

Quick goals cement western title



Alan Small

"I was really worried after yesterday's loss," said Bear forward Adam Morrison.

The feeling was tense in Varsity Arena on Sunday, but that didn't keep the crowd away. Some 9,000 fans jammed into the old barn this weekend for some great hockey action. Golden Bear football players helped out the couple of city police deterrents with security, 80% of the crowd were screaming collegians, and the story of the game was a page ahead of of a Oiler-Kings playoff preview in the papers.

We've all heard stories about how they filled Varsity to near capacity for every game the Bears played, and that the school spirit wasn't there anymore. What those 9,000 fans found out this weekend is that there is no better place to be or be seen on campus.

When Alberta hosted Calgary during the regular season and the fans were shouting for suds, Doug McCarthy was worried that the fans were there for the chance for beer and not for the hockey. There is no reason to worry now.

Sure, they had cheer for beer on Friday and Saturday, but there were more rears than seats on Friday (about 3,600) and it was comfortably packed on Saturday despite the fact that the professional Battle of Alberta was on Hockey Night in Canada. On Sunday, there were about 2,700 in the venerable rink, but going up against the Brier, the number one television sports event in Canada isn't the easiest thing to do.

Despite the champagne a flowin' in the dressing room after the game, Alberta's job is far from finished. They now must travel to Toronto and go up against the York Yeomen, the defending CIAU champions. They are trying to defend their title like the New York Islanders did in the early '80's: lose a whole bunch of games when they don't count, but win the big ones. They knocked off the Trois-Rivieres Patriotes, last week's number one team in the country in the OUAA semis and have beaten the Bears before in sudden death competition.

In no way do the Bears think that winning the west is as far as they have to go. Winning the CIAU's is the goal they want to score.

"We don't want to go there just for one loss," said Doug McCarthy.

For all of you 7,000 cool dudes who want to check out hockey's version of green and gold, they'll be playing on TSN on Thursday at 6 pm. It'll be fun.



It was 2-1 Dinos on this play, as Grant Richison (R) and Doug Quinn sandwich Bear forward Wes Craig.

by Randy Provencal
Alberta 3 Calgary 1
(Bears win series 2-1)

The blaring music in the dressing room afterward seemed fitting for the occasion: Tom Cochrane singing "Big League."

The 1988-89 Canada West champion "boys" from the Golden Bears sure did "turn some heads" in their 3-1 win over the Calgary Dinosaurs that clinched the title, giving them the right to represent the west in this weekend's CIAU championships.

In the end, it wasn't the Bears potent offense that overcame the Dinos, it was a third period defen-

star.

"He was awesome, wasn't he? In the second half he was unbeatable and we owe a helluva lot to him."

After effectively killing off a penalty for all but five seconds, Adam Morrison beat Peter Fry with a blast from the top of the circle to tie it up.

Only five seconds later Dan Wiebe picked up a loose puck at the Dino blue line and scored the eventual winning goal.

In the second Stacey Wakabayashi, circling at centre ice, took a pass from Doug McCarthy and deked Fry to the stick side.

Although the Bears had their chances after that, protecting the lead was top priority. Even the smaller forwards were hitting and blocking shots.

"That's what wins games. It was a hell of an effort by everybody," a champagne-soaked Darwin Bozek said. "We know all we have to do is come out and play like we did today and we'll be tough" at nationals in Toronto this week.

Third star Gord Thibodeau, who took a shot off the ankle in the first but kept playing, said the team went beyond its expectations... but didn't.

"Earlier in the season I think anyone would've been hard pressed to predict us finishing first. I think we knew we had a good club but were a little unsure of ourselves," Thibodeau said. "If you look at it since January, I think we expected to go this far."

In the other dressing room, a sombre Dinos coach Willie Desjardins said that even as a first-year coach, he didn't realize his goals. "Not even close. If you don't expect to win then you shouldn't bother coaching."

Desjardins said he was proud of his team's post-game attitude.

"They've got a lot of character," he pointed out. "Whenever you

put a lot on the line it always hurts to lose. If you don't put anything on the line, then it doesn't bother you."

A man who has tasted championships before is Bears head coach Clare Drake. And, although he savours them all, "the most recent one always feels the best."

Thibodeau said the difference in the series — and could be the

difference in Toronto this week was the experienced coaching the Bears have. "We have one thing that no other team has and that's coach Drake and the rest of the coaching staff. Basically all the credit goes to them."

"They molded a club that didn't look very good into a winner. It's their system that won, not so much the 20 players."

Panda gymnasts win second consecutive national title

by Alan Small

The Panda gymnastics team made it two in a row last weekend when they took their second consecutive University Cup, held in Calgary.

They easily outdistanced second place McMaster University 107.69-103.56 in the team event for the win.

In the individual event, Michele Hannemann surprised teammate and last year's champion Diane Patterson by taking first place in the overall. Hannemann's score of 36.92 was exactly half a point better than the second place Patterson.

The two placed exactly opposite of what they did last year: Hannemann finished first in the west but second in the country to Patterson last year. This year, Patterson won the west, but yielded to Hannemann in national competi-

tion.

Monica Kmech finished in eighth place with a 34.11 score and Michelle Graham took ninth at 33.99. Dana Alberta and Michelle Maltais finished in 19th and 25th respectively.

Coach Stephanie Bishop was named coach of the year for the second year in a row as well.

In the individual events, Hannemann won the balance beam with an 8.95 score, with Kmech placing third and Patterson fourth. Patterson took a gold home from Calgary as well, as she won the uneven parallel bars with a 9.50 score. Hannemann placed fifth.

Other finished had Hannemann taking second in the vault and on the floor, Patterson placed third and Hannemann finished sixth.

In the men's division, Alberta finished in sixth place.

Rob Galbraith