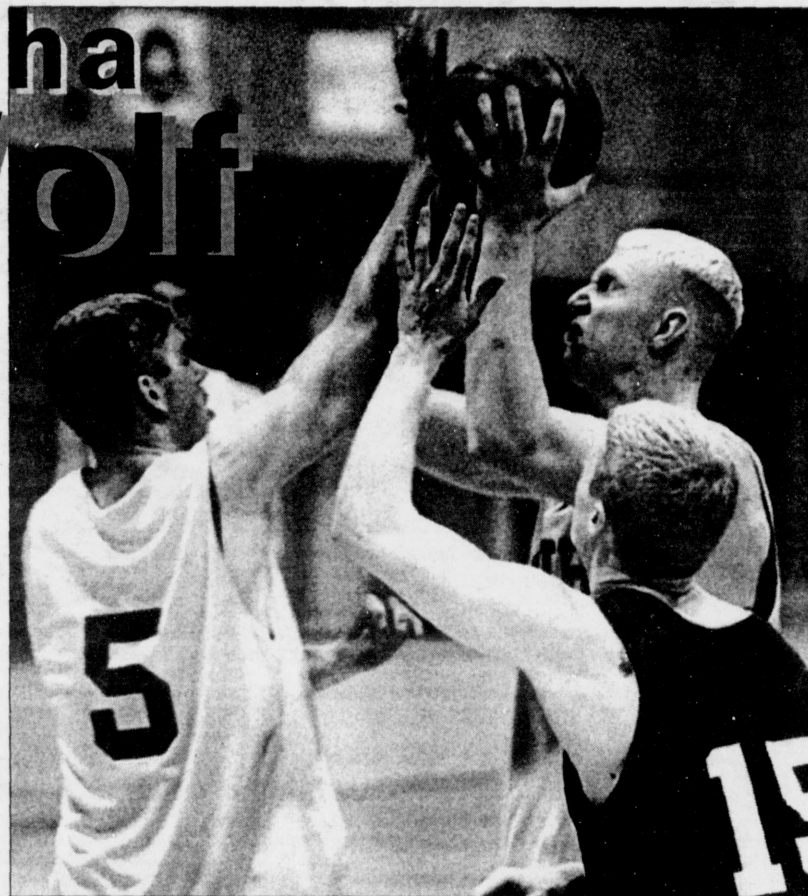
Free Press staff writer

Standing at his full height of 6'6", even a smiling Brent Sevigny makes for a pretty intimidating bad cop.

But as laid back as he is, Sevigny is also the more vocal of the UNBC Timberwolves men's basketball team's captains — and that means it falls to him to speak up when the boys drag their butts around the court.

"I try to be positive, but if I have to be negative I try to do it in a way that's going to help the player and not destroy their confidence," says Sevigny of his role as co-captain with veteran T-Wolf Kent Bergstrom. "Kent's our quiet leader. I'll yell a lot and talk a lot more but both of us have to hustle. As captains if we don't do the hustle everyone's going to follow our lead."

Brent's already shown that hustle and leadership during the 'Wolves pre-season. In a game earlier this month against the top-ranked University of Alberta, Sevigny out-shot UofA's top scorer, Nick Maglisceau, by 28 to 17. But despite his personal victory the 'Wolves were still beaten by UofA and that's what Brent is concentrating his energy on — improving the team performance.



At 6'6", Brent Sevigny is one of the tallest T-Wolves - and also one of the most skilled.

JOHN MCKENZIE/FREE PRESS

"You can't let your personal goals get ahead of the team or you're here for the wrong reasons," says Sevigny.

The blond-haired, broad-shouldered forward is originally from Prince George, where he played high school basketball at College Heights Secondary. But he spent his first two years of university far from home at the University of Manitoba. There it was a constant fight for a spot on the team's starting lineup and despite earning Conference Rookie of the Year his first year, Brent found himself losing con-

fidence and drive in the second. "I didn't enjoy playing basketball anymore," he says.

Sevigny took the third year off, coming back to his family and friends in Prince George. He also came back to find that UNBC had started a varsity basketball program in his absence, with a coach who was eager to draft a talented - and tall - player like Brent.

"When he (Reg Carrick) first talked to me I really wasn't interested in playing. But he convinced me to come out with the team a bit over Christmas before I said no and it got the

fire rekindled."

But the fire was only lit for four games before Brent broke his wrist during practice and was forced out of the game again. But this time he wanted back in — bad — and the fire inside turned into burning torture.

"It was hell. It's no fun watching the team from the sidelines when you want to be out there so bad. Hopefully I can stay injury-free this year," he says with a quick knock-on-wood on the gymnasium bench.

Brent brings three years of varsity experience to the

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## Some People Say We're All Talk They're Right



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