



Bob Anderson ... one man's opinion

VANCOUVER — Bear coach Brian McDonald probably summed it up best following his club's 4-1 setback at the hands of UBC Thunderbirds here Saturday night.

Said the rookie mentor: "There are only four or five players on this club who really give a darn about what happens this year. The rest of them are just going through the motions out there."

Harsh words, perhaps, but true.

What McDonald didn't go on to say in the post mortem, although it was obvious that he was thinking about it, was that the club's mental attitude wasn't what it should be.

UBC has only an average hockey club talent-wise, but coach Bob Hindmarch squeezes everything he can out of his players, who play the game with more hustle and drive than this writer has seen in recent seasons.

It was apparent two weeks ago in Edmonton when the T'Birds whipped the Bears 10-4 that the coast club just wanted to win more than did the Bruins.

The Bruins gave it a good effort for about half of Saturday's contest, but failed to realize that hockey is a 60-minute game made up of three 20-minute periods. The club was impressive in the opening minutes of each period, and in fact in one two-minute stretch in the middle frame, fired nine shots at Rick Bardal in the Thunderbird cage.

However, once the period neared the midway mark, the Albertans stopped skating and let the T'Birds come to them. It was a costly decision.

The Bears have now lost two regular season WCIHL contests and both have been to the pesky Thunderbirds. What really hurts is that UBC has been bounced around by every other club who is in contention for one of the four playoff berths.

Another sidelight of the contest was that the UBC'ers won the Hamber Cup, an annual competition between the two clubs based on total goals in the two games. Bears had won the trophy in 15 of the 17 previous years.

However, thanks to the heroic feats of Brandon Bobcats, Bears still find themselves in contention for top spot, as the key games are yet to come. Brandon knocked off Manitoba Bisons 6-5 on Friday, thus leaving the Herd with a 7-2 record and a tie with the Bears. Calgary is 8-1 at this stage and looks like a good bet to finish on top.

Bisons and Bears meet each other twice in the next two weeks, while the Dinosaurs, whom Bears edged 4-3 in December tangle with the Albertans Feb. 14 in Calgary.

Although first place isn't important as in past years when the top club walked away with all the marbles, it could be a factor once playoff time rolls along.

The exact format hasn't yet been revealed by the WCIHL, although it will likely match first place against third place and second against the fourth place finishers. The team finishing highest will play the best of three series on home ice, with games on Friday, Saturday and Monday, if necessary. Thus the need to finish as high as possible.

About the only interesting sidelight of the weekend as far as the Bears were concerned was the plight of the hapless Victoria Vikings. As if there weren't enough problems on the club already, what with several bad beatings, coach Joe Iannerelli boomed when filling out his half of the game sheet.

As a result, Terry Yalowega was left off and the goal which had given the Vikings a 1-0 lead was automatically wiped out, and Yalowega was out for the rest of the game.

Fortunately, things haven't gotten quite that bad for the Bears.

Team raises puck and roof!!

It may not have been the most stylish match in recent seasons but it was termed by several experts as "the most rigorous." DKE "E" hosted the Delta Sigma Phi squad last Thursday before a crowd of nearly 200,000 fans in men's intramural action.

Deke captain Morrey Ferries was a standout during the pre-game warmup as his curved blade put numerous raises against the boards with unbelievable accuracy.

In the first two periods of action, penalties hurt DKE and the Delta Sigs took advantage of the opportunity to acquire a narrow 11 goal lead. The Deke machine held them in the third to a mere five goals. Statistics favored the Deke goaltender who got to play with 65 shots

while the Phi's netminder was only given four or five to handle. Poor refereeing resulted in 16 Delta Sigma goals even though most of these were scored by raising the puck—a feat outlawed by the recent Spruce Grove Convention.

Final score—Delta Sigma Phi 16, DKE 0.

It was later revealed, however, that the Phis had stacked their team with ineligible players and consequently the Dekes came out as victors.

Final score—Delta Sigma Phi 0, DKE 16.

"We knew there was something fishy when we saw two of their boys take slapshots without falling," commented the Deke coach exclusively for The Gateway.

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