

Photo Brad Keith



Hockey Bears split games with Dalhousie before New Year.

Ice Bears hibernate

by Shaune Impey

The Golden Bears' hockey team did not start the new year off on a good note as they dropped a 2-1 decision to the visiting Calgary Dinosaurs Tuesday evening in Varsity Rink.

With the loss the Bears also relinquished top spot in the league standings to the Dinosaurs. Both teams went into the game with identical records of ten wins and three losses.

Both teams started out slowly and neither side could muster a dangerous shot on goal in the first period which ended scoreless. Calgary got all the goals they needed early in the second period as Jerry Bancks, on a powerplay, and Roger Mitchell on a breakaway gave the Dinos a 2-0 lead.

The third period belonged to Calgary netminder Jerry Farwell however, as he stopped 16 of the 17 shots directed his way. Only veteran right winger Jim Lomas could beat Farwell. His breakaway goal came at the 3:27 mark when he took a perfect pass from Chris Helland and fired a high wrist shot past Farwell.

Bears' coach Bill Moores appeared quite disenchanted with his squad after the defeat. He said they "lacked intensity over the full game. We're capable of doing it (playing intensely for 60 minutes) but just not doing it now." He said the lackluster performance "wasn't from lack of preparation" and suggested that certain players weren't playing up to their potential

and/or expectations of the coaches.

BEAR FACTS

Danny Arndt, who has missed most of the season with a hip injury, should be back in the line-up when the Bears travel to Saskatchewan next weekend.

The number two ranked Dalhousie Tigers were in Alberta over the holidays and split two games with both the Bears and the Dinosaurs.

This weekend the Bears are in Vancouver to play UBC who have a 8-7 record. Last time out the teams split two close games.

With veteran Ted Poplawski back in the line-up the back-up goalies, Lee Arthur and Brad Hall, will likely take turns in the press box.

Work, work...

The Bears and Pendas volleyball teams have had a long break, but not one without preparation. Bears coach Hugh Hoyles and Pendas coach Pierre Baudin have used the holidays to prepare for the International tournament of champions to be held here this weekend.

Both squads have employed grad students Dave Smith and Jim Sexsmith to concentrate on developing player's endurance. In addition, the Bear's used intensive six hour practises five times weekly for the early holiday season. Hoyles believes that normal two hour now "seem shorter" and players work more intensely.

Consequently, it is no surprise both Hoyles and Baudin believe their team's fitness is an advantage over opposing teams. Still, both coaches have other plans intended to defeat the tough opposition expected this weekend.

In particular Baudin states

the Pendas have some "new offensive wrinkles" involving a different serve reception system.

The Panda's defense has also been changed in response to weakness against big teams. Now, Baudin hopes the Pendas can counter a quick attack to the outside and prevent a setter dumping the ball over the net.

Hoyles' Bears also have some new features in playing strategy. Hoyles has been planning to use two offenses, but only recently believes the team has become familiar with the 5-1 offense in addition to the 6-2 line-up.

Hoyles believes the 5-1 offense, with more men on the net, can increase "top blocking against top hitters." Also, he believes having a variety of strategies can "upset opponents."

Lately, during holiday training, Hoyles' team has worked hard and systematically on offensive strategy.

It seems the Bears are being built up for a match against the U of S Huskies. The Huskies, a powerful team in the CIAU West beat the Bears in a disappointing match earlier this season. However, the Bears, according to Hoyles have "burst the bubble with the other teams" and are looking to burst the Huskies' thick walled bubble.

Both Hoyles and Baudin emphasize the tournament is to be exciting and mention there will be no weak entries. For example, schools like the University of Southern California will participate. The tournament will start Friday and will use a round robin system.

But wake up

Ahhhhh! That's more like it. Last night the real Golden Bear hockey team showed up and gave the Calgary Dinosaurs a lesson in the fine art of hockey.

Eight different players shared in the scoring as the home-standing Bears pasted the Dinos 8-1. Joel Elliot, Chris Helland, Mike Broadfoot, Rob Daum, Ace Brimacombe, Terry Sydoryk, Dan Peacocke and Greg Skoreyko all counted once.

Coach Billy Moores was at a loss to explain the abrupt turn-around from Tuesday's poor showing against the same Dinosaurs which saw the Dinos come out on top by a 2-1 score.

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