

Bears finish first half of year with another sweep

Friday
Bears 4 Bobcats 2
Saturday
Bears 7 Bobcats 3
by Tim Enger

CLANK!
 If you heard this sound over the weekend at Varsity Arena and wondered what it was, it was only Brandon Bobcats goalie Jay Palmer whacking the butt end of his goal stick against his right goal post. It meant that the Bears were mounting another offensive attack.

Partly a way for him to get his bearings, partly superstition, but mostly annoying, it seemed to help as he held his team close in a 4-2 loss Friday night. And he was keeping his team in the game halfway through Saturday night's contest with the score tied at two a piece.

Then the roof fell in. With 10:59 remaining in the second period, Alberta right-winger Sean Clouston flipped a harmless wrist shot from the top of the circle towards Palmer who mishandled it and watched as it dribbled into the net behind him.

Six minutes later Bears center Jeff Helland was allowed to walk out from behind the net and score from a difficult angle.

The Bears were to score again before the period ended (Eric Thurston set up by a nice pass from Howie Draper) leaving the score at 5-2. This earned Palmer the hook, and ruined what had been a fine effort over the weekend.

In the third period of Friday's game and the first period of Saturday's game he had made several acrobatic saves that kept his team in games that could have been 10-2 and 13-3 blowouts. Dwayne Pathcett finished Saturday night's game

for the Bobcats giving up two goals. Friday night's game was marred by the loss of sophomore winger Stacey Wakabayashi.

Seconds after the horn sounded to end the first period Brandon's Bernie Matine cross checked Wakabayashi into the boards head first. While he lay still on the ice both teams emptied onto the ice for a bench-clearing brawl, a very rare occurrence in intercollegiate hockey. Meanwhile Wakabayashi was taken off the ice under his own power, but the brawl went on until Alberta coach Clare Drake came onto the ice and removed his players.

All seemed well when Wakabayashi skated out to start the second period, but just as play resumed he was sent crashing into the boards again. This time damage was done to his knee ligaments which will keep him out of action for six to eight weeks.

At the time the score was 2-0 Bears on goals from Al Tarasuk and Curtis Brandolini. After Wakabayashi was taken from the ice the Bears seemed to go to sleep, giving up a shorthanded goal to Brandon's Rick Lindquist at the 0:53 second mark, and blowing a five on three advantage for three and a half minutes. Luckily for the Bears, when Brandon was back at full strength they seemed to go to sleep as well, along with the fans.

It was one of those games which reminds you of old World Hockey Association Oiler games where the most interesting part of the contest was when the CFRN Funky Chicken rolled down the cement stairs.

The Bears were finally brought back to life with 6:07 remaining in the second period on a nice wrist

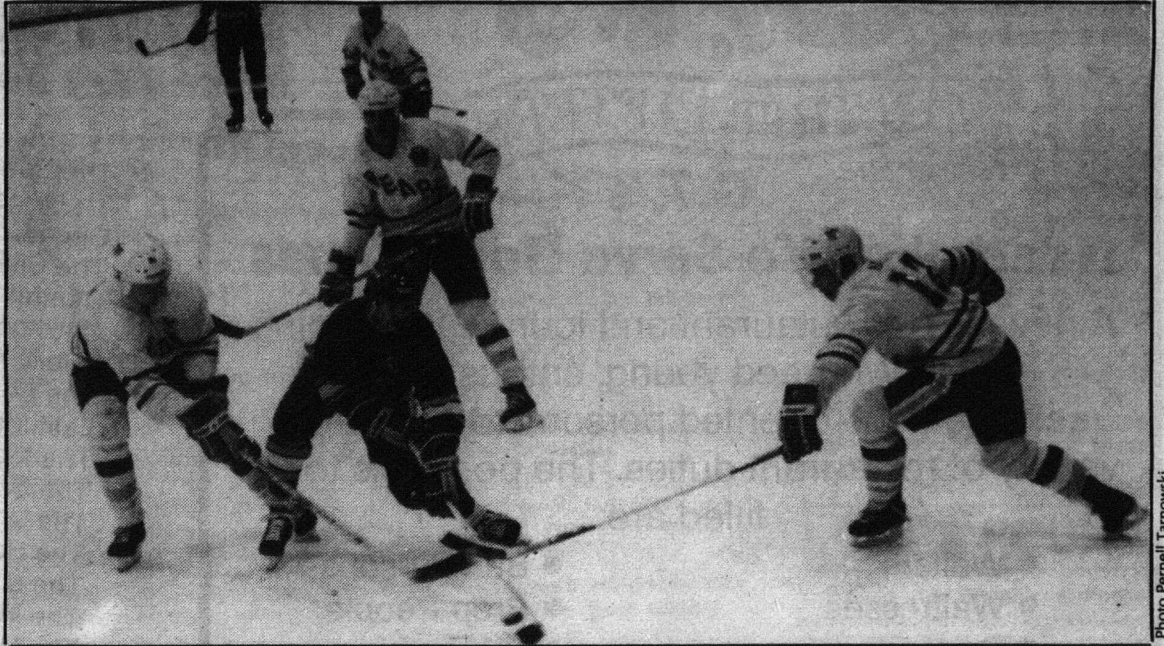


Photo: Pennell Tarnowski

This was the story of the weekend for Brandon as the Alberta defense didn't give Brandon's snipers room to operate.

shot by Craig Dill set up by Al Tarasuk. The Bobcats closed the gap with 4:53 remaining when Peter Gerlinger beat Alberta goalie John Krill with a screen shot from the top of the circle. The period ended Bears 4 — Bobcats 2, thanks to an insurance goal by Dennis Cranston from Steve Cousins with 2:51 left.

That is how Friday's game ended for there was no scoring in the third period, only a lot of delays, whistles, and yawning.

Saturday's game was a different story, however. End to end action and several fights and near fights made the game very entertaining.

Brandon opened the scoring at the 12:51 mark of the first period on a slapshot from the point by right winger Jim Mollard. Alberta countered with 2:20 remaining in

the period when Tarasuk beat Palmer on a shot from the point. It was also the first power play goal of the series (Brandons captain Peter Gerlinger was in the box for giving Dennis Cranston the cuisinart treatment with his stick.)

Second period scoring was opened at the 3:11 mark when Bears defenceman Eric Thurston converted a nifty three on two rush with assists from Bret Walter and Jeff Fenton. Brandon tied it up moments later when the league's leading scorer Tim Lenardon beat Alberta goalie Darren Turner from a bad angle.

After that the aforementioned goals turned the game into a rout. Scoring in the third period were Tarasuk and Bill Ansell for the Bears and Lenardon for the Bobcats. Final

Score Bears 7 — Bobcats 3.

Bear Facts: Bill Ansell's third period goal on Saturday night was his 100th point as a Golden Bear. Dave Otto also had his 100th point over the weekend. . . Craig Dill moved into sole possession of third spot in league scoring, one above Brandons Jim Mollard. . . Alberta Goalies Darren Turner and John Krill continue to lead the league in goals against average. . . Left winger Jeff Fenton got two points in Saturday night's game. He also attempted to remove Brandon goalie Jay Palmer and his net from the arena forcefully in the first period. "I've played against him before so I knew that he hacks at players quite a bit," said Fenton, "so when he started hacking at me I was ready for him."

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