

Bison defence no match for Bear guns



Rob Galbraith

Gord Thibodeau sends this Bison for a spin. Thibodeau scored the series clincher on Saturday.

by Alan Small

The Manitoba Bisons were a wrong stick away from forcing a third and deciding game with the Alberta Golden Bears this weekend.

Pat Scott picked up someone else's stick from off of the ice and was caught by referee Jim Fisher. Fisher assessed Scott a minor penalty that the Bears later capitalized on. The Gord Thibodeau power play marker was also the game winner.

"(Fisher) must have been the only guy in the arena who saw it," lamented Bison head coach Wayne Fleming. "I didn't see it."

"Guys are hooking and holding and everybody is falling down and we get a penalty for using the wrong stick," Fleming added.

"It's pretty stupid play on their part," said Bear forward Todd Gordon.

Thibodeau's goal capped the Bear comeback, which had the regular season champs down 3-0 after one period of play. The

defenceman's point shot went through and bounced off a maze of legs and slipped behind Bison goalie Nick Sereggela. The goal put the Bears in front to stay, 5-4.

Things didn't look nearly as rosy for the boisterous Bear crowd in the first period, as Bisons Steve Brown, the game's third star, banked a puck of some legs. Ryan Campbell converted a Bear giveaway and deked out a sprawling Blair MacGregor. Mark Edwards made it 3-0 after one timing a centering pass from Jeff Beaudin behind Bear goalie Blair MacGregor. The 3-0 deficit had the Bears holding on and waiting for the bell like Frank Bruno.

"We had to get back to what worked for us," said Gordon, who was the game's second star. I had to stir things up in the corners and create a lot of loose pucks. Gordon and teammate Al Tarasuk were terrors in the Manitoba end of the ice.

"In the first period, we were all waiting for things to happen instead of making things happen,"

added Gordon.

"We had to get one goal for sure, and go from there," said Bear captain Sid Cranston. "We had to keep going in and build up some pressure."

That they did. The Bear scoring machine found its timing in the second as the green and gold scored four goals in 4:37. Wes Craig scored on a wraparound, Sid Cranston converted a breakaway, Doug McCarthy neatly deflected a Thibodeau shot. Craig scored again on a backhand for a 4-3 lead.

"We had to keep focussing," said Fleming. "They're still one of the best teams in Canada. They came right back and tied it. We had to play them tight."

Manitoba tied the game up again, as Scott scored when four Bears were caught up ice. Then the game became tense. Overtime loomed until the illegal stick call on Scott, which the Bears converted for the final goal of the game.

4 Bears picked to starry clubs

by Alan Small

This past weekend, three Golden Bear hockey players were named to the Canada West all-star teams.

Senior forward Stacey Wakabayashi was named to the first team for the third year running, while teammates Sid Cranston and Darwin Bozek, all in their fifth years of eligibility, were named to the second team.

Wakabayashi won the Dave "Sweeney" Schriener Trophy for the conference's top scorer.

Bear coach Clare Drake was

singled out as the west's best coach. It is the fourth time in the last five years the Bear coach has been selected.

Joining Wakabayashi on the first team are: Saskatchewan forward Ken Morrison, Calgary forward Barry Bracko, Dino defenceman Doug Quinn, Bison defender Steve Brown, and Manitoba goalie Nick Sereggela.

Joining Cranston and Bozek on the second team are Manitoba forward Pat Scott, UBC forward Grant Delcourt, T-Bird goalie Carl Repp, and Saskatchewan defenceman Rob McKechney.

The win gave the Bears an important day off while Calgary and Saskatchewan hammered it out in a double overtime game.

"Having the day off is a big bonus for our club," said Cranston.

Alan Small



Alberta vs. Calgary: It'll be a war

Keep Friday and Saturday nights on your busy, busy calendar open (and maybe even Sunday afternoon) because a war is coming to campus.

We're talking mobilizing troops, trench warfare, a large event in the history of Alberta here.

No, it's not the SU elections. That's hardly stuff to fight over. Heck it's hard enough even to write about.

No, it's not the Dubin Inquiry. Seeing Charlie Francis singing like a lark isn't

going to bring out the bayonets. It's a farce; a sick, sick joke.

No, it's not baseball spring training. Yet. Give the boys of summer time to stretch their vocal cords their lips, their wallets, and their fists.

No, it's not Ed Broadbent resigning. As you might have inferred before, politics stinks. Seeing socialists wash their dirty laundry in public, isn't any different from Tories or Grits. Their's stinks too. They won't ever form a federal government so knowing who their new is leader won't matter much.

No, it's not the ozone layer. There's not much we can do to plug up the hole that's there now. The ozone layer hasn't started a

war yet and it certainly won't start this weekend.

No, it's not Bob Probert white line fever. The NHL has killed his career, and rightly so. If he wasn't suspended by the NHL, there wouldn't be an NHL much longer. Hardly blood-spilling stuff.

No, it's not the NHL trade deadline. It is usually a day where no-playing role-playing hockey athletes get bandied about like baseball cards. Gee, I've got two Greg Adams. I'll give you one for Geoff Courtall.

I digress, but the place to be, to have a good view for the war this weekend is Varsity Arena. The Bears have a score to settle with the scarlet and gold. This

wound has been festering for a year.

One could sense that wound this weekend when the Bears faced Manitoba.

They kicked the Bisons all over the rink in game one, an 11-4 romp. After taking a period off in game two, they outscored the Bisons 5-1 over the next two to steal a win.

They were led by players who feel that festering wound from last year: guys like Gord Thibodeau, Adam Morrison, and Sid Cranston. They all played at their best, despite the fact they've all been banged up this season.

They'll be looking to heal that wound this week. It'll be great to watch.

Be there.