

# Bears sweep T-Birds - 12-0 start

by Mark Spector

Fred Masuch, head coach of the UBC Thunderbirds, grabbed the gamesheet out of the scorekeeper's hand and crumpled it up.

His club had just lost their second game of the weekend to the defending Canada West champs.

He had good reason to be upset. The T-Birds put on an anemic performance while losing 7-4 on Friday and 8-3 in a penalty filled game on Saturday night.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the building in the Bears dressing room area, Clare Drake showed the poise of a man who has won 559 hockey games.

Drake was more upset with the fact that his team had lowered themselves to the T-Birds level than he was happy with their sweep of the two game series.

Involved in altercations were Dennis Cranston (game misconduct), Curt Brandolini (unsportsmanlike conduct) and Stacey Wakabayashi (spearing) amongst others.

It was obvious that the UBC T-Birds were frustrated, as Saturday night's contest saw referee Lance Roberts call 56 penalties for 137 minutes (Bears had 31 for 76 minutes).

Aside from the penalties however, Saturday's spotlight shone brightly on fourth year forward Bill Ansell.

After a one-goal game on Friday in which he just didn't have the finishing touch, Ansell exploded for three goals and an assist the next night.

After Jack Patrick opened the

scoring early in the first period, Ansell assisted on a goal by Al Tarasuk on a scramble at the 12:21 mark.

Tarasuk ended up with a goal and two helpers after not dressing on Friday night.

Ansell and UBC's Mark Didcott traded goals in the first six minutes of the second, and then Stacey Wakabayashi took a pass from Guy Paradis and streaked down the right side of the rink, uncorking a 35 foot wrist shot that split the pads of UBC goalie Ray Silvey.

Before the period ended, Dennis Cranston converted on a two-on-one with Eric Thurston. After a goal and an assist on Friday, Thurston tallied three assists on Saturday to close out a five point weekend.

This game was a foregone conclusion before the third period even began, as UBC was totally outclassed by an Alberta squad that is now 12-0 so far this season.

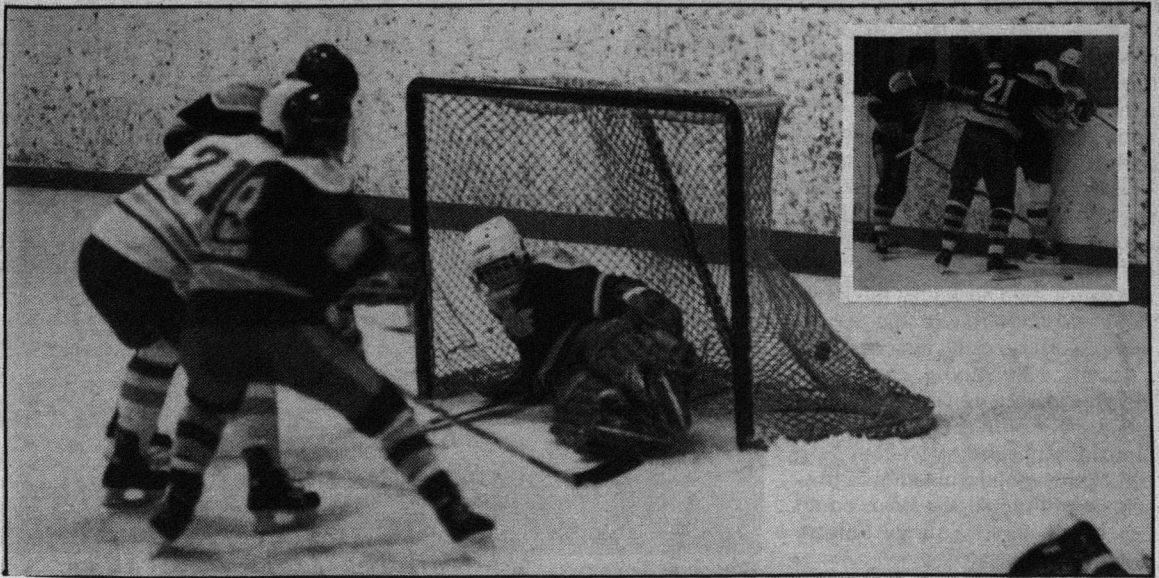
But Bill Ansell didn't care who the opposition was on this night, "You've got to play to win no matter who the opponent is. If you just go out to rack up the points, you'll get yourself into trouble."

With four goals and a helper this weekend, Ansell equals the four markers that he had in 15 CWUAA games last year.

"I'm trying to carry the puck a lot more this year. I have to try to play with more poise (to improve his output from last season)."

Friday night saw a different sort of hockey game, as both teams opened up the CWUAA season hoping for a good start.

After the teams traded early



Al Tarasuk nets one in a crowd. The game got rough with 137 penalty minutes.

photo Alex Miller

goals, rookie defenseman Eric Thurston unleashed a 40 foot slapshot that Silvey only got a little piece of for a 2-1 lead.

From there the Bears never trailed, as NAIT refugee Sid Cranston totalled three assists, while Dave Otto, Gerald Koebel, Howie Draper, and Thurston each had a goal and an assist.

Mike Coflin (hat trick) and Mark Trozok (three assists) were the only bright spots for UBC, as the T-Birds were outshot 42-30.

Clare Drake was forced to put forwards Brandolini and Koebel on the blueline, and surprisingly enough, he played them as a pairing.

They played well enough, but the big defensive standout in this game was rookie Howie Draper.

Draper was one of the many defensemen that came to camp hoping to replace departed veterans Parie Proft, Rick Carriere and Tim Krug.

Draper echoed the thoughts of all of the newcomers after playing the first regular season game.

"It's just nice to know that you're finally part of the team," said the first year graduate of the Sherwood Park Crusaders. "There's a lot cleaner contact in this league, although just as much," he remarked on the jump up from tier II hockey.

John Krill got the starting assignment in goal, after a long camp in which eight goalers were auditioned for two spots.

"I was pretty nervous for about the first ten minutes," admitted Krill, "but that first goal (1:57 into

the game) sort of woke me up."

Krill was aided by two goalposts in the second frame. "It's good to be lucky and lucky to be good. You've got to consider it (the posts) as part of the equipment," said Krill.

**Bears Notes** — The Bears dominated on special teams all weekend, holding UBC's powerplay to two for 12 on Saturday and scoring three shorthanded goals in two games. . . **Nadr Jomha** played the third period of Saturday's contest. Krill was between the pipes the rest of the time. . . D.J. Havrelock had arthroscopic knee surgery and hopes to return for the Nov. 1 and 2 dates vs. the **Lethbridge Pronghorns**. . . Attendance on Friday was roughly 300, about 225 the next night.

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