

## BEARS SWEEP HUSK'S

by Alan Small  
**Alberta 7 Saskatchewan 4**

Sid Cranston and Stacey Wakabayashi have choked and sliced many teams in Canada West this season like the Boston Strangler and Jack the Ripper. The pair attacked once again Saturday night.

Wakabayashi's first star performance — he scored once and added four assists — added with Cranston's hattrick and second star showing left the outgunned Saskatchewan Huskies dead on arrival.

"We got a better effort tonight, but Cranston and Wakabayashi were the difference," said Huskie head coach Brent McEwen, who has had lots of practice singing



the same tune. For four seasons, Sid's brother Dennis was Wakabayashi's center. They terrorized the west for four years, but never like the way Wakabayashi and Sid are this season.

Alberta's calling card was the same they've used to murder Canada West teams all season: special teams. They scored two power

play goals and victimized the Saskatchewan Huskies two more times while shorthanded, to pace their way to a 7-4 victory. Both shorthanded goals were scored by Cranston, the first at the 8:36 mark of the first to open up the scoring and the second with only 34 seconds gone in the second period on a picture perfect pass from Wakabayashi to make the score 3-0.

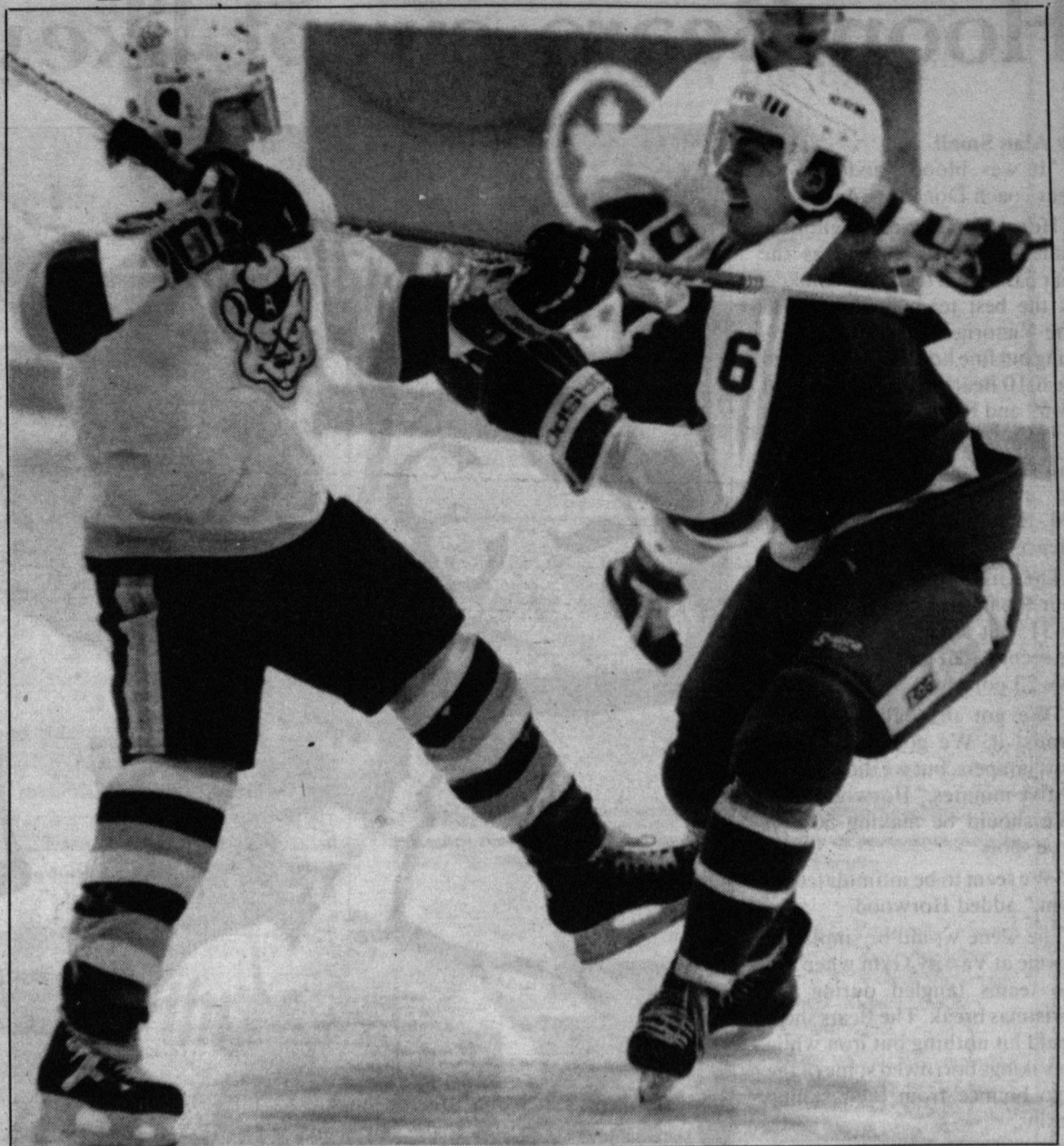
Sandwiched between those two was a power play goal by their not-so-silent partner Doug McCarthy, on a lovely deke of Huskie goalie Pat Nogier.

Wakabayashi warns that the Bears are not a one line team. "Maybe it showed tonight, but in the last few games, we've had all four lines working," said the fifth year winger.

"Those two shorthanded goals spelled the difference tonight. Five-on five we were even up," said McEwen. "We were very passive in their zone on the power play while the Bears were very aggressive. We haven't seen a specialty team that aggressive and we weren't prepared for it."

Bear head coach Clare Drake thought that the shorthanded goals left the Huskie power play with no bite. "(Shorthanded goals) are really a tough play against you," said Drake. "It makes your whole power play nervous."

"After every weekend, you see those percentages and you go into next weekend's games with a lot of confidence," said Bear defence-



Bear Adam Morrison jousts with Huskie Craig Butz. Morrison scored his 12th of the year Saturday

Jeff Cowley

man Howie Draper. The Bears had an outstanding 44.1% efficiency rating on the power play, while their penalty killing was a splendid 81.1%.

The Huskies made the score 3-1 on a freak goal by third star Maurice Lemire, who banked the puck off Bear goalie Blair MacGregor from behind the Bear net. Cranston answered back with a power play goal before Wes Craig made the score 5-1 with an unassisted goal at 18:51.

The Huskies barked back quickly, as Deric Karolat scored his 11th 32 seconds after Craig's goal and Chris Gall scored only 67 seconds later into the third. A quick shot from the face off spot 11 seconds later by Adam Morrison gave the Bears a three goal lead again.

Saskatchewan's Walter Shutter tried to keep Saskatchewan's hope for a split alive with a goal at the

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#### 1st Period

1. Alta. Cranston 14 (Wakabayashi, MacGregor) 8:36, sh  
 2. Alta. McCarthy 18 (Wakabayashi, Thibodeau) 10:56, pp  
 Penalties: Herbers, A 5:08, Thibodeau, A 7:52, Pogany, S 10:25, Leier, S, Craig, A, Tarasuk, / 12:46, Leier, S 15:22, bench, S (served by McLellan) 17:25, McLellan, S, P. Beauschesne, S, Draper, A, Couture, A, misconducts, Tarasuk, A, minor, 20:00

#### 2nd Period

3. Alta. Cranston 15 (Wakabayashi) :34, sh  
 4. Sask. Lemire, 6 2:35  
 5. Alta. Cranston 16 (Wakabayashi, McCarthy) 13:47, pp  
 6. Alta. Craig 24 18:19

3:44 mark, but the Bear defence held after that, leaving the Huskies to pull Nogier from the nets. The plan backfired, as Wakabayashi scored his 21st into an open net with 14 seconds remaining.

7. Sask. Karolat 11 (McLellan, McKechney) 18:51  
 Penalties: Leier, S 4:31, Hingley, A 4:31, MacPherson, S 5:58, Herbers, A 8:57, G. Beauschesne, S 13:00, Karolat, S, Hingley, A 15:17

#### 3rd Period

8. Sask. Gall 16 (Lemire, Leier) 1:07  
 9. Alta. Morrison 12 (Craig) 1:18  
 10. Sask. Shutter 10 (Oogany, P. Beauschesne) 3:44  
 11. Wakabayashi 29 (McCarthy, Cranston) 19:46, en  
 Penalties: Lemire, S, Gall, S 5:16, Lemire, S, Paradis, A 10:40, Lloyd, S, Craig, A 13:49, MacGregor, A (served by Hingley) 15:40

#### Shots on Goal:

SASK	8	11	10	- 29
ALTA	11	12	13	- 36

Goalies: Nogier, S, MacGregor, A

**FACE OFFS:** Ken Morrison's trip to Edmonton was pointless. The top Huskie pointman and Canada West's leading goal scorer was held off the scoresheet both nights by the Bears.

## U of A stonewalls over revolt

Randal Smathers



There is something rancid in the Butterdome. Last Friday, separate sources close to the Panda volleyball team let it be known that seven players had refused to play for head coach Suzi Smith, as a reaction to her strict coaching methods.

There are conflicting reports as to exactly why the Pandas refused to play. *The Edmonton Journal* carried a report that the Pandas were upset over a four-hour

practice on White Monday. My source said the practice *only* went three hours, and the problem is actually an ongoing one concerning Smith's harsh practice regimen.

The source also said that athletic director Dr. Robert Steadward had threatened to shut down the program if the players did not play last weekend.

On Monday night, Steadward said "the program is going on as usual."

Smith was indeed absent from the Panda games Friday and Saturday, but there are differing reasons given for her being missing. According to Steadward there was nothing ominous about the weekend. He said that Smith was merely in Calgary to

be with her sister while her sister had a baby.

Steadward also dismissed as "rumor" the report that the players had refused to play for Smith, although he did acknowledge that he would be speaking with both the players and coach in the next few days. "If there are concerns... I'll have something more to say about them then," he said.

Even if it were to prove that the "palace revolt" never occurred, or was exaggerated in the telling, there is still a problem with the Panda volleyball team. Assuming that what Steadward says is true, we are left with a situation where Panda players are spreading lies about turning on their coach the minute she leaves town — not a healthy situation at all.

If the reports received by both myself and *The Edmonton Journal's* Mark Spector are in fact true, then the Panda volleyball program is in deep trouble. Suzi Smith is the only successful coach in the recent history of the program, and replacing her would be every bit as hard as replacing seven players, especially if the rumors of a revolt are true. It would be hard to convince anyone to coach if they were to be replaceable at the players' wishes.

As the situation stands right now, the Pandas were not practising at their scheduled hour on Monday night, Suzi Smith had not returned my messages, and we'll have to wait and see. The immediate future of Panda volleyball hangs in the balance.