



Bob Anderson ... one man's opinion

SASKATOON—Oh for some badly-needed rest after the trials and tribulations of a hectic road trip.

Certainly the way the far-flung WCIHL is set up this year, the home club is going to have more of an advantage than ever. Two games in two cities within 24 hours can be tough on a hockey club. Consider this past weekend for example.

The Bears pulled out of Edmonton at 6.30 Thursday evening, via the steel rails, and after an overnight ride arrived in Brandon at 9 a.m. Friday. Since it is almost impossible to sleep on a damn train, the club spent most of the day "between the sheets" in preparation for the evening game against the Bobcats.

After the contest in which the Bruins very nearly got the shock of their life, winning only 5-4, it was a four hour wait at the hotel for the 2:30 train back to Saskatoon.

Then it was another seven hours or so in anticipation of the treatment that the Huskies would give them. The rebuilding Saskatchewanites had almost upset the highly-rated Calgary Dinosaurs 24 hours earlier.

Taking into account the travelling schedule, the Bears played much better hockey than has been the case in the past month. Certainly the Bobcats proved to be a surprise (and not a pleasant one at that) and except for Dave Couves' well-timed goal with only 13 seconds left would have come away winners in their first-ever WCIHL game.

The Tabbies, with about seven or eight former Brandon Wheat Kings in the lineup, are definitely going to be heard from before the season is over.

Tabbies impress

In fact, they may leave me just a trifle embarrassed come the end of the season. I picked them for seventh place in the eight team loop.

Coach Jim Mann has a hustling aggregation and but for a weakness in goal might be right up there. Ted Temple, one of the ex-Wheat Kings, is the number one man, and he is playing at a great disadvantage.

Ted lost two fingers on his stick hand this summer and as a result has to tape the big glove to his thumb and remaining two fingers.

This makes it virtually impossible for him to poke check the puck and to clear away rebounds from in front. Such cost the Bobcats two goals against the Bears.

For the Golden Ones, three year veteran Don Falkenberg, in his last year with the club, was simply outstanding. Dressed as the extra forward, "Falkie" saw more ice time than anyone on both sides.

The ace penalty killer from Stettler was busy all night as the Bears were nailed with 15 of 17 calls in what was the worst display of officiating seen in a long time. He also took a regular shift when Bob Devaney and Couves were sitting out their misconduct sentences.

Rookie defenceman Mike Lemieux came up with two great performances, especially here against the Huskies. Besides scoring a goal in each game, the ex-Bearcat broke up numerous opposition rushes with some fine anticipation reflexes.

Despite picking up the two wins, the Bears still have a lot of work yet to do. Particularly poor was the finish around the net, especially in Brandon.

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Last minute heroics and solid play combine for two Bear puck victories

By BOB ANDERSON

BEARS 7, SASKATCHEWAN 2
BEARS 5, BRANDON 4 (OT)

SASKATOON — For the first time this season, there is optimism in the camp of puck coach Brian McDonald's Golden Bears.

The defending Western Canada Intercollegiate Hockey League champs, who compiled a dismal 2-4-2 record in eight non-conference contests, came up with a brace of victories at the weekend. They downed Brandon University Bobcats 5-4 in overtime Friday night in that Manitoba centre and whipped University of Saskatchewan 7-2 here 24 hours later.

The games were the first of 14 scheduled WCIHL contests and the Bruins gave indications, particularly in Saturday's game, that they may live up to their rave pre-season notices.

Granted, the club looked sloppy against Brandon and indeed was fortunate to pull off the win. But against the Huskies, both the defensive corps and the firing lines put it all together for the first time this season.

Netminder Bob Wolfe played undoubtedly his worst game as a Golden Bear Friday but Dale Halterman came up with a solid performance against a Husky

squad that was edged by Calgary 3-2. Brandon was also knocked off by Calgary, 7-5 in overtime.

The Bobcats were surprisingly strong in this their infant season of WCIHL play, and but for a couple of breaks that went against them could have pulled off a major upset. Only Dave Couves' game-tying goal at 19:47 of the third period and Bob Devaney's winner one minute into the extra session spoiled their debut before 700 noisy supporters in the Wheat City arena.

Don Falkenberg, Mike Lemieux and Al Cameron also scored for the Bruins, while Danny McPherson, at six seconds of the first, Ray Brownlee with two and Al Stewart replied for Brandon.

FLUKE GOALS

Both Wolfe and Bobcats' Ted Temple looked ridiculous on at least two goals each. Wolfe allowed McPherson's 55 footer to skip past him while Stewart's marker came from centre ice. Cameron and Falkenberg scored soft goals on Temple, the latter's coming with the Bears a man short.

Devaney's winning goal was the prettiest of the evening. The shifty right winger, who had only a mediocre game, moved into the slot 20 feet in front of Temple and

rifled Jack Gibson's corner passout into the lower left hand corner.

Penalties played a major role, and once again the visiting club took it on the chin. The Bruins were assessed 15 of 17 calls, including misconducts to Couves and Devaney. Ironically, it was they who scored the two big goals.

Wolfe finished the night with 29 stops, while Temple blocked 36.

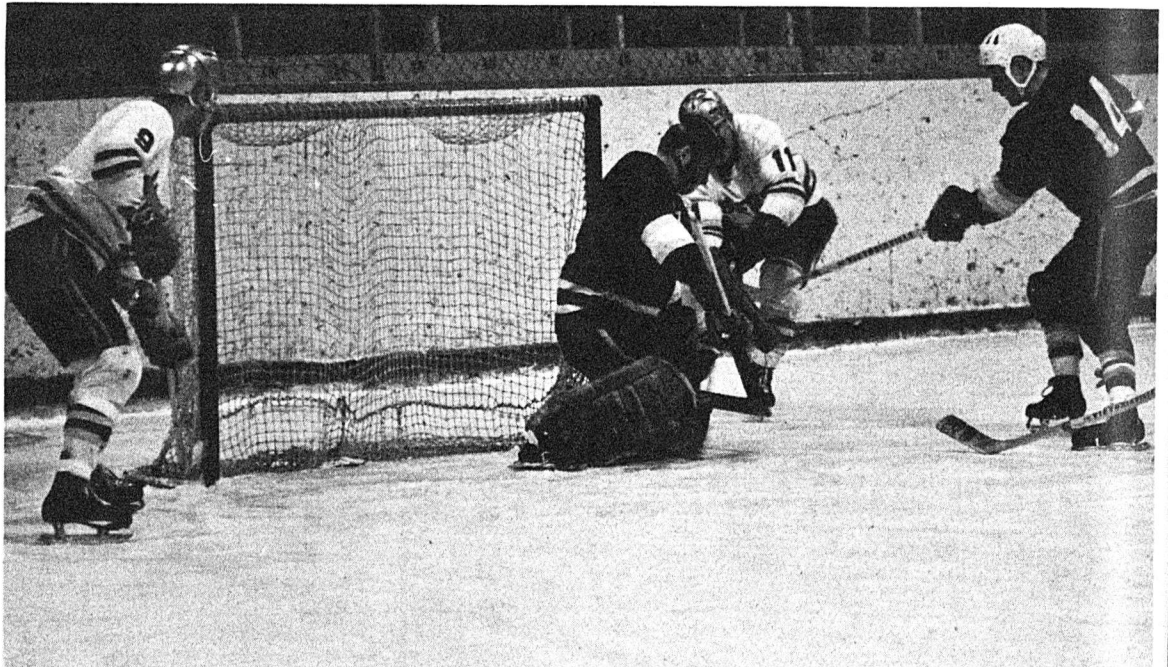
Against the Sled-dogs, before 400 onlookers, it was Devaney with two and Cameron, Lemieux, Gerry Braunberger, Milt Hohol and Bill Clarke with one each. Bill O'Sullivan and Joe Karp replied for Saskatchewan who trailed 3-2 after 40 minutes. The first period was scoreless.

The Bears outshot the Huskies 30-18 and the clubs divided 10 penalties including a major to Devaney.

"We finally found the mark offensively," said a somewhat relieved McDonald following the game. "The defence, particularly Lemieux, held up well and (Dale) Halterman was there when he had to be."

"We had a lot of rough edges in Brandon, but the guys were sharp out there tonight."

The Bears next see action Friday night against Calgary at Varsity Arena at 8 p.m.



BOBCAT GOALIE TED TEMPLE COVERS UP AGAINST BEARS' SAM BELCOURT
... as Oliver Morris (9) waits for rebound that never came

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