



Bob Anderson ... one man's opinion

WINNIPEG—The governors of the Western Canada Intercollegiate Hockey League made a smart move last year when they decided to institute playoffs following the league schedule.

In previous years, you see, it was always the first place club that walked away with all the marbles, and a team could ill afford to drop too many contests over the course of a season.

But what the persons involved didn't do was set up a format to be followed when playoff time rolled around. They decided to leave it until later and come up with a decision at the appropriate time.

Well, here we are but three weeks away from post-season play and nobody yet knows for sure how things will be handled.

One sure thing is that four of the eight clubs will participate. Calgary, Manitoba and the Bears have clinched berths, with Brandon and UBC battling it out for the fourth and final position.

However who will play who is still a mystery.

Calgary coach George Kingston, whose club was staying in the same hotel as the Bears here this weekend, allowed as he thought that if UBC made it, then Calgary and UBC would meet in one best-of-three semi-final and Alberta and Manitoba would square off in the other.

Bear mentor Brian McDonald stated that he understood the playoff system would be set up on a regional basis. That is, if Brandon finished fourth, they would meet Manitoba and Calgary and the Bears would clash.

In each case, the team that finished highest in the WCJHL standings would have the advantage of home ice in all three games.

Take the regional setup for example. It could possibly turn out that the Bears finish first and Calgary second, and thus you would have the ridiculous situation of the clubs finishing 1-2 in the league meeting each other in the first round of the playoffs.

There is only one word for this and it is *bush*.

The WCJHL supposedly prides itself on being a first class operation. In many ways it is, and then again in some ways it isn't.

The league governors should have sat down long before the season began and worked out a solution agreeable to all parties. The setup should not be on a regional basis merely to save money, but should be based on where the clubs finished in the standings.

Nor is the situation confined to hockey. The Western Canada Intercollegiate Basketball League faces the same problem as it too has implemented playoffs this season. Again, no solution to date.

Meanwhile back at the arena, two solid efforts this weekend here against Winnipeg and Manitoba leaves the Bears in a pretty good position to finish in top spot in the puck race.

The club got a great effort defensively and was able to put the biscuit in the basket at key times. Rookie defenceman Dennis Zukiwsky, who got his big chance to play two weeks ago when Mike Lemieux was injured, may just have beaten out veteran Mel Baird, who was forced to the sidelines this weekend because of a severe cold.

Zukiwsky is the rugged type who loves to hit and this is something that the Bruins haven't done too much of lately.

The key games of the year for the club come up in the next two weeks. Winnipeg and the Bisons return the visit this weekend and the following weekend, Bears invade Calgary for the final game of the season.

Two wins in the three games would virtually assure the Golden Ones a first place finish and the right to play the first round of the playoffs in the friendly confines of Varsity Arena.

It should prove to be an interesting finish.

CORRECTION

Due to an error in dates in last Tuesday's Gateway, the Alberta Service Corps' open meeting will be reheld Thursday Feb. 5, at 7 p.m., in SUB 104. See today's display ad for details.

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enjoy people and need
a challenging summer activity . . .
there's a job for you with the
ALBERTA SERVICE CORPS!*

**At an open meeting — room 104,
SUB, Thursday, February 5, 7 p.m.**

*Hear members of last year's
Alberta Service Corps discuss
their personal experiences in
the field — a mental hospital,
an isolated northern community,
a metis colony, urban area . . .
and work with urban youth.*

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- **Students Union Office, SUB (2nd floor)**
- **Department of Youth, 26th floor,
CN Tower, Edmonton (422-8013)**