

Hockey Bears "tune up" at expense of Huskies

by Cam Cole

Everyone called the Saskatchewan-Alberta series last weekend a couple of "nothing" games, but at least 10 participants would disagree.

Like Bears' John Horcoff and Huskies' Rick Jackson, who were battling for the league scoring pennant; and like the six draftable players who performed under the scrutiny of scouts from the NHL clubs; and Clare Drake would definitely disagree - he would tell you how important it was that Bears

started to play well again before playoffs begin this weekend.

UBC Thunderbirds established themselves as the official opposition Friday, downing Calgary 8-3 despite being outshot 58-28 by the Dinosaurs. BC goalie Dave Andrews blocked 27 shots in the first period alone, and a six-goal outburst in the second period was too much for the Dinos. Calgary came back with a meaningless 3-2 decision Saturday before hanging up the blades for the year.

In Saskatchewan Friday, Bears blew a 3-1 lead in the last minute and a half of regulation time, and squeaked out a 4-3 overtime verdict on John Horcoff's marker at 8:38 of overtime.

Kevan Migneault in the Saskatchewan net stopped 34 of Alberta's best, in the first half of the contest, but Oliver Steward broke the string, tipping in Jim Ofrim's pass, and Bryan Sosnowski put Bears ahead 2-0 just before the second period ended.

Saskatchewan got back into it on a gift goal by Guy Spencer, but Bruce Crawford quickly replied for Alberta, moving in untouched from the side of the goal and beating Migneault on the short side.

Then came one of those strange happenings which seem to only take place in the cold, dark confines of Rutherford Arena. The referee, known to fans (none too affectionately) as Pieface, took at least five minutes to make a decision on a non-goal which obviously went in through a hole (the size of a small grapefruit) in the side of the net. He finally ruled against the goal, and then promptly faced the puck off to the right of

the Alberta goal, instead of outside the blueline, where it should have been because.....

Anyway, Rick Jackson and John Rooney tallied late to send the game into overtime, but a rebound that hit Horcoff's leg and trickled into the net sealed Bears' 4-3 win.

Saturday, Alberta was flying like they haven't flown for a long while, and bombarded the miserable Huskies with 59 shots en route to a 9-3 victory.

Kevan Migneault, in his last appearance as a Husky, was the victim once more, as the Saskatchewan squad proved to all doubters that they really are as bad as their record (4 wins - 20 losses) indicates.

Migneault spent the better part of the 60 minutes looking around in vain for some help in front of the net, as he had done Friday, when Bears fired a mere 51 shots at him, in what qualified as an average night for Saskatchewan goaltenders this year.

The game was never really within reach for the Huskies after 20 minutes, as Steve McKnight, Kevin Primeau, Clark Jantzie, and Rick Peterson (with one second left) put Alberta up by 4-0.

Peterson scored twice and so did linemate Primeau, while their centerman Bruce Crawford collected four assists. Other Alberta scorers were Brian Middleton, Horcoff, and Craig Styles. Gary Slucinski, Doug Folk, and John Rooney scored for Saskatchewan.

Referee Jules Swick was at least as popular (and almost half as efficient) as his predecessor, and anyone who says Saskatchewan officiating is the worst in the world will get no argument from this reporter.

In Calgary, UBC's Sean Boyd made a charge for the scoring crown with a 3-point performance Friday, and possibly a single point on Saturday. If those statistics are correct (they are, as yet, unofficial) Boyd and Horcoff would share top honors with 28 points each. Official notice should be out by the time this issue is on the stands.

Tickets are on sale now for the Alberta-UBC playoff series at Varsity Arena Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Tickets are \$2.00 for adults, and \$1.00 for students and children. All seats are unreserved, so the earlier you get there, the better seats will be available.

V'Ball Bears win the West

The old cliché, "a great team effort" is the only way to describe the Golden Bear Volleyballers' winning performance at the Canada West final tournament in Calgary last weekend. Every player who dressed had a hand in bringing the Costa Chrysanthou Memorial Trophy to the U of A campus, and in allowing plans to go full steam ahead for Bears' trip to Quebec City and the CIAU National Championships in two weeks.

This was the 2nd of two tournaments in the CW circuit - the Bears were in 2nd spot behind UBC Thunderbirds after the first. Alberta needed to place ahead of BC to stay alive, and knew things would be easier if they got some help from Calgary.

In round robin matches on Friday, Bears decimated the Lethbridge Pronghorns in 3 straight games (15-3; 15-8; 15-7), and overwhelmed Calgary as easily (15-8; 15-9; 15-2), setting the stage for the big one against UBC.

Bears needed the full five games to topple the defending Canada West champs. They won the first game 15-10, but dropped the next two 14-16 and 4-15. With their backs to the wall, Green and Gold came back with 2 hard fought 15-6, 16-14 victories.

Hans Zylstra's middle hitting in the 4th and 5th games, combined with the spirited spiking of Doug Herbert and Al McKee's blocking prowess were too much for the Coast squad.

Saturday morning, Bears beat U of Victoria in 3 straight, with excellent setting by Bob Hall, Gane Olsen, and Darrell Nixon, while captain Doug Budd and Ken Flowers blocked and spiked extremely well.

Calgary kept their hopes for the title Saturday afternoon, by defeating UBC, and met the Bears in the tournament final in the evening.

Bears were perhaps 'over-ready' for the Calgary match, and managed a shaky 15-12 win before dropping the next two, 17-19 and 9-15.

But they settled down and got tough both mentally and physically, and took a 16-14 thriller from the Dinos, after a clutch Olsen-to-Herbert smash rescued Alberta from a 14-13 deficit at one point.

In the fifth and deciding game, Jerry Budziak, "Mr. Reliable", played his steady game and McKee was fierce at the net. Bears' "Super Sub" Bob Matwichuk came off the bench and made some key spikes, while Budd and Nixon were equally impressive in a blocking role. Bears battled to a 15-11 win and the western crown.

The name of the game in volleyball is teamwork, and Bears excel as a team. They should be ready to 'do a job' for Western Canada in Quebec.

Bears, Pandas win CW swim titles

by Mike Morrow

The Golden Bear and Panda swimming teams won both team titles in the CWUAA championships held at the University of Alberta, Feb. 13th-15th. Women's team scores were Pandas 151, Calgary 110, UBC 107, while the Bears triumphed with 205 points, to UBC's 122 and Calgary's 93.

The outstanding performer of the meet was Diane King of the Pandas, who set three individual records in the 100 breaststroke, 200 breaststroke and 200 butterfly, as well as swimming on two record-breaking relays. Almost

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