

Bear offense rocks hapless 'Horns

by Randal Smathers

The Bears hockey team blew out the Lethbridge Pronghorns for the second straight time on Saturday night. The final score was 11-2 on a night when four different Bear forwards took shifts on defence and the lines were continually juggled.

Team captain Dennis Cranston led the team with four goals. He gave the credit to his wingers, Todd Stokowski and Stacey Wakabayashi.

"The puck was just going in tonight," he said about the game when it seemed that he couldn't miss. He was especially effective from in close.

Wakabayashi got four assists, and Wes Craig had a pair of goals for the Bears. Wakabayashi said the two-game series against the weak Lethbridge team "gave us a chance to work on some new things, and to sharpen up on some offensive plays, and the powerplay." The powerplay was three for five.

Bears assistant coach Bill Moores was happy with the special teams, noting the powerplay was "creating some really good chances, which is the big thing." He also noted the team has a lot of forwards "skating really well... 10, 11, 12 guys going all the time, which is what you need, particularly against the top teams in our division."

The team's depth and versatility was tested when four different forwards had to fill in on defence. They started with only five defencemen as regular Howie Draper sat out with a slight (first degree) sprain of the left knee. When Brent Severyn was given a game misconduct for his first period beating of 'Horn forward Dave Craipley, the Bears were forced to fill in as best they could. Jeff Helland, Curtis Brandolini, Dave Otto, and Dennis Cranston all saw time on the blue line. Brandolini, a former defenceman, looked most comfortable, although none of the forwards had serious problems.

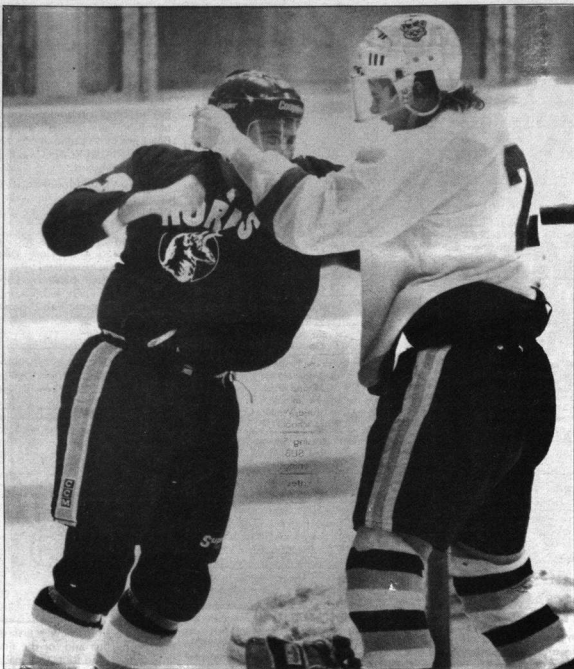
After getting banged up in the Friday game, the 'Horns had to go with two forwards on defence on Saturday as well. It cost them, as they allowed 11 goals and got lucky on a pair of calls in the third period. Referee Ken Jackson disallowed one after he lost sight of a puck that was still visible from the pressbox, and another when he ruled that Stokowski was in the crease without being forced by Lethbridge defender who was checking him.

The disruption of the forward lines cost the Bears on a few passing plays, but they still managed 52 shots on Pronghorn target David Clearwater. John Krill faced only 19 shots in the U of A net.

The first 'Horn goal seemed to happen in slow motion, as Perry Neufeld came on to the ice behind the Alberta defence, following a Lethbridge penalty. He jumped a loose puck in the neutral zone and was clear from the red line in. "I was banging my stick (to attract attention)," said Krill, who was the only Bear on the ice to see the play unfolding, "but I started too late. The defence just didn't react quite quick enough, and he made a good shot." Krill said that he left some room on his glove side to try and draw a shot there, "but he beat me at my own game."

Lethbridge coach Dave McDowall was unhappy with the way his team played in every single aspect of their game. He said that the Bears "beat us at every position, everywhere... they skate well." Perhaps he summed the weekend series up best by describing what the Bears did best against his team — "They scored 24 goals."

RED LINES — The three stars were Cranston, Craig, and Wakabayashi. Sid Cranston had nine points in weekend action, and was named CWUAA player of the week for his efforts... Draper expects to be skating this Monday, and to be game-ready in time for this weekend's series in Brandon against the



Brent Severyn (right) prepares to lay a beating on Pronghorn forward Dave Craipley. photo: Rob Galbraith

Bobcats... Severyn got "talked to" by coach Clare Drake for getting in another fight, especially in a game against an inferior opponent with the team short on defencemen...

he expects to get as much as a four game suspension — which would include the big match against number one Calgary in two weeks... his opponent, Craipley was cut by his

own visor but not badly hurt in the fight... Rob Glasgow, Parie Proff, Ross Jeske, Gord Thibodeau, and Stokowski got the singles for the home team.

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