

sports

Brutality cheapens NHL image, players' potential

Last Saturday night, it was our pleasure to watch the NHL contest between the Philadelphia Flyers and the Toronto Maple Leafs. The game was won 6-3 by the Flyers and the game was distinguished by the poor play of both teams as well as a host of bush league tactics by the Flyers.

Bobby Clarke, the captain of the Flyers, made his presence felt by scoring one goal and ten stitches on Leaf Rod Seiling. The tussle in which Seiling got cut began with Clarke massaging the defenseman's ribs with the toe of his stick as is his wont whenever he plays.

The wonderment expressed by the announcers of the game over Clarke's unseemly behavior became a bit amusing. It is hard to imagine what these guys have been doing during the other Flyer games that they have watched. Clarke is one of those players about whom John Ferguson used to complain when he was playing for the Canadiens a few years ago. Ferguson was renowned for his pugilistic abilities and was brought to the Canadiens because of his prowess in that aspect of the game.

The type of player who annoyed him most was the chippy little bastards who don't mind spearing, butt-ending and other related tactics to start a fight and then are content to step back and let someone else do the fighting for him.

Clarke has always been that type of player from his early days in Flin Flon. He is an excellent hockey player aside from his penchant for cheap stuff.

The Hockey Night in Canada announcers have built up this image of Clarke being the little guy who has overcome diabetes to grow up to become the youngest captain of the defending Stanley Cup champions and they adhere to that despite the fact that Clarke has been one of the cheapest players in the league.

He has been caught spearing by television cameras more times than I care to count and it was he who provided the shot in the ankle that put Valery Kharlamov out of the 1972 Team Canada series.

It is this kind of nonsense that keeps Canadian professional hockey in the state that it is presently wallowing.

The fighting aspect of hockey is glorified by these announcers who seem more partial to Dave Schultz', Don Saleski's and other bully-types' approach to the game than the classy type of player's game.

NHL President Clarence Campbell has finally begun to take some more effective steps to curtail this type of activity by introducing three or four game suspensions without pay for unusually brutal behavior.

This involves a lot of money for the players in question besides the fact that cooling their heels at the edge of the ice for a few games may well aid these players in figuring out just how many games you can win when you don't touch the ice.

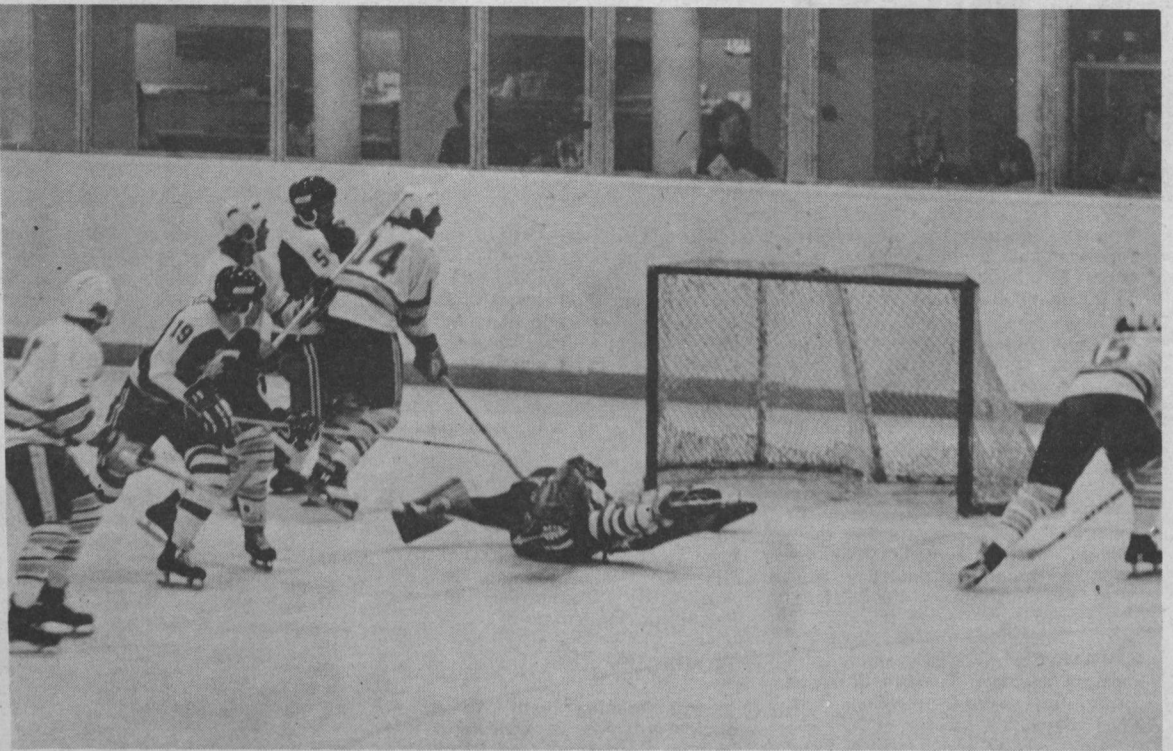
It is fairly safe to say that there is no really good hockey being played anywhere in North America right now. The real crime is that with the calibre of men playing in the pro leagues, the game could be great but men like Clarke and the other members of the Flyer organization keep it from being anything close to great.

Paul Cadogan

Ping Pong tourney attracts 50

The UA Table-tennis Club held the Second Annual Friendship Tournament on November 9th and 10th with over 50 participants in the SUB basement. The events took place included men's singles, men's doubles and ladies' singles. This tournament being an open event has attracted players from University of Calgary and Edmonton city as well. After two days of intensive competition held, however, under a friendly atmosphere, the winner in the mens' singles was

Kam Kong (a graduate student in thy computing science department, who is also currently the highest ranked player in Alberta and has represented the province in Canadian Closed Tournaments). The first runner-up was Francis Wan, a recent engineering graduate from UA who is now the UC table-tennis champion. The second and third runners-up were Hong Mah (past Alberta champion) and Richard Mah respectively. In the mens' doubles event, UA students



Another swinging hockey match in Vancouver.

UBC injuries not responsible for Bears win

by Cam Cole
Bears 6 UBC 2

Clare Drake diplomatically attributed Saturday's 6-2 win to UBC's injury problems, but even with a full crew, Thunderbirds will probably lose more than a few this season.

The teams aren't likely to have many surprises forthcoming, having played each other five times in the first seven league games. So far UBC has managed to eke out but one win, drop a close one, and lose big three times.

There was some question whether T-Birds belonged on the same ice surface on Saturday.

"I thought it was possibly our easiest game so far," conceded Drake, who may be the world's most cautious man when assessing the opposition.

"They didn't play that well, I guess - but we didn't let them play well. At times, I thought our checking was the best it's been all season."

Drake employed four lines, moving Rick Wyrozub down to play with Craig Styles and Abby Hebert.

Wyrozub has been having all sorts of problems this season, after two years among Bears' top scorers.

"I don't know exactly what Rick's problem is," says Drake. "It's really not a question of attitude - he's a good team man. Rick has always been a good offensive player... Possibly he's having a concentration problem. Sometimes he just seems to get untracked."

Brian Sosnowski, who was injured while playing pro fastball

for the Monarchs this summer, was finally healthy and took Wyrozub's spot on the line with John Horcoff and Steve McKnight. Sosnowski had an excellent game, and Drake gives him a good chance of staying with the club, "although maybe not on that particular line," - possibly hoping Wyrozub will display the old ability soon.

The Bears coasted to the victory, holding period leads of 3-1 and 5-2, and adding one more in the third period.

Steve McKnight, John Simkin, and John Horcoff tallied for Alberta before Gerry Bond replied for BC late in the first period. Bears took a 5-1 lead on second period goals by Oliver Steward and Craig Styles, then Bob Sperling scored Thunderbirds' last goal. Jim Ofrim completed the scoring in the third period.

For the first time, the line

of Bruce Crawford, Rick Peterson, and Kevin Primeau was shut out, while Bears' leading scorers Ross Barros (12 points) and Steve McKnight (10 points) padded their lead.

Craig Gunther performed very well in goal for Alberta, blocking 36 shots, while T-Birds' Dave Andrews faced 48.

Goaltending may be a big plus for Bears this season. So far Henwood and Gunther have allowed just 14 goals in 7 games and for a combined 2.00 goals-against average. Last year Henwood's 3.08 was tops in the league.

The league schedule has been increased from 18 to 24 games, but Bears are already approaching a 'crucial' series. They play Calgary Dinosaurs twice in Cowtown next weekend. Dinnies are the team to beat with a 6-1-1 record to date. Bears are 5-2.

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FULLER'S 5450 Calgary Trail

Pierre Wong and K.K. Chang beat Hong Mah and Richard Mah to win the championship. There were eight participants in the womens' event and Lai-chu Kong, Lilian Chan and Anna Chui were the first, second and third respectively.

The Club practice time is from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. in the SUB basement on Fridays. It also plans to sponsor a Novice tournament in the near future to promote table-tennis playing among the students.