

# SPORTS

## Huskies hand Bears puck on platter

by Bernie Poitras

**Bears 3 Huskies 1 (Friday)  
Bears 7 Huskies 3 (Saturday)**

You could describe this past weekend's Bears hockey series as the calm after the storm.

The storm being Friday's match between the Bears and the U of Saskatchewan Huskies: a penalty filled 60 minutes of action played before 1,541 screaming fans and (potentially) a national television audience courtesy of The Sports Network.

The calm came the next night as the two clubs were more gentlemanly (13 penalties compared to 25 on Friday) and the Bears offense was finally able to settle down.

The games had their similarities - but they weren't without contrast. Each night the Bears offense struggled through the first 40 minutes but eventually came up with enough goals to win. Bears goalie Ken Hodge proved a major factor in both wins.

Friday, their offense checked in and just in time. Two last period goals, one by Breen Neeser (power play) and one by Gerald Koebel (shorthanded), helped to break a two period deadlock, giving the Bears their seventh victory.

One period of living dangerously, however, was about as much as

they wanted.

Saturday the Bears again started slowly. This, coupled with Saskatchewan's close-checking style of play, kept the game close. It was 1-1 after one period and the Bears led 3-1 after two.

Parie Proft, Dave Souch and Jack Patrick staked the Bears to their early, yet modest lead.

The Huskies drew closer on a Bob Pugh goal in the first two minutes of the last frame, but that was short lived as the Bears then scored on their next three consecutive shots. Forwards Koebel, Rick Swan and Craig Dill were the marksmen. Defenseman Tim Krug rounded out the Bears scoring with a goal at 19:03 of the period.

After Friday's game, Bears' head coach Clare Drake admitted that his club may have been 'a bit nervous' because of the television cameras.

When asked if he was concerned that his club started out relatively slowly in Friday's game Drake said, "You always worry about that to some degree. It's a good sign, though, when you're able to come back like we did."

An 8-2 record now puts the Bears in the penthouse of the Canada West Conference. Their nearest rival, UBC, is now a full six points

back. The Huskies fall to 4-4, eight points behind the Bears.

Although Drake would admit that his team didn't play at the top of their game, he noted that the wins were quite important because they came at a crucial point in the season.

"It was a big, big victory," said Drake. "It took a pretty consistent effort by us to beat them. We weren't great, but we played steadily enough to win."

"We don't play them (Huskies) again until February. So, by beating them now, it puts us in a good position going into UBC next weekend."

"It's nice to get these tough series over early, though," added Drake. And if the Bears can weather the stormy onslaught so characteristic of the UBC offense, the rest of their season should be a little calmer.

**From the Den:** Yesterday, Bears' goaltender Ken Hodge was named Canada West Player of the Week; he made 52 saves this weekend, lowering his conference leading goals against average to 2.57; it's the third consecutive time that an Alberta player has been chosen for the weekly award...Varsity Arena and the Bears both underwent a mini-beautification in preparation for the T.V. broadcast; the players

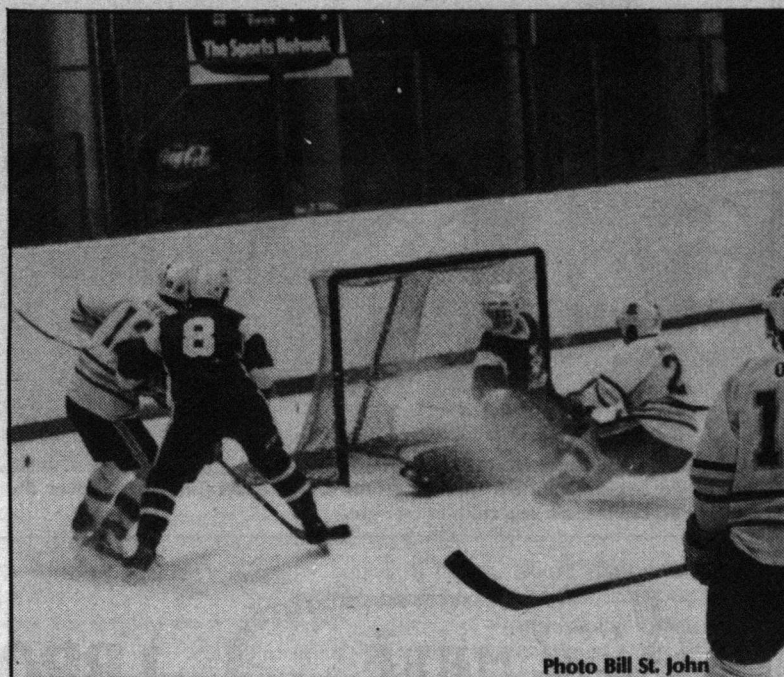
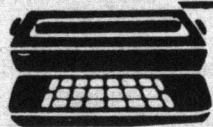


Photo Bill St. John

Where's the puck? wonders the Huskies goalie, who let in 10 Bears goals during the weekend series.

had name bars placed on their jerseys, the boards were given a fresh coat of white paint, and championship banners were hung from the pressbox; the banners, though, won't stay permanently for fear they'll be stolen again...In other CWUAA games this weekend, Cal-

gary and UBC split their series in Calgary; UBC took the first game 6-5, but dropped the second 5-4...next week, in addition to the Bears at UBC, Calgary is at Lethbridge; Calgary's record stands at 4-5 while Lethbridge is 0-7.



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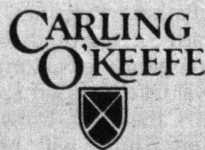
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