

Hockey Bears drop decision to Calgary

Dinos 5 Bears 3
by Lindsay Ryall

Bear complacency in the third period proved costly as the Calgary Dinosaurs rallied from 2-1 and 3-2 deficits — scoring three times in the third — to win 5-3.

The Bears struck early when Jason Rankin sent a low slapshot from the point that evaded Calgary goalie Peter Fry. Dino forward Todd Scvior got the equalizer at 4:21 but the Bears regained the lead with less than five minutes remaining in the first when Bears captain Doug McCarthy got a shot away that dribbled between the pads of the Dino netminder.

Bear goalie Lawrence Richer played a strong first and second period and was tested severely and frequently while maintaining the Bears' fragile one goal lead.

The Dinos finally tied the game at 7:28 of the second when Todd Savoie skated in on a breakaway (the Bears allowed two breakaways in the second) and flipped a backhand shot over a sprawling Richer.

Bear forward Al Tarasuk put the Bears up for the final time in the game when he took a pass from Howie Draper and proceeded to circle the net unopposed, finally ripping a backhand home when the Dino goalie had strayed out of position.

Thus far in the game the Bears appeared to have weathered the storm having survived numerous Dino powerplays, including two 5 on 3 deficits without surrendering a powerplay goal. But it was not enough.

The Calgary comeback began at 2:51 of the third when Dino Dan Logan handcuffed Bear netminder Joe Degirolomo (the Bears switched goalies half-way through the second) to tie the game at 3-3. The Dino offence kept up the pressure and were rewarded with their first powerplay goal of the night at 6:32 when Logan converted a weak centering pass that got past Degirolomo. Barry Bracko got the insurance goal for the Dinos, stripping a Bear defender of the puck and scoring on his own rebound.

The Bears pulled their goalie with less than two minutes left in the game but were unable to crack the Dino defense.

Bear Howie Draper was steady on defense with two assists but felt the team was lacking some intensity. "As far as the Golden Bear work ethic goes we like to go three periods. I think guys started taking things for granted a little bit and thought maybe 'well were up and we've been up all weekend' but you can't do that. You got to go out and keep going for the goals."

Draper felt the Dinos transition game that scored three goals in the final frame was their biggest threat. "The Dinosaurs are always a really quick team, they have the ability to take a defensive situation and turn it into a good offensive situation so as a defenceman I think you always got to be on your toes."

Dino coach Willie Desjardins was one person who didn't take the

game for granted and still maintains a great deal of respect for the team that eliminated his team from the playoffs last season. "I think it's going to be another close season, they have a very talented hockey team. I was very impressed. They were very strong last year and lead the league in penalty killing and on the powerplay, and I expect this year, it will be the same again."

Desjardins was most impressed with the speed and agility showed by many of the Bear rookies in the lineup. "I was impressed with some of the younger players. You know they're only seventeen or eighteen and in a few years they're going to be good players." One of those players was Garth Premak who chose to go to the University of Alberta — despite the beckoning

from down south — and now forms one of the new rookies that hope to fill the void left by players no longer on the team. "I was sort of undecided at first but now I'm happy with my decision so I'll just have to concentrate on hockey," Premak said. The Bears finished second overall in the tournament surrendering their only loss to Calgary.



The chase is on! But the Bears hope that it will be the Dinos chasing them instead of the other way around.

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