

one step closer to title



Photo by Cliff Lacey

shots in the first period, but scored on their last three.

In the middle period, Budzinski blew two more soft shots, by Horcoff and Sosnowski, but he couldn't be faulted on Bears' other marker, a perfectly executed four-way passing play, started by Howard Crosley deep in the Alberta end, and finished off by Oliver Steward, who took Jim Ofrim's pass streaking (well, not exactly) across the Brandon crease, and dumped the puck over the prostrate Brandon goalie.

Brian Middleton (shot from the point), Steward (after two whacks at a rebound), Sosnowski (from the slot), and Craig Styles (a deflection) rounded out the scoring in the third period.



Bears outshot the Brandon squad 22-5 and 25-3 in the final two periods as they were in complete command of the game. Dale Henwood recorded his easiest-ever shutout, blocking 13 Brandon shots.

Craig Gunther, Bears #2 netminder didn't think Alberta would have over-confidence problems heading into the second game. "These aren't the kind of guys that just stand around out there thinking how good they are, not matter what the score is," he said, adding that Bears definitely didn't want to play a third game against the Bobcats.

Kevin Primeau, playing despite a knee injury, reflected the overall feeling of caution. "We just don't shoot the way we did tonight - we hardly missed a

chance all night... If we shot like we normally do and their goalie had a good game, it would be a lot closer."

Bears 8 - Brandon 4

Well, yes, Alberta's shooting did revert to its normal level of inaccuracy, and Budzinski performed admirably in the Brandon net, but it really wasn't a whole lot closer.

Brandon played another thoroughly uninspired 60 minutes of ho-hum hockey, while the Bears buzzed all over the Bobcats' zone, and three of the Brandon goals were by way of charitable donations from various Alberta philanthropists.

Bears missed two out of every three "golden opportunities", notably Steve McKnight and Clark Jantzie, each of whom had numerous chances to complete their hat tricks.

Jantzie opened scoring at 13:10, but Bobcat Larry Gillis made the most of the first of Alberta's "gifts", to knot the score at the end of 20 minutes.

In the second period, Alberta notched four in a row (two by McKnight, Jantzie's second, and one by Ofrim) before Gillis tallied again at 18:05 - the only goal Alberta didn't set up all night.

Kevin Primeau tipped in a pass from Rick Peterson, making it 6-2 early in the final frame, then two Brandon goals by Ken Buchy and Greg Thomson closed the gap to 6-4.

It proved to be only a momentary lapse, however, as Oliver Steward and Jim Ofrim each contributed goals in the last four minutes to complete the scoring.

Gillis had two goals and an assist for the losers, while

teammate Greg Thomson had one goal and two helpers.

Jim Ofrim proved beyond a doubt he is back from knee and groin ailments that have bothered him for a couple of weeks - Ofrim had 3 goals and 4 assists in the two contests, and linemates Jantzie (3-2) and Steward (3-2) also shared in the bonanza. Defencemen John Simkin, Brian Middleton, and Ross Barros each picked up five points on the weekend.

Alberta shelled Brandon with 107 shots (two-game total) while Bears' goaltenders Gunther and Henwood had to handle only 36 all weekend.

Winners were also decided in the other three intercollegiate conferences - in Ontario, the Toronto Blues defeated York University for the OUAA title, by a 4-3 score in a sudden death match. In the Maritimes, the St. Mary's Huskies became the conference champs, with a victory over the Acadia Axemen in the final.

The Quebec conference was won by Loyola Warriors - they beat Sir George Williams U in a best of three series, and advance to the national semi-finals next weekend here against the Golden Bears.

Gymnasts shine at National finals

Alberta gymnasts were largely responsible for the success of the Canada West Conference at the national finals in Winnipeg last weekend.

The CWUAA contingent won the inter-conference championship, while U of A was fourth in the institutional competition.

Individually, UA's Yvonne Van Soest and Barb Rutherford placed one-two in the women's overall competition, with fellow Panda Wah-King NG finishing in seventh spot.

Bob Blanchette of U of C was second overall on the men's side, while Bears' Brian Smith placed fourth in the country.

The event featured competitors from universities in the Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Great Plains, and Canada West conferences.

In the men's inter-conference battle, CWUAA's 182.81 point total barely bested the OUAA (Ontario) conference total of 182.35. The CW women's squad had a more comfortable margin, holding a

15-point edge over second place OAUU.

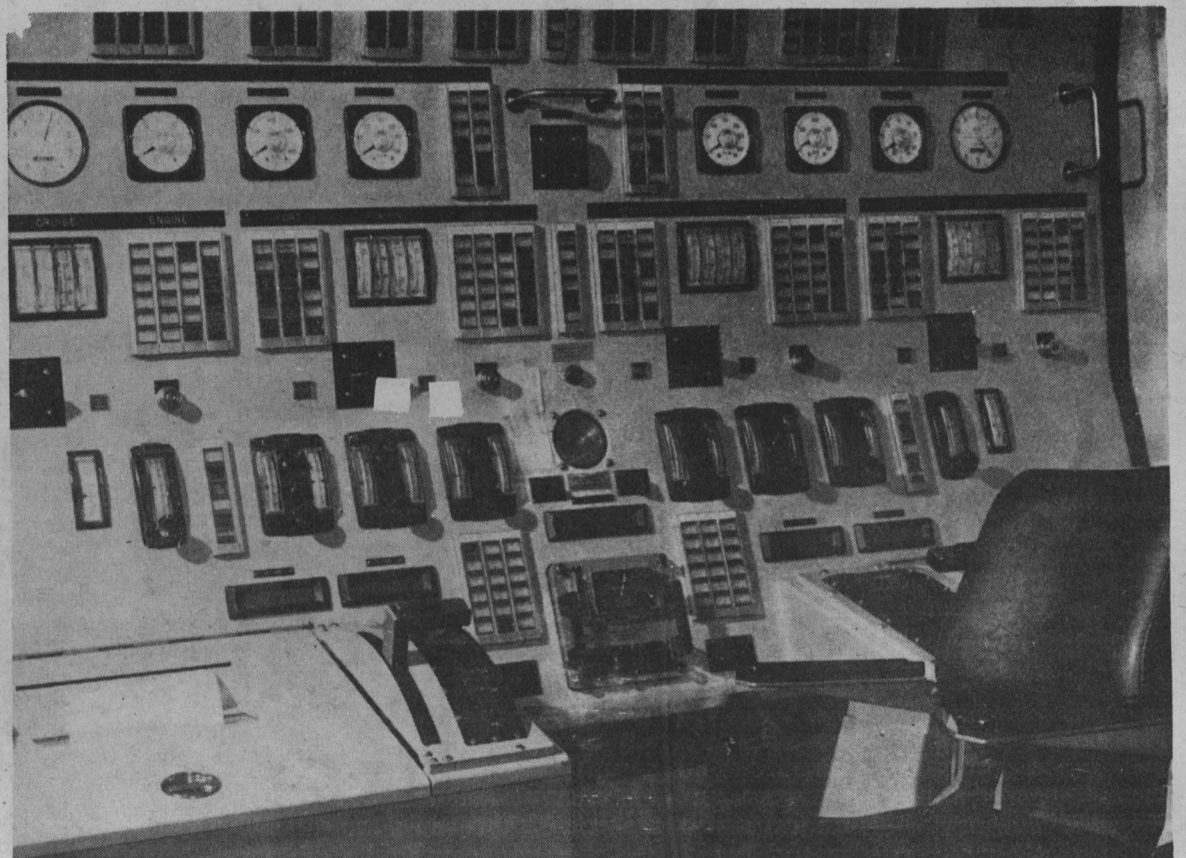
York University was the class of the institutions with 185.35 points - U of A finished fourth with 164.26.

Van Soest took the women's title by virtue of a first-place finish on the uneven bars, second place in the vault and floor exercise routines, and a third place on the beam.

Rutherford won the vault, beam, and floor exercise events, and placed fourth on the uneven bars. Wah-King was third on the uneven bars, 2nd on the beam, and 6th in floor exercise.

'4' was Smith's lucky number on Saturday - he took 4th in the vault, 4th on the parallel bars, 4th on the horizontal beam, and finished 4th overall. Teammate Gord Osborne was third in the floor exercise, with an 8.475 routine; Osborne did a sensational 8.8 routine in the preliminaries on Friday.

U of A had no entries in either the Men's pommel horse or rings events, both won by Blanchette.



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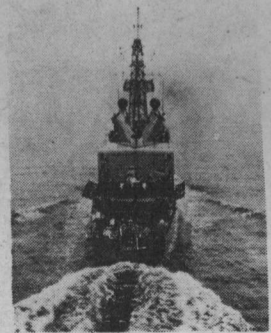
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