

Bears beat better Bobcats

Bears 5 Bobcats 4
by Jeff Chow

The University of Alberta Golden Bear hockey team is already starting to realize that the road to repeating as Canada West champions will be full of tough obstacles. The Brandon University Bobcats showed this weekend that the Bears will have to play hard every night in order to finish on top of this division.

The Bears faced an improved Bobcat squad, but recorded a 5-4 victory Saturday night to sweep the series. With the win, the Bears remain undefeated at 4-0.

Bear head coach Bill Moores was impressed by Brandon. "We expected a tough game," he said. "Brandon played well this weekend. They sustained a lot of pressure on us."

"Brandon's an impressive team," said Bear assistant captain Doug McCarthy. "In this league, we're not taking any team for granted."

Even with the two losses, Bobcat assistant coach Mike Cooper felt his team played well. "We're happy that we almost won," he said. "And with a break here or there, who knows? We can't be totally satisfied with the loss, but we can learn from this."

Cooper pointed out that the Bears have one ingredient that the Bobcats lack. "The difference was the experience of the Bears," Cooper said. "They've been there before. The guys (Bobcats) played well, but we just played against a good hockey team. We're still beginning to learn that (experience). I'm sure we'll surprise a few teams."

Indeed, the Bears were a surprised hockey club, as the Bobcats kept pace with them through two periods before the experience of the Bears proved to be the advantage.

The Bobcats took an early lead in the first period on a powerplay goal by Kevin Mantell. The Bears tied the game with 18 seconds left in the opening period when Marty Yewchuk pocketed a shot on the powerplay.

The teams went back and forth in the second period. The Bobcats got goals from Glen Haney and Mantell. Forwards Dan Baker and Dave "Hingar" Hingley replied for the Bears.

Hingley also provided the hit of the night when he crunched Bobcat defenceman Shawn Brandt late in the third period. "He had his head down," described the compact-sized forward, "and I threw everything I had into him. Luckily, he took the worst of it."

Bear captain Howie Draper also noted Hingley's aggressive play. "He

gives 110% everytime out," Draper said. "He's been good since his first day with us. Hopefully, the rest of the team will feed off his energy."

"The coaches wanted us to hit more in the third," Hingley, who was selected first star of the game, said. "We had to show more aggressive forechecking."

The collision may have sparked the Bears as they scored twice in the third period on goals by Adam Morrison and Dan Wiebe. Bobcat forward Dave Lewis scored late in the period.

Gavin Armstrong started his first regular season as a Bear and played strongly to get the victory.

"Gavin played well tonight," Bear forward Al Tarasuk said. "He made some big saves and will be a good back-up to Johnny (Krill)."

"We didn't do a lot of things right tonight," Bear defenceman Ian Herbers said, who had three assists. "We didn't finish off as many checks as we should have. They played well, but we gave them a few cheap goals."

"We're not being as intense as we should be," Tarasuk said. "We play so few games in this league that we need to be ready for all 32 (games). We've got to play hard, but we're not doing that yet."

BEAR FACTS: Adam Morrison, with 5 goals and 6 assists, leads the team in points. He also has 3 of the team's game winners... The Bears are reasonably healthy, with only **Grant Couture** (groin) and **Cory Clouston** (shoulder) out of action. Couture should be ready for this weekend.



Golden Bear forward Rob Glasgow gets a glove in the face, thanks to this Brandon Bobcat.

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