

SPORTS



Eva on the road



continued from page 1.

However, with 1:54 remaining Tim Krug caught Bisons' goalie Derill Trakalo off guard by scoring right off the face off. Score 4-3. With six attackers on the ice, three seconds on the clock, and a wall of players in front of the Bisons' net, the red light finally went on. Score 4-4. Dennis Cranston had put the game into overtime. A James Bond movie plot could not have counted down the seconds better.

For a touch of suspense, the

Bisons were the first to score in the 10-minute overtime period. Once again it was Pallen at 4:52, but Joey Engert permanently silenced the 1,000 uproarious Bison fans with a superb two-goal performance. He scored the clincher with only 51 seconds left.

Freshman Stacey Wakabayashi gave the Bears their first goal of the night on the power play at 8:06 of the first period. The next three goals were scored by the Bisons' Mike Gillespie, Vaughn Karpan, and Ray Meilleur.

Just as Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer went down in Christmas history, so did the Bears with their remarkable come from behind win. It was a demanding series, physically, mentally, and emotionally. Along with superb coaching from head coach Clare Drake and assist-

ant coaches Bill Moores and Jack Cummings, the long hours of practice, dedication, and determination paid off in the end.

Coach Drake felt emotion and leadership were major components of the Bears' comeback.

"When we were down by a couple of goals I told the team to never lose sight of the fact that you can always come back. I think you have to maintain players belief in themselves. You try to be very positive and that's what we did. We appealed to their emotion about coming back against a really good team. Manitoba was playing with a lot of emotion and we had to match it. I thought we chipped away and played over it.

"The games are 60 minutes and you're never out until it's over. As well as receiving leadership from

the coaching staff, you look for it from your captains. Both (coaches and captains) did a terrific job. Billy Moores is a tremendous motivator, and between the two of us we get the job done.

"Ron Vertz said before we walked out for the third period that he would get the second goal for us and he did. I don't know if that's ESP or whatever. Vertz provided great leadership. He is a tremendous leader.

"Joey Engert is a strong player physically. He plays well in the heavy physical going. I think he played well. Manitoba played a strong physical series and we tried to match them. In some cases we could and in some cases we couldn't. Engert was one of the guys who could match them. I think it's great that he came through and finished the plays when it counted," said Drake.

Coach Drake acknowledges that the Bisons, under the guidance of head coach Wayne Fleming, were formidable opponents.

"I thought Manitoba played a fantastic series. It was really a toss of the coin. I mean, the teams were so close we actually ended up winning on a touch of experience.

"I don't think there is much to choose between our two teams. I think it would be really nice if our two teams could be in the national final. That's the way it should be but that's not the way it is. Players on each team should be given a tremendous amount of credit.

"Manitoba did a very good job on the power play. They did an excellent job of playing an aggressive type of box defense, they really crowded our puck carriers. We knew what we had to do, but in some cases we weren't able to adjust to it quickly enough. They used a variety of systems. As we looked at it, a lot of the things they used were pressure things. When executed as well as they did, it's

bound to give you a lot of problems. They did some great things technically," said Drake.

The first game of the series saw the Bears soundly trounce the Bisons 5-1. The Bears played a disciplined game. After a scoreless, penalty plagued first period. Dave Otto scored at 7:58 of the second period. Perry Zapernick, Wakabayashi, Swan and Cranston also scored for the Bears. Ron Talakoski had Manitoba's lone goal.

Perhaps a little over confident after Friday's win, the Bears received a 5-1 spanking from the Bisons on Saturday and were sent to bed early. Cranston was the only Bear to score. There was no victory celebration for the Bears in Winnipeg that night, as they had to prepare themselves for a tough battle against the Bisons in Sunday's tie-breaker.

Both goalies, Bears' Ken Hodge and Bisons' Trakalo played outstandingly in the series. As a result, they were named the tournaments' most valuable players.

Hodge faced a total of 98 shots over the three days while Trakalo had 79 come his way. A number of truly remarkable saves were made by both goalies, including a toe-save by Hodge.

The Bears will be leaving Wednesday morning for Toronto for the four-team CIAU Nationals. They face the Toronto Varsity Blues on Friday and Saturday. The winner will go on to the championship game Sunday against either the York Yeomen or the Ottawa Gee-Gee's.

Friday's game will be televised on TSN. All games will be broadcast on CJSR radio. And for all of you skeptics who turned Bryn Griffiths off with two minutes remaining in Sunday's stroke-giver, stay tuned until the end. Broadcast times are: Friday at 5:45; Saturday at 2:15; and hopefully Sunday at 10:45 (Mountain Standard Time).

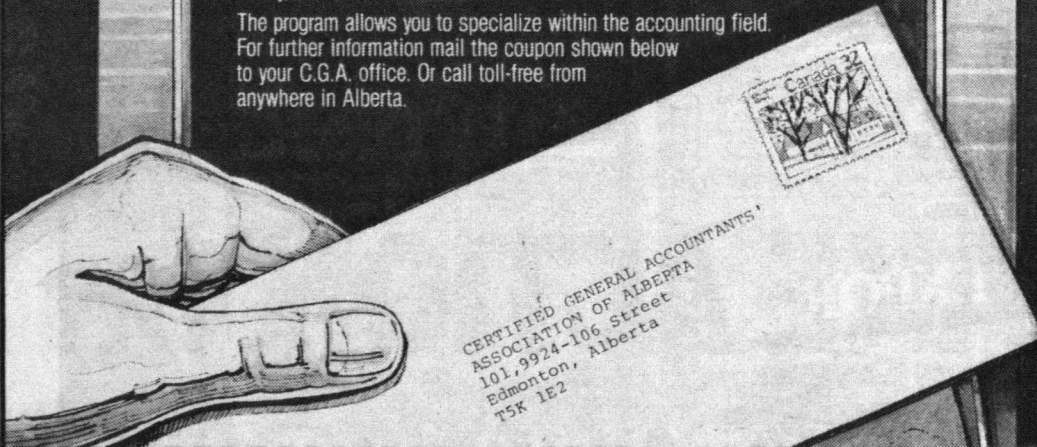


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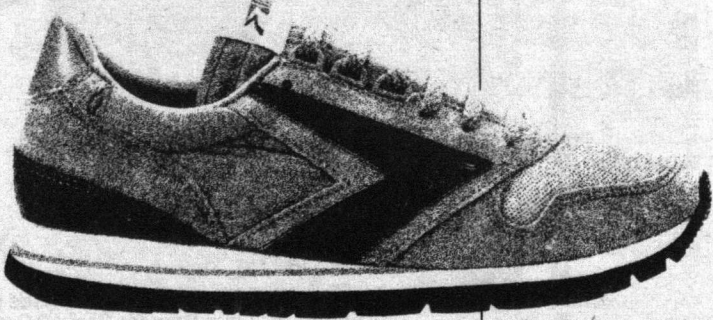
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