

Tourney title heads south for winter

by Randal Smathers

The Calgary Dinosaurs stole the show from the Golden Bears at the Molson Invitational Hockey Tournament.

Down 4-3 heading into the third period, the Dinos came back to tie on Mike Kardash's goal, and take the lead on Doug Quinn's power play effort.

First-rate goaltending by Al Hryniuk and a couple big stops by the goalposts kept it that way till the end of the game, despite some frantic play around the Calgary net.

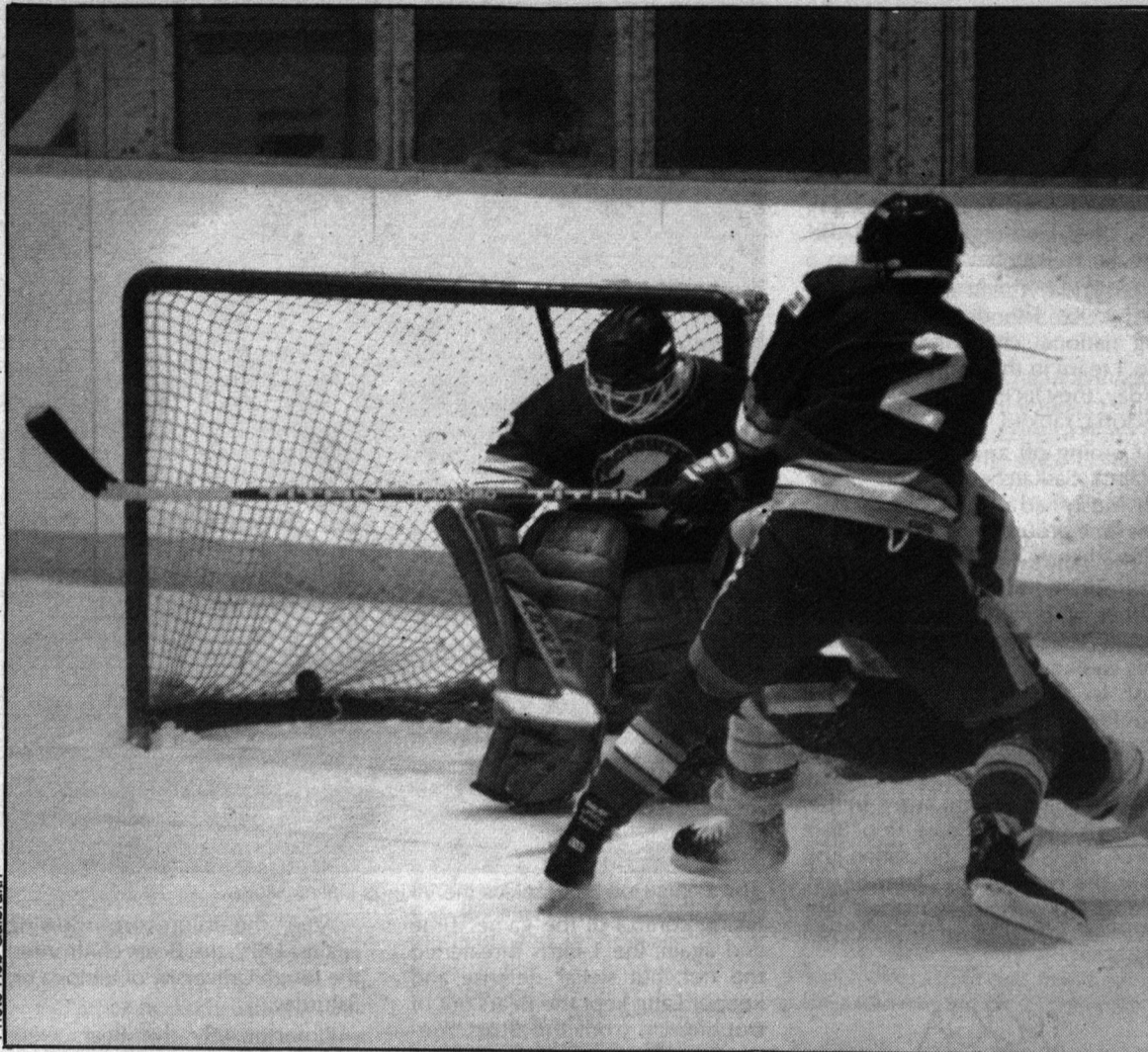
Most of the game was played in the Dino end, as Alberta outshot their southern rivals 35-26, but the Bears let down early in the third period; and that was all she wrote.

Bears head coach Clare Drake was upset about a "lack of discipline in the third period."

"We took some bad penalties we didn't have to," he said, "We seemed to sag (although) we were good at the end of the period."

Both teams were a little shaky at the start of the game, as the Bears got goals from Sid Cranston and Marcel Capelle in under two minutes, with the Dinos Barry Bracko inserting one of his own in between. Terry Zaporzan tied it up for the visitors at 5:22 of the first, before Stacey Wakabayashi put the Bears up 3-2 at the end of the period. This was a fine individual effort, as Wakabayashi came off right wing to score while sliding into the post.

Terry Houlder pulled the Dinos even again at the start of the second frame, scoring at the 28 second mark. Guy Paradis got the Bears last tally, as he redirected Dave Otto's pass while charging to the net from his point position.



The Bears Stacey Wakabayashi scores after being mauled by Dino Kevin Ingalls (2).

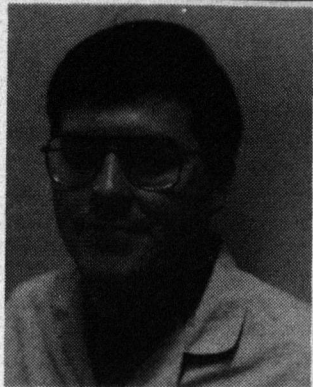
The tying marker came from a player (Quinn) who overpowered his check, then slid a weak shot to the far side, somehow eluding Bears goaltender John Krill. The winner came on a powerplay, the result of Brent Severyn taking a truly stupid penalty.

Jeff Helland was holding his own in a pushing match with a Dino, well behind the play (in fact behind the Bears net), and both players were gone for two, but Severyn jumped in with an extra shot to the head, and the Dinos had the man advantage. One minute and two

seconds later, the winner was scored.

Paradis was the Bears game star, for his goal, a couple of monster hits, and a point shot that literally blew the Dino goalie off his skates.

Quinn got the Calgary star for notching the winner.



Alan Small

Canucks quit choking

There is something wrong with Canada's athletes today. They are not choking like usual.

Do you Remember the 1980 Winter Olympics. Ken Read was supposed to lead the Crazy Canucks to a sweep of the medals in the downhill. Well, Read lost his ski on the first section and ended up crashing. All they could scrape up was a bronze by Steve Podborski.

Look at all those Montreal Expo clubs of the seventies. Gary Carter, Andre Dawson, Steve Rogers, and Tim Lincecum were on those squads, yet they could only win one pennant, and were on their way to the World Series if it weren't for Rick Monday plastering a Rogers' gopher ball that blue Monday afternoon.

Well, Canadian athletes (or ones who represent Canadian teams) haven't been pulling stunts like this over the summer and this fall.

Before, the scenario with Ben Johnson and Carl Lewis in the 100m would have meant that Lewis would win easily after Ben Johnson pulls up 30m down the track with a pulled hamstring or something like that. It would have been another classic case of letdown. But, lo and behold, Johnson gets off to a fabulous start and ends up breaking the world record by one-tenth of a second, a huge difference in sprints. Lewis was left eating dust and making excuses.

And what about those Toronto Blue Jays. If they were the Montreal Expos, they would have gone down in flames. They would have lost four straight to whoever they were playing and everyone in Canada would groan. But not these Blue Jays. No matter what happened to them this weekend, they fought back that much harder. It is true that they haven't wrapped anything up yet, but most red-blooded Canadians are already stockpiling their supplies for another World Series run by the Blue Jays.

They could have folded up their tents and blamed their loss on Tony Fernandez's broken elbow. But they didn't.

I do have a couple of beefs, though. They are mainly about the broadcast crew on CTV who kept saying on Sunday that Doyle Alexander is the reincarnation of Cy Young. Sure he's had a good year, but Alexander is a journeyman pitcher and the amount of teams he has played for in his career reflects that. He's the only pitcher who has beaten every team in the major leagues. But that doesn't make him the greatest pitcher who ever lived, like Don Chevier and Fergie Oliver thought he was. Unlike many Canadian athletes, the broadcasters still have remained the same.

Invitational tournament notebook

by Randal Smathers

When the Calgary Dinosaurs beat the Golden Bears on Sunday, they also won the Molson Invitational Hockey Tournament. The two teams tied with two-and-one records, but Calgary won it all because they won the head to head tilt.

Actually, confusion reigned supreme in the press box for a few minutes, as the idea of a tie had apparently not occurred to anyone. After a few minutes of discussion, former Gateway sports editor,

and current Journal writer Mark Spector seemed to have the last word, "You can't take it away from these guys," he said, referring to the Dinos, still celebrating their win.

At any rate, the Dinos were duly declared champions of the pre-season go-round, and nobody complained, so apparently the decision was correct.

The Dinos had earlier stomped Lethbridge 11-2, and lost big to Saskatchewan 6-1. The Bears went 2-0 by taking the Huskies 7-4 in the

tournament's roughest game on Friday night, and beating the Pronghorns, 6-1 on Saturday, before dropping Sunday's game 5-4 to Calgary.

Saskatchewan were upset 6-2 by Lethbridge, behind the goaltending of the Pronghorn's David Clearwater, who stopped 39 of 41 shots, compared to 16 of 22 by Huskie Dean Owen. As a result, Lethbridge finished third at 1-2, while Saskatchewan was last, also with a 1-2 mark.

Bears boss Clare Drake was basically pleased with the play of his team throughout the tournament.

"We played quite well," said Drake, "we had some regulars out, but I thought the calibre of play was quite good."

"It was a good tournament from an evaluation point of view," said Drake, "the rookies stood out well." He also noted that it seemed as if the other coaches were also looking at their whole teams. He anticipates taking 22 or 23 players to Saskatchewan next weekend.



One position that Drake didn't get a good look at was goal, with last year's starter from the second half, Darren Turner, out with a neck injury suffered in the warm-up of the first game of the tournament, and #3 man Blair McGregor in the U Hospital with a blood infection.

As a result, John Krill played all but 20 minutes, with tourney back-up Mitch Peacock playing only the third period of the Lethbridge win.

Drake was pleased with Krill's play, despite allowing a soft fourth goal against Calgary, and indeed Krill was named to the all-star team for the tournament. Bears' tough guy Brent Severyn was picked on defense beside Huskie Reid Williams, Sid Cranston was named to the team at right wing from the U of A, with Adrian Sakundiak of Saskatchewan at center and Dino Scott Robinson at left.

Calgary forward Terry Zaporzan was named M.V.P.



Dino goalie Al Hryniuk makes a pad save off Sid Cranston (right).



Drake used four lines for most of the tournament. "We wanted to make sure we saw everybody," he said, although he added that the veterans got an extra look "in special situations, like powerplays."