

Newcomers help to pluck T'birds

by Shaune Impey

Bears' hockey coach Clare Drake decided the best thing to do was throw them in the fire and see if they got burned.

As is usual, his shrewd reckoning paid off and the rookie cast in the defensive ranks of the Golden Bears came through with stellar performances.

Led by rookie goaltenders Terry Clark and Denis Potvin, with the able assistance of first year defencemen Wade Campbell, Curtis Jans and Tim Krug, the Bears swept a pair of games last weekend from the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds.

Friday night the Bears recovered from a shaky start and an early 1-0 deficit to crush the T'birds 7-2. On Saturday sophomore Joel Elliott set up four Bear goals ... including three by all-Canadian leftwinger Chris Helland ... to lead the U of A crew to a 6-3 victory.

In Friday's season premiere for both squads, the Bears made a lot of "nervous mistakes" in the first period according to Drake. "But when we got that goal after they hit the post it loosened us up", said Drake.

That goal, by Helland, came just 18 seconds into the second period and got the Bears rolling. With Alberta leading 2-1 on markers by Rob Daum and Jim Lomas, UBC defenceman Drew Hunt rattled a low screen shot off the post behind Clark. Breaking out quickly, Lomas got the puck to Helland who beat former Olympian Ron Paterson with a 35 foot slapshot from the top of the circle.

Paterson - who looked very ordinary in the UBC net - was beaten three more times before the middle frame ended. Goals from Campbell and Brad Schneider, both on delayed

penalties to UBC and 23 seconds apart, and by Greg Skoreyko gave the Bears a 6-1 margin going home.

Krug and Jim Allison traded goals in the third period to round out the scoring.

Bears had the edge in shots, 32-29, and penalties, six to four, over UBC.

Elliott, Helland and Lomas provided most of the fire power and Potvin kicked out 28 UBC drives in Saturday's contest.

Lomas fed Campbell from behind the net for a short-handed goal early in the first period. 1979-80 Canada West rookie-of-the-year Bill Holowaty replied for UBC and nearly made it 2-1 only to be robbed on a break-away by a great stick check by Potvin.

Helland converted a centering pass by Elliott at 3:20 of the second period to give the Bears a 2-1 lead. After point blank saves on UBC scoring aces Jim McLaughlin and Rob Jones by Potvin, Danny Peacocke pumped home a 20 foot slap shot, while the Bears were enjoying a man advantage, to give them a two goal margin.

McLaughlin connected for his first goal of the season with just 23 seconds left in the period to pull the T'birds within one.

Goals 61 seconds apart in the final period salted away the win. Elliott found Helland on Paterson's doorstep once again, while on the next shift Ace Brimacombe dribbled a rebound under Paterson from the edge of the crease at the 4:07 mark.

A pair of gift goals, by Allison after Krug handed him the puck in the Bears' end, and by Helland into an empty net closed out the scoring statistics.

The Bears took 27 minutes in penalties to the T'birds 39 and outshot them 37-31.



photo Tom Freeland

One of many

Rookie goaltenders Denis Potvin(above), and Terry Clark both made numerous good saves to spark the Bears to a pair of wins over UBC.

This weekend the Bears travel to Vancouver for a rematch between the two teams.

BEAR FACTS

Rookie defenceman Curtis Jans was the only rearguard not to score a goal. He preferred boxing's ten point system as he humiliated UBC forward Hugh Cameron in a scrap the T'bird

player initiated in the third period Saturday.

Chris Helland had the game winning goal in both contests. He led the league in that department last year with four.

Second year man Rob Daum picked up his first ever penalties as a Golden Bear on Saturday. He got 17 minutes for punching out

Rob Trenaman. He objected to being cross-checked by the UBC player while down on the ice.

In other Canada West action Calgary won both ends of a double-header against Saskatchewan. It was 6-3 on Friday (in overtime) and 6-4 Saturday. The games were played in Cowtown.

The gang that couldn't shoot straight

The Bears kept going to the well and coming up with dry buckets ... or rather no buckets.

Playing in the championship game of their own Klondike Classic, against the Montana Tech Orediggers, the Bears aim under the opposition basket was so poor that several players, including

veteran forwards Tom Groat and Terry Ayers, might have had trouble hitting the floor after jumping off a chair.

Conversely, the Montana squad capitalized when they had the chances to take a 81-63 victory.

Leading the attack for the Americans was 6'6" center Doyle

Beneby. He popped home 30 points to go along with 18 from tournament all-star guard Eddie Williams. Tournament MVP Stanley Fogg quarterbacked the Orediggers' offense and played ferocious defence, causing several Bear turnovers.

Bears' rookie Greg Dell was

the top scorer with 14 points while Ken Haak hit for 13.

Alberta made the final by trouncing Regina 99-80. Jeff Gourley and Dell each scored 20 points. Gourley's effort got him the nod for the other all-star guard position.

Montana had nipped

Lakehead 88-87 to earn their berth. It was a lucky win as the team from Thunder Bay missed a lay-up in the last five seconds.

In the consolation final Lakehead had an easy time with Regina, winning 99-72.

Lakehead's Karl Subban and John Zanatta joined Glen Nelson of Regina on the all-star team.

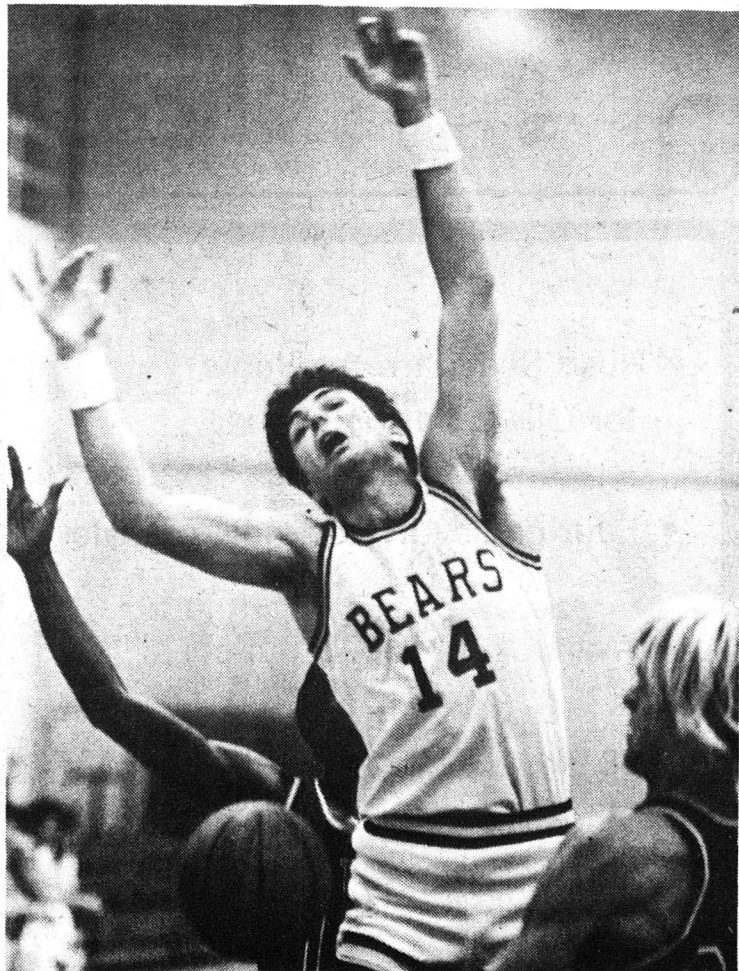


photo Tom Freeland

Jeff Gourley(14) was the lone Bear all-star.

Pandas come up short

Just four points was all the difference between first and last.

The Pandas lost two games by that total, before coming back to defeat the Calgary Dinosaurs 67-60 in the final contest of the early season tournament they hosted this past weekend at Varsity Gym.

On Friday evening they dropped their opener 57-54 to Saskatchewan while Saturday afternoon saw them lose a 75-74 overtime contest to Simon Fraser.

Debbie Shogan, Pandas' coach, said the tourney was set up so that the top two teams would meet in the last game to decide top spot. Unfortunately that plan backfired as the Dinnies had first place sewn up with a pair of victories in their first two games.

While they lost the war, winning the battle was satisfying for the Pandas. Calgary is one of the teams they must beat this year in Canada West.

All four teams were represented on the all-star team. The Pandas had Trix Kannekens (65 points in three games) and Sarah Van Tighem (54 points) on the squad with Saskatchewan's Sheila Brennan, all Canadian Janis Paskevich of Calgary and Tracy

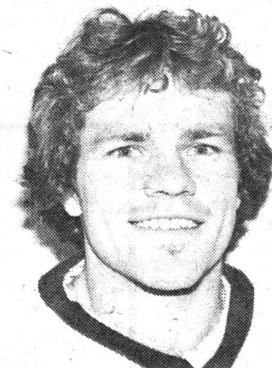
Huclack from Simon Fraser.

Eileen Galuska from SFU was the tournament MVP.

This weekend the Pandas

host Victoria in their season opener. Games go Friday and Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. in Varsity Gym.

Athlete of the Week



CHRIS HELLAND

CHRIS HELLAND led the Hockey Bears offensively on the weekend with 4 goals in two games, including a hat-trick Saturday (Alberta won both games against UBC, 7-2 and 6-3). In his fifth and final year of hockey eligibility, Chris has been an All-Canadian forward the past two seasons. The next home games for the Bears are scheduled for Nov. 21, 22 vs. Saskatchewan.

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