

# Bear pucksters split doubleheader with U of M Bisons in league opener

By BILL KANKEWITT

WINNIPEG—The football team wasn't the only U of A team involved in heart-stopping action last weekend.

In two highly exciting games at Winnipeg the Golden Bear pucksters gained a split in their series with the Manitoba Bisons. Friday the Bears lost a 1-0 squeaker; Saturday they came from behind to win in the second overtime period.

Both action-packed games featured brilliant goaltending. Ed Bernstein of the Bisons and the Bears' Dale Halterman were simply outstanding.

Friday the Bears played well enough to win a hundred games but couldn't buy a goal. If Bernstein didn't stop them, "Mr. Fate" did. Time and time again Alberta forwards missed glorious scoring opportunities.

### ONLY GOAL

The only goal of the game was scored by the "Herd's" John Truscott in the second period.

Bears outshot the Manitoba squad 26-23 and took ten of the 15 penalties. The penalties hurt as the Bears were shorthanded for most of the third period.

Saturday's game looked for a time like a carbon copy of Friday night's encounter. The Bears just couldn't beat the goaltending magic of Bernstein.

Meanwhile, defensive lapses and poor clearing by Alberta had allowed Manitoba to score twice. Bob MacKinnon scored late in the first period and again at the 53 second mark of the second.

### ON BOARD

Finally at 5:08 of the second Sam Belcourt got the Bears on the board. Belcourt, who was Alberta's most consistent forward in the series, flipped Jack Gibson's centering pass over the sprawled Manitoba goaltender.

Ron Cebryk tied the contest at two apiece with a quick goal to open the third period. Linemates Merose Stelmaschuk and Pete

Burwash did the spadework on the play.

Manitoba came firing back and exerted tremendous pressure on the Bears for the rest of the period. It was only Dale Halterman's sterling play in the nets that kept the Bears in the game.

Tied 2-2 at the end of regulation time the teams went into a ten minute overtime period.

### END NEAR

It looked like the end of the line for the Bears when Wayne Fingas scored for Manitoba at 4:03 of the overtime period.

The Bears refused to die and came surging back. With one minute left in the period Alberta coach Brian MacDonald pulled his goaltender for a face-off in the Manitoba end.

Center Ron Cebryk got the draw back to Merose Stelmaschuk who passed quickly to Jerry Braumberger on the point. Without hesitating Braumberger blasted a slap shot past Bernstein to tie the contest again.

The two arch rivals then went into a sudden death overtime period.

With only two minutes gone in the second overtime period Wayne Wiste passed to Sam Belcourt who headed across the Bison line. Belcourt drew the lone Manitoba defenceman into the corner and then flipped the puck out to Jack Gibson who was streaking in all alone. Gibson made no mistake as he rifled the puck into the lower right hand corner of the net.

### HAD TO

After the game Gibson said, "I had to score . . . Sammy (Belcourt) would have shot me if I missed."

Bears were outshot 37-27 and drew six of 11 penalties in the cleanly played game.

Bisons, much improved over last season, are a good checking, fast breaking club. The always hustling Bears skated and shot well in the series but had trouble getting the puck out of their own end.

Center Wayne Wiste missed Friday's game but was flown in for Saturday's contest. His presence perked up the club and improved the play of his wingers, Belcourt and Gibson.

### PLAYED WELL

A rookie line consisting of Milt Hohol, Dave Couves and Dave MacIntyre didn't score but played exceptionally well in Saturday's victory.

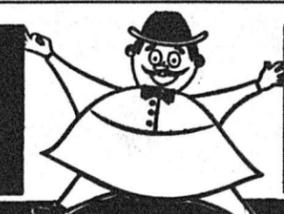
On Sunday and Monday the Golden Bears played two exhibition games in the Manitoba capital against the University of Winnipeg Wesmen.

Sunday the Bears romped to a 9-3 win but on Monday they were pressed to eke out a 5-4 decision.

This weekend at Varsity Arena the Bears and Bisons will be re-matched. Game time Friday is 8 p.m. Saturday's action will begin shortly after the completion of the Grey Cup game.

As the Bisons and Bears are the top contenders for the WICAA crown, the games are of the utmost importance to both.

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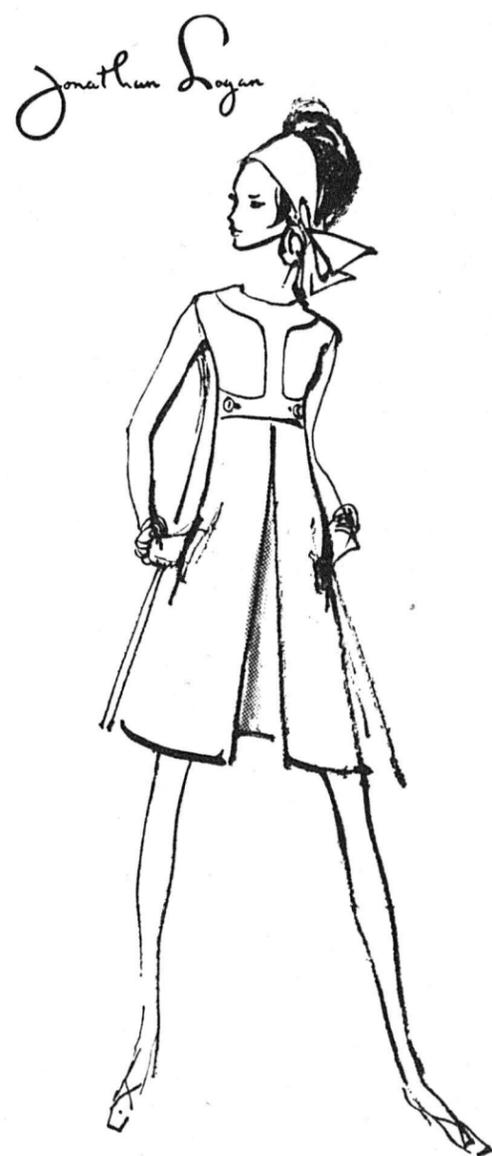
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