

Reinforced Bears have troubles

Managers and hockey reporter put on skates but Bruins still manage to down Victoria

By BOB ANDERSON

VICTORIA—This city on the Island is noted for its beautiful scenery and wonderful sights.

It's even been referred to by business hungry travel agents as the land of perpetual beauty and good weather.

But the tourist people would have their work cut out for them in trying to match the spectacle that took place here Sunday and Monday.

On the surface, things looked reasonably legitimate. The defending Canadian champion Golden Bears were in town to play the neophyte U of Victoria Vikings in a pair of exhibition puck games. The Bears were expected to prevail, although the scores were expected to be a little bigger than they actually were.

But . . . a close perusal of the situation and of the Bears' lineup quickly dispelled all thoughts that this would be an ordinary hockey series.

For a start, Bob Wolfe, normally a goaltender, was listed as a forward. This was fine, until it turned

ed out that Wolfe had forgotten to skate properly outside the net.

Further study revealed that co-managers Jim (Stomper) Stambaugh and John (Bottoms Up) Blackwell had been inserted into the lineup as last minute replacements for Gerry Braunberger, Bill Clarke, Tom Devaney and Jim Seutter who had seen all the sights before anyway and who had to leave for home after the UBC series to do some work.

As well, Lou Geddes, a teammate of Bear forward Wayne Wiste at Denver University a few years back was pressed into action. He was one of the fortunate ones. He'd been on skates once in the past four months.

That was Sunday's lineup. Monday's was even more hilarious. Geddes retired for the umpteenth time and Bear coach Clare Drake decided to end his enforced retirement. He even took a regular turn on the blueline and managed to pick up an assist. But he mysteriously left before the second period had ended, in his words, "to catch a plane for Vancouver."

It sounded good anyway.

But the real clincher came when your faithful reporter laced up the old blades for about the first time in a few weeks. He even got to play the odd shift.

Wiste was another gawdy sight. He took Drake's place in the coaching box and kept his undefeated streak alive. Wayne was unable to play because of a damaged shoulder picked up in the UBC series.

Fortunately, the Albertans had enough talent on the bench to keep the series from being a complete spectacle. They even managed to pull off two victories albeit the scores were close, 4-3 and 6-3.

NEVER STOPPED TRYING

The Vikings were in a different class than the Bears, but they never stopped trying. They have a long way to go before being a contender in the WCJHL, which they are due to join next season. The Vikings played only an exhibition schedule this year.

For the record, Milt Hohol, Oliver Morris, Jack Gibson and Harv Poon blinked the red light for the Bears in the Sunday game, while Paul Bion with two and Mick Brown replied for Victoria.

Don Falkenberg notched three for the winners in the second game, with Morris with two and Gibson taking care of the others. Bion, Brown and Relph Halsall took care of the Vikings scoring.

The only unfortunate thing about the series was that there weren't more people in attendance to laugh along with those who were. The Bears even had their own cheering gallery behind them. The cheerleaders from the university—Solange Schiller, Vickie Blaseckie, Gail Holt, Karen Gogde, Sue Drake and Phyllis Bellamy—kept the guys in a good humor as they puffed off the ice.

As Lucy would say—"It's the most beautiful sight I've ever seen."

The Bears now have a week off before they travel to Denver to meet the Pioneers in a pair of exhibition games Feb. 28 and Mar. 1. The following week, the Canadian championships are scheduled for Edmonton.

Basketball Bears in Calgary for big one — title on the line

By JOE CZAJKOWSKI

All the pressure lies on the Alberta Golden Bears.

The Bears, who Friday and Saturday close their league season in Calgary against the U of C Dinosaurs, need a single win to wrap up the Western Canada Intercollegiate basketball title.

At a quick glance one sees that the Bears are the number one ranked team in the conference while the Dinosaurs have the dubious honor of sharing last place with the Winnipeg Wesmen.

But just a quick glance at the standings can be deceiving. The WCIAA basketball league has proven time and again to be quite unpredictable.

For a perfect example of this, look no further back in league play than 10 days.

At that time Alberta Golden Bears went into Winnipeg firmly entrenched in the top spot with an undefeated record. The Manitoba Bisons beat the Bears twice in two days.

Three days later these same Manitoba Bisons played last-place Calgary Dinosaurs.

UNPREDICTABLE

Barry Mitchelson's Bears too have proven to be unpredictable.

The club has a 16-2 won-lost record but three of those wins were by five or less points. All three were come from behind wins at the latest possible moment, one of them with the Bears taking the lead for the first time in the game with but three seconds left on the clock.

It is fully conceivable that Bears could be 13-5 rather than 16-2 this stage of the season.

Barry's boys have shown that

they are capable of playing good basketball but have fallen into a disastrous pitfall.

The Bears tend to play as well as they have to to register a victory on the official score-sheet.

On the several occasions pointed out above this philosophy has led to near disaster.

It could also well be the reason for the Bears double loss to Manitoba two weeks ago. The club hadn't been playing high-calibre basketball and when the time came for it in Manitoba the club found itself a bit rusty.

The Bears can't afford to be rusty in Calgary.

A double loss in that southern city could possibly eliminate the Bears from taking part in the Canadian Championships.

It would close the season with Alberta and Manitoba having identical won lost records and would force a play-off between Alberta and Manitoba in Winnipeg since the Bisons have a better for and against internal record against the Bears.

Dinos are going to be up for the series. It's their last chance to get out of the league basement so they'll be out for blood.

Home gym will be a definite advantage for the Calgarians as well. It could make a difference of up to 15 points.

Bears aren't going to have it easy and will have to work to get a shot at the Canadian Championships.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	Pts
Alberta	18	16	2	32
Manitoba	18	14	4	28
Saskatchewan	18	10	8	20
Regina	18	6	12	12
Winnipeg	18	4	14	8
Calgary	18	4	14	8

Vancouver good to Pandas

V'ballers second in West

In WCIAA action this past weekend, the women's v'ball and curling teams placed second and third respectively.

The Pandas volleyed their way through eight teams to place second in the WCIAA championship.

The U of M Bisonettes, defending WCIAA champs, were again triumphant as they edged by Alberta in the final game.

Alberta and Manitoba were just two of the nine teams that participated in the tourney. The other teams were the U of A Huskiettes, the U of S Cougarettes, the U of C Dinnies, the UBC Thunderettes, the University of Brandon, the U of W Wesmenettes, and the U of V Vickettes.

A single round robin was played

to determine the top five teams. These teams then played another round robin to determine the champions.

In respective order of team standings at the end of the initial round robin the Bisonettes, the Dinnies, the Pandas, the Vickettes and the Thunderettes.

The Mama Bears defeated the Dinnies to take second place. This gave Alberta another chance at Manitoba who had beaten the Pandas earlier.

History repeated itself, for the same situation occurred in the '68 WCIAA Championship and again Alberta lost to Manitoba.

In a field of nine teams, the Alberta curlers swept their way to third place.



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