



## Panda Coach wins; first ever in UBC

by Darrell Semenuk

It was a long time coming but Debbie Shogan finally picked up her first win in UBC's War Memorial Gymnasium Friday

night when U of A dumped the UBC Thunderettes 61-58. "It's the first time in 6 years I've won a game in here as a player or coach."

Coach Shogan and her Pandas were able to experience the unique feeling only once as they dropped the second game 59-55. The loss virtually ensured the Pandas' exclusion from the playoffs. They now trail league leading Victoria by 4 games with 8 remaining in the schedule.

Friday's game started on a threatening note for Alberta when league scoring leader Ammanda Holloway drew three quick fouls in the first 3 1/2 minutes of the game.

With Holloway absent, UBC led through most of the first half, and at one point had a 10 point advantage. Holloway came off the bench in the last five minutes and Pandas outscored the Thunderettes 11-2 in that span to lead 32-31 at half time.

The second half saw the scoring go in spurts with both teams exchanging leads with 3 minutes left Tara Smith hit from close range to give UBC a 3 point lead. Holloway, who was playing under the influence of 4 fouls in the second half netted six straight points to give Alberta a three point margin.

With 25 seconds remaining UBC struck again to trail by 1. Then with 11 seconds showing on the clock Karen Johnson was fouled. Coach Shogan was left with a critical decision, international rules allow for the team being fouled in the last 3 minutes to either shoot the free throws or to put the ball in play from the side. Shogan said she "expressed her confidence in Karen by letting her shoot", and

the decision turned out to be the correct one as she dropped both shots to ensure the victory for Alberta.

Holloway, who played less than half the game finished with 17 points, while her replacement, Lori Chizik filled in



superbly with 11 points. Sharon Williams had 15 points for UBC.

The Panda-Thunderette rematch on Saturday started on the same note for Alberta when Holloway again picked up 3 fouls early in the game. But Chizik, who hasn't seen a great abundance of action this year again came in for Holloway and was the outstanding player on the court in the first 20 minutes scoring 14 points to give the Pandas what seemed like a comfortable 31-19 half time lead.

UBC put on constant pressure on the Pandas and slowly picked away at their lead. The turning point came with 5 minutes left in the game with the Pandas struggling to hold on to a 53-47 lead.

The Thunderettes came on to score 10 straight points and grab a 4 point lead with two minutes remaining. Pandas got as close as 2 when Holloway hit two foul shots with 1:40 left but UBC came right back to regain their four point advantage and conclude the scoring.

Holloway had 15 points and Chizik 14 (all in the first 20 minutes). Louise Zerbe had 15. Sharon Williams 13 for UBC.

### Playoff race tightens...

## Bears flop on coast

by Darrell Semenuk

UBC 70 Alberta 61  
UBC 62 Alberta 58

The U of A Golden Bears and UBC Thunderbirds came into last weekend's basketball action with a lot in common. Both had identical 5-5 records, and both were fighting for the last playoff spot held down by Victoria. Bears had previously knocked off the TBirds 58-57 and 77-56 at home in the first league games for both teams. Their roles were individually and collectively reversed after the two game series. Collectively the Bears were dropped from third place down to fifth while UBC moved into second place tied with Victoria.

The big switch in individual performances came on Friday when 6'8" Jan Bohn, who was averaging 13.4 points per game for UBC came up with a league high of 33. Doug Baker who had the unenviable job of covering Bohn came up with only 10 points, well below his league average of 18.5. In all fairness to Baker's defensive performance on Bohn, Baker picked up 3 quick fouls and couldn't play as tight on Bohn as he wanted and the UBC giant got the ball too often and with his 3'

height advantage had an easy time shooting 65% for the night.

Bears got off to a rocky start in the opening 3 minutes and were down 10-0 and trailed 41-28 at the half.

The Bears tried to come back in the final 20 minutes, with the first four field goals of the second half and pulled to within three points 3 times but couldn't break that barrier and the TBirds hung on for the win. Shooting was the big difference in the game. UBC shot 47% to Bears 35% and cashed in on 12/16 from the foul line, while Bears had just 7 freebies, hitting on 5.

Bears came into Saturday's game desperately needing a split in games. Defensively the Bears kept the ball away from Bohn and McKay and enjoyed a good first half offensively leading 40-28 with Mike Abercrombie getting 14 points in the opening 20 minutes.

In the second half UBC altered their zone defense and the Bears were no longer penetrating and getting good shots. "We played too cautious... we got too damn conservative," were the comments echoed by coach Mitchelson. Bears in fact scored only 18 points in the final 20 minutes.

UBC was able to get the ball inside to their other giant 6'11 1/2" Mike McKay, who shot 72% on the night picking up 16 points, 10 of them in the second half.

The Bears fate could have been different if they had got off to a better start offensively in the final 20 minutes. "We didn't lose the game because of our defensive play but on our lack of offense," whispered a solemn coach Mitchelson after the game. Bears actually tied it up with 3 minutes left and were down by only 2 with a minute remaining but UBC controlled play for the final 60 seconds and handed the Bears their sixth loss on the road.

**Bear Briefs:** After the topsy turvy weekend of play has finished the final playoff spots have tightened up even more. Lethbridge, who most observers had counted out upset Victoria twice at home to move into third place behind Victoria and UBC. Alberta's record is now 5-7 two games back of the west coast teams. If Bears did happen to tie with UBC for the final playoff spot they would get in by virtue of their better for and against points record against UBC.

## Hockey Bears recapture top spot

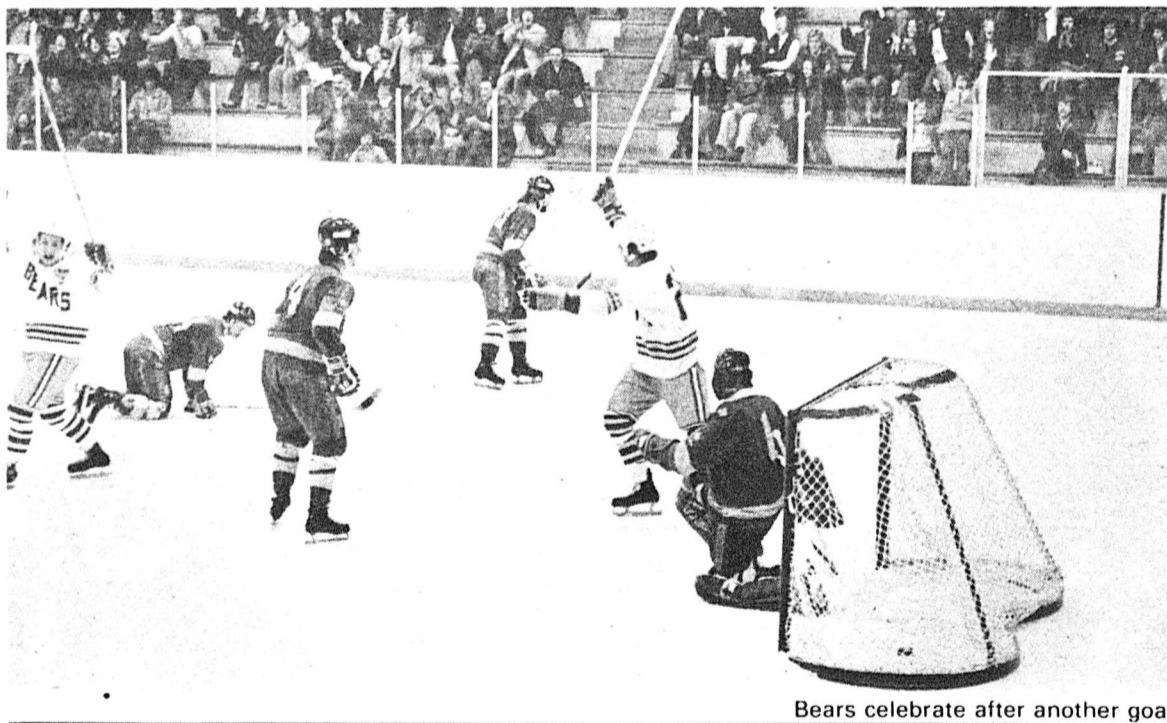
by Keith Steinbach

The Bears regained undisputed possession of first place in the Canada West standings this weekend with a pair of victories over UBC. Tied with U of C for first, Alberta made use of a Calgary split with Saskatchewan and moved two points in front with 6-1 and 3-2 (overtime) victories.

The Alberta team has come back from a 3 game skid with three well played wins. Injuries to some of Alberta's better players don't seem to be slowing down the Bears at all. The reason is bench strength.

Two of those reasons were evident in Friday's 6-1 dissection. They were Rick Venance and Darrell Zaperniuk. Both are getting a chance to play with injuries sidelining regulars Sosnowski and Steward. Each played good, heads up, hard-skating hockey. Zaperniuk's effort was rewarded with two assists as Venance failed to hit the score sheet but just missed on several good chances.

But the big line as far as Alberta was concerned was Carr-Ofrim-Jantzie trio. Ofrim scored the first and last goals of the game while adding two helpers. Jantzie had three assists and Carr one. In all the line was on for four of the six Golden Bears strikes. Other U of A scores were by Dale Hutchinson, Bruce Crawford, Randy Gregg, and Brian Larsen. Ofrim's season point total is twenty-eight which was good enough to lead the Bears in scoring last year. Ofrim still has



Bears celebrate after another goal

nine games to go this year.

As for UBC, they played well enough but against the Bears they looked sticky and sometimes dazed. The shots on goal were surprisingly close in the game, 31-30 Bears outgunning the TBirds.

The performance of Craig Gunther in the net for Alberta was not surprising as he frustrated UBC players time and time again. It is becoming common to see the superb goaltending of the Bears stop opponents on good opportunities.

There were problems in the

Bird's cage however as starter Ron Lefebvre was replaced by Ian Wilkie after Lefebvre allowed a couple of questionable goals. Wilkie played decently for the two periods he worked and was scored on three times.

The injury situation looks no better as defenseman Ken Yaremkevich came off the ice with a charlie horse. Brian Sosnowski's shoulder was re-diagnosed as a bruise. "Sos" did some limited duty in Friday's contest but sat out the second game. Abby Hebert should be back soon as should Oliver Steward. Jack Cummings dressed for Saturday's game

but saw no action.

Leon Abbott stated the obvious as he called Friday's win a "good effort".

Saturday's game was closer, more exciting but not as well played as the night before. Both teams lacked edge and play was a bit ragged in comparison to the night before.

The scoring opened up with Frank Clarke at 12:40 of the first stanza moving in from the point to slap a rebound into the open side of the net. The next goal came in the second period as TBird Bob Sperling scored on a bang-bang play in front of

Henwood. In the third period Venance put one in for Alberta and Bill Ennos of UBC sent the game into overtime at 14:37 with a pretty goal.

The Alberta team pressured in the last minute of the third period and all through the first 10 minute overtime segment but failed to click.

But at 3:13 of the second ten minute overtime period Blair Burgess deposited the puck behind Wilkie on a 2 on 1 situation. Assists went to Venance and Peterson.

Again the shots on goal were Bears 31 - Birds 30. The Bears dominated but this time the quality of the hockey was not as good.

It was the "same old story" as far as Bear netminding went. Henwood was excellent as he stopped what seemed to be sure goals. Wilkie played good but was overshadowed by Henwood.

The two wins give the Bears some breathing room at the top although not much. Alberta is 2 points in front of Calgary with a game in hand and a log of 11-4. Calgary has a 10-6 record.

This weekend Saskatchewan will host the Golden Bears for a pair of games. The next home action is Feb. 6 when the Huskies play a return match followed by UBC on Feb. 7. The UBC game will be played at 11:30 a.m. to accommodate the national television coverage that will be accorded to the game or to Eastern audiences in other words.