

Bears like Dinosaur splits

by Dick Hancock

Does anybody want first place in the Canada West hockey standings this year?

The University of Alberta Golden Bears missed out on a chance for sole possession of top spot as they dropped a close 2-1 decision to the visiting UBC Thunderbirds Sunday afternoon at Varsity Rink. However, thanks to a pair of Saskatchewan Huskie victories over Calgary and a 5-4 Bears' triumph on Saturday, the Green and Gold edged back into a tie for the number one spot with the Dinosaurs as both teams have identical 15-6 records.

More and more it appears that first place will be determined in Calgary as the Bears have all four of their remaining games against the Dinosaurs in Cowtown. If either team can win three out of four contests they will be virtually assured of being the hosts for the three-game Canada West playoff series.

Sunday's game proved to be a goaltender's duel as both Brent Stuart in the UBC net and Ted Poplawski held the opposition scoreless for the first half of the contest. Always steady Bears goaltender Poplawski faced a barrage of Thunderbird shots, sometimes in rapid succession, as poor clearing of both pucks and Thunderbirds from the front of the Bears' net gave UBC a 12-14 edge in shots after two periods. The Bears had the best chances, however, as four additional blasts were rung off the posts behind Stuart.

UBC drew first blood at 9:55 of the second period on a shot by Marty Matthews, set up by the two Canada West scoring leaders Rob Jones and Jim McLaughlin.

A powerplay goal by sophomore sniper Greg Skoreyko tied it at 13:48 of the third period. Helping on the play were Joel Elliot and captain Larry Riggan.

Despite numerous opportunities neither team could untie the knot until, with five minutes remaining, Hugh Cameron scored on a fanned shot that fooled Poplawski. The Bears' goaltender was attempting a poke check and instead of hitting the puck he made contact with the T'birds' player's stick and was helpless as the rolling puck trickled through his pads.

Coach Bill Moores pulled the goaltender in the late stages of the game but they couldn't get

the equalizer as it just wasn't their day to score. The Bears added to their goalpost total in the third period also as two more shots were only inches from blinking the red light.

Saturday afternoon was the Ace Brimacombe show as the rookie winger made the scoresheet on all five Bears' markers. Ace scored twice, including one shorthanded effort, to go along with three helpers. Linemates Skoreyko and Elliott also tallied once along with defenceman Dan Peakcocke.

The teams were deadlocked 2-2 after twenty minutes as Jones and Jim Allison sandwiched a pair of goals in between markers by Brimacombe and Peakcocke.

Allison's second goal of the game at 11:29 of the middle period put the UBC squad ahead 3-2. Then, with only eleven seconds to play in the period, Brimacombe notched his shorthanded goal as he stole the puck in front of the UBC net and surprised Stuart with a quick wrist shot.

The Bears went in front midway through the final stanza on a powerplay tally by Elliott and increased the margin with an empty net goal by Skoreyko with sixty-eight seconds to play and Stuart on the bench in favor of an extra attacker.

The T'birds didn't give up however as Bill Trenaman flipped a rebound in at 19:13 to narrow the gap to one goal once again.

Despite strong pressure from UBC the Bears held on in the last forty-seven seconds for the win.

The Bears dominated much of the game, particularly the last two periods, as they outshot UBC 28-13 in the final forty minutes and 39-27 overall.

Alberta had five of eleven minor penalties and each team sat out a fighting major. The fight came late in the third period between the Bears' Barrie Stafford and goaltender Stuart. It was more of a wrestling match as Stuart jumped Stafford in the corner of the rink and a surprised Stafford simply held on and covered up.

Bear Facts

In Saskatoon the Huskies' two victories were by 3-2 and 6-5 scores with the second game going into overtime. For the Huskies it was their first over-

time win of the year after several losses.

Last night five Bears, Rolin, Tordoff, Lomas, Skoreyko and Stafford joined with the Dinosaurs in an exhibition

match against the Olympic team in Calgary.

Apologies to Brad Hall are in order. Brad did not pull himself in the Saskatchewan game as mentioned in the

Gateway last week. It was a coach's decision to change goaltenders.

A note to the boys in the Palace. Wear those woolies tonight.

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