



cole's notes

Odds and ends

All the advance publicity over the arrival of Brian Larsen (defenceman-cum-quarterback-cum-defenceman) may be warranted after all.

To refresh your memories: Larsen, a Calgary native, played hockey for Lakehead University last season, transferred to U of A and turned into quite a find at quarterback for Jim Donlevy's Bears this fall, and now has strapped on the blades again. He joined the hockey Bears (although used sparingly) for their two wins in Vancouver last weekend after only three days of practice with the team, when Randy Gregg was injured last weekend and the spot opened on defence.

Despite the short apprenticeship, Larsen was not out of place among his mates, and displayed a penchant for the physical side of the game which should make him an exciting addition to the defence corps.

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Still with the defence - The blueline brigade, as predicted by Leon Abbott before the exhibition games began, are getting better with each outing. While not really threatening to become "our strong point" (also predicted by the coach), the defence shouldn't be a problem by Christmas. They are not an offensive-minded group, ("By design," Abbott assures reporters) but they get the job done, with the occasional lapse, and those lapses are less frequent every game.

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Dale Fischer, who was expected to rejoin the roster for the UBC games reinjured his dislocated shoulder at practise Thursday, and will require an operation on the wounded wing. The only question remaining is when to have it.

While various sources have resigned the Bears' most promising freshman forward to the sidelines for the season, Fischer himself feels he can play again, possibly within a couple of weeks.

"They're going to make a sort of brace for it," says Fischer, "so that I won't be able to lift my arm high enough to get knocked out of place again."

He feels confident that the brace will enable him to move well enough to regain his position in the lineup, and allow him to put the operation off until the season's end.

If Fischer can play, he can unquestionably help Bears to be a better balanced club.

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The Bears won't replace centre John Horcoff quickly. Horcoff, a leader by example on the ice, a tireless worker, and the league scoring champion last season was refused eligibility by the CWUAA last week, and did not play on the west coast.

The departure of Horcoff might explain the slow start of Bryan Sosnowski who, off last season's performance, was expected to Bears' top winger this time around.

Horcoff says he will continue to practice with the team, but plans to play senior hockey in Westlock, where several other ex-Bears play.

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Randy Gregg is back on skates and may or may not be ready to play this weekend after tearing ligaments against Calgary...Bruce Crawford is in the same situation.

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I have an envelope in my right hand at this very moment with my prediction of the outcome of the Edmonton-Saskatchewan western football final...I am tearing it open...right now...and it says...Edmonton 30, Saskatchewan 18.

My Grey Cup prediction next Tuesday in this space.

Bears sneak two from UBC

by Cam Cole

It wasn't exactly True Grit, but the Golden Bears had to bite the bullet this weekend, and they did it in style, stealing two from the highly regarded UBC Thunderbirds right in the Birds' home rink, by 6-3 and 4-0 scores.

In the previous ten days, Bears had lost two starting centers, their best defenceman, and the top rookie forward from their lineup, but it didn't seem to hamper the defending national champions. The games may have been decided, as UBC coach Bob Hindmarch suggested by Bears' superior exhibition game conditioning, but it looked very much like the Alberta crew simply wanted the wins more than the T-Birds.

Friday the Bears broke open a 3-3 tie with three goals in the last five minutes, the third

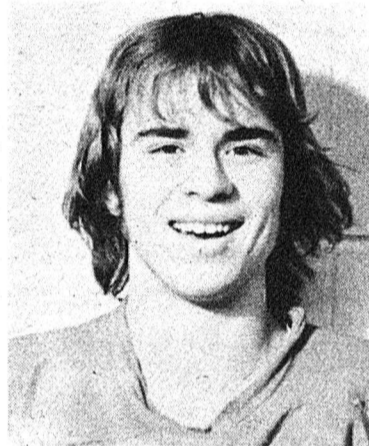
"I really wanted to win against him," beamed Cummings when it was over. "He's always thought of me as 'the Kid', but the Kid beat him tonight.

Indeed Cummings played a major role in the victory, turning aside 30 of 33 BC drives, but the key man on Bears' roster Friday was probably Rick Peterson.

At 5'7" and 150 pounds, Peterson was the smallest man on the ice, but the T-Birds would have sworn he covered three-quarters of the playing surface. In one stretch toward the end of the second period with the score tied at 3, Bears were two men short for 3 minutes, and a man shy for four more. Peterson was on the ice for more than 5 of those minutes, and his hustle was largely responsible for keeping BC off the scoreboard.



Leon Abbott



Rick Peterson

coming with one second left on the clock.

The game featured the first-ever confrontation between UBC netminder Ian Wilkie and U of A goalie Jack Cummings, who was Wilkie's backup when the two were Edmonton Oil Kings. Cummings also happened to be best man at Wilkie's wedding.

Clark Jantzie set up linemates Jim Ofrim and Oliver Steward for two goals in the first 7 minutes of play, then Dale Hutchinson walked out from the corner and flipped Bears' third goal at 16:03.

Thunderbirds tipped momentum in their favor with goals by Sean Boyd (power

play) and Grant Cumberbirch with less than 2 minutes left and tied the score at 3 early in the second period when Peter Moyls tipped in a shot from the blueline by linemate Bill Ennos with Ofrim in the penalty box.

If not for the yeoman work of the Alberta penalty-killers, the charging T-Birds might have taken over at that point, but Bears weathered the storm and the period ended with the game still tied.

Jantzie potted the winner at 15:07 of the third period with Bird Bob Hesketh off for tripping. Kevin Primeau deflected Frank Clarke's point shot into the net at 17:23, and Peterson beat Wilkie with a chest-high 40-footer at 19:59 to round out scoring.

"That last goal by Peterson was only justice," said Bears coach Leon Abbott. "Our penalty-killing team deserves the Medal of Honor."

Hindmarch felt his team's lack of real competition in the pre-season cost them dearly Friday. "Alberta's 8 games of exhibition hockey showed up tonight...they were just that much sharper when it counted."

Saturday, the T-Birds seemed to be in much the same condition as their fans - largely absent. Only about 800 turned out, compared to 2250 Friday, as the Thunderbirds dozed off after putting up token resistance in the opening period, allowing the Bears, who didn't set the world on fire themselves in the beginning, to score two goals in each of the final two periods for an easy 4-0 win.

"It wasn't as fast as last night's game," understated an obviously pleased Abbott, "but tactically, we played a much sounder game tonight."

The first period was sloppy, with the players appearing tight. Bears expected the T-Birds to come out flying, but it never happened and Dale Henwood, although alert when called upon, blocked only 27 shots en route to the shutout, and just five in the third period when Thunderbirds surrendered.

Primeau lifted a rebound over BC goalie Ron Lefebvre for Bears' entree, as Alberta feasted on T-Birds' mistakes around their goal crease. All four of Bears' tallies were from rebounds.

Peterson banged one home late in the second stanza, and Jantzie and Ofrim each converted a loose puck in the third period to polish off the Birds. The last two were power play goals.

The wins were big ones for Alberta, who are undefeated in four league contests, and play their next four at home - next weekend against the Saskatchewan Huskies and the following week against Calgary.

UBC's record dropped to 2-2, while Calgary, with a 7-3 win over Saskatchewan last week, and 5-1 and 6-4 victories in Saskatoon this weekend, are in second place with a 3-2 record. Saskatchewan, although much improved according to all reports, are last with no wins in 5 games.

Pandas down BC gals, keep win streak intact

by Darrell Semenuk

Pandas 59 Thunderettes 43  
Pandas 56 Thunderettes 43

If you're counting, that's 12 wins 0 losses. The U of A Pandas continued their winning ways with two wins over the defending champions UBC Thunderettes in weekend action at Varsity Gym.

Thunderettes who compiled a 19-1 record last year defeated Pandas in all 4 encounters in 1974/75. The Pandas have been revenging their poor performances of the past few years and have been winning everything in sight. They have taken two tournaments this season already, the WIT and the Bisonette.

Friday night Amanda Holloway started the season with a hot hand pouring in 21 points, hitting on 50% of her shots.

The game was close throughout until the last 13 minutes when the Pandas pulled away from UBC, outscoring them 24-12.

Veterans Deena Mitchell and Nora Way both had strong games with Way hitting on half of her shots for 14 points and Mitchell playing her usual aggressive backcourt game and collecting 8 points.

Saturday night the Pandas had little trouble in disposing of the Thunderettes in a physical contest that saw 3 Pandas foul out along with 2 UBC players.

Pandas breezed to a 56-43 victory despite the fact that they lost their two starting guards, Mitchell and Karen Johnson.

Pandas started quickly and found themselves with a 15 point lead after 12 minutes. UBC came back with the help of a sloppy play by the Pandas to trail 25-19 at halftime.

Holloway underwent a rebirth of sorts at halftime and scored all her points (13) in the second half, to help Pandas keep their winning streak intact.

Way had 17 points and Chris Leiske 12 before fouling out late in the game. Sarah Lindsey paced UBC with 12 points.

V-ball Bears lose games and two players, too

by Keith Steinbach

Some of their best volleyball to date wasn't good enough, as the Golden Bears were dropped 15-9, 5-15, 15-7, and 15-11 by the Dinosaurs in Calgary Friday.

Sunday at home, they suffered the same results, only this

time Bears weren't playing their best. They lost to a team that would only be identified as B.C.H., a Labbatt's-sponsored men's team that travel with the U of Saskatchewan Huskies. Sporting crests which read "Smiling is Labbatt's", the B.C.H. grinned through a set

they won with scores of 15-10, 12-15, 15-6, and 15-6.

The inexperience of the Bears was quite evident, as the team seemed disorganized at times. Balls were dropping untouched between looks of vast embarrassment and frustration. Apart from the odd

flash of brilliance, particularly from Wes Stripling who played a strong set, the team played only adequately.

To add to insult there was injury. In the second game, Reg Van Drecht and Rob Hornland sprained ankles within minutes of each other. Up to then Bears

had played solidly, but after the injuries they seemed to lose their touch, even though Dennis Barrette and Len Hudyma filled in admirably.

The injuries to Hornland and Van Drecht will keep them out of the lineup for a week or two at least.