

Bears move closer to Calgary



Bear forwards Jeff Hellard (22) and Dave Otto (8) overrun Dino goalie Grant McPhail in the Bears 6-5 win.

by Randal Smathers

Two teams going in opposite directions met on Friday night before over 3,000 noisy fans at Varsity Arena.

Going into Friday's game, both the U of A Golden Bears and the U of C Dinosaurs had suffered their last loss to the Saskatchewan Huskies. The difference is that the Bears lost came three weeks and five wins ago, and gave the U of S only a split on home ice. Calgary, on the other hand, dropped a pair of games to the Huskies last week, falling out of

first place in the country in the process.

The Bears were bad hosts in the first period, opening up a 2-0 lead and threatening to bury the Dinosaurs like a pile of fossils. Brent Severyn opened the scoring at 5:28, converting a feed from Dave Otto with a blast from the high slot.

Severyn also figured in the second goal, as he got the puck to Wes Craig. Craig fed Sid Cranston a nice backhand pass, and the league's leading scorer put it past Dino netminder Grant McPhail at 13:40.

Calgary coach George Kingston wasn't happy with his team's play in the first period.

"We weren't in the game because we didn't forecheck and we weren't skating. Alberta came out skating very hard, it was a good period for them," he said.

Calgary came out better in the second, with goals by Doug Quinn, Brent Meckling, and Terry Zaporzan. Stacey Wakabayashi got Alberta's lone marker with a steal at the Calgary blue line during a 4 on 4 situation.

Meckling's goal came on a break while Calgary was shorthanded. The Bears had not allowed a goal while on the powerplay since Calgary scored one in their last visit here in December.

With the score tied at three after the second period, the Bears needed to score the next goal or risk losing the active fan participation which helped put so much pressure on the Dinosaurs.

Wakabayashi started another fast break, and this time fed Dennis Cranston, who put the Bears up to stay at 4-3—and sent the fans into a frenzy—at 5:47 of the third.

After Alberta goalie Darren Turner made a big save on a giveaway, the Bears came right back, as McPhail had to pull a puck off the goal line to keep the visitors close. Bret Walter opened a two-goal margin with a backhand goal at 11:40 that seemed to take the legs away from Calgary.

A skirmish developed 20 seconds later, as Calgary's penalty-prone defenseman Trevor Dickie ran Turner. The hit was a response to Dennis Cranston's earlier flattening of the Dino goalkeeper. After the fur and dinosaur scales stopped flying, Calgary got a man advantage, as two Bears got minors, but only one penalty was assessed to Calgary.

The Dinosaurs Twin Terrys got going on the powerplay, as Terry Houder took a pass from Zaporzan and beat Turner to make the score 5-4 with 7:20 left to play.

Sid Cranston got the game winner less than two minutes later, breaking in off left wing and stuffing the puck under McPhail's feet, while fighting off a tackle by Mark Fioretti.

With Calgary's goalie pulled for the last 1:03, Scott Robinson made the final score 6-5 with one second left.

"You can never take these guys too lightly," said Turner. The last goal "taunted the eye a touch, but

we won and the pressure's on them now," he said.

The win leaves the Bears just one point back of the Dinosaurs, with four games to play for each team. Calgary has to try and learn how to win on the road, having lost three in a row away from home, and with four more road dates to finish the year.

Kingston said that his team "had to learn how to play against two teams: an official who reffed his best games five years ago... and the other team." Referee George McCorry called 10 minors on the U of A and 11 on Calgary. He also gave Dino captain Ken Vinge a misconduct for shooting his mouth about a call in the second period.

Bear coach Clare Drake said he thought the refereeing was even, or perhaps favored Calgary just slightly. "Coaches are traditionally upset when they lose, and it's much



easier to think back to a call that went the other way. I didn't think the refereeing was too bad at all."

REDLINES — Severyn had a goal and two assists for the Bears... **Houder** had a goal and three assists, and **Zaporzan** went one and two for the visitors... defenseman **Grant Couture** suffered a cut and a concussion after hitting the boards face first in the third period, when he missed a check... the Bears are short on the blue line, with **Howie Draper** likely to sit until the playoffs with a bad knee... they have only five healthy backliners... the three stars were **Sid Cranston**, **Meckling**, and **Gord Thibodeau**.

can do a better job.

This weekend, the Toronto, Maple Leafs fired their general manager Gerry McNamara after winning one and tying four of their last twenty games. Harold Ballard, the Maple Leafs owner needed to do something. That something was to fire McNamara, who fired many a Leaf coach before this.

Unfortunately for Ballard's Leafs, the firing of McNamara won't be enough for the Leafs to rescue a playoff spot out of the mediocre Norris Division.

McNamara wasn't doing a bad job at the draft table. He was the man who drafted Russ Courtnall, Vincent Damphousse and Wendel Clark, all of whom broke into the Leafs' starting lineup in their first years and contributed significantly. But then again, McNamara was the man who let the Blackhawks get Rick Vaive, the only Maple Leaf to ever score 50 goals in one season.

For any firing to have an effect on the Maple Leafs, the man with the ticket out of town should have been John Brophy. Sure the guy dresses in unusual suits, but his ultra-disciplinarian style has done absolutely nothing for the royal blue-and-white. With the talent he hatched up front the last two years, how come the Detroit Red Wings, one of the most defensive teams in the league, has scored more goals than they have.

Although, I'm not the greatest Leaf booster, I do want the Leafs in the playoffs. Playoff time isn't any fun without taunting Leaf fans. Unfortunately, I won't have that luxury this year.



Alan Small

Leaf firing won't help

This is the time of year for firing coaches. Many teams find that firing a coach with a month-and-a-half before playoff time gives the players on that club the feeling that they are playing for a different club.

This gives a player the idea that if he doesn't play up to snuff, his behind will be the next behind to get kicked.

With coaches, firings work. Players deal with a coach closely everyday, learning new tactics and strategies, all for the sense of bettering himself as an athlete and as a person. When that coach is fired, the player most likely will feel like the proverbial bird on its first flight, the cougar on its first hunt, if you will.

Okay, cut this intellectual crap. Coaches are fired because they are no good, and that there is another person out there somewhere in the halls of sport that

V-Ball Pandas sweep UBC

by Ajay Bhardwaj

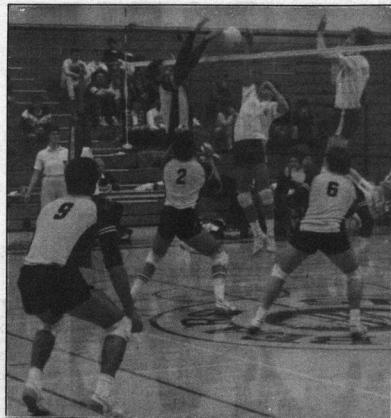
The Pandas and Bears volleyball teams played like night and day Sunday at Varsity Gym against the UBC T-Birds. The Pandas crushed the Lady T-Birds in straight games 15-8, 15-11, and 15-11, while the Bears looked more like clubs losing 9-15, 11-15, 15-9, and 8-15.

In game one, the Pandas scored first and never relinquished the lead for the entire game, keeping the ninth ranked Lady T-Birds on the defensive for much of the game. In game two, they spotted the Blue-shirts three points before charging back to win 15-11. Game three, like the preceding game, saw the T-Birds race out to a three point lead early on before the Pandas rallied to win by an additional score of 15-11.

"Our mental training was superior today (than it was on Saturday)," said an enthusiastic Suzi Smith. "The veterans did their jobs... and the rookies played well. We haven't beaten UBC in four years so this is a stepping stone. I have a lot of respect for my players for winning the game."

The Bears meanwhile, were having a tough time against the Thunderbirds. They just couldn't get untracked against the big, well groomed British Columbians. The games were close but the Bears were not able to put together any sort of a sustained offensive thrust in crucial situations.

"Some of our players who started played hurt," said head coach Pierre Baudin. "If they weren't hurt we could have taken UBC to five games possibly we could have beaten



The Bears lost to UBC 3-1 and UVic 3-0 last weekend.

them. Greg Willisroff (UBC power hitter) was the difference."

Willisroff was selected as UBC's most valuable player of the match which lasted nearly two hours. "He enjoyed a good game spiking the ball anyway," said UBC coach Dale Ohman. Asked if his team slumped in the third game, which the Bears won 15-9, Ohman replied, "we expected the Bears to roll over and die but they didn't. Our guys rea-

ched down and took the fourth. I don't think there was any doubt in the fourth game."

FINAL KILLS: Colleen Pistawka was selected as the Pandas' MVP, while Mikki Mallette was UBC's... Suzi Smith received a red card in game two for being too boisterous about the officiating... the Pandas split their weekend series, losing to U of Vic on Saturday, while the Bears lost on both days (Saturday to Victoria)...