

Last-minute goal preserves Nat streak

by Stu Layfield

Nat's 7, Bears 6

It's a consistent fact that a hockey game is always 60 minutes duration, although there are times, such as when trailing by a single goal and pressing feverishly for the equalizer, that a team wishes it is 61, and other times, such as when a team yields the tying or winning marker in the final seconds, that it bitterly learns it is not only 59 minutes long. Or even 59½.

For the Golden Bears on Saturday night the latter situation proved to be the case as a picture goal by defenceman Tom Mellor with only 18 seconds of play remaining in the game deprived the Bears of a well-deserved tie against the United States National Team and instead gave the visitor a closely-contested 7-6 victory before over 2100 disappointed fans at Varsity Arena. The win completed a sweep by the Americans of their two game foray into Canada, having defeated the University of Calgary Dinosaurs 3-1 the night before in the Cowtown. It was the first defeat in six pre-season exhibition contests for the Bears.

The locals opened the scoring early in the first period on a power play, with Jack Gibson, who played a string game all night for the Bears, converting a rebound from a shot by Dave Couves over a sprawling Pete Sears in the U.S. nets. The Americans knotted the score when Henry Boucha, leading Nats point getter, was left unmolested in front of the Bears' goal to receive a pass from behind the net from linemate Tim Sheehy and whip the puck past Alberta goaltender Barry Richardson. The Bears had another excellent scoring opportunity late in the period when Harvey Poon broke in all alone on the American goal, but the smooth skating center was stick-checked by Sears as he attempted the deke. The score remained tied 1-1 at the end of the period.

Bears take lead

The Bears took the lead for the second and last time at the 4:40 mark of the second stanza when defenceman Bryon Baltimore's long screened shot from the point found the net, after Billy Moores did a great job of outthrusting at least two Nats to get the puck into the U.S. end. However the Americans came back to tie the score once again when Sheehy completed a beautiful three-way passing play with Boucha and winger Kevin Ahearn by cutting in sharply from the left wing and slipping the puck between Richardson's leg pads as the Bear goalie went down for the save. Richardson made a number of difficult saves before giving way to Jim Coombs at the halfway mark of the period and the game with the score standing at two goals apiece.

Shortly thereafter, big rangy American winger Craig Sarner deflected a well-timed goalmouth pass from Boucha past Coombs to give the visitors a 3-2 lead. The Bears got this one back when Gerry Hornby fired the puck into

a gaping net after Sears had taken himself out of position stopping a point shot from Captain Steve Carlyle. But the Nats took a 4-3 lead only a few seconds later when defenceman Jim McElmury, one of the two players on the American team who played against the Bears in exhibition games last season while skating for Bemidji State, intercepted an errant Carlyle pass at the Alberta blueline and blasted a tremendous slapshot high into the Golden Bear net.

Fistic performance

The second period also featured a good four man fistic performance when Moores took strong exception to some heavy treatment in front of the U.S. net at the hands of big defenceman Frank Sanders and began to valiantly exchange blows with his burly opponent. At the same time Sheehy and Couves squared off and the American winger proved he can fight as well as he can score by soundly thrashing the peppery Alberta centerman. After order had been restored to the battlefield, there ensued one of those comical needle-in-the-haystack routines as players, officials, and managers alike carefully searched the ice for a contact lens which Couves apparently lost while taking his lumps; they could have looked all night to no avail for the missing optic aid was found safely nestled away in the corner of his eye and not on the ice after all.

Early in the third period the Bears had a golden chance to deadlock the score once when Gibson broke in from the left wing, but the five-year veteran was stopped cold by Sears as he cut across in front of the U.S. net. A few moments later the Bears lost the services of Baltimore for the remainder of the game when the big sophomore caught a stick to the mouth that required stitching. Coach Clare Drake was forced to use forwards Dave White and Randy Clark at times in his place. Clark himself was playing with a mask over his face to protect a still-tender nose that was broken last weekend in Dawson Creek.

The talented Boucha then gave the Nats a two goal lead when he was left uncovered in front of the net and deflected a pass from Sanders at the point. But the Bears fought back and cut the margin to a single goal when big Cal Botterill dug the puck out of the corner in the U.S. end and fed a pass to Poon out front. Sears stopped Harvey's first shot, but the popular veteran banged home his own rebound. Each team then exchanged goals that seemed to come quickly out of temporary lulls in the action, the Americans scoring when Sheehy had the

CHARTER!

The Athletic Department will be chartering a plane to Toronto for any fans interested in making the trek to watch the Bears win the Canadian College Bowl. Flight will be departing Friday, November 19 and returning after the post-game party on Saturday. The price of approximately \$120 will cover the flight and meals.

whole net to shoot at after Coombs had made a good save off of Ahearn, and the Bears counting when White boomed a good slapshot into the upper lefthand corner from a few feet inside the blueline, giving Sears no chance.

From this point on the Bears exerted their greatest sustained pressure of the game pouring a flurry of shots on the American net and not letting the visitors out of their own end for extended periods of time. Tenacity paid off as Botterill broke in with the puck on the right side, fired a hard backhand which Sears managed to block; but the big former Manitoba Bison followed the puck in towards the net and banged the disc home.

The Bears appeared to be unwilling to settle for the draw and continued to press the attack. However, with less than half a minute left to play Ahearn snared the puck for the Nats in his own end, and quickly fed it up to Sheehy moving down the right wing. Sheehy drew over the lone Bear defender after crossing the Bear blueline and fed a perfect pass across to Mellor who was coming up fast on the play. The American defenceman made no mistake as he fired a good shot past Coombs, giving the Bear goalie little or no chance for the save, and stilling a noisy crowd which was anticipating an extension of the Golden Bears undefeated streak. Certainly a tie against the U.S. team would have been a moral victory for the Bears.

It may have been a moral victory nonetheless, for the Bears produced a gutsy effort against a team which is supposed to be the best amateur squad the Americans can muster. The hustling, determined showing of the Bears was in sharp contrast to their rather lackadaisical performance the weekend before in Dawson Creek. Certainly the vastly increased calibre of competition, the significance of the game, and their role as underdogs were all prime motivating factors. With the opening of the W.C.I.A.A. regular schedule next weekend here at Varsity Arena against the U of C Dinnies, it was a most valuable contest for the Bears.

Nats handicapped

It's perhaps difficult to assess the strength of the American team off their performance on Saturday night. For one thing they were definitely handicapped by the fact that they used only 14 players including goal tender Sears. Their normal defensive corps of six has been reduced by injuries to three, and a couple of forwards were also missing through the sick list. One forward, Larry Bader, played both the game in Calgary and the one here with a broken hand. This is bound to have a deleterious effect on the Americans' overall record, but for one game, with the talent and conditioning expected of players competing at the international level the reduced roster should not be that much of a factor.

They may not have been taking the Bears as seriously as they might have, for the pre-and post-game comments of both Coach Murray Williamson and his players indicated that the Americans were looking towards their game this Wednesday night at home in Minneapolis-St. Paul against the league-leading Kansas City Blues of the Central Pro league. Their finest players, the much publicized Boucha and the former college All-American Sheehy, are excellent players and unquestionably lived up to their press clippings. But apart from these two individuals and possibly Ahearn and Sarner, the Americans seemed to be little other than good collegiate hockey players. This certainly isn't a team which should figure prominently in the win columns at the 1972 Winter Olympics in Sapporo, Japan.

This criticism of the Americans should not be interpreted as denigrating the effort of the Bears. It was by far their best outing of the season. The forwards continue to show that they can fill the net regardless of the opposition and the goaltending, particularly that of Richardson, is equally as strong. If the defence under the guidance of Coach Drake can continue to improve their play with each outing, Golden Bear hockey fans can look to a banner year from their favorites this season.

DON'T FORGET

THE CHARTER!

The case of Bennett's buddy

The Basketball Bears, knowing that their football counterparts would be receiving the lion's share of weekend publicity, showed remarkable ingenuity in their attempts to steal some of the limelight.

The Bears went south to play the college of Great Fall Argonauts in two exhibition encounters. While making a routine stopover at the Calgary Airport, the Bruins initiated their dastardly plan. Spotting one of his old buddies, Barrie Bennett, a former Calgarian gathered up all the loose money in the poker game and hired his not too bright pal to hijack the Bruin plane. Original plans called for Bennett's buddy to divert the Great Falls flight to New York; Upon arriving in New York the Bears and Bennett's Buddy were to storm UN headquarters and capture U Thant. This action was to be staged as a protest move against the seating of Red China.

Their coup however, was doomed from its inception, as Bennett's buddy being an unbalanced leftist got his causes and plans mixed up. He boarded the wrong plane, a Calgary to Toronto flight and hijacked it to Great Falls. His announced I.R.A. sympathies and demands for one and one half million dollars further screwed up the plans.

While successful in attracting obnoxious publicity, Bennett's buddy's actions irked the conservative Bears who publicly

denounced his actions. The hijacker's subsequent hops through the prairies showed that his rejection by the Bears cut deeply into his psyche.

Meanwhile back at the court the Bears found their U.S. rivals to be a strong and aggressive team. In Friday's encounter the Bears went down to defeat by a 71-49 count. Tom Solyom and Wallace Tollestrup paced the Bruins with 12 points apiece.

Saturday night's action saw the Bears again on the tail end of the score, this time by a 87-59 margin. In the losing contest

Greg Stewart netted 14 points to lead the Bears.

Feeling that his team played 40 percent better in Montana than at the Tri-U Classic, Coach Barry Mitchellson termed the trip as "worthwhile". Mitchellson still feels that breakdown in individual situations remains as the team weakpoint. The Bears will be trying to rectify this situation during this week's practices, as next Friday sees them travel to Calgary where they open their WCIAA schedule against the Dinosaurs.

Intramural roundup

Now that flag-football is over we will be picking an intramural "Athlete of the Week"; to be chosen from the activities taking place at present. Our first pick comes from Men's Intramural Basketball and he is Jim Glasgow. Jim potted 18 points in leading 2nd Mac to a 36-34 upset victory over P.E. "D" in division III play. How was that turkey, Jim?

Arts and Science captured the Indoor Soccer title last Friday night by a convincing 3-0 victory over Kappa Sigma. The Arts and Science squad showed superior offense and their backs were flawless. Kappa Sigma came up through the losers bracket by edging Phys. Ed, but they were not strong enough to go any further.

Those boys from Law are pretty hungry this year, I guess they plan to remain on top. They captured the team honours in Basketball, Golf and Freethrow last week. Dentistry came second and St. Joe's third. Individual honours went to E. Carlson of Engineering and C. Clarke of Kappa Sigma in Basketball Golf, while B. Jones of Law won the Basketball Freethrow.

In Co-recreational Inner tube Waterpolo action to date, it looks like the "Beavers" and "Kennedy's Killers" will be the powers. They should each have no trouble winning their leagues. Anyone wishing to see the action, the gals and guys battle in the Varsity Pool, Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 9:30.