

Oly's Kick Bears while they're down

by Mark Spector

Steve Knowles, Golden Bear hockey archivist extraordinaire, got tired of fielding phone calls from inquiring reporters. "How long has it been?" is the going concern with Drake's Bears, so Knowles typed up a list which goes all the way back to 1909, citing various degrees of Golden Bear losing streaks. And with their sixth loss in a row, a 5-2 setback at the hands of the Canadian Olympic team on Tuesday, the Golden Bears equalled a feat that hasn't been accomplished since No. 10th, 1963 to Jan. 6th, 1964.

Just to recap, Alberta lost a pair to the Calgary Dinosaurs, the Face Off '86 game to NAIT, another pair to the Regina Cougars, and the Olympic game.

But of all the losses, this one is perhaps the easiest to swallow. Alberta would be hard-pressed on the best of nights to challenge the national squad and, actually, they did well to end up only three goals inferior to Dave King's Olympians. The Bears were outplayed for most of the night.

"I was quite impressed with the Golden Bears," stated coach King. "I had to stress to my club not to look past this game (to a tour of Japan that begins today)."

The Oly's were quite simply more than the Bears could handle. A yeoman-sized defense easily steered the smaller Alberta forwards towards the boards on numerous occasions while the line of Cliff Ronning, Don McLaren, and Jeff Greenlaw kept the puck in the Alberta zone for much of the night.

The Olympians' top unit had three goals and nine points between them, and saw more and more ice time as the game wore on.

But it was a lackadaisical second period that spelled defeat for Alberta once again.

For some reason, the Golden Bears have failed to play 60 minutes of good hockey for eight games in a row now, and like clockwork, it is the middle frame that has seemingly become nap time for Drake's troops.

In the first period Tuesday, Team Canada's Don McLaren opened the scoring at the 3:47 mark. Bear goalie Darren Turner made the initial save off of a shot by Cliff Ronning, but McLaren was left unguarded and pumped the rebound home on the one-time.

With just over four minutes remaining in a surprisingly close opening stanza, Curt Brandolini evened the count for the U of A. He took a feed from Stacey Wakabayashi as the Wakker faked going around the net a la Messier to Anderson, and passed out front to Brandolini who fired a turn-around

slapper which hit the post squarely before dropping into the net.

But any visions of parity that the Golden Bears might have had vanished into thin air when the buzzer sounded to signal the start of the second period.

A minute and 55 seconds into the middle frame, Team Canada's Mike Millar found himself all alone in front of Turner. He parlayed a partially blocked shot by defenseman Trent Yawney into the go-ahead goal with a quick 18 foot snap shot.

Vaughan Karpan and McLaren each scored to make it three goals in 195 seconds for the Nationals, and then Ronning tallied later in the period to give Canada a 5-1 lead after two periods.

In the third, strong goaltending by Turner's replacement John Krill and an Eric Thurston goal turned what could have easily been a romp into only a three goal game.

Bear Facts — The game ended with Canada's *Vaughan Karpan* dropping his gloves at the feet of Alberta's Olympic Team hopeful **Shaun Clouston**. The Golden Bear winger declined Karpan's offer... Alberta's **Al Tarasuk** didn't play, but instead opted to study for a pair of exams yesterday. **D.J. Havrelock** sat out with a partially separated shoulder, but may return for the weekend series vs. the **Saskatchewan Huskies**... The rest of the injury situation reads as follows: **Sid Cranston** (knee), started skating this week, but is very weak - target date is the Nationals in March; **Dave Otto**

Sports

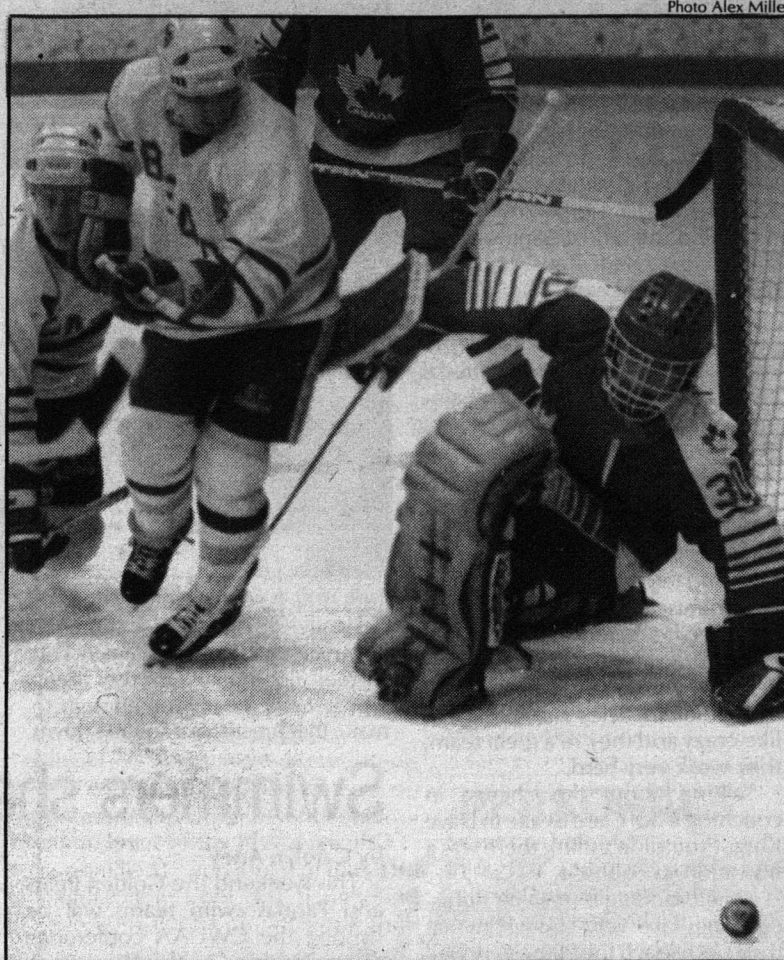


Photo Alex Miller

A bouncing puck eludes everyone in the Golden Bears 5-2 loss to the Team Canada.

(face), skated yesterday and just needs to get into playing shape; **Denis Leclair** (ankle), got off crutches on Tuesday, but won't be ready until well into the playoffs; **Steve Cousins** will have a wrist cast

removed in a few days, although he's played with it for three weeks... The **hockey alumni** may have hit a vein with their latest proposal. Look for Bear advertising on **Java jive** cups in the near future... The crowd

of 1438 is the biggest of the year thus far. Few were students though... Friday night's game goes at 6:00 as it's on **TSN**. Saturday's game starts at 7:30... Next week the Bears travel south to play the **Calgary Dinos** in what will be the final games of the regular season. The games will go at 1:30 Saturday and Sunday... All four hockey games will be aired on **CJSR 88.5-FM** with pre-game beginning 15 minutes before game time with play by play man **Blaine Ostapovich**.

TEAM CANADA 5 GOLDEN BEARS 2

FIRST PERIOD

1. Canada, McLaren (Ronning, Greenlaw), 3:47.
2. Alberta, Brandolini (Wakabayashi, Cranston), pp, 15:53.

PENALTIES — Zalapski, Can, 1:24; Benning, Can, 15:17; Chisholm, Alta, 17:45.

SECOND PERIOD

3. Canada, Millar (Yawney, Ronney), 1:55.
4. Canada, Karpan (Bouliane, Proft), 2:58.
5. Canada, McLaren (Greenlaw, Ronning), 5:10.
6. Canada, Ronning (McLaren), 11:01.

PENALTIES — Karpan, Can, 16:16.

THIRD PERIOD

7. Alberta, Thurston (Clouston), 13:41.

PENALTIES — Wakabayashi, Alta, 0:37; Joseph, Can, Cranston, Alta, 4:54; Karpan, Can, 20:00.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Alberta	10	12	5-27
Canada	6	13	19-38

GOALTENDERS — Alberta - Turner, Krill; Canada - Raymond.

ATTENDANCE — 1438.

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