

Falkenberg and Hornby—unsung heroes on puck squad

Penalty killing vital to success of club; Saskatchewan, Brandon weekend visitors

By BOB ANDERSON

In the frenzied pace of today's sporting world, athletes who make it a point to go out and do their job without any fuss or fanfare are becoming an increasingly rare breed.

For this is the day of the big contract, the desire, at least in the amateur ranks, to "try and make like the pros."

It is therefore refreshing when one stumbles across individuals who are concerned with getting things done and in an efficient manner.

Two such persons are Don Falkenberg and Gerry Hornby, both veterans with Brian McDonald's hockey Golden Bears.

Many fans and sportswriters tend to ignore one of the more im-

portant aspects of the game of hockey, that of killing penalties, in favor of more exciting areas such as putting the puck in the net.

A penalty killing specialist is often difficult to come by, particularly in college circles, where team members are more concerned with scoring goals than preventing them.

"It takes a real sacrificing hockey player to go out there and specialize in something like penalty killing," says McDonald, and Don Falkenberg is just that type of individual."

"He has more of an unsung role than anyone else and is one of the most unselfish hockey players I've ever known."

Fairly lavish praise maybe, but certainly well deserved. The three-

year Bear veteran and native of Stettler is having an outstanding season to date, and is one of the main reasons why the Bears are currently in second place in the Western Canada Intercollegiate Hockey League with a 4-1 record.

Hornby is much the same type of person and player, although he takes a regular shift on a line unlike Falkenberg.

"Gerry and Don worked well together last season when we were a man short," continued McDonald, "but Gerry has been slowed down by a bad ankle for much of this season and hasn't seen as much action as I would have liked."

And with the number of penalties that the Bruins have been slapped with this year, it becomes increasingly important if someone can go out there and stem the tide.

ONE MAN DEEP

There are no strict rules or conventions that a penalty killer has to follow according to McDonald, except one that says don't get caught too deep in the opponent's end of the rink.

"We play a pressing game much of the time," he explained, "and go after them, rather than sit back and wait for them to come to us. We'll send one man in to bother the puck carrier, while the other will circle around centre ice."

"Both are excellent skaters and can make the necessary adjustment should they get momentarily beaten."

Falkenberg came to the Bruins from the Junior Bearcat ranks in the middle of the 1967-68 campaign and was a key performer with the club that later went on to capture the Canadian Championship in Montreal.

Hornby, on the other hand, is in his second year with the team, having come here via the Junior "A" Ponoka Stampeders. Of the two Gerry is the smoother skater and has the flashier moves, but "Falkie" just keeps plugging along with his short, choppy strides.

Don has even had a chance to take a regular shift at certain times, especially when one of the other forwards has been tagged with a ten minute misconduct sentence.

'CATS, HUSKIES HERE

Falkenberg, Hornby and the rest of the Bear outfit will have a chance to add to their second place



DON FALKENBERG (16) AND GERRY HORNBY (12) . . . effective penalty killing duo

position this weekend when University of Saskatchewan Huskies and Brandon University Bobcats pay their first and only visit of the year to Varsity Arena Friday and Saturday, respectively.

Although the two clubs are deadlocked in fifth place in the WCIHL with records of 2-4, they cannot be taken too lightly.

Bobcats, in their first season of WCIHL play and featuring eight former Brandon Wheat Kings in the lineup, gave the Bruins a scare when the two clubs met last November in the Manitoba centre.

CLOSE CALL

Only Dave Couves' tying marker at 19:45 of the third period and Bob Devaney's winner one minute into the overtime session gave the Albertans the win.

The Huskies made it close, too, before succumbing 6-2. The clubs were tied 2-2 until late in the second period when a pair of

goals broke things wide open.

Both games are slated for an 8:30 p.m. faceoff.

Bearcats prevail

The Junior Bearcats continued to roll along undefeated in the Edmonton Central Hockey League, with two recent victories.

Friday night at Varsity Arena, the Bearcats fell behind 3-0 before coming on strong with five straight goals to defeat Sheridan Kings 5-3.

After a scoreless first period, Sheridan struck quickly with two goals by Cal Eldstrom and a lone tally by Ron Lavender.

Bearcats then seemed to find their legs and tied the score before the end of the period on goals by Ron Reinhart, Harvey Kirkland and Al Joly.

The final period was all the Baby Bears' as Real Gamache and Kirkland scored the only goals.

GASMEN CRUSHED

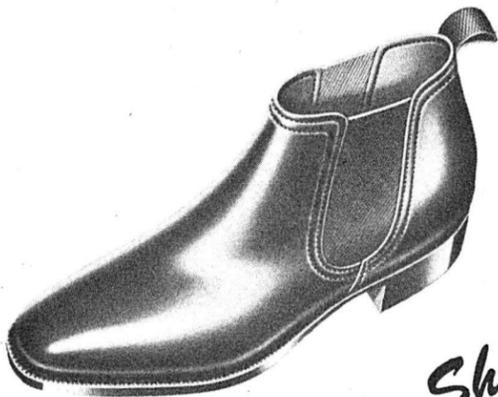
The following night Ray's Esso were the visitors. The Bearcats were not very gracious hosts, however, as they crushed Ray's 7-1.

Len Zalapski and George Repka each collected two goals, with singles going to Kirkland, Doug Murray and Dave Couves.

Ken Parsons scored the lone goal for the Esso squad when Zane Jakubec was caught out of the net.

Next action for the Bearcats is this weekend when they play Friday and Saturday evenings at Varsity Arena and Sunday afternoon at Stony Plain.

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