

# Bears fall from unbeaten ranks

by Bernard Poitras

They came, they saw, they conquered. It was almost that simple as the U of Saskatchewan Huskies invaded Varsity Arena Friday and Saturday night and promptly stole four points from the Golden Bears with 4-2 (OT) and 2-1 victories, respectively. For the Bears it was their first two losses of the regular season and left them with a 4-2 record while the Huskies remained atop their division with a 6-0 mark.

Opportunistic was the only word to describe the Huskies in the first game while frustrating fit quite nicely for the night the Bears

went through. While pumping 14 first period shots at the Huskies' net, the Bears drew blanks on every one of them as Huskies' goalie Bob Dougall practically stood on his ear to preserve a 1-0 lead.

The only marker of the first period came as Huskies' forward Arden Knowle converted a slot pass from teammate Bruce Keller and deposited it past a sprawled Ken Hodge. The goal, a powerplay effort, came only fifteen seconds after the Bears' Dave Souch was sent to the sin bin for an interference call. Relentless forechecking and quick breakouts out of their own zone finally paid

off for the Bears as they scored twice in the second frame to take a 2-1 lead.

First, the Bears' crafty center Rick Swan completed a picturesque passing play as he scored his second tally of the campaign, 26 seconds into the period. The goal came as a result of some hard work along the boards by Dan Peacocke and a perfect behind the net pass from Gerald Koebel to set up and give Swan the tying goal.

Then, six minutes later, the Bears netted another goal as left-winger John Reid scored his third of the season on a low and hard drive from the right slot that easily beat Huskies' goalie Bob Dougall. That marker however, was the last goal Dougall was to give up as he decided he did not want to see another red light flickering behind him and shutout the Bears the rest of the game. His brilliant play throughout the 3 hour game also earned him the second star of the game.

The Bears looked to be in control with their slim 2-1 lead, until the seventh minute of the final frame when they were caught napping behind their blueline and gave up a shorthanded goal. Huskies' forward Denis Fenske

scored on a rising shot and sent the match into the first overtime game of the regular season. The ten-minute continuous playing overtime session saw the Huskies' Bruce Keller scoring twice (last one, an empty netter) to win the game and move the Huskies two points ahead of the Bears.

Saturday's game proved to be much the same type of defensive play but, unfortunately for the Bears, it also proved frustrating. Once again they fell behind early in the going, 1-0 as Huskies' defenceman Gord Tait cashed in on a breakaway ten minutes into the game. Center Breen Neeser countered for the Bears in the second period as they took a Joey Engert pass and skated in alone for his fourth goal of the year. Neither team mounted any serious threats to break the game wide open as the Bears were turned away virtually every time they were on Saskatchewan's doorstep. The Huskies seemed to take chances only when the opportunity presented itself and also seemed content to stay pat with the 1-1 score. Opportunity did knock for the Huskies and they answered in the second period with a last minute goal by Bruce Keller. The

goalies took over in the third period shutting out both teams and sending the Bears to their second defeat. Both games were a departure from the norm for the Bears offense as, coming into the series, they had averaged 5.25 goals a game compared to the 2.5 average they scored this weekend. The main cause for this sudden decrease was the fact that the Huskies always jammed the front of their net with two and sometimes three players. This made it impossible for the Bears to get any half-decent shots from the slot instead of from the side or from the point.

Honorable mention goes to goalie Ken Hodge as, although he only faced 40 shots in the two games, many of those shots were of the difficult variety (ie: breakaways). His goals against average slipped from a league-leading 1.33 GAA to a, still respectable, 1.8 GAA.

#### FROM THE DEN:

Some good sized crowds turned out for the games as 557 took in the first match and 545 took in the second. **Breen Neeser** and **Rick Swan** each have seven points to lead the Bears in scoring.

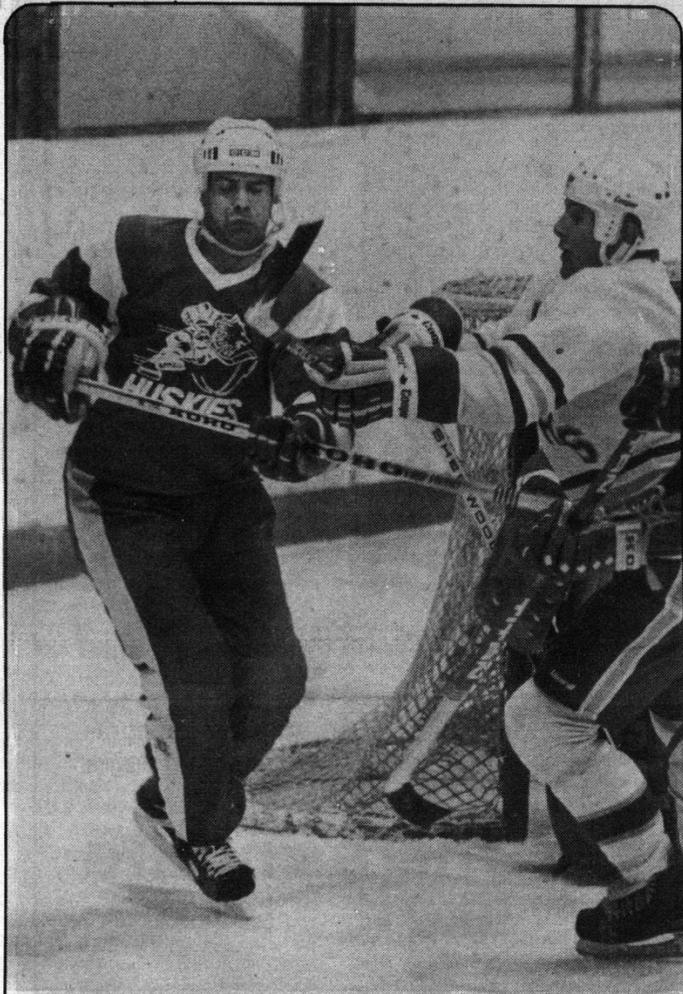


photo Bill Inglee

The Hockey Bears did everything but stop the Saskatchewan Huskies, who hold a commanding lead on Canada West.

## THE TV SPORTS QUIZ

1. THE "BLITZ" REFERS TO:

- an all-out rush on the quarterback
- something you do the night before an exam
- something you order at the deli

2. THE LINEBACKERS ARE:

- the football players positioned behind the defensive line
- the guys who substantiate your story to your girlfriend
- the people waiting to get into a "Star Wars" sequel

3. THE YANKEES ARE:

- a team in the American League
- a tug-of-war team
- little tiny yellow handkerchiefs



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