

# Bears score late goals to pull out win

**Bears 8 Bobcats 6**  
by Jeff Chow

Last Friday night marked the home opener for the University of Alberta Golden Bear hockey team, and if this contest was any indication of games to come this year, the

Bears better not take any team lightly.

The game against the Brandon University Bobcats, the first of a pair over the weekend for the Bears, figured to be far from a "real test" for the Bears. After all, the Bobcats were 6-21-1 last season and were

beaten 16-1 by the Bears two weeks ago in preseason action.

However, one of the two teams playing Friday must have suffered amnesia as the Bears just managed to outscore the Bobcats 8-6.

According to Bear head coach Bill Moores, this Bobcat team, 1-1

prior to the weekend, was a different unit than last year's. "The Bobcats have improved since last year," he said. "They took one game off of Regina (the weekend before), and could have won another."

Likewise, these Bears were not exactly the same team as expected. "We struggled defensively," admitted Moores, "and we fell back on a lot of bad habits."

Bear assistant head coach Peter Esdale observed that "the guys were motivated, but we can play a lot smarter. We didn't do smart things tonight. But the players are pretty perceptive and will learn from tonight's game."

The win for the Bears was not completely full of mistakes; they did manage a win and remain unbeaten at 3-0 so far this season.

One of the highlights was the return of veteran defenceman Gord Thibodeau. Thibodeau, in his third year with the team, missed the entire training camp after overcoming Hodgkins' disease. The burly assistant captain helped set up three Bear goals and played a strong defensive game earning him first star of the game.

Thibodeau was somewhat apprehensive prior to his first game back. "I was as nervous as I've ever been," he admitted, "but once I hit someone, I got into the game. I just focused mentally on the game."

"Gord played well for us tonight," Moores said. "It's been a long struggle for him."

The first period ended with the Bears ahead of the Bobcats 4-3 thanks to three Marty Yewchuk goals which gave him his first hat trick of the year.

"I didn't score in the first couple of games of the season," said Yew-

chuk who's in his second year with the Bears. "It was nice to get off to a good start in tonight's game."

Late in the second period, with the Bears ahead by a goal, Bear forward Dan Wiebe was called for roughing. The Bobcats responded on the powerplay as Dean Sexsmith tied the game 6-6.

However, the Bears were given a chance to restore their lead when Bobcat Shawn Brandt was caught holding with 41 seconds left in the period. Just 34 seconds into the powerplay, Adam Morrison rebounded home a Thibodeau shot and gave the Bears the lead again. The goal was eventually the game winner.



"The goalie dropped the puck," Morrison said, who also scored in the third period. "I whacked at it and luckily it went in."

Howie Draper, Garth Premak, and Al Tarasuk had the other Bear goals, while Pat Penner, Glen Haney, David Whistle, Dave Lewis, Randy Cameron, and Sexsmith responded for the Bobcats.

John Krill backstopped the Bear victory, his third of the year.

"We have to do a better job defensively," Moores said.

"We'll just go home and prepare for tomorrow's game," Morrison said. "We probably underestimated the Bobcats tonight. We won't take them for granted tomorrow."

## Field Hockey Pandas fall short

by Todd Saelhof

The University of Alberta Panda field hockey team returned to campus following a do or die weekend of action in the final Canada West tournament. The Pandas went winless in four attempts, managing only one goal which once again raises questions about an unproductive Panda offense.

Unfortunately for the Alberta squad, any answers came too late to aid in the 1989 edition of the Pandas. The two points picked up on scoreless draws in the final tournament in Victoria were not enough to secure the second wild card position for the CIAU National Championships. Confirmation of wild card teams, however, is slated for next Monday following the Atlantic Conference final weekend of play.

"The bottom line is we didn't put the ball in the net when we had to. All year that was our problem," said a disappointed Panda coach Dru Marshall.

The only goal the Pandas did push by opposition goaltenders came in an opening game 4-1 loss to the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds. The lone marker came from the stick of Sian Davies.

Following Sunday's opener, the U of A held the number one ranked University of Victoria Vikettes to a

scoreless tie in game two. The contest proved to be a morale booster, providing the Pandas with the wild card advantage heading into Sunday's matchups against the University of Manitoba and the University of Calgary.

"That was great. (The draw with UVic) left us in great shape for Sunday's games," Marshall said.

The Pandas began Sunday by demonstrating they deserved a shot at the Nationals in Toronto by completely dominating the University of Manitoba Bisons. The crusade came to a halt, however, as Manitoba capitalized on an Alberta lapse to defeat the Pandas 1-0.

"Against Manitoba, we dominated 95% of the game. We lost the game 1-0 when we should have won four or 5-0," Marshall said.

Still, a game four victory over the eighth ranked Dinos from Calgary would provide Alberta with a realistic shot at the final wild card. In the end, though, the Manitoba loss proved costly as Calgary and Alberta struggled to a 0-0 draw leaving both squads tied in the CWUAA standings for third place. Officially, Calgary receives the nod due to a one goal better differential.

"To select us over Calgary would be going over Canada West's head," said Marshall, who foresees the

University of British Columbia and the University of New Brunswick as claiming the two wild card berths.

"We have no one to blame but ourselves. When you come that close, you would hope that you could carry it through," Marshall said.

The Pandas coach, though, is not disappointed with the play of her troops. Marshall realizes the inexperience of the '89 Pandas was cause enough not to expect any great measure of success.

The knowledge that the Pandas can hold the national leading Vikettes, however, gives hope for a bright 1990 season. That performance may also invariably determine Alberta's fate as a wild card contender.

All is not finalized, but a call from the coach indicates the Nationals will not be paging the U of A Pandas for the November 3rd championships in Toronto.

**PENALTY CORNER:** Two bright spots of the Victoria tournament came as Panda captain **Bev Wolfert** and teammate **Tara Croxford** were named to the Canada West all-star squad. Wolfert's experience up the middle aided the young Pandas while Croxford led all Panda players in goals during the '89 season.

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