

Sports

BEARS vs DINOS

Home-and-home fight for home



Stacey Wakabayashi (back) proves that the Dinos are easier to hit in Varsity Arena.

by Alan Small

This weekend, the varsity Battle of Alberta turns into the battle for first place in Canada West.

The Golden Bears go into this weekend's home-and-home series with the Calgary Dinosaurs two points behind their southern rivals. The two games this weekend will make a difference in the race for first place, and home ice advantage throughout the western playoffs.

"Home ice means quite a bit in our league," said Bear netminder John Krill, "especially because you get all three games at home during the playoffs."

Between the two clubs, home ice means more than just loud screaming fans and knowing the bounces off of the boards. The rinks, Father David Bauer in Calgary and Varsity Arena in Edmonton are entirely different.

Father Bauer was renovated for the '88 Olympics and thus has international dimensions. It is 15 feet wider and there is more room behind the nets. Varsity Arena, even though it is listed as a regulation sized rink (200 ft. x 85 ft.) looks and plays smaller than it really is. It is that way because the fans are right on top of the players and the Golden Bears are too.

"Our ice isn't exactly small,"

adds Krill, "but I think it suits our style. Calgary's tougher to hit in their barn."

Not only will the series help decide first place, the double-header could also be a playoff preview: a first look at what could be the showdown for the Canada West title.

"We're approaching it that way," said Krill. "Everyone's predicting Calgary and us in the final. (This series) isn't do-or-die, but we really want the four points badly."

The only way the Bears can control their own destiny is to sweep the Dinos this weekend.



Due to an upset in Regina during the first half, the Bears fell behind the Dinos and have never caught up. Calgary can play for a split and still have the advantage after the weekend.

"We put ourselves in this predicament," said Bear head coach Clare Drake, "we don't have anybody else to blame but

ourselves. I think the team that gets first place will be the one that stays more consistent. I still think there will be a few upsets before the end of the season."

Alberta is blowing out teams in the second half of the season. Last weekend against Saskatchewan, they were in control with the exception of the third period of the opener. They outscored the Huskies by five goals. Calgary hasn't been as dominating, as they have won countless one goal games. They squeezed out two 5-4 victories over Saskatchewan at home.

"That's a sign of a good team," says Drake, who saw his team struggle with inconsistency in the first half, losing their share of one goal games, "but you don't want to put yourself behind the eight ball just for the sake of seeing you win those games."

GOAL POSTS: 3,000 loud fans are expected for Saturday's game at Varsity, as the Education Students' Association are presenting the Cheer Challenge '89. To the victors go the lager. Game time is at 7 pm. 3,200 packed into the venerable arena last year for this event. CJSR-FM will broadcast Friday's game from Calgary, with the pre-game show starting at 6:45 pm.

Rob Galbraith

(there is no rivalry anymore, really, because the Leafs are so horrible) have been in a tailspin since November. Strangely, Gord Stellick, the young GM who was to deliver the Leafs from oblivion, hasn't done a thing.

Yet, Stellick knew that his top left winger, Wendel Clark, would be out for a long period of time, he took no steps to acquire a left winger. Instead, the Leafs' top left winger, Mark Osborne, has all of 10 goals.

But how about Stellick's "great" trade, which has now become known as 'the trade'.

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• Maybe university sports should be funded on the basis of how successful they are. For example, the hockey team and the gymnastics program should receive more money than, let's say, football. After all, it's the hockey team and gymnastics programs which are succeeding. Shouldn't these programs be rewarded?

dating force on defence. Bernie Glier, John Ulmer, and Kevin Konar are still fine players though, not to mention, all are Canadians.

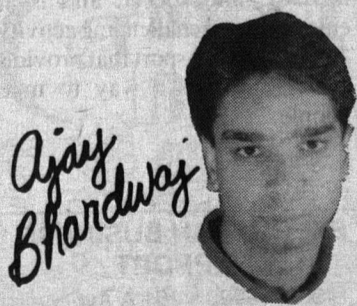
And losing Francis? Sure, he's one of the best man to man cornerbacks in the league, but Marcus Thomas was his backup last year. He was, in any case, ready to start by year's end.

• Has Damon Allen really lost any of his bargaining power? Yes. But not because of the emergence of Tracy Ham and the signing of Steve Taylor. Rick Worman, who started and played well for the pathetic Stampeders, is still under contract with the Eskimos.

He's the one who will push for a starting job this year, not Taylor and not Greg Vavra either. It should be an interesting training camp.

• When the Detroit Red Wings went into a tailspin (1-6-1) earlier this season, they shook things up a bit. They're still not back on track but they did do some things to pick up their play.

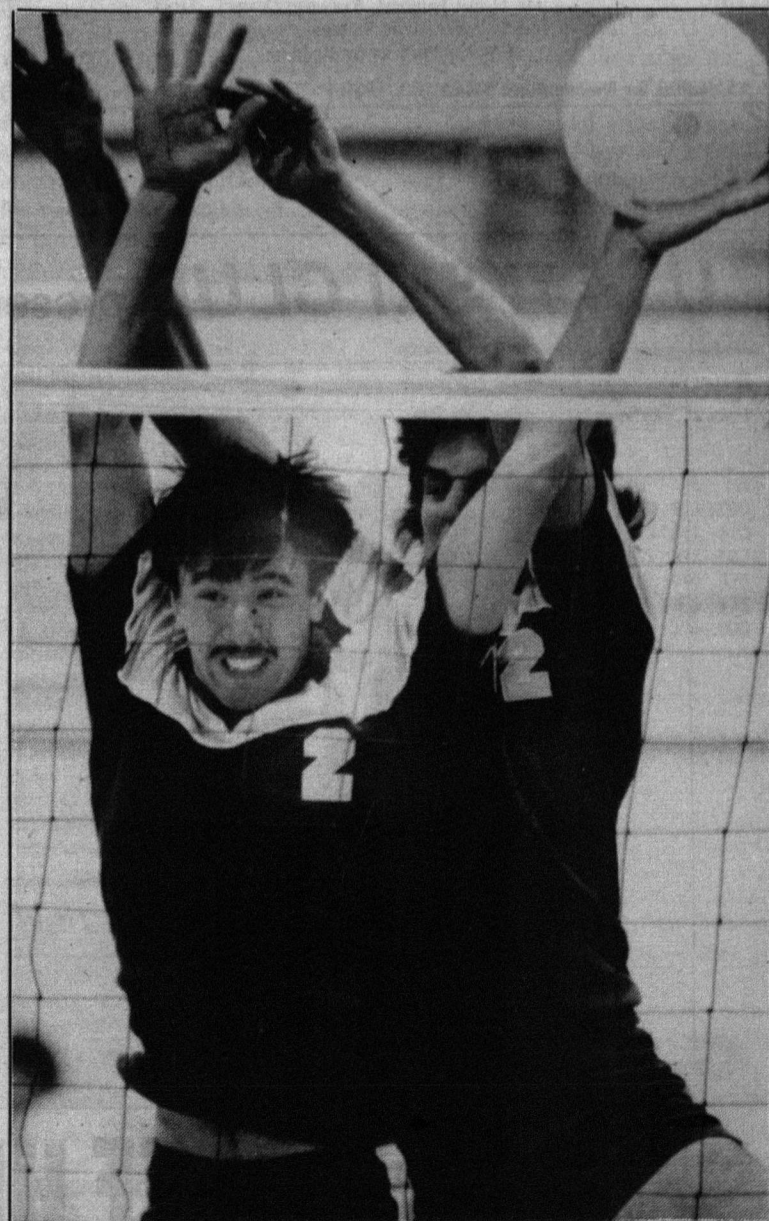
Their arch rivals, the Leafs



Just some thoughts to get us all through these winter doldrums.

• Did the Eskimos really 'de-claw' the B.C. Lions defence when they snared Greg Stumon, Jeff Braswell, and Andre Francis? Let's not jump to conclusions. How does this sound for a front four: Walter Ballard, Brian Belway, Mack Moore, and James Parker? Not bad, eh? Don't forget, the Lions will do some heavy duty recruiting just because they lost Stumon. They always find quality players.

They'll be hurt the most by the loss of Braswell. He's a linebacker with the mentality of Danny Ray Kepley: just what you need to be an intimi-



Bears host Korea

The Bear v-ball team hosts SSK Korea tonight at 7:30 pm in Varsity Gym.