

Otto nets 5 in blowout of Huskies

by Mark Spector

It was a crushing encounter of the hardest kind Friday, as the Golden Bears and the Saskatchewan Huskies renewed old acquaintances before 847 fans at the Varsity Arena, all of whom relished the fact that they were just that — fans. Not players.

And although it was certainly the roughest affair of the season it also turned out to be the most meaningless, as the final score of 3-3 left both clubs just where they were heading into the contest: with the Bears in fourth place just two points back of the Huskies.

In fact, with both the first place Calgary Dinosaurs and the next best Manitoba Bisons both sweeping their Canada West series' over the weekend, the sister-kisser would end up being an early sign of Alberta's probably having to open the Canada West playoffs on the road for the first time in years.

But the two rivals had a date the next night, with a score to settle, as they say.

The Golden Bears then put things on Otto pilot midway into the hockey game, and just kicked back and watched as Dave Otto netted five goals on the way to a convincing 8-2 victory.

"Tonight was a little weird for me," said Otto, the first Med student to play on the Bears since Randy Gregg. "I haven't been progressing at a steady enough rate for this to happen to me."

But happen to him it did. Otto scored a big goal with just 40 seconds remaining in the opening period, circling out from behind goaltender Greg Holtby before firing a high wrist shot over his glove hand. That made the score 2-1 Bears as Bret Walter opened the scoring with his fifth of the year before Huskies' Larry Korchinski knotted things up.

After Ken Morrison tied things up again on a clear cut breakaway resulting from some miscommunication between defensemen Dean Clark and Brent Severyn, Otto went back to work.

The 5'11", 180 lbs. center was in the right place to lift Steve Cousins' rebound into the roof of the net, then he hung on to the puck neatly while the traffic flowed by allowing him to 5-hole Holtby with a sharp backhand. From there the route was on.

"We missed a couple and they



Huskies Rob McKechnie (8) pays close attention to Bears' Stacey Wakabayashi. Alberta managed a tie and a win

got a few. They really took the momentum away," said Saskatchewan defenseman Reid Williams. "They were scorin' and we just couldn't stick any."

Stacey Wakabayashi staked Alberta to a 5-2 period lead, deflecting a howitzer from Severyn home with only 41 seconds left. Wes Craig sandwiched a goal between two more Otto markers in the third, the second of which was Huskies' coach Brent McEwen's cue to yank Holtby.

Overlooked somewhat in the drubbing was some outstanding goaltending by Alberta's Darren Turner. He made several key saves in the early going which left the Huskies shaking their heads and sparked his own club.

He stopped 32 volleys (including two first period breakaways) Friday in his first start of the Canada West season.

"Things are feeling good, really good," admitted Turner after the tie. He had the Dogs stymied all night except for a weak wrist shot by Saskatchewan captain Dave Kendall which ramped into the top corner off of his goalstick. That goal came between first period tallies by Dennis and Sid Cranston.

After a scoreless second in which both teams handed out checks like it was the second last banking day of the month, the line of Korchinski, Brian Pugh, and Maurice Lemire struck for a pair of quick goals (both one-timers from passes out of the corner) to put the ball in Alberta's court with only 3:35 remaining.

"That one time stuff," spat Turner. "They're a good club that way. Pugh had a great game. I've played against him before, he's always a ready pest around the net."

It only took the Golden Bears 45 seconds to pull into a tie though, as Denis Leclair crafted a nifty goal, sidestepping two Huskies at their own blueline before feeding Todd Stokowski in front. The rookie netted his tenth of the year on the back — to send the two clubs to OT.

Nothing transpired in the ten minute session however, despite a couple of wild scrambles in front of

Saskatchewan goalie McKay. Bears two most potent duos of Dill/Otto and Dennis Cranston/Wakabayashi each had their swipes from in close but couldn't solve McKay, who played his standup brand of netminding to near perfection on this night.

The Dogs were without assistant captain and team leader Danny Leier Saturday, as he suffered a knee injury the previous night. His absence was conspicuous.

"He's their soul," said Bears Bill Ansell, who has put up with the feisty Saskatchewan center for each of his five years. "He's like Bobby Clarke. He's the dirtiest player but you'd like him if he were on your team."

Puck Points: Shots on goal were 35 - 33 for the Huskies Friday, and 32 - 28 in the Bears favour Saturday . . . Alberta travels to **Lethbridge** this weekend for a pair of games, then comes **Face Off '87 vs. NAIT** on **Tuesday the 27th.**

Bears 3 Huskies 3

FIRST PERIOD

- Alta., D. Cranston (7) (S. Cranston, Clark), pp. 2:35.
 - Sask., Kendall (4) (Stewart, Pugh), pp. 13:06.
 - Alta., S. Cranston (3) (unass.) 13:23.
- Penalties:** Otto, Proft, Alta., Lemire, Leier, Sask., 0:19; Spafford, Sask., 1:49; D. Cranston, Alta., Stewart, Sask., 9:53; Draper, Alta., 11:07; Sakundiak, Sask., 19:24.

SECOND PERIOD (NO SCORING)

- Penalties:** Wakabayashi, Alta., 1:38; Proft, Alta., Leier, Sask., 3:02; Stewart, Sask., 9:35; S. Cranston, Alta., Leier, Sask., 11:10; Wakabayashi, Helland, Alta., Williams, Lemire, Sask., 13:49; D. Cranston, Alta., Stewart, Sask., 16:15; Clark, Alta., 17:21.

THIRD PERIOD

- Sask., Pugh (10) (Lemire, Korchinski) 14:27.
 - Sask., Lemire (6) (Pugh) 16:25.
 - Alta., Stokowski (10) (Leclair, Cousins) 17:10.
- Penalties:** Williams, Sask., 0:15; S. Cranston, Alta., 6:05.

OVERTIME (NO SCORING)

- Penalties:** None.
Shots On Goal: Alta., 147 66 - 33; Sask. 89 13 5 - 35.
Goalies: Alta., Turner; Sask., McKay.
Attendance: 847.

Bears 8 Huskies 2

FIRST PERIOD

- Alta., Walter (5) (Severyn) 12:38.
 - Sask., Korchinski (5) (Karolat, Lemire) 18:35.
 - Alta., Otto (6) (Dill, Walter) 19:20.
- Penalties:** Severyn, Alta., Sakundiak, Sask., 1:28; Severyn, Alta., 8:46; Ansell, Alta., Karolat, Sask., double minors, 19:56.

SECOND PERIOD

- Sask., Morrison (19) (Pugh, McKechnie), pp. 5:11.
 - Alta., Otto (7) (Dill, Cousins), pp. 12:31.
 - Alta., Otto (8) (Severyn) 16:11.
 - Alta., Wakabayashi (14) (Severyn, Ansell) 19:19.
- Penalties:** D. Cranston, Alta., 3:20; D. Cranston, Alta., 8:06; McKechnie, Sask., 10:52.

THIRD PERIOD

- Alta., Otto (9) (Leclair) 1:41.
 - Alta., Craig (7) (D. Cranston) 5:07.
 - Alta., Otto (9) (Dill) 6:48.
- Penalties:** Dill, Alta., 2:36; Dill, Alta., 9:57; Lovsin, Sask., 12:08; Sakundiak, Sask., 16:04; Helland, Alta., Stewart, Sask., 18:55.
Shots On Goal: Alta. 9 12 11 - 32; Sask. 11 10 7 - 28.
Goalies: Alta., Turner; Sask. Holtby, McKay.

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