



—Hiroto Saka photos

UBC GOALIE RICK BARDAL (LEFT) WATCHES ONE GO BY; BEAR GOALIE HALTERMAN (RIGHT) STOPS ONE OF THE FEW FIRED HIS WAY.

Bears bomb T'birds to take WCIAA hockey crown

VANCOUVER (Staff) — Clare Drake's Golden Bear hockey team rose to glory over the weekend when they skated to convincing victories over the UBC Thunderbirds.

The 5-1 and 6-1 decisions gave the Bears the WCIAA hockey crown and a trip to Montreal for the Canadian championships.

All season long, the Bears have saved their best performances for the road. The Vancouver games were no exception as the team put forth superb efforts to completely outclass the plucky UBC squad.

The Bears passed and skated as if their lives depended on it. It was a relief to watch them effortlessly and smoothly move the puck out of their own end, finally.

Most of their goals were of the picture play variety evolving out of precision passing plays.

Sam Belcourt led his mates in Friday's 5-1 triumph by figuring in all the goals. He scored twice and added three helpers in turning in his finest effort of the season.

Captain Jerry Braunberger continued his clutch play by twice converting Belcourt passes into goals. Ron Cebryk notched the other Alberta marker.

Mickey McDowell potted one late in the third period to ruin Dale Halterman's shut-out bid.

For goaltender Halterman the evening was his easiest of the season. Excellent protection thrown

up by his defence allowed only 26 shots, most of the easy variety, to be thrown his way.

Rick Bardal was tested 33 times in the T'Bird net.

Referee Bill Papp handed out only seven penalties in the cleanly played, free wheeling contest.

Saturday, UBC took exception to the previous night's drubbing. Thunderbirds came out looking for revenge and managed to make life miserable for the Bears for a period and a half.

After a scoreless first session Don Fiddler gave the T-Birds a 1-0 lead at 8:19 of the second stanza.

Unfortunately for UBC, the goal was the fuse that ignited the Alberta charge.

Bears blasted back and after pressuring the T'Birds for upwards of five minutes were finally able to score when Cebryk made good on a breakaway.

There was no holding the Bears after that.

Milt Hohol and Dave Couves counted before the period had ended to put the Bears ahead 3-1.

The third period saw the icing being put on the cake as Cebryk

counted again along with Jack Gibson and Merose Stelmaschuk.

Cebryk took the absent Wayne Wiste's spot between Gibson and Belcourt and responded with his best showing in three seasons with the club. He had three goals and two assists in the series.

Alberta out-shot the T'Birds 31-26 and took only one of the four penalties issued in Saturday's rematch.

All in all the victories were the result of a solid team effort from utility forward Ron Reinhart down through the ranks to stars such as Belcourt and Braunberger.

Wednesday will see the Bears flying down to Montreal to prepare for the championships to be held Thursday thru Sunday in the Montreal Forum.

WCIAA FINAL STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	P
Alberta	16	11	5	22
Saskatchewan	16	10	6	20
Manitoba	16	10	6	20
UBC	16	7	9	14
Calgary	16	2	14	4

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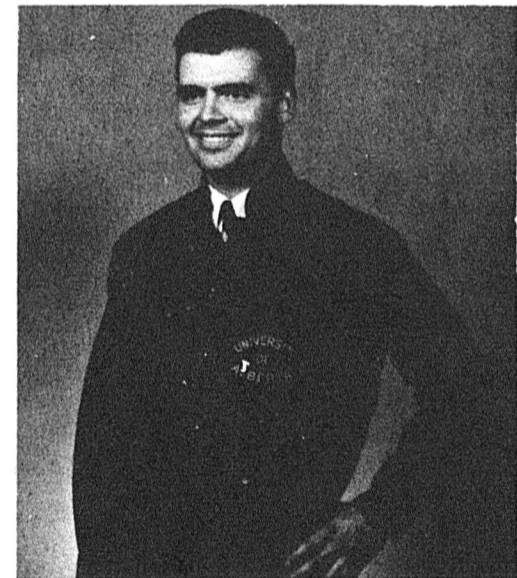
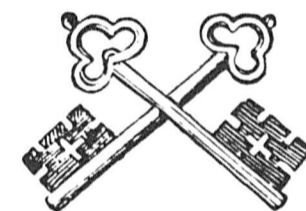
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