

SPORTS

Heroic goaltending not enough

Bears 4 - Dinos 2
Bears 6 - Dinos 3

by **Bernie Poitras**

As the hockey Bears began their weekend series against the U of Calgary Dinosaurs, visions of two lopsided wins for the U of A skaters set in. Looking at their records - 11 - 3 for the Bears and 2 - 12 for the Dinosaurs - one could only expect the worse, for the Dinosaurs.

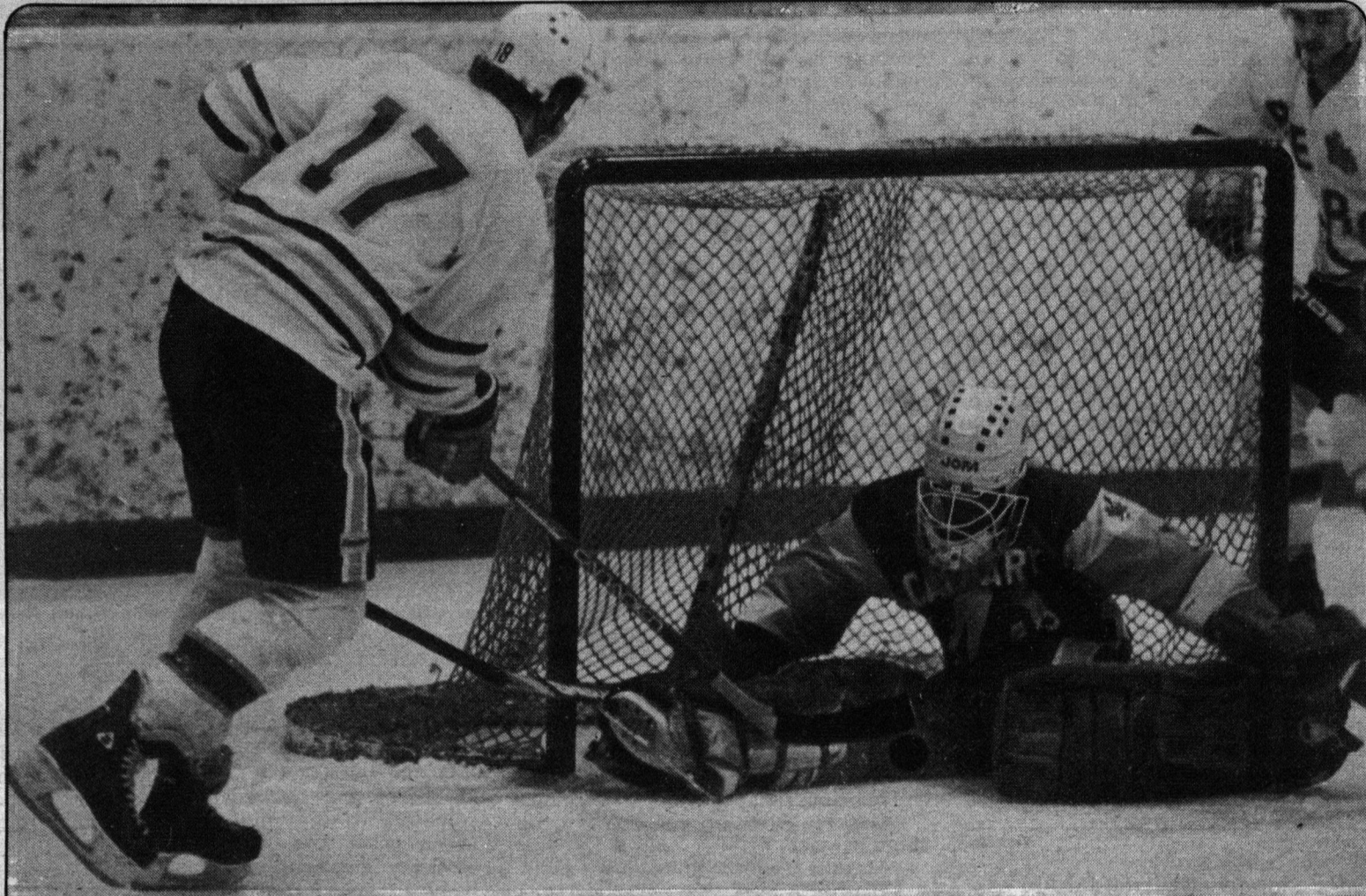
The two games, which the Bears won 4-2 and 6-3 on Friday and Saturday night respectively, looked to be a horrendous mismatch. In the first 14 games the Dinosaurs scored 26 less goals and gave up 40 more than did the Bears; the two teams couldn't be on further extremes than they already were.

But sometimes theory, on paper that is, and practise do not exactly turn out to be the same thing. As was the case this past weekend.

Although the Bears won both games they needed some late period heroics to do so. Friday's match saw the now 13 - 3 Bears fall behind early but then come on to score four consecutive goals to notch their twelfth victory. A giveaway by the Bears defence in the fourth minute of the first period allowed Calgary's Paul Geddes to waltz in all alone and put the Dinosaurs up 1 - 0. That was the only goal the Bears would allow in the next 53 minutes as during that time they scored four of their own to escape with a 4 - 2 victory.

Goal scorers for the good guys were Dave Souch, Denis Leclair, Perry Zapernick and Breen Neeser. Ken Vinge rounded out the scoring for the Dinosaurs.

Bears' coach Bill Moores was not too impressed with his club's performance that night. Said Moores, "I wasn't very happy (with Bears overall performance) but every game you play is not going to be a great game. We didn't play as well as we're going to play."



Calgary goaltender Mike Craig makes yet another save, this time on Bears' left wing Tom Messier (17). In 2 games Craig stopped 90 of 100 shots. Good, but not good enough.

Moores also commented on the fact that his team had quite a few shots from the point which suggests the Bears forwards did not get to shoot in close. Said Moores, "I think what you do is you take what they give you. That's just a general policy. Maybe we didn't do a good job of screening him (goalie Mike Craig) but we got some sticks on the puck but they deflected wide. He was out so far that when you deflected it, it wasn't going to be on the net."

Added Moores, "Credit goes to Craig, I thought he played a hell of a game." That he did.

Craig looked like he should have been handed a blindfold and a cigarette as he faced, literally, a Bears firing squad in facing 54,

count them 54, shots. None of which were easy.

Not being one to crack under pressure Craig stood heroically between the pipes making save after save and collecting the game's second star. In fact, he was named Saturday's second star of the game as well. It only seemed fitting though, since he faced 46 shots that night and looked like the only Calgary player who worked up a sweat.

In Saturday's game, which the Bears won 6 - 3, U of A defenceman Tim Krug scored a hatrick and picked up a first star nomination to give the Bears their sixth 2-game series sweep.

The next home games for the Bears are on February 17 and 18th against the UBC Thunderbirds.

Pandas home to stay after 5 games away

by **Kent Blinston**

If you were in Victoria last weekend, you might have seen a strange sight: 11 young women clicking together the heels of their sneakers and saying, "there's no place like home."

Life away from home has been tough on the Pandas basketball team. But now, after a split of their games on the west coast, the Pandas are home to stay.

Friday, the team shot only 29 per cent from the floor in a 50-46 loss to UBC. Coach Debbie Shogan described it as the "poorest shooting game we've had all year."

It was the third close defeat for the Pandas this season, and in each they were unable to sustain an early lead. In Saturday's game, they finally broke out of that pattern. They took an early lead against U of Vic, held it, and went on to a 56-49 win.

The Pandas are now 2 and 3 which is not as bad as it seems. Odd scheduling had the team playing all five of their road games before playing a single game at home. They are the only team in Canada West to have won an away game. Calgary, leading with a 5-0 record, have played all their games at home.

To make home seem that much more cosy, the Pandas will play all their games in Varsity gym instead of the Butterdome. This weekend sees them host Lethbridge Friday and Calgary Saturday.



BASKETBALL ACTION

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