

# Has Alberta met their match?

## Bears swept by Dinos... again!

by Mark Spector

Calgary — It's a harsh reality to face, but after a pair of losses in Calgary which complete a seasonal sweep for the Dinos, the facts grow all too clear for the Golden Bears.

After losing nine players off last year's CIAU runners-up squad, Alberta shot off to an 18-2 start this year and seemingly could not lose. But six losses in their last eight Canada West games have shown this club to be mere mortals, and has proven that they were indeed playing over their heads in the first half of the season.

Coming off a one-sided sweep of Saskatchewan just a week ago, Alberta looked as if they had shaken a monkey off their backs which saw them lose six straight games. And, heading down to Cowtown Alberta, they looked and spoke very confidently regarding the two revenge matches against a Dino club that turned the first sweep at Varsity Arena in three years just three weeks previously.

But right from the start on Saturday it became obvious that Alberta does not have what it takes either

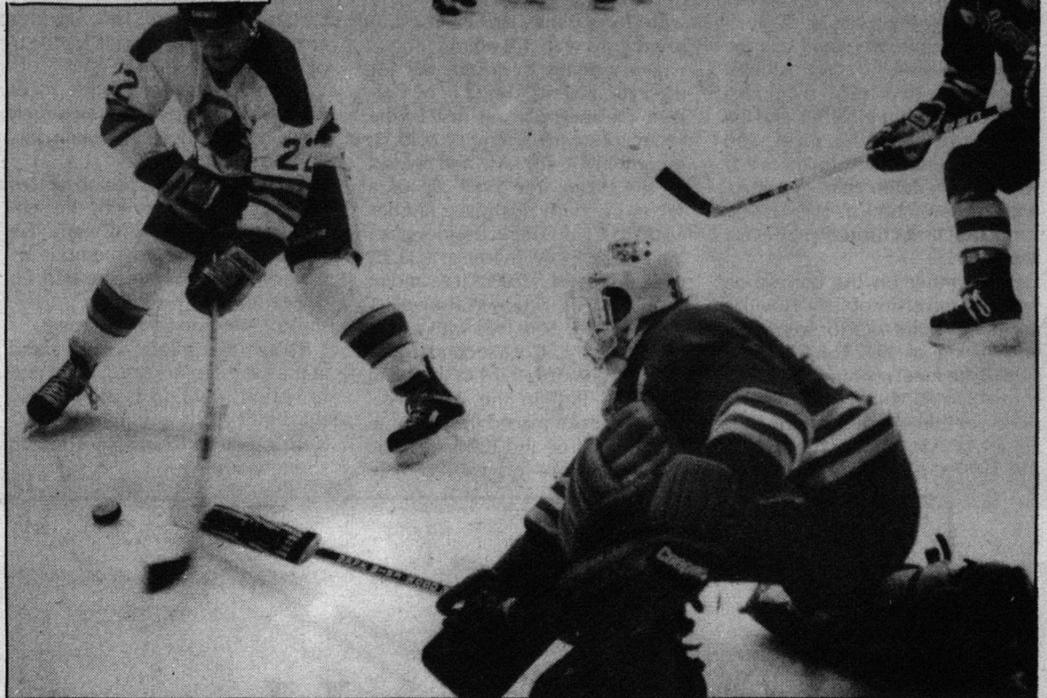
to defeat the Calgary Dinos or to win a national championship in March.

Right now at least. If there was any blessing whatsoever it was that Alberta had the CWUAA wrapped up since last week when they swept the Huskies, while Calgary could only manage a split with Regina.

In Saturday's game, the two teams played even hockey for the first forty minutes until Calgary blew the game wide open in the third. Ron Vertz (2), Dave Otto, and Al Tarasuk scored for Alberta, while Terry Jones (2), Carey Coroy, and Barry Bracko replied for the Dinos to knot the score at 4-4 heading into the final frame.

However, defensive breakdowns led to three straight Dino goals by Mark Fioretti, Ryan Fox, and Ken Vinge and the game was out of reach.

Alberta almost came to within a goal with 47 seconds left to play when Gerald Koebel's shot from the point went in the net, but neither the referee nor a snoozing female goal judge saw the play. As



Bear goalie Darren Turner lunges for a puck against the Dinos' Barry Bracko.

Eric Thurstomn had scored earlier for the Bears, it would have brought them to within one, but it wasn't to be.

Coroy closed out the scoring with an empty-netter for Calgary.

"The puck went right through my legs and I was standing right in front of the net," said Curt Brandolini of the missed goal.

The line of Brandolini, Stacey Wakabayashi, and Dennis Cranston was virtually shut down after enjoying much success the previous week. "Yes, it seemed as if they were keying on our line somewhat," admitted Brandolini.

"That's the line that we concentrated on," said Calgary goalie Ken Trousdell. "For me, I think Brandolini is the most dangerous one out there. He always seems to be right in front causing trouble and making things difficult."

Sunday's affair began as if Alberta would even the count, on this weekend at least, with Brandolini

opening the scoring at the 5:41 mark of the first on a nifty turnaround wrist shot from 14 feet out. But Terry Knight evened the score not three minutes later, beating John Krill off a picture two-on-one with Terry Jones, tipping the puck high over a sprawled Krill.

Shawn Clouston then put Alberta ahead once more on a long screen shot just 1:22 into the second. However, that was all she wrote for the Bears as Ken Vinge, Barry Bracko (both on the powerplay), and Robin Laycock all netted second period goals to close out the scoring and the season series in favour of the Dinos.

"When there's the potential of meeting that team in the playoffs you don't want to go in never having beaten them," admitted Brandolini after the Sunday contest. "But I don't believe in jinxes. They beat us because they played better hockey."

"We were getting beaten to the

puck all weekend," echoed rear-guard Colin Chisholm.

"We just have to look at the playoffs as a new season."

And that is all that the Golden Bears can do... besides be thankful that they're assured a spot in the nationals.

The Canada West semi-finals begin this weekend with the Bears hosting the Saskatchewan Huskies who they've beaten in all six outings this year. Meanwhile, Calgary will host Manitoba in the other semi.

**Bear Facts** — Bill Ansell sat out the second game in Calgary after he suffered a deep gouge on his elbow during a scrap on Saturday... **Steve Cousins** didn't make the trip due to a nagging charley-horse... Manitoba was involved in a bench clearer with **Brandon** and may be minus a few players for their series with Calgary.

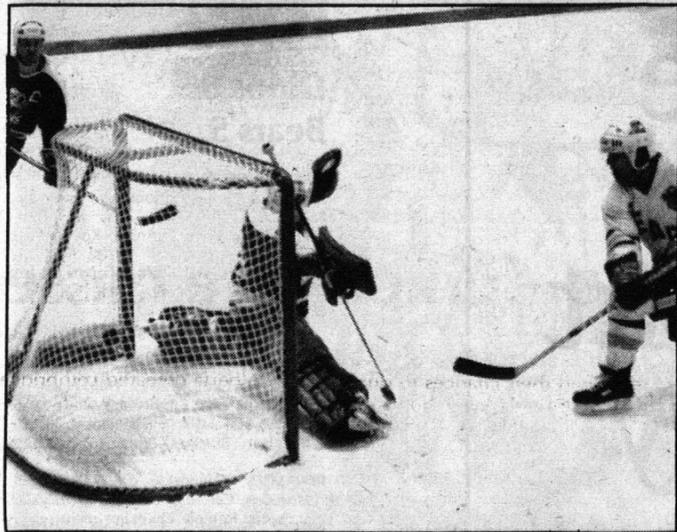


Photo Bruce Candace

Action from two weeks ago vs. Saskatchewan. Stacey Wakabayashi finishes off a picture play from Dennis Cranston and Curt Brandolini. This was the Bears' hottest line in the 9-5 and 7-1 victories that seemingly would set Alberta on track.

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COMMITTEE	VACANCIES	
	Graduate	Undergraduate
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	Alternate members	2
Admissions & Transfer Committee (One student must be a transferee from an Albertan college)		3
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Computing Committee	1	2
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Library Committee	1	2
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Undergraduate Scholarship Committee		2
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A vacancy may occur on the Planning and Priorities Committee and the Facilities Development Committee for an undergraduate student.

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