

Cranston cashes in Bison chips

by Randal Smathers
Bears & Bisons 5

The Golden Bears ate up another opponent this weekend. The victims du jour were the Manitoba Bisons, who dropped their second straight game on Saturday night, 8-5.

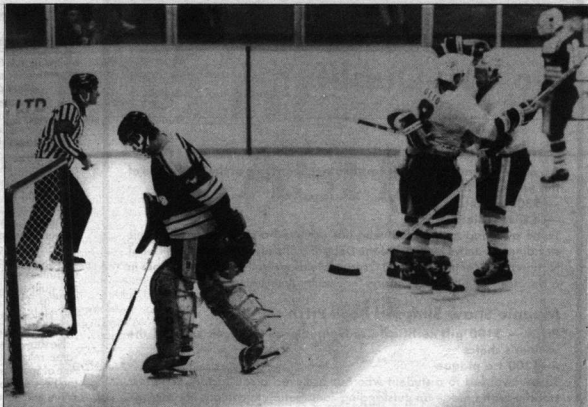
The Bears were again led by Sid Cranston's goal scoring. He had four goals and an assist in both games of the series, and is challenging for the Canada West scoring title.

"The scoring race is on my mind, but the most important thing is getting the win," said Cranston. "Part of my job is scoring to get the wins." He didn't rate his work as particularly artistic on the night: "Two were tip-ins, two I shot in, but I'll take them any way I can get them."

The Bears held period leads of 3-2 and 5-4 in a relatively slow game, with some unusual twists. The first twist was the occasional disappearance of starting goalie John Krill.

Krill said he was getting sick, and that's why he had to leave the game. The surprising part is that he came back twice to play, but he said that he "felt better" each time.

Krill was playing well, when he was playing. He stopped several



Dave Otto (8) and Jeff Helland celebrate a Bear goal as Bison Jason Hodson digs out the puck.

Randal Smathers We O for Cal-gary

This is the Official O-----hater's column. I shall refrain from using the exact terminology for fear that the C----- Word Police will arrest me for copyright infringement. Please bear with me.

Why do I hate the O-----? That's easy — they're a fraud. They were once the performing grounds of amateur athletes, but now they don't even pretend to that. Unless you count the Americans bragging about how the government doesn't pay for any of their O----- programs.

Of course they don't, unless you consider giving massive tax breaks to their corporate sponsors to be paying for the "Games". This is disgustingly similar to the East Bloc calling their Army officers "amateurs", whose military duty just "happens" to include whatever sport they're good at, and gobbling steroids by the handful.

One also has to confront the spectre of jingoism in any O-----. Some may feel the flag-waving and medal-counting adds to the spirit of competition, but I think it just hampers such O----- ideals as sportsmanship, and competing for the glory of the sport.

The winter version of the O----- is also lacking in major sports. Basic skiing, skating, and sliding-down-the-hills-type sports are here, as they should be, but who really cares about the team ski jumping or nordic combined?

Events such as ice dancing belong in the arts festival end of things, not in the list of sporting events. Just because they have piano competitions, should pianism be included in the world of sports? They should turf figure skating from the games — especially because the judges are so hopelessly biased — jingoism again.

To strengthen these "winter wonders" the O----- Organizing Committee should put more sports in the winter version where they belong. It is basketball and volleyball season right now, but are they playing these sports in C-----? No, they'll wait until after the end of the season by a couple of months, and play them in the summer in South Korea, instead.

So instead of the best in amateur sports competition, what do we have? WE have the Nationalistic Professional Drug-Munchers Semi-Seasonal Not-Sports Judging Festival. Oh boy.

The kicker is that we will all be paying for these stupid things until the next time some over-ambitious Canadian mayor decides his city needs a billion dollar flower in its lapel.

Oh Canada, we've spent a batch you see/Oh Canada, we owe for Cal-gary...

I can't wait to see what Decor wants to do for an encore.



goal shots, and only allowed two goals in about 50 minutes of action.

The Bears other regular starter, Darren Turner, had some problems in the unfamiliar role of coming off the bench, allowing two goals in four minutes of work in the first period. He allowed a powerplay

goal in a second four minute stretch in the second period.

Penalties played a large part in the game, as the Bisons scored on three of six chances. The Bears were four of nine with the extra man and scored shorthanded once.

Coach Clare Drake was pleased with his team's play, despite the fact that they didn't meet their target of three goals against for each of the two games. He blamed a combination of the flu bug — Krill being only one of several Bears who were suffering — and the disruption of playing on Monday affecting the Germans as factors affecting his team's performance.

"We were a little out of sync," said Drake. "They'll play either us or Calgary in the first round of the playoffs, and they have us this week

and Calgary next week." A Calgary loss and a Bears sweep of hapless Regina next week will give the U of A first place, and home field through the Canada West playoffs.

Both Paradis and Cranston are looking for a rough series against Regina. "They gave it to us when they came here, so why not there," said Cranston.

RED LINES: Bison goals came from Steve Brown, Brian Foreman, Bill Keane, Brad Scott, and Barry Blisner. Besides Cranston and Wiebe, Bear marksmen were Wes Craig, Dave Otto, and Stacey Wakabayashi. Three stars were Cranston, Otto, and Foreman. A tiny crowd of about 175 watched the proceedings. Drake had some nasty scratches around his left eye after losing a skirmish with a goal post during practice.

"I'll take it (ice time) any way I can get it," said Paradis. "It's too bad Howie (Draper) had to get hurt, but as long as the coach has enough confidence to play me a regular shift when somebody goes down, I'm more than willing to take that role."

"Manitoba are in a funny spot," said Drake. "They'll play either us or Calgary in the first round of the playoffs, and they have us this week

Calgary knocks Pandas out of playoff picture



Pandas Colleen Pistawka (left) and Terri Wildeman dig a ball against Calgary.

Photo Alex Miller

by Alan Small

Calgary 3 Pandas 2
Pandas 3 Lethbridge 0

The Panda volleyball club continued their improvement last weekend when they split a pair of matches with the Calgary Dinosaurs

and the Lethbridge Pronghorns.

The tenth ranked Pandas were definitely keying for the match against the U of C, who were ranked number seven going into this weekend.

But against Calgary the Pandas

started slowly, losing a pair of games 15-8 and 15-10. It was their downfall, as they had to win the next three games in a row. They only managed two. The Pandas also had to win those games without the help of starter Barb Donadi, who had an

allergic reaction in the first game, and could not play the rest of the game.

"It's hard to lose a starter in an important match," Panda head coach Suzi Smith said. "I must commend Brenda Hesse for the way she went in."

The Pandas came through in the next two games, mainly with the help of setter Colleen Pistawka and hitter Terri Wildeman, who was named the game's MVP for the Pandas.

"The first two games we didn't play well," said Smith, "we missed too many serves. We were more effective in our attack in the third, fourth, and fifth games. Our setting was very stable, and very creative."

It seemed difficult for the Pandas to carry the momentum over three straight games. The fifth game was won by the Dinosaurs 15-9.

"Momentum was a factor," Smith said, "we usually have to fight but we don't come out of it. It's just too bad people don't keep score of fight."

Sunday afternoon's game against the University of Lethbridge was a lot more successful for the Pandas as they defeated the Horns three straight 15-6, 16-14, 15-0. The Pandas go on the road next weekend when they take on the Saskatchewan Huskies in Saskatchewan on Saturday.