

Goodwin, Morrison salvage split

by Todd Saelhof

University of Alberta hockey head coach Bill Moores said it best. "We said it right from the first. This is the toughest the (Canada West) division has been in many years. You have to have a good team to compete."

The truth in Moores' statement lies in the fact of the standing. With his troops having split the weekend series with the University of Manitoba Bisons, the scenario after the first half of the season looks something like this: If the Regina Cougars can manage to eke out an upcoming pair of victories against

the Dinosaurs from Calgary, an Alberta-Calgary-Manitoba second place tie would exist. Regina would claim sole possession of first position in CWUAA standings, a single point up on the three powerhouse teams. One Calgary victory would ensure the Dinos first spot overall, with the Bisons and the Bears deadlocked in second with 18 points. The traditionally tough team of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies will have to make a dogfight of the second fourteen games if they hope to gain admission to the playoff show.

"We're pleased with the team and we're improving," said Moores

of his Golden Bears. "It takes a lot of time, especially when we have a lot first and second year guys."

In fact, if not for one period of undisciplined hockey, the improving Bears might be alone on top of Canada West. The second period of the first match versus the Bisons saw Alberta surrender three goals. The three Bison markers were enough to defeat the Bears 4-2, even with a concentrated attack in the third frame.

"The period that cost us was the second. We were caught standing around and not covering up," Moores said.

Alberta avenged Manitoba in Saturday's game, however, coming away with a 6-2 victory. First year Bear Todd Goodwin posted two goals while Gavin Armstrong recorded his second win of the year.

"We were every bit as physical as Manitoba in the second game, and moreso, in terms of determination and finishing checks. It was a good team effort with everybody contributing," Moores said.

Marty Yewchuk dealt the decisive blow in the victory scoring his second goal of the series before Adam Morrison sealed the contest with a pair of empty net markers. Morrison's eighth goal of Canada West play came as he pushed a

puck off the faceoff length of the ice into the empty net.

Saturday's two points allowed the Bears to end the first fourteen games on a high note and now Alberta can look forward to the second part of the season.

"We felt we have done a number of things well. We have had a lot of shots and opportunities. We just haven't been as determined as we could be," Moores said.

Extra Iceline: Other Golden Bear goals came from team assistant Doug McCarthy and Rob Glasgow... defenseman Ian Herbers now has fifteen assists to go with his one goal... Morrison netted his eighth and ninth goals and now has twenty-five points to lead all Canada West players.



Bear forward Brett Cox crowds the goal area against the University of Regina. The Bears are tied for 1st place in Canada West going into the Christmas break.

Bears eat Huskies raw

Bears 88 Huskies 70

by Mitch Panciuk

The number one ranked men's basketball team in the country continued this year's winning traditions, as they beat the Saskatchewan Huskies for the second time in as many nights.

Consistent with the three other games the teams had played earlier in the season, the Bears took a small nine-point lead into the dressing room at the half, and then came out and held the lead to beat the Huskies down the stretch.

Huskie head coach, and former Golden Bear assistant coach, Steve Roth, felt that Saturday night's

score flattered the Bears. "We don't match up well against them at the guard position, or in height, or even in experience. The game was a lot closer than the score shows."

Roth said that what hurt them most "was Chursinoff and Youngs. We can't match up against them." In fact, Sean Chursinoff continued his one man wrecking-ball performance getting 19 points and providing a threat each and every time he was on the court. Forward Bill Lavergne, suffering from tendonitis in his knee, led the Bears with 20 points in one of his best offensive games of the season.

Fifth-year guard and co-captain David Youngs feels that the fact the

Bears didn't walk all over the Huskies has nothing to do with the fact that they're ranked number one and took the Huskies lightly. He instead attributed it to the Bear defense which has been suspect as of late. "Tonight we had better intensity on defence in the first half, but we lapsed into periods where we lost our checks on the court and allowed easy baskets."

The Bears next see action this Friday and Saturday as long-time rivals the UVIC Vikings sail into town to try and knock the Bears off their number one ranking.

Mitch Panciuk is the FM-88 colorman for broadcasts of Golden Bear basketball.

B-ball Pandas collapse against Huskies

Huskies 62 Pandas 53

by Mitch Panciuk

In a weekend series that they should have swept, the Panda basketball team collapsed defensively in the final seven minutes of Saturday night's game, allowing the Saskatchewan Huskies to pick up their first win of the year.

The Huskies, after coming into Saturday's game with an 0-3 record, were able to rally and pull victory from the jaws of defeat as they outscored the Pandas to combat a 10 point deficit, and ended up leaving with a nine point victory.

When the final buzzer sounded, the Huskie team flooded the court

to celebrate in scenes similar to winning the National Championships. Head coach Irene Wallace credited the excitement of winning the game to the fact that the Huskies had previously "not won a game in the last year and a half," and in fact the victory ended a 32 game losing streak for the Huskie women's program.

On the other end of the court, Panda head coach Dianne Hilko was dejected and despondent following the loss. "I can't understand what went wrong. I called a timeout with seven minutes left and calmly told the girls what to expect. We knew that they were going to press

us, and we knew that we would have to go to the offensive boards. It was like talking to a brick wall," Hilko said.

Unfortunately for Hilko and the Pandas, Saskatchewan continued with their full-court press which they had been in since the start of the game, and forced costly turnovers when the Pandas could not adapt to it. Another factor was that when crunch time came, the Pandas missed some easy shots from inside the key. Hilko feels that university level teams shouldn't miss those types of shots, because "it's those

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