

Speaking on Sports

By DON MOREN

No wonder they say, "Skip winter. Come to Vancouver."

When I left Edmonton last Thursday, the temperature was at least 20 below, not to mention the wind chill. Coming to Vancouver was like escaping to the Promised Land.

Vancouver seemed a lush, sub-tropical paradise. Was it only 47 above? I almost suffocated in my long-johns. The grass was unbelievably green. With all that rain Vancouverites must have to cut their lawns three times a week.

Canada's third-largest city didn't strike me as a hockey town. People in Montreal and Toronto have snow and icy streets to condition them to a game like hockey.

But to my amazement, the Golden Bears played in an arena climatized for hockey. How they can keep Thunderbird Arena so cold when the temperature is 45 outside is beyond me.

Add 608 screaming, partisan fans, which they did on Friday night, and I can only conclude hockey is hockey wherever you go in Canada.

UBC Thunderbirds didn't finish very far behind the Bears on the scoreboard that night but the teams were not as close a match as some reports coming back from Vancouver might indicate.

If you're comparing the two teams, score three goals against the Thunderbirds to begin with because they can't skate with the Bears. If UBC had a couple more forwards as fast as Al McLean and Bob Apps, they would have a contending club in the WCIAA.

McLean was a hockey All-American at North Dakota in 1962-63 and Apps plays flanker with the British Columbia Lions.

Score another three goals because their defence doesn't have half the savvy the Bears do. Instead of playing good positional hockey, they were out to hit and were consequently sucked into foolish penalties.

'Showed him a little wood'

Dale Rippel, Bears' utility man told of one of the 'Birds who was simply out there to knock guys around. They both smashed into the boards and Rippel decided to "show him a little wood," a hockey player's colloquialism meaning to jab the other guy with your stick.

"Ooh, you're a marked man now!" threatened the UBC player. He never bothered Rippel for the rest of the game.

Count another goal against the 'Birds for giving away the puck too often. UBC couldn't cope with the Bears' persistent forechecking and countless times they lost the puck in their own end.

That makes a sum total of seven. Credit them with one goal because of Russ Kirk's strong net-minding. Before going to UBC, Kirk played with Memorial Cup finalists, the Edmonton Oil Kings.

Give them another marker for occasional flashes of brilliance—most of them courtesy Al McLean. Add one more for that unexplainable one mediocre period of hockey the Bears invariably play in every game.

T' birds completely outclassed

That gives us a 7-3 score in favor of the Bears, incidentally the score they won by on Saturday afternoon. It's not really possible to make value judgments on hockey teams, but considering the three weekend games, for my money the Bears glaringly outclassed the 'Birds.

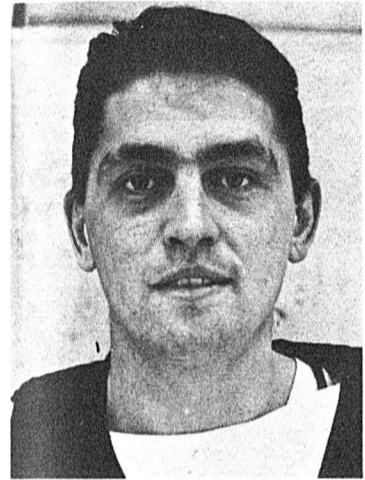
As for that close 2-1 game, it was just one of those nights when the Bears couldn't score.

The second period of Friday night's game was one of the finest periods I have seen the Bears play all season. All three lines moved the puck well. The big ice surface suited their passing games.

Billings, Harper, "Baron" LeBlanc, and Jones were at their dekiest best and had no trouble moving in on Kirk.

Putting the puck in the net was a different thing. Even Gerry Braunberger had trouble—he only got one goal this time around.

On Saturday afternoon the Bears weren't working as hard but the puck went in anyway.



DALE RIPPEL

Winless Dinnies could surprise Bears tonight at Varsity Arena

You may think the Golden Bears are going to roll right over the Calgary Dinosaurs tonight at Varsity Arena, but don't count on it.

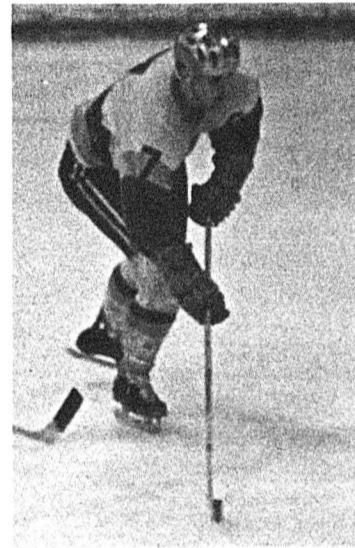
The Dinnies may be winless in eight starts in Western Intercollegiate action but there may be some surprises in store for the weekend games.

Calgary has lost some close games: 5-4 to Manitoba on Nov. 19, 5-4 to the Golden Bears Nov. 25, 5-3 to Saskatchewan on Dec. 3.

Most amazing of all, the inconsistent Dinosaurs defeated the Notre Dame Knights 6-4 on Jan. 14. Edmonton fans might expect some more brilliant goal-tending by Don Vosburgh. His performance was a big factor in the win over the Nelson club.

BAD NEWS

Vosburgh could be bad news for several Golden Bears who are in hot pursuit of the conference scoring title.



BRIAN HARPER
... needs points

Brian Harper, Golden Bear captain, was sharing the scoring lead with Bill Sveinsson as of Jan. 1 and will need a few points to stay in the thick of things.

Del Billings, rookie center, was close behind with twelve points and is league leader in the assists department.

Left-winger Gerry Braunberger will try and keep his hot scoring streak going against Calgary. Braunberger piled up eight points last weekend against the UBC Thunderbirds.

Golden Bear goalie Bob Wolfe bettered his goals-against average over the weekend to 2.45 and will be out to improve some more tonight. Game time is 8 p.m.

WCIAA HOCKEY STANDINGS

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Alberta	8	1	0	18
Saskatchewan	8	2	0	16
Manitoba	5	5	0	10
UBC	0	5	0	0
Calgary	0	8	0	0

Battles for second place highlight weekend hockey, basketball action

By CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

OTTAWA (CUP)—Second place circulated like a piece of currency at the weekend in Canadian college hockey and basketball games.

When Sunday dawned on hockey standings, Alberta had moved out of a second place tie into sole possession of first place in the West, Waterloo had tied Western Ontario for second in the Ontario-Quebec league, and Mount Allison had all but resigned themselves to a second place finish in the Maritimes by losing 5-4 to St. Francis Xavier.

BROKE DEADLOCK

Nationally second-ranked Alberta broke a second-place deadlock with Manitoba in Vancouver by sweeping a three game series, 4-1, 2-1 and 7-3, from British Columbia.

The three games count as four in the standings due to scheduling problems which developed from Alberta's participation in the Cen-

tenial College hockey tournament in Montreal two weeks ago.

The series gives the defending Western champions nine victories in ten official league games. The Golden Bears have lost once to Saskatchewan, whose 8-2 record now places them second.

Waterloo moved into a second place tie by defeating the universities of Guelph and Montreal, 7-1 and 6-1 respectively in Waterloo. Forward Bob Murdoch counted four goals for Waterloo in the four games.

Western Ontario lost a chance Saturday to gain first place, top-rated Toronto when they lost 6-1 to the Blues in London.

A ten-foot backhand goal by winger Lloyd McKinnon with five minutes remaining in the game severely jolted Mount Allison's hopes for a league championship. The goal broke a 4-4 tie and gave St. Francis a commanding lead in the Maritime Intercollegiate Conference.

CAME FROM BEHIND

Sir George Williams University and Loyola College strengthened their respective holds on first and second place in Ontario-St. Lawrence weekend play. Sir George's third-ranked team came from behind to clobber Carleton 11-4, while Loyola blanked Bishops 6-0. The shutout for Loyola's Bryan Hughes was his third of the season, to establish a league record.

In basketball at the weekend in

Edmonton, Alberta and British Columbia took turns hurting the other's chances for a first place finish. The sixth-ranked Golden Bears won an easy 61-49 victory Friday, but fell 81-52 before a well executed tight press employed Saturday by the fifth-rated Thunderbirds.

BEARS SECOND

Saturday's game left Alberta in second place in the West, two points short of second-ranked Calgary.

Meanwhile in Windsor, Canada's top-rated basketball team, Windsor Lancers, took another step forward defending their national championship. The Lancers dumped tenth-ranked Waterloo 80-60 behind Bob Navetta and Angelo Mazzuchin, who scored 22 and 17 points respectively.

The loss was Waterloo's second last weekend. They were stopped 54-49 Wednesday by eighth-ranked Toronto in Waterloo.

In other basketball games at the weekend, second-ranked Acadia beat New Brunswick 71-65 for its first victory of the season, and Royal Military College edged Loyola 75-71 in Montreal.

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Ski team captures five trophies

The U of A ski team brought home five trophies over the weekend as they took every event in the Invitational Intercollegiate Ski Meet.

The five man team, led by Bruce Wilson and Doug Bell, compiled 33 out of a possible 45 points in a complete rout of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Wilson, the individual winner, swept the slopes, placing first in the downhill and the giant slalom events and fourth in the slalom.

Bell won the slalom and placed second in the downhill to round out the Alberta victory.

Bill Grey, from the U of M, accounted for all ten of the Manitoba points by placing in the top five in each event and giving them second place.

Saskatchewan trailed badly, picking up only two points by a fifth place finish in the slalom and giant slalom.

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