

Tournament goaltenders didn't suffer from lack of work



BLUES ADRIAN WATSON

... kicks aside a Bear drive



GEORGIAN TOM ANDERSON

... beaten in final game

Many had looked forward to the meeting

And Toronto proved to be the better team

BY BOB ANDERSON
Gateway Sportswriter

For the past two years, Canadian college hockey officials have been hoping for the day when Alberta

and Toronto would square off in the Dominion championships.

The two clubs, considered by many as the best in Canada, had last met three years ago in Sudbury, with the Blues winning 8-1.

Well, this past weekend, the officials got their wish, as the Bears and the Blues met Saturday afternoon before a packed Varsity Arena. And what a game it was, with the Easterners hanging on for

a tight 3-2 victory over the defending Canadian champs.

Clare Drake's Bears, representing the WCIAA, came out of the starting gate like a house afire and kept the fast-breaking Blues completely off balance with some heavy bodychecking. The Bears, who aren't usually noted for their hitting ability, thoroughly disrupted the Torontonians' style of play but were unable to score. The first period ended in a scoreless draw.

But for some reason, the locals stopped hitting in the second period and tried to play the Blues at their own game. Unfortunately, when it comes to skating and moving the puck out of danger the Blues have no peer as the Bears rudely found out.

Seven-year-veteran Steve Monteith shot the Easterners out in front just two minutes into the second session, converting John Wright's perfect centering pass from the corner. For Monteith, it was his second goal of the tournament.

Three minutes later, it was Monteith again on a backhand from 20 feet. Wright once more set up the play, relaying a pass from linemate Len Burman to Monteith alone in front of goalie Dale Halterman. The Blues were a man short at the time.

The Bears started a rally of their own, but Watson managed to shut the door, beating Milt Hohol and Gerry Braunberger of almost sure goals.

But Monteith continued his one-man show, completing his hat trick at 15:44. The flashy right winger took a Wright pass at the Alberta blueline, stickhandled in on Halterman and put three moves on him before depositing the puck in the cage. The period ended 3-0.

The Bears again reverted to their hitting game in the final frame, but it was a case of too little too late. The Blues went

into a defensive shell, quite content to just shoot the puck down the ice and out of danger. The Bears had their chances, but were denied by Watson in the Toronto net.

However, just as the 2,900 fans were starting to file out of the rink, the Bears came to life. Bill Clarke slipped a backhand past Watson at 14:15 and the locals were back in the contest. Don Falkenberg narrowed the gap to 3-2 just over a minute later and the Blues were seemingly on the run.

Falkenberg missed a glorious opportunity just second later, firing wide from close range. But that was as close as the Bears got, as the big clock ticked off the seconds. Halterman was lifted for a sixth attacker in the last minute, but the Blues held the fort.

Watson was steady in the Toronto goal and over the route blocked 31 Alberta drives. Halterman kept the Bears close, stopping 22 opposition trusts, many of them of the dangerous variety. The clubs divided 10 minor penalties.

For the Bears, the loss relegated them to the consolation final Sunday morning, while Toronto went on to meet Sir George Williams in the championship encounter later in the afternoon.

BEAR FACTS—The three stars of the contest were Monteith and Watson of the Blues and Tom Devaney of the Bears . . . Both Falkenberg and Monteith have brothers playing for Detroit Red Wings of the NHL—Hank Monteith and Bob Falkenberg . . . The Albertan's hitting game surprised a few people, but it was really the only way to play the smooth Easterners . . . Coach Tom Watt of the Blues was naturally pleased after it was all over . . . "They were the defending champs and we had to beat them to win this thing."



AW CU-MON REF—HE HIT ME FIRST

... pleads Bear forward Oliver Morris