

Drake's pucksters complete successful holiday season

By BOB ANDERSON

Inactivity has often been the ruin of many a good hockey team. Coach Clare Drake of the Golden Bears fortunately realized this, with the result that his charges had very little time to enjoy the Christmas festivities.

The Golden Bears last saw league action Dec. 6-7 when they disposed of the Manitoba Bisons 11-1 and 6-3 in a pair of games at Varsity Arena. The twin victories left the Bears two points behind the first-place Calgary Dinosaurs but with two games in hand.

A short break for exams followed and then the fun really began. Unlike during pre-season training, where exhibition games were as scarce as the Golden Bear Band at athletic events, the Bears suddenly found themselves deluged with requests for games.

BEAT REGINA

Regina Pats, runaway leaders of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, paid a visit to Varsity Arena and found it tough sledging against a Bear team that had been off skates for close to a week. The Bears prevailed in both games, 5-3 and 3-2, no small feat considering that three of their big guns were home for the holidays.

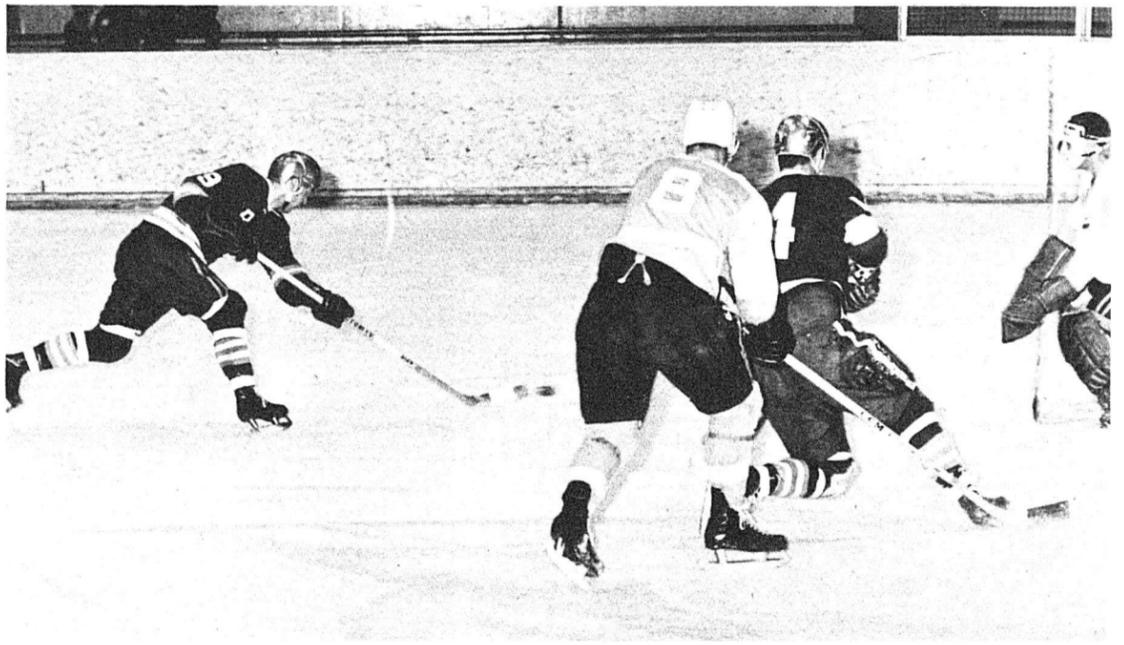
But there was no rest for the wicked as the club left for Spokane by bus just hours after New Year's dinner. The Trail Smoke Eaters, currently in third place in the senior Western International Hockey League, were the first opponents of the Bears, dropping a 3-1 decision. Dale Halterman was the big star for the Bears, turning aside 47 shots, to cover up for a poor performance by his mates.

SPOKANE NEXT

The Spokane Jets, leaders in the WIHL, were next and proved a bit too much to handle. The Jets won twice by scores of 3-2 and 1-0, in games which could have gone either way. The difference in the first game was a goal which never went in, although the goal judge ruled that it had.

The big difference in the second game was one Al Rollins, coach, general manager and sometimes goaltender of the Jets. Rollins, who in four previous seasons as coach of the Calgary Dinosaurs failed to gain even a tie against the Bears, got sweet revenge as he recorded the shutout, blocking 29 shots.

And, back at home, the University of Victoria Vikings paid a visit to Varsity Arena and were soundly thrashed by the Junior Bearcats, 10-2. Vikings are currently playing an exhibition schedule with WCIAA clubs preparatory to becoming a full-time member next year. It promises to be a trying season for the young club.



OLIVER MORRIS SCORES IN ONE OF ... the victories over the Bisons photo by Young

Bears and Dinos clash tonight

First place on the line

By BOB ANDERSON

If ever there was a time of reckoning for Clare Drake and his Golden Bear hockey club, tonight and tomorrow will be it.

The first place Calgary Dinosaurs are in town for two games which will likely decide the WCIAA pennant winner. Dinnies presently lead the Bears by two points, but the Albertans have two games in hand.

The name of the game as far as the Golden Ones are concerned is revenge. For it was the Dinosaurs who have handed the Bears their two losses of the season in the opening games of the schedule two

months ago in Calgary. Both games ended in one goal margins for Calgary and both could have actually gone either way.

"We're a better club than we were in the openers", says Calgary coach George Kingston, himself an ex-Bear. "I think we're now playing with more poise. We are in first place because the boys are playing like winners."

Both clubs should be ready for the big series, following a strenuous exhibition schedule during the holiday break. The Bears played five tough games, winning three of them, while the Dinnies were bombed twice by a weak Drumheller Miner club of the Alberta Senior Hockey League before

thrashing Victoria Vikings 10-1, a team which the Alberta Junior Bearcats dealt with 10-2.

Both clubs have some lineup changes from their past encounters. For the Dinosaurs, Norm Minor, a defenceman and Don Maxwell, a left winger, have joined the team after having toiled with the football team. Both have looked good in recent games.

For the Bears, young Dan Bouwmeester will be making his first start in a league game.

"He looked great on our recent road trip to Spokane and showed that he has what it takes to play in this league", raved Coach Drake at practice earlier this week. "He'll see action at both defence and left wing."

UP FRONT

The attacking units will likely remain the same, with Wayne Wiste pivoting Jack Gibson and Oliver Morris, Bill Clarke between Milt Hohol and Don Darling and Gerry Hornby centering Don Falkenberg and Tom Devaney. Harv Poon will likely be the extra forward.

On defence, Mike Ballash and Gerry Braunberger will work together, with Jim Seutter and Mel Baird forming the other defensive combo. Bob Wolfe and Dale Halterman will split the goaltending assignment.

The Bears' roster was diminished by two over the holidays as both Don Manning a second year man, and rookie Bob Reddick called it quits. Reddick is now playing for the junior Ponoka Stamps, for whom he toiled last season.

Game times are 8 p.m. tonight and 2:30 tomorrow and capacity crowds are expected for both games. Admission is free with your I.D. card.

WCIAA STANDINGS

	W	L	F	A	Pts.
Calgary	7	3	40	30	14
Alberta	6	2	42	19	12
B.C.	4	2	31	20	8
Saskatchewan	4	4	33	31	8
Manitoba	3	7	31	48	6
Winnipeg	0	6	8	37	0

Ex-Oil King and Bear Gord Jones leads league

Official statistics released by the WCIAA today show Gordon Jones of the University of Calgary Dinosaurs leading the individual scoring race of the Western Canada Intercollegiate Hockey League.

The Calgary centre, a former Edmonton Oil King and U of A Golden Bear, has 18 points on six goals and 12 assists.

Wayne Wiste and Jack Gibson of the Bears follow with 16 points apiece. Al Popoff of Saskatchewan leads in goal scoring with 10, while Gibson has the most assists with 13.

Dale Halterman of the Bears leads the goaltending race with a 2.00 average in four games. Bob Wolfe, also of the Bears, follows with an average of 2.75 also in four games, and shares the shut-out lead with Mickey Cugnet of the Huskies at one each.

Paul Allan of Manitoba Bisons leads in the penalty department with 32 minutes, one more than John Toner of the Dinosaurs.

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