

The basketball Bears are back from their U.S. tour. p. 12

Sports

Pandas get hooped by Dinnies in Lacombe. p. 14



Dean Bennett

Not really a good sports town

When talking about sports in Edmonton, it's important to separate the long-standing myth from the reality. The myth is that Edmonton is a good sports town. The reality is Edmonton is a town with a massive inferiority complex that manifests itself at its sporting events.

In the years B.O. (Before Oilers), Edmonton was a good sports town, supporting junior hockey and attending Eskimo games en masse. Unfortunately, the advent of big time hockey has changed all that.

The Oilers killed junior hockey in this town. Why go see the Oil Kings when you could see, first, Bobby Hull and the Winnipeg Jets and, later, the Montreal Canadiens. Edmontonians realized Oiler games were the place to be. Even though the Eskimos play a different sport altogether, the Oilers affected their ticket sales. After watching the Oilers play the Islanders or the Habs, the Eks and the Argos seemed, by comparison, pretty small time.

In the eighties, the Oilers upped the ante by winning a couple of Stanley Cups. It's one thing to compete with the champion; it's another to beat them.

After the Oilers dethroned a dynasty and were proclaimed kings of hockey on the continent, it was that much harder for the fans to take the CFL seriously.

Once you've won the Stanley Cup, it's hard to get up for the Grey Cup.

Last Sunday's woeful attendance at Commonwealth nicely sums up the currently diminished love affair between the Edmonton fans and the CFL.

CFL isn't big time enough. And fans are virtually non-existent at junior or university football games here.

The same goes for hockey. This town can't support a junior team and Bears' hockey games, packed in the seventies, draw only a few hundred spectators now.

Edmonton fans first experienced life in the real "big leagues" and now have experienced success in the "big leagues."

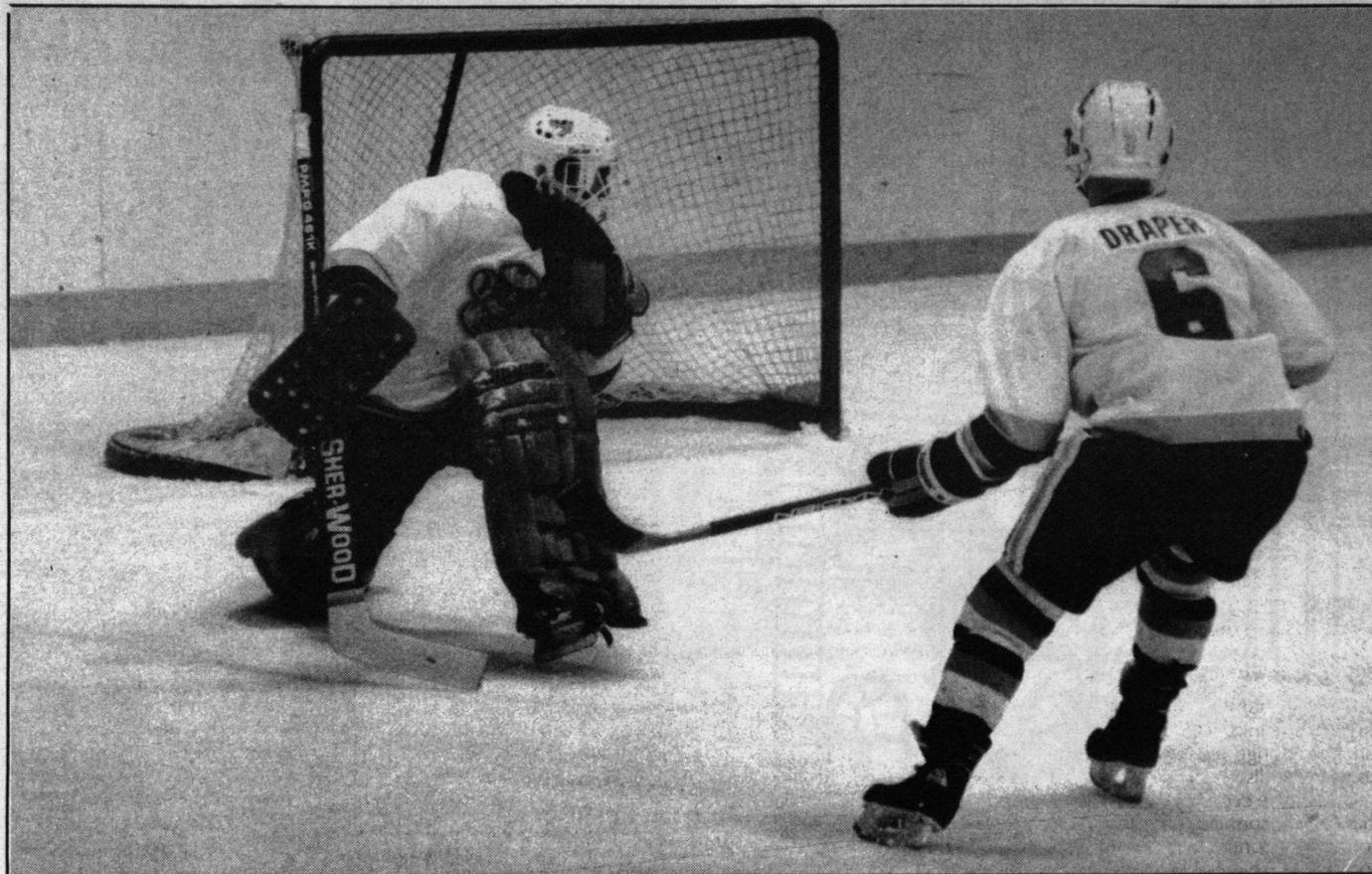
Now, nothing else will do. Even the Oilers are feeling the effects of their success. More and more empty seats can be found at home games. To an extent, the fans now grow tired of winning consistently in the big time.

It is an inferiority complex that comprises a portion of Edmonton's love affair with the Oilers. If it was true love of sport, other teams in this town would get better attendance than they do now.

It's a common perception that the Oilers represent the one area where we can compete in stature with other North American cities.

That's kind of a silly way to try and prove one's "worth", but what else can you say about a town that promotes a shopping mall as its major tourist attraction?

Slumping Bears swept again



John Krill looks behind him after an overtime goal evades him. Bears defenseman Howie Draper looks on.

photo Rob Schmidt

by Mark Spector

What a disaster!

While the chinook winds were blowing outside Friday night in Calgary the Golden Bears were doing some blowing of their own inside the Olympic-sized Father Bauer Arena, namely a 3-1 second period lead. The Dinos capitalized on some sloppy defensive play for three goals in 67 seconds (two of them by Todd Savoye just eight seconds apart), then held the Bears scoreless in the third en route to a 6-5 thriller victory in the opening end of this home-and-home series.

Then the next night in Edmonton, the Bears seemed bent on topping their previous night's performance, as they squandered a 5-2 lead allowing the Dinos to outscore them 7-1 over the last 30 minutes of the 9-6 overtime contest.

The ultimate difference in this game, however, was goaltending.

"We've been losing the close games for a while now," lamented Bears Craig Dill (1G, 2A's Friday, 2G's 3A's Saturday). "It's been four games now; it's (losing) starting to get frustrating."

Coupled with two one-goal losses in Brandon last week, that's four straight defeats and a mediocre record of 5-5 for the Golden Bears.

But really, it's remarkable just how close Alberta was to pulling off a sweep of their own this weekend.

With the goaltender pulled and only 40 seconds remaining to play Friday, Curtis Brandolini took a magical feed from Denis Leclair right in the slot and had goaltender Jamie Bowman perfectly out of position to send the game into overtime.

Dingngng.

"The post got right in the way, didn't it," joked a not so jovial Brandolini after the loss.

"They really had the pressure on in our zone at the end," admitted Bowman. "We had a few guys caught high and it was a perfect pass right on his stick in front of the net."

"It's just one of those things, I

guess. I've got full respect for those forwards of theirs."

Defenseman Parie Proft had an outstanding game for the Bears, potting a pair of both goals and assists in a game that Calgary gave Alberta every chance to win.

"It's a 60 minute game," said Brandolini, "that's why they made it that long. We had (one big) defensive lapse, and they capitalized on it."

And so they all headed north to Varsity Arena, and the men in the Green and Gold spoke words of revenge, and played that way too... for forty minutes.

The line of Dave Otto, Jack Patrick, and Dill led the way for Alberta with three goals in the first two frames. But then the trio that had established themselves as the Golden Bears best checking outfit (and recently their most potent offensive force), let the success get to their heads. And the short-staffed Bears defense couldn't pick up the slack.

But they weren't alone in their ineptness in the defensive zone. The entire team was lackadaisical, as Calgary's Mark Fioretti (1G, 2A's) tallied just 23 seconds into the final frame to begin the onslaught. Finally, Dennis Cranston's clearing pass went directly to defenseman Scott Hillier whose weak slapper from the point slipped between the pads of John Krill to complete the comeback and hoist the Dinos into the lead with just 4:30 to play.

It took a miraculous goal by Dill to send the game into overtime.

Heading for the net full speed with the Alberta net empty, the 5'9" Dill leaped in the air (to avoid a high sticking whistle) to somehow deflect a Stacey Wakabayashi centering pass which was three feet in the air.

Goalie Trousdell was left to marvel at the play which sent them into overtime on a highly dramatic note.

But ironically, it was Trousdell who was the star of the extra ten minutes as he stoned Alberta on 12 shots, several on a Bears powerplay, while at the other end Krill suffered through his worst ten

minutes of the year.

"I lost my cool," admitted the big sophomore goalie. "The last half of the game I got a little emotional... I was unable to stay cool. That's one thing that I'll have to develop."

After the Bears fruitlessly peppered Trousdell for the first five minutes, defenseman Brent Meckling led an unorganized three-on-two to the Bears line.

His low slapper from right on the blueline evaded Krill to the glove side. Then 2:40 later Barry Bracko's sharp angle slapper also found mesh behind Krill to put Alberta out of their misery. Doug Quinn rounded out the scoring into an empty net.

Patrick, Brandolini, Otto, and Dennis Cranston also scored for

the Bears, who outshot Calgary 12-6 in the overtime period but were outscored 3-0.

Ouch.

Bear Facts — Alberta held Calgary's top scoring line of Paul Geddes, Scott Robinson, and Terry Jones off the scoresheet Friday... the Golden Bears outshot the Dinos both nights, 35-33 and 45-32... that equates to 15 goals, 65 shots for

Krill, who went into the weekend with a GAA of 4.87... the Alberta powerplay went a collective 5/10, while Calgary's was 2/10... Alberta lost six in a row last season, losing a pair to Calgary, then Faceoff '86 to NAIT, a pair in Regina, and an exhibition against the Olympic team... after four starts, Clare Drake is still looking for win number 601.

Wrestling Bears earn place sixth

by Carolyn Aney

November 8 saw the Bears wrestling team travel to Calgary for a tournament that included a rematch against the Japanese wrestling club from Hokkaido. As well, there was competition from U of Calgary, U of Eastern Washington, U of Montana, and the Salisbury wrestling club from Sherwood Park.

The Bears placed sixth overall.

The only win of the tournament came from CIAU champion Phil Spate, who wrestles for the U of A club. He won the 62 kg. weight class beating an opponent from Japan and an All-American from Montana. Other placings were turned in by Wade Spelrum (club) who placed 4th in the 48 kg.; Brent Murray (team) placed 4th in the 62 kg.; Sean Holmstrom (club) placed 2nd to the U.S. Pacific Coast champion in the 65 kg.; Greg Browning and Andy Holmes, who both wrestle for the U of A team in the 68 kg.,

placed 5th and 6th respectively. In the 82 kg. Erik Soderstrom (team) placed 4th. Finally John McMullen, the team captain, placed 2nd in the heavyweight division.

Head coach Mike Payette was pleased with the team's performance at the meet. The areas that the team had been working on developed nicely. And new goals have been identified for upcoming workouts.

"Right now we are working on building the team, and success isn't all that important yet. Our goal is to be very successful at the end of the season when it counts."

Next action for the wrestlers is on Nov. 21 in the pavilion at 7:30, a dual meet against Calgary. Following that is the Salisbury Open in Sherwood Park on the 22nd. There the team will see competition from U of C, U of Regina and U of Saskatchewan.