

Bears maintain lead with two wins at home

by Stu Layfield

**Manitoba 2, Bears 3—
Brandon 1, Bears 6**

Any spectators who attended Friday night's hockey game at Varsity Arena expecting to see the potent Golden Bear scoring attack fill the rival University of Manitoba Bison net with frozen rubber were in for a disappointing evening. But it was hard to be disappointed by the goaltending performance of Grant Clay. For although the Bears, as usual, fashioned numerous excellent scoring opportunities they were repeatedly stymied by the red-hot Clay in the Bison nets and were forced to settle for a narrow 3-2 victory over the WCIAA Eastern Division Leaders.

The contest wasn't nearly as close as the score would seem to indicate. Although they failed to come near playing to their full potential, the Bears still held a wide margin of play, launching a 46 shot barrage on Clay, who is no stranger to puck-stopping heroics in a losing cause, having played for the hapless Winnipeg Wesmen for two seasons before moving across-town last season to the stronger Bisons. At the other end of the rink, the Manitobans demonstrated little offensive punch and could only muster 19 shots on Bear back-up goaltender Jim Coombs. Their two goals didn't come until the last minute and a half of play.

After a generally listless first period of play, Bears opened the scoring at the 13:41 mark of the second session when Clarence Wanchulak took a good pass from Gerry Hornby just as he was skating into the slot and fired a hard wristshot to the corner, giving Clay no chance whatsoever.

Patented Rush

The third period was only a minute old when Steve Carlyle made one of his patented ice-long rushes, skated around the Bison defence and into the corner, and finally threw the puck out front just before skating behind the Bison net. The Manitoba defenders were somewhat lax in clearing the puck from their doorstep and the always hustling Billy Moores lost no time in banging the puck past Clay. Less than two minutes later, Carlyle was given credit for what turned out to be the winning marker when his low shot from the right point

Bears vs Monarchs

Golden Bear hockey coach **Clare Drake** has finally obtained some concrete results in his quest for exhibition games against prominent local teams. Coach Drake announced that the Bears will play the Edmonton Monarchs tonight at the Edmonton Gardens. Game time is 8:00 p.m.

Actually the encounter comes at the request of the Senior Monarchs, who find themselves in need of games since the Calgary Stampeders recently dropped out of the Prairie Hockey League, leaving the Monarchs with several empty

deflected off a skate in front of the Bison net and past a frustrated Clay, who was moving in the opposite direction to play the original shot.

With victory seemingly assured and the Bears overly conscious of preserving a shutout for Coombs, the Bisons came back with a pair of goals by former Canadian National Team member George Watson at the 18:47 and 19:44 marks to make a close game of it for the final seconds.

Never in doubt

Despite the fact that the Brandon University Bobcats drew first blood, the outcome of the following afternoon's contest was never seriously in doubt. The Bobcats were generally outclassed as the Bears coasted to an easy 6-1 triumph. The Bobcats were obviously weary after having dropped a tough 6-4 decision to the Dinosaurs in Calgary the night before.

Harvey Poon celebrated his return to the Bear line-up after missing the first three games of the New Year by posting a hat-trick to lead the Bear scorers. The Bobcats scored the only marker of the first period when a weak shot from the wing by Clarke Lang bounced over goaltender Barry Richardson's shoulder into the Bear net. But Poon clicked for two goals on the same shift around the third minute mark of the second period to start things off for the Bears: both goals completed three-way passing plays with Poon's linemates Dave Couves and Jack Gibson. Before the middle session was over, Moores and Couves had also counted for the Bears. Richardson sustained an injury to his catching hand and was replaced after two periods by Coombs.

Leading 4 goals to 1 heading into the third stanza, Cal Botterill tallied before Poon scored his third goal of the game on a long shot from the point with only seconds remaining. It was the popular Stettler native's second hat-trick in his career with the Golden Bears; the other came last year against the same Bobcats.

The two victories for the Bears extended their record in WCIAA league play to nine victories and one loss in ten games and maintained their one game lead over the Thunderbirds in the battle for first place in the Western Division. Strange things transpired on the prairies as the

dates on their schedule.

"We're simply returning a favor for all the favors they did us earlier in the year" stated Coach Drake with tongue-in-cheek. He was referring, of course, to the Monarchs failure to play the Bears in the early weeks of the hockey season when the Golden Ones were desperately in need of some decent competition.

Coach Drake also mentioned that he continues to get nowhere in his negotiations with Oil Kings' General Manager Bill Hunter to schedule exhibition games with the junior club.



—Ray Dallin photo

HE FLIES THROUGH THE AIR WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE

...the daring young Bison with Dave Couves' stick in his knees

T'Birds were forced into overtime on successive nights to defeat both the Wesmen, and the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. Meanwhile, the Dinosaurs kept their play-off

hopes alive by thrashing the Bisons 13-4 on Saturday night. T'Birds now have an eight and two record, while the Dinosaurs are a seven and three.

The Bears' next league action will be at home Friday and Saturday nights against the last-place University of Victoria Vikings

Grapplers end up in the middle

by Walter Neilson

HAVRE — Last Thursday the U of A wrestling Golden Bears left Edmonton in -30 degree weather in search of good wrestling and warmer temperatures.

They found both here in Havre, Montana by way of a 70-mile-an-hour chinook wind and a very tough wrestling team from Minot State College in North Dakota.

The Bears met Minot and the hometown Northern Montana College in a triangular meet and came out in the middle with a convincing win over NMC and a loss to Minot.

The Bears had been expecting stiff competition from Minot—they had met in Calgary earlier in the season and Minot had taken a narrow victory.

The meet was fairly even until the 142-pound match between Brian Vetter of Minot and Michi Tanaka, the 1969 125-pound world champion from Japan who now wrestles with the Bears.

Fighting under NCAA rules against a much heavier Vetter, Tanaka lost a close decision, his first since coming to Canada. Tanaka weighed only 136 pounds for the bout and could not gain control against Vetter, who maintained body control and scored "riding points", a feature peculiar only to NCAA rules.

Tanaka's loss turned the momentum in favor of Minot and they went on to defeat the Bears 30-8 in team standings,

with the Bears winning only twice with one draw in nine bouts.

"We were fighting fairly even with them as a team until Michi's loss," said Bear coach Bert Taylor after the match. "Then they put in an ineligible man against Smitty (Bob Schmidt) and we were finished."

The Bears fared much better against NMC, winning six bouts and losing three with one draw. The Bears got pins from Tanaka, Ole Sorensen at 150, Serge Gauthier at 158, and Lloyd Smith in the 177-pound class, along with a decision by Al Boychuk in the 134-pound division. The Bears also won the 126-pound class by forfeit.

Big Bob Schmidt fought to a draw against Al Knapp in the heavyweight division.

In the third leg of the triangular meet, Minot whipped NMC 40-9.

After the bout, the Alberta team was a dispirited group, frustrated by their loss to Minot. When coach Taylor informed them that Minot had invited them to wrestle again next year, only this time under international rules, Lloyd Smith quipped, "How about in two weeks?" The Bears were down but obviously not out.

Saturday the Bears were scheduled for yet another triangular meeting, but the same weather disturbance that raised temperatures 90 degrees in 24

hours dumped 17 inches of snow in western Montana, shutting in Flathead Community College, the third team in the meet. That left the Bears with only a dual confrontation against NMC. The Bears made no mistakes, pinning their opponents in 4 of eight matches to come away with a 27-21 victory. NMC had a chance to win right down to the last match, but Schmidt pinned Knap of NMC for a win in the heavyweights to salt away the victory for the Bears.

Gord Bertie, the 118 pound Canadian champ, fought at 134 Saturday and came up with an excellent win against Doug Bosch. Other Bruin winners were Tanaka (142), Sorensen (150), and Gauthier (158).

In assessing the Bears' performance over the weekend, the wrestling of Serge Gauthier stands out as an excellent performance. The 27-year old two-time Canadian divisional title holder had three victories in as many outings and was in complete control in all three of his bouts. Others who fared well were Bertie, with two victories in two matches, and Sorensen, who had two wins and a draw to show for his efforts.

But as the Bears prepare for their meet in Regina this weekend, they are going to be remembering Minot. As manager Dave Campbell put it, "Wait till we get them up here to fight under our rules. We don't lose to anybody then."