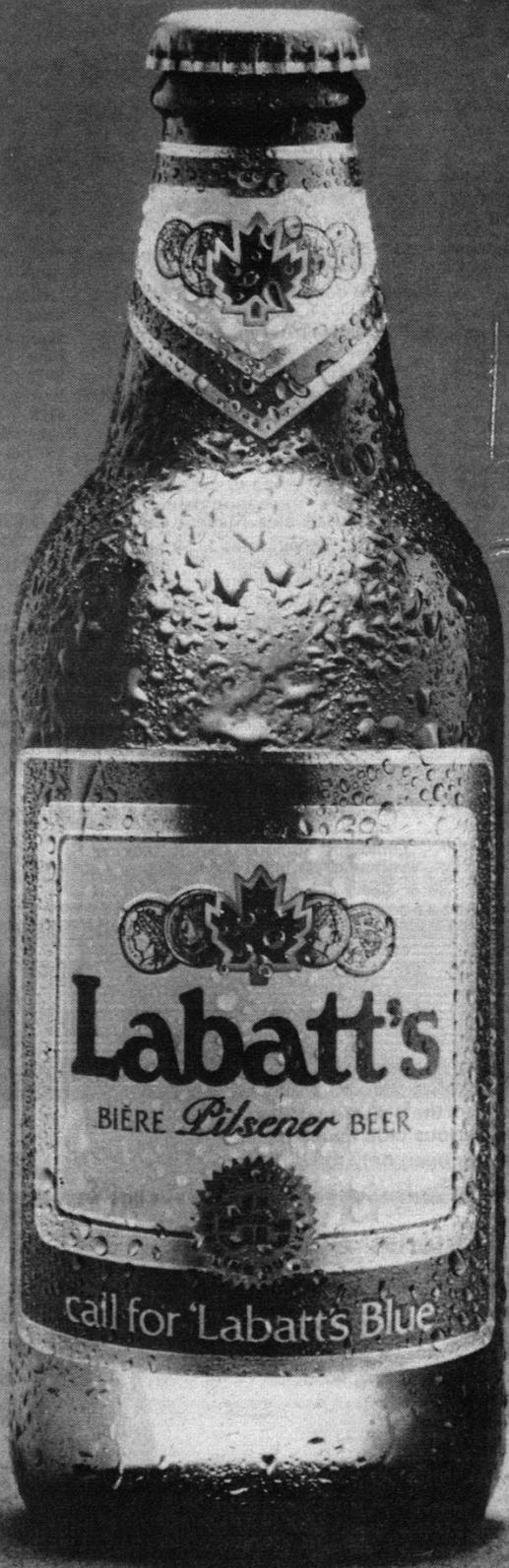


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photo Bill Inglee

Ken Hodge kept his cool Friday night to hold back the Saskatchewan Huskies.

Bears on the way up

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pass to Swan who simply waited for Felske to go down and popped it in. Exactly the way the coach shows you in practise.

For their part the Huskies did not play a bad game; rather it was a case of the Bears being one step faster and one save better.

After the game Bears' coach Bill Moores explained his team apparent nervousness. "We seemed to be rushing a lot of things and doing things a bit different from what we would normally do," explained Moores. "It's a first time experience for some of those guys (Bears) so I guess they're bound to be a little bit jumpy."

He also added that they had to make some first period adjustments if they were to be successful later on.

We just talked about the fact that we had to be patient, that's what it's all about," said Moores, who has now won his second Canada West title in two tries. "You've got to play for 60 minutes....we did not play really well, but we had good spurts."

No doubt the fans played a role in the game as the crowd of 1784 - the biggest this year - was rarely silent and looked like they were having fun being noisy, too.

"It was great. They were so appreciative. I wish it was like that every time," said a grateful Moores. "And I'll tell you one thing: there's not one person who walked out tonight dissatisfied. That's what college hockey is all about."

Matters became progressively worse for the Huskies on Saturday night as they fell behind early on, 3-0 and never really recovered. The Bears wasted no time in dethroning the national champs by scoring three goals in the first twelve minutes and held leads of 3-1 and 7-1 by periods.

Rick Swan led the Bears' blitzkrieg with a natural hat trick while teammates loey Engert,

Dave Otto, John Reid, Parie Proft, Tim Krug and Dave Souch provided ample insurance.

As a team the Bears looked much more at ease than on Friday. "Our guys played with a lot more jump tonight," noted coach Moores. "We made a couple of changes on our killing off power plays so as to take away the advantage from them (Huskies). And so we were very effective. Credit goes to all 19 players who played tonight."

Those changes in killing off powerplays obviously worked very effectively as evidence in the Huskies being 0-for 7 on their powerplay. Fierce forechecking by Souch, Swan, Engert and Koebel kept the Huskie powerplay unit frustrated all night while the Bears' own powerplay scored on 3 out of 6 chances.

Moores also noted that there might have been a great deal of 'inner pressure' put on Huskie coach Brent McEwen to win the series. Coming off of a National Championship and taking over for former coach Dave King, who took a year off to coach the Canadian Olympic Team and who was at Saturday's game, would probably qualify for being under the gun and under tremendous criticism if he did not come through.

Nevertheless, the Bears were the better team this weekend and for that matter, this year. If it were another time or another year the results may have been different; but not this weekend or this year because this years' Canada West conference belonged to the Bears.

The banner hanging on the west wall in Varsity Arena Friday night probably said it best. It read, 'Bears Rule.' Plain and simple. All that remains to be seen is if the Bears can continue their domination over the rest of Western Canada and ultimately over the entire country.

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