

As the weekend hockey series between the not-so-Golden Bears and the two coast clubs drew to a close Saturday night at Varsity Arena, it was obvious that there are more problems on the Bear squad than meet the eye.

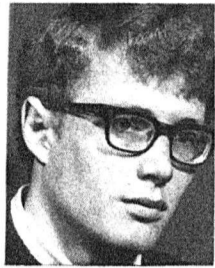
For the good part of the two games the Bruins literally stunk out the joint. Granted, they ran up a 15-0 score on the hapless Victoria Vikings, but that was due more to the ineptness of the Vikings than to the magnificence of the Bears.

It is becoming more and more apparent that Alberta coach Brian McDonald just does not have the control over his players that he should.

The situation was at least bearable at the beginning of the season as the rookie mentor felt his way, but lately things are going from bad to worse.

McDonald has, on paper at least, what people who know consider to be one of the strongest college hockey squads ever. But the club has been far from impressive despite posting a 4-1 mark in WCIHL play.

That McDonald's control over his players is minimal has been shown over again by the increasing number of cheap penalties being taken by



Bob Anderson ... one man's opinion

the players.

I can agree with a player taking a penalty to prevent a breakaway or something along those lines, but there is absolutely no need for some of the highsticking, elbowing, roughing and misconduct sentences that the club has been tagged with this season.

Two other incidents which occurred during the past weekend also lend support to McDonald's seeming lack of restraint of his club.

Milt Hohol, the fiery right winger, whose childish temper has gotten him in trouble before, missed on a close play at the Victoria net. Instead of taking it in his stride, he proceeded to smash his stick on the boards on the way back to the bench and throw the remains out onto the ice.

McDonald, instead of reprimanding the idiot or at least saying some-

thing to him, appeared to treat the matter as a joke, and merely grinned down the bench at the boor.

Hohol was at it again in the third period, extending the middle finger on his right hand high into the air in an obvious gesture to the 1,600 fans who understandably were giving him a rough time by now.

Hell, such temptuous displays would have earned the donkey at least a severe chewing out by ex-coach Clare Drake, and probably even a cooling off period of one game.

I'm not trying to say that McDonald should be copying Drake's every move, but a performance like that should not be condoned in any league.

But McDonald's only move was another grin down the bench at Hohol. The same incident was re-

peated later in the period, and again the reaction was the same by both coach and teammates.

What I'm trying to get across is that such a display of emotional immaturity, especially in front of home town fans, is a hell of a good indication of what the club thinks 1. of itself, 2. of its fans, and 3. of its coach. Things like that just never happened when Drake was around.

McDonald has also come under criticism for his seeming inability to put on a good show of hockey with the abundance of talent he has on hand.

There is no doubt that internal strife on the club has distracted much from the play of the team as a whole. Several of the veterans are upset with the unpopular McDonald, and the explosive situation could get worse as the season goes on.

The time to clean up the act is now, Mr. McDonald, before it's too late. And that goes for your players, also. After all it's they who go out on the ice, score the goals and win the games. But the coach is the one who puts it all together and provides the necessary leadership.

And so far you haven't shown much of that.

McDonald's hockey Bruins—sloppy, unimpressive



THE DAY AFTER
... as Bear Bill Clarke prepares to test Viking goalie Fred Tinisci

—Chuck Lyall photo



THE NIGHT BEFORE
... Bear netminder Dale Halterman beaten by T'Bird Tom Williamson

—Bob Burns photo

Thunderbirds hand Bears first loss while Vikings continue ineptness

By **BOB ANDERSON**
Gateway Sports Editor
UBC 10, BEARS 4
VICTORIA 0, BEARS 15

The Green Machine of Brian McDonald had a taste of both worlds at the weekend, but for sure enjoyed only one of them.

The puck rebounded from the depths of despair on Friday night to the pinnacle of success the following evening, thereby salvaging a split of a series with the west coast clubs in the Western Canada Intercollegiate Hockey League.

UBC Thunderbirds handed the Bears their first loss of the regular season Friday night at Varsity Arena, while Victoria Vikings were thumped 24 hours later by the locals to the tune of 15-0.

The Vikings' loss was their second in as many nights by the same score, as the Calgary Dinosaurs socked it to them Friday in Calgary.

The UBC debacle was undoubtedly the worst display of hockey by a Golden Bear team in recent seasons. And had it not been for the fine work of netminder Dale Halterman the score would have been much higher.

As one wag put it—"At least Halterman didn't have to worry about being screened by his own defensemen—there were just none to be found in the vicinity of the Alberta net."

The poor work of the Bear defensive corps was just part of the story. The T'Birds, under Coach Bob Hindmarch, came out flying, and were obviously fired up for the contest with the league leaders.

Except for the occasional lapse, the visitors were full marks for their win.

On the other hand, the Albertans, who returned from a tough four game road trip in the East only 24 hours earlier, looked sluggish and never at any time appeared to threaten.

"The combination of the road trip and the excellent play of UBC turned out to be a deadly one for us," McDonald said. "But I'm not

taking anything away from them—they deserved to win."

It was 2-0 for the 'Birds at the end of the first period and 6-3 after 40 minutes.

Wayne Schaab, the WCIHL's leading scorer, led the way for the winners with two goals and three assists, while linemate Tom Williamson potted three. Mike Darnbrough, Roy Sakaki, Barry Wilcox, Ken Lemmen and Dwayne Biagioni added the others.

Mike Lemieux with two, and linemates Bill Clarke and Bob Devaney with one each replied for the Bears who were outshot 40-34 in front of 2,400 surprised on-lookers. The Bears took eight of 15 minor penalties.

EXPANSION WOES

Saturday was a different story as the Bruins completely humiliated the expansion Vikings. And it was painfully apparent that many more games will pass before the Islanders can field a competitive squad. They are 0-5 to date.

The Bears themselves were improved considerably over Friday's performance, but still experienced problems in moving the puck out of their own zone.

Gerry Braunberger, Sam Belcourt, Milt Hohol, Tom Devaney, Bob Devaney and Al Cameron each sniped a pair for the Bears, with singles going to Clarke, Jack Gibson and Dennis Zukiwsky.

Bob Wolfe handled but 20 shots in recording his first shutout of the campaign, while shellshocked Fred Tinisci at the other end looked at 63 Alberta thrusts.

The split leaves the Bears with a 4-1 mark, good enough for a second place tie with Calgary Dinosaurs, two points behind Manitoba Bisons who defeated Brandon 5-3 and Saskatchewan 5-4.

In other league action, Saskatchewan slapped Winnipeg Wesmen 4-2, and Brandon bombed the Wesmen 8-0.

Next action for the Golden Ones is Friday night when they entertain Saskatchewan Huskies and Saturday when Brandon Bobcats are the visitors.