

U of A beats Dogs in hockey tilt

by Ajay Bhardwaj

It was a battle of last year's heavyweights: two new look heavyweights to be exact. And after the U of A Golden Bears and the Saskatchewan Huskies battled for sixty minutes, the result was the same as it was last February: the Bears won 6-5. It was the second game of the Molson Invitational Tournament. Earlier in the day the Calgary Dinosaurs blasted the Lethbridge Pronghorns 7-2. But the Bears' game was the feature, and only 150 fans showed up.

The Bears beat the Huskies in three games in last year's playoffs in the first round. And both teams

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— Couture



Bear forward Doug McCarthy (8) is decked by a Huskie in tournament opener.

picked up where they left off last year. It was a physical game, much like last year's playoffs. Bears forward Stacey Wakabayashi was nailed in the corner 11 seconds after the puck was dropped. Fortunately for him and the Bears, Wakabayashi was able to carry on.

The Huskies opened the scoring on the powerplay 1:05 into the game with defenceman Ian Herberg off for hooking.

Huskie defenceman Craig Butz took a low shot from the point

which Terry Lloyd deflected past Bears' goalie John Krill.

Things began looking dimmer for the Bears when forward Wes Craig took a slashing penalty about a minute later. But the Bears killed the penalty and at 9:29 Sid Cranston took a pass from Wakabayashi, went in on the right wing on Huskies goalie

Garvin Weber, and slid a low shot past the rookie goalie. At 14:17 the Bears took the lead when defenceman Grant Couture (named the Bears' player of the game) rushed the puck up the left side, was hauled down, but got the puck to teammate Todd Gordon who was following up. Gordon fired the puck into an open

net.

"It was a mistake play, the person who made the play was Todd Gordon," said the modest defenceman. The Bears solidified their lead with a powerplay goal by Wakabayashi at 17:31. Sid Cranston found the diminutive forward lurking all alone at the side of the net and Wakabayashi one-timed it past Weber.

But just like in the past the Huskies refused to throw in the towel. With Bears hopeful R.J. Dundas off for slashing the Huskies made it 3-2 6:22 into the second period. John Krill gave up a rebound to Adrian Sakundiak at the side of the net, who stuffed it in. About three minutes later, Couture took a low slapshot from the top of the left faceoff circle to

make it 4-2 on a Bears powerplay. Couture was a great leader for the Bears Friday night, but he shrugged it off. "My role hasn't changed (from last season). Losing guys like Dennis (Cranston) and Todd (Stokowski) is tough, you just do the best you can."

The Bears made it 5-2 on yet another powerplay as Wes Craig scored with less than five minutes to play in the second frame. It all started again when Couture took a high shot from the point which hit Weber's mask. Craig found the loose puck in the melee and stroked it in.

John Krill made a mistake with 3:24 to go in the period, while the Dogs were on the powerplay. Adrian Sakundiak took a slapshot that trickled through the netminder's legs and Terry had an empty net in which to deposit the puck. But Stacey Wakabayashi slammed the door shut, scoring on yet another powerplay to put the finishing touches on a stellar performance

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