

Soccer Bears miss scoring touch

by Brian Crowley
Alberta 0 Lethbridge 0

The soccer Bears earned an A for effort, but an F for finishing touch, as they could not manage to score against the Lethbridge Pronghorns on Friday afternoon, and settled with a 0 - 0 draw. In this case, the score in no way indicates an evenly played contest, as the Bears were in control throughout.

The Bears monopolized the ball during the first 20 minutes of the

game, keeping the Pronghorns back on their heels. The backfield demonstrated excellent ball control, while the midfield fed the ball to the forwards for a number of early scoring opportunities.

The frustration began to show on the Bears during the latter stages of the first half, as the marking tightened, and the play became chippy. Lethbridge seized the opportunity, and created a couple of scoring chances of their own. It looked like they just

might turn the tide on the Bears.

Pronghorn forward Dino Pasquotti summed up his team's performance. "We knew they were more skillful than we are. We've got a lot of young guys." Bear coach Len Vickery agreed. "It was up to us, if we were the better team, to create the chances, and not let Lethbridge into the game." He continued, "...if we don't score early, then the other team is encouraged."

As the second half began, however, the Bears pushed forward as if they were on a mission. But they still couldn't find the back of the net.

for the Bears, as they kept the pressure on. Suddenly the Bears got their big break, as midfielder Rob Biro flew into the box after the ball, only to be greeted with a vicious tackle by the Pronghorn goalkeeper. The referee pointed to the spot. All eyes were on midfielder Salvi Cammarata as he approached the ball, struck it.... THUD, off the post!

From this point on, the Bears were visibly tense. As they threw everything they had at the Pronghorns, they became their own worst enemy. They forgot finesse and strategy, sending even more

The work ethic was no problem scoring chances high and wide of

the net.

When asked about his team's lack of finish around the net, and the absence of standout Norm Odinga, Vickery replied, "We've always said that Norm is good for one goal a game.... when you see our guys miss chances like that, then obviously missing Norm Odinga becomes a factor."

The next Bears soccer action is this weekend against perennial powerhouses Victoria Vikings, and U.B.C. Thunderbirds. Both games will be played at Faculte Saint-Jean (8406 - 91 St.), with the Vikings on Friday at 4:00 p.m., and U.B.C. on Saturday at 2:00 p.m.



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