

Bears bounced by Calgary

by Shaune Impey

Clare Drake probably wishes he could make four bus trips a year to Calgary instead of just two.

Lately his Golden Bear hockey team has had considerably more success playing on the road against the Dinosaurs than they have had at home in Varsity Rink. Last weekend - with the Dinosaurs making their first appearance in Edmonton since sweeping the best-of-three Canada West playoffs last March - the Bears extended their home ice losing streak against Calgary to four games. The Dinosaurs won twice, by 2-1 and 6-1 scores, to put them comfortably in first place in the Canada West standings while the Bears have slipped to third behind Saskatchewan.

An inability to score, at home, not on the road, against the Dinosaurs has plagued the Bears in games with Calgary. The two teams split the four previous contests in Calgary and the Bears averaged 5.75 goals a game and their two losses came in overtime. In the four most recent meetings at Varsity Rink they have scored exactly three times - an average of 0.75 goals a game. And two of those goals, once last year and once on Saturday, came in the dying stages of games already decided.

Essentially the Bears got beat at their own game. Calgary out-checked and out-worked what - for the last three seasons anyway - has been the best checking and working team in Canadian university hockey.

Calgary coach George Kingston said, "We'd been harping all week about defense. We threw a blanket over them at our blueline and they (Alberta) couldn't penetrate our zone with any control."

The 6-1 loss Saturday was the Bears' worst home ice defeat under Clare Drake since the Canada West league was formed nine years ago. Alberta's only goal came on the powerplay with less than four minutes to play and Calgary up 6-0. Rookie Tim Krug ruined Jerry Farwell's shut-out with a 15 foot slapshot from the slot that bounced in off the post.

Calgary led 2-0 after one period on goals by defenseman Bill Wilkins, the game's third star, and Randy Joevenazzo. Wilkins scored from the point on a deflection while Joevenazzo bounced in a 65 foot flip shot that Bears' goaltender Denis Potvin



Calgary's Terry Paskoruk (left) and the Bears' Tim Krug tango behind the net while Joel Elliott chases the puck in the corner. The Dinosaurs took the Bears twice on the weekend to solidify their hold on top spot in the Canada West standings.

photo Bill Ingles

misjudged. That came when Calgary was shorthanded.

The Dinosaurs upped the lead to 5-0 after forty minutes. Trevor Erdhardt took advantage of a breakdown in the Bears' defense to tap in a goalmouth pass and Bob Irvine tallied twice, once on the powerplay.

Irvine completed his natural hat trick at 13:39 of the third period, popping in a ten footer past Terry Clark who had replaced Potvin after the first period. All three of Irvine's goals were set up by a newcomer to the Dinosaur line-up, Terry Paskoruk. A former Saskatchewan Blade, Paskoruk joined the Dinos after Christmas and according to Kingston is one of the reasons for Calgary's success in recent weeks.

On Friday night the Bears started strong as Greg Skoreyko scored 72 seconds after the opening face-off for a 1-0 lead. Joevenazzo scored on a rebound at 11:39 to make the teams even and

it stayed that way until the third period. Calgary caught the Bears running around in their own end and Steve Blyth blasted a screened shot from the left point that Clark never saw. That was in the ninth minute of play.

Alberta had several good chances to tie the game, particularly in the last twenty seconds. After getting an illegal stick penalty called against Calgary defenseman Ron Fischer at 19:46, and with Clark on the

bench in favor of an extra attacker, Joel Elliott and Skoreyko both had Farwell come up big against them with pad saves.

The Bears hope to get back on the winning track this weekend when they travel to Saskatoon for a pair of games with the Saskatchewan Huskies. Saskatchewan split their games against UBC on the coast, losing 7-4 on Friday and winning 9-2 Saturday. They'll be tough at home. They're undefeated in the

recently renovated Rutherford Arena.

BEAR FACTS

The Bears will make a side trip to Regina on Sunday for an exhibition game with the Cougars. Jerry Farwell was selected first star in both games on the weekend.

Attendance this year is up about fifty percent from last season. About 2500 fans took in the two weekend contests.

Clenchers clinch crown

by Alex Corinthiens

The Golden Bear wrestlers won a close team title this past weekend at the University of Calgary Invitational. The Bears out pointed U of C 46-43 to give them two titles in the past three weekends.

The team, wrestling without veteran Earl Binder and rookies Dave Bush and Darryl Mykitiuk, were led by Shaun Holmstrom (150) and Steve Hibbard (119 lb). Both wrestlers were the only two that captured both the freestyle title and Greco-Roman title on Sunday.

Hibbard, a freshman from Harry Ainlay, has been on a hot streak. He has won the past four tournaments he has wrestled in. Coach John Barry feels that the former provincial high school champion is by far the most improved wrestler over the last few months.

Holmstrom wrestled spectacularly and for his efforts was named the Outstanding Wrestler in the Western Canada Greco-Roman Championships.

Solid performances were also turned in by Martin Ferguson

(112 lb), Scott Tate (134 lbs), Tom McKee (142 lbs), Kelly Rich (158 lbs) and Mark Yurick (167 lbs). All placed second in the tournament. Yurick lost by decision to Olympic team member Mark Mongeon.

Tate wrestled perhaps his best match ever when he defeated Simon Fraser's Rick Picton by a 12-1 decision. Scott intentionally wrestled one weight class higher to challenge his nemesis that had soundly defeated him one year prior. Unfortunately, Picton's weight advantage surfaced in their final bout with Picton edging out an 8-7 victory in the best match of the tournament.

This weekend the Bears travel to Saskatoon for what will be their final exhibition before the Canada West championships scheduled for February 14 in Calgary.

Watson eyes playoff spot

In the second of four Canada West volleyball tournaments, the latest one in Vancouver this past weekend, the Saskatchewan entries dominated play going undefeated in both men's and women's action.

The Huskiettes stretched their record to a perfect 10-0 mark while the Huskies have nine wins and one loss in ten matches.

The U of A Pandas managed just one victory, against winless Lethbridge, as all six teams finished with identical records to what they had in Canada West number one.

Brian Watson's Bears won three of their five matches for the second straight tourney to stay in third place, one point behind first round leader Calgary.

After dropping the opening

match to Victoria in three straight games, the Bears beat Calgary and Lethbridge, went the distance with Saskatchewan before losing a fifth and deciding game 15-12 and then topped UBC.

According to Watson the Bears were caught a little flat footed by a pumped up Victoria squad on Friday night. "I think our minds were still on the plane when they should have been on the court," he said.

With two more tournaments coming up Watson says the Bears are in good shape to make one of the two playoff positions. "As long as we go 4-1 in the last two we'll be in. Calgary started strong but the rest of the teams have caught up. I think it will be between us and Saskatchewan."

Since the fourth tournament is hosted by the U of A - and playoffs immediately follow at the site of the final tourney - Alberta will have home court advantage if they do indeed make the playoffs.

B'ballers losers on west coast trip

University of Victoria basketball teams showed the Bears and Pandas this weekend why they are number one in the Canada West standings.

The Vikettes took the Pandas 74-45 on Friday and 63-45 Saturday. Brian Heaney's Bears were down 25 points early on Friday before losing 70-57. Saturday,

Victoria coasted to a 93-65 win.

This coming weekend both teams will be in action at home against UBC. The Thunderbirds are in fifth spot in Canada West with a 4-6 record. The Bears are 1-9. UBC's women's team, the Thunderettes are winless in 12 games. The Pandas are third at 6-

X-C relays on tap

The U of A Nordic Ski Club is hosting some cross-country ski relays and a social this Saturday.

For a \$3.00 entry fee teams of three skiers can participate in any one of five categories of relay races. There are events for both novice and advanced participants with prizes awarded to winners and runners-up. As well a prize for the most outlandish costume

will be presented.

A social will be held Saturday evening which will include the prize presentations and wine drinking.

Interested skiers can register in Room 232, SUB or at the booth by the information desk from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. all this week.

For more information give Jeff a call at 439-6980.