

Sports

Alberta sweeps 'Horns-back in first

by Mark Spector

The Lethbridge Pronghorns can at least be thankful of one thing: they have already played three of the four best teams in Canada West hockey.

After being swept in series with the Calgary Dinosaurs, the Saskatchewan Huskies, and the Alberta Golden Bears, they can now work on putting up some W's.

Alberta showed no mercy on the Lethbridge club, hammering them 11-3 on Friday night and then 8-4 on Saturday to up their own record to a league leading 5-1.

On Friday, Jeff Helland (four assists) and Dennis Cranston (a goal and three assists) let the way for the Bears, as they broke open a 2-1 lead for Lethbridge five minutes into the game, with 10 consecutive goals.

It was a game which was totally controlled by the Bears. They out-shot the Pronghorns 47-25 on the

night, 22-7 in the most one-sided second period ever witnessed by this reporter.

Gerald Koebel had two goals and an assist from his defensive position as he continues to fill in for injured Ron Vertz.

Stacey Wakabayashi totaled two goals and an assist on the night. He fired home a rebound past Lethbridge goalie Byron Osing after Dennis Cranston was foiled by the helpless goaler, then made a pretty deflection in his third for the Bears' ninth goal on the night.

Bill Ansell had an excellent night as well, getting three assists as he continues to erase the memory of a poor finish to last season. If Ansell can keep playing on this level he won't have to worry about anything come playoff time.

One player who must be shaking his head though, is Denis Leclair. He had two goals on Friday but Clare Drake sat him down for Saturday's game. It's been a while since Leclair saw action on consecutive nights, yet the fact remains that if he were the worst player on the team they would probably not lose a game all year.

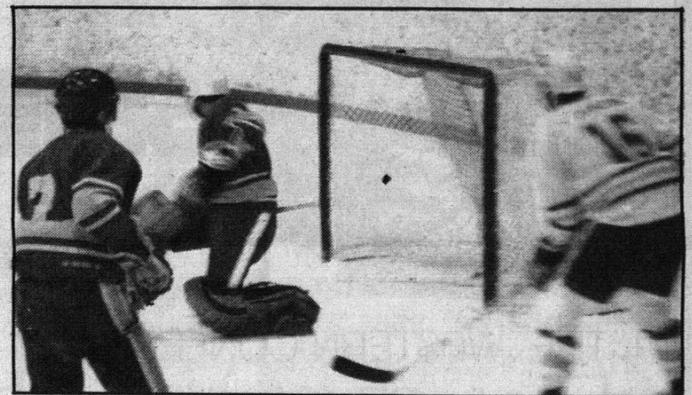
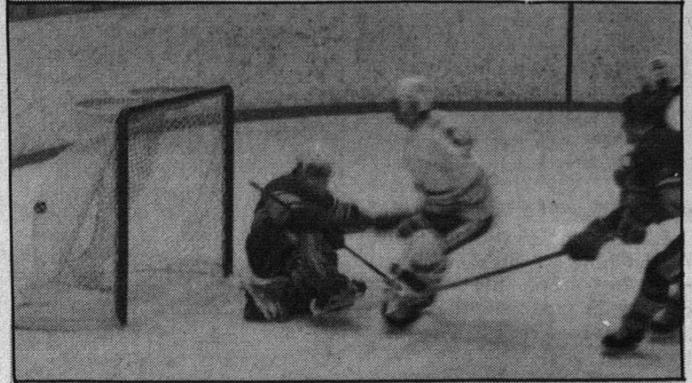
The Saturday night contest was surprisingly exciting after what 237 fans had witnessed the previous eve. About the same number came out to see the Pronghorns play a much more disciplined game defensively, and limit the Bears to a 5-4 lead at the 13 minute mark of the final frame.

And fittingly enough, the unlucky goal came at 13:13 of the period when Al Tarasuk, who is also battling for full time status, picked the puck up at the side of the goal, swung around behind the net, and stuffed it in the other side to salt away the victory.

Wakabayashi on a Jari Kurri one-timer and Howie Draper on a 30 foot slapshot finished off the scoring in the 8-4 win.

John Krill played both nights for Alberta, facing only 15 shots to Pronghorn goalie Bryan Deley's 38 on Saturday. Krill will find himself in a dogfight for the starting duties, however, as Drake picked up Darren Turner (late of the Sherwood Park Crusaders and McGill) who should be eligible to play this weekend in UBC. Turner had been around since the start of the year but was unsure if he could handle his school as well as play hockey.

Nadr Jomha was unceremoniously released as soon as Turner agreed to play. Bears, defenseman D.J. Havrelock put on the pads as backup, as Turner was not eligible to play under CWUAA rules. "I never even played goal even in midget hockey" stated Havrelock. Gerald Koebel had another outstanding night with four assists while Craig Dill chipped in three helpers. Koebel should earn CWUAA player of the week honors, making it two straight for the Bears, as Dave Otto claimed the award last week.



If a picture is worth a thousand words then here's an essay on the Lethbridge Pronghorns' trip to Varsity Arena.

Photo Leif Stout

	Fri.	Sat.
	11	8
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Toronto on their way to top draft

by Mark Spector

Toronto Maple Leaf coach Dan Maloney looked like a salesman who had just blown his third account of the week.

He knew that his job was hanging by a frayed thread.

His club had just lost a 7-1 decision to the Edmonton Oilers and the level of his voice was barely audible over the sound of a nearby heating vent.

The Leafs are 1-10 and right on schedule for a repeat performance as the worst team in the NHL. But if you could at least see a spark in the ashes, you would say that this young team just needs some time together.

On Sunday night there was no spark.

The Leafs' powerplay was abysmal. They had a man advantage for 3:43 (17 seconds of two men) in the second period, and they managed, count 'em, two shots on goal.

There weren't even two good scoring opportunities on that powerplay.

Then a few minutes later Wayne Gretzky played a supporting role in Act II of this slapstick routine. Gretzky panned across the Leaf zone hanging on to the puck just long enough for Borje Salming to back right into goalie Tim Bernhardt. Salming pinned him for the mandatory three count while Gretzky netted his third, and easiest, goal of the night.

Then it was the usually steady Brad Maxwell's turn to get into the act. For some unknown reason Maxwell attempted to bat down a shot while standing right in front of Bernhardt. All he did was turn a very stopable low shot from Raimo Summanen, into a top corner goal.

Such plays are usually reserved for eager rookies. And frustrated veterans.

And Maxwell has a right to be frustrated. Team captain and leading scorer (7 goals and 6 assists) Rick Vaive should receive only half of his pay. When he decides that he's

not too prestigious to play defense he could claim the other half.

If the captain is supposed to lead by example, then this club is in trouble.

And hopefully, Vaive's selfish play won't rub off on Toronto's two promising rookies — Wendel Clark and Dan Hodgson.

Aaahh. At last a bright spot.

Clark is a fair-sized youngster (5'11", 194) who already has six goals and will be a star in this league. He is money in the bank.

Hodgson might take a little longer than Clark, but probably not very much.

And he is quickly learning the ropes in his initial NHL campaign. "I'm definitely going to have to start shooting the puck more," he said after a night where a couple of good opportunities were passed

away. "We've got to start having more fun, enjoying the game again. I think we have to pull together more as a team, not only on the ice but off."

It's not hard to recognize that these words come from a 20 year old kid that has just graduated from a championship team in tiny Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, to a last place team in the fishbowl atmosphere of Toronto.

He'll soon learn that a losing team in the NHL doesn't party together like its WHL counter-parts.

And the Leafs will soon learn that just because they came in 21st in the league last year, they're not exempt from earning the first draft choice again this season.

In fact, maybe that's not such a bad idea.

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