

Hockey Bears slaughter hapless Vikes to maintain win streak

by Stu Layfield

Bears 9, Vikings 0
Bears 9, Vikings 3

In their final game of the season last year against the University of Victoria, the hockey Bears obliterated the hapless Vikings by a ridiculous 18-1 margin, with winger Jack Gibson scoring a league record seven goals in the one-sided contest. This past weekend the Bears took a full two games to register the same number of markers, overpowering the improved, but still weak, Vikings 9-3 on Friday night and 9-0 the following afternoon. And Gibson must be slowing down in his old age, for the five-year veteran could only manage a meagre hat trick in each game.

The Bears played their best game of the season Saturday afternoon, particularly from an offensive point of view, as they unleashed an astronomical 91 shot attack on Victoria goaltender Murray Finlay, which has to be some kind of record. While the game of hockey has assumed offensive proportions never before dreamed of with the booming slap shot and mobile rushing defencemen who can carry the puck better than many forwards are able to, it is still considered a rarity when a team manages better than 55 or 60 shots on an opposing team's net; that the Bears poured 91 on the Vikings is nearly incomprehensible. Goaltender Finlay undoubtedly earned the proverbial citation for courage above and beyond the call of duty by lasting the whole game and stopping 82 Bear shots.

Legrandeur's first

In addition to Gibson's three goal performance, Steve Carlyle and Marcel St. Arnaud each scored a pair of markers, while Gerry Hornby and Jerry LeGrandeur counted singletons. LeGrandeur's goal was especially satisfying in that it was the rookie winger's first of the season, including exhibition games. After a very slow start in training camp, probably due to the fact that he had been off

skates for a full year, the former Lethbridge Sugar King star has been improving considerably with every game, but until Saturday, the goals just weren't coming. In stopping 30 Viking shots to record the shutout, Bear goaltender Jim Coombs lowered his goals against average to a near-perfect 0.5 mark for two league games.

More competitive

Friday night's contest was somewhat more competitive, with the Bears only outshooting the Vikings by what would normally be considered to be a dominating 47-29 margin. The Green and Gold skated to a 4-0 first period lead on two goals by Gibson and others from Randy Clark and Harvey Poon. Dave Couves added the only Bear marker in the second stanza, then tallied again in the final frame along with Gibson, Clark, and rookie winger Dave White. For the Vikings, Jack Richardson, Terry Severyn, and captain Dave Cousins beat Bear netminder Barry Richardson, who was playing for the first time in years in his home town.

With an assist in each game to match his two hat tricks, Gibson's eight points led Bear scorers for the weekend, while both LeGrandeur and White were credited with four assists to go along with their single goals. Center Clarence Wanchulak, sidelined with a knee injury, did not make the trip and his place between wingers Hornby and Billy Moores was taken by Harvey Poon. Poon, Hornby, and Moores, along with Couves and St. Arnaud all managed four-point weekends.

In other W.C.I.A.A. hockey action, the University of Calgary Dinosaurs lost their third consecutive game of the season on Friday night by a 5-3 count to the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds, but then rebounded the following evening to upset the previously undefeated T-Birds 5-4. And in Winnipeg the unheralded Wesmen twice defeated the

injury riddled Brandon University Bobcats, 4-2 on Friday and 10-3 on Saturday. Consequently, the Bears find themselves presently sharing first place in league standings, which is not surprising, with the Wesmen, which is. This should make for an interesting hockey weekend this Friday and Saturday at Varsity Arena as the Bears host the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Friday night and then entertain the Wesmen the following afternoon in a battle for undisputed possession of first place.

Panda Basketball

Somebody has to lose in any game and on the weekend it was the Toronto Argonauts and the U of A Pandas Basketballers that suffered that fate. Perhaps it was too much Grey Cup spirit(s) or, more likely, it was the more talented opposition that led to the downfall.

On Friday afternoon the Pandas met with the U of Vic. Vikettes and were handed a 46-37 defeat. On Saturday afternoon, a similar catastrophe came with a 51-46 loss. Unfortunately, not only did the Pandas lose the two games, they also lost the services of high-scoring rookie Wendy Martin through an ankle injury.

Next action for the Pandas will be this weekend as they host the University of Lethbridge.

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