

Net men put Bears first

by Dick Encock

Ted Poplawski and Brad Hall.

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Both Golden Bear goaltenders were equally instrumental in the game they played this past weekend against the Calgary Dinosaurs.

Friday night was Poplawski's turn as he played his best game of the year in a 5-2 Bears victory, while on Saturday afternoon, Hall turned aside 31 shots for his first-ever Canada West shutout and a 1-0 triumph.

The pair of victories, both on Dinosaur home ice, put the Bears in the driver's seat in the fight for first place in Canada West standings. The Bears are now four points ahead of Calgary with four games left to play. Saskatchewan and UBC are tied for third and mathematically eliminated from post-season play.

The Bears can clinch first place by winning both games against UBC this coming weekend in Varsity Rink or by beating the Dinosaurs once in the two games remaining with Calgary.

The Calgary squad dominated both games, in both shots and territorial play, and as Bears' coach Bill Moores said, "They perhaps deserved a better fate."

The problem with the Dinosaurs was the inability to

penetrate the goaltending of the Bears. In Friday's game, Poplawski had 49 shots, many from point-blank range, while at the other end of the ice the Bears were capitalizing on their scoring chances against Calgary netminder Jerry Farwell.

Poplawski gave a "lot of credit to Dave Dryden" for his strong play. The former Oilers' goaltender was out at a Bears' practice last week to provide some coaching assistance to the Bears' goalies.

"He (Dryden) pointed out things I've been getting away from lately. Things I know about but haven't been doing," said Poplawski. He added, "Whenever I get that many shots, I seem to play well and we win."

Moores mentioned the presence of Dryden had been a help to the coaching staff as well as to the goalies.

"It's nice to have a goaltender talk to a goaltender instead of a forward or a defenceman."

The Bears' scoring power was provided by Danny Arndt, with a pair of goals, Dan Peacocke, Joel Elliott and Jim Lomas. Calgary's goals came from Mitchell and Murray.

The Bears led 2-0 after twenty minutes and upped the lead to 4-1 by the end of the second period. Only four penalties were called, all minors, with the Bears collecting six minutes.

In the second half of the



photo Karlos Hunter

Goalies are important but forwards score goals.

doubleheader, Brad Hall was outstanding and Joel Elliott scored the only goal needed to propell the Bears to a 1-0 triumph.

Elliott's goal, on a powerplay, came at 4:57 of the third period and was set up by Lomas and Lescisin.

The Bears were held to just seven shots in the first two periods and 18 overall, although most of the shots were good scoring opportunities and goaltender Terry Kryczka came up with some good saves of his own.

Hall said the difference in the game was the "desire to win" which the Bears had and the Dinosaurs lacked.

"Tradition on the Bears is that you don't lose," said Hall. "We have a super coach and we don't like to lose for him."

Hall says the Calgary players "don't communicate out there" and their coach (George Kingston) never seems to talk to the players.

Kingston said the losses were disappointing and that the

team has "a ways to go."

"We have to put these games behind us and look ahead to the playoffs," he said.

The playoffs take place on the first weekend in March, and right now, it looks like Varsity Rink will be the site.

Bear Facts

Dale Ross did not make the trip because of a sore leg. He should be available this weekend, however.

Chris Helland is still out of the lineup with a bad knee. He is a possibility for the UBC series.

The Saskatchewan Huskies were still in contention for a playoff spot until a 5-3 loss on Saturday against UBC. Friday night, the Huskies won 11-4.

Calgary last chance

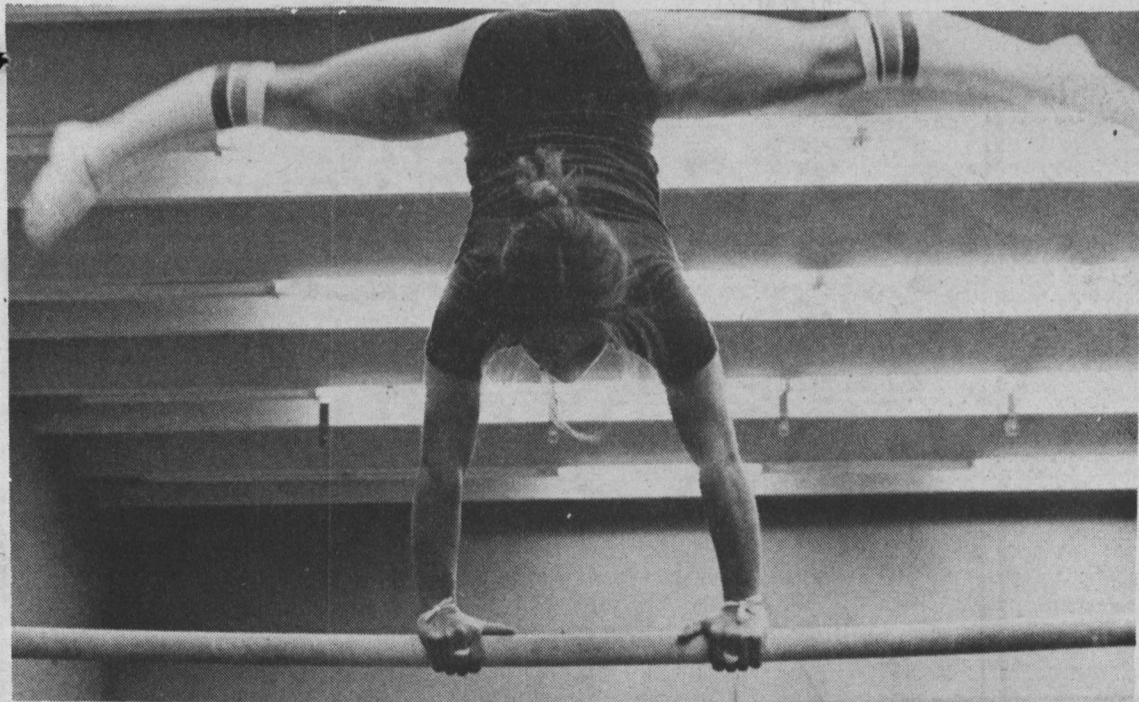


photo Brad Keith

Bilateral symmetry is not a diplomatic term.

Obviously, the U of A gym team is not number one with Budget rent-a-car. The Pandas and Bears faced travel delays, courtesy of Budget, and a disorganized tournament during a U of Manitoba invitational meet. The Pandas' last place result was, in contrast to the victorious Bears', not encouraging.

Pandas coach Sandy O'Brien states the journey was "disastrous all the way around." The team prepared to leave Edmonton early, but were left at the airport for an hour delay. Their arrival in Winnipeg was greeted by news O'Brien was familiar with from previous years: Budget did not have the vans. However, they eventually produced a bus. Still, the team was not on their way until an hour of scheduled warm-up was over.

Amazingly, their problems

had just begun because the team unpacked at the wrong gymnasium. Once the right gym was located the Pandas had difficulty moving into a warm-up schedule tightened by equipment shortages.

Needless to say, their difficulties were not helped by drawing the beam for a first event. O'Brien mentions the team has had difficulties with the beam and states there were many falls in Panda routines. In addition, she points out judges are cautious at first and questions whether initial scores were fair.

In general, scores for the meet were low and at times, according to O'Brien, too low. For example, only four women could use their scores to qualify for national competition. Consequently, O'Brien declares the meet was a waste of "time and

money" for "us to qualify for nationals."

It is no surprise O'Brien is disappointed, but earlier difficulties with Manitoba remain. For example, O'Brien mentions the Manitoba squad did not come to the U of A invitational. Also, O'Brien believes better competition is available to the Pandas, but admits not seeing the U of M until the finals would be a disadvantage.

Clearly, the Manitoba tournament was not helpful to the Pandas. As yet, only Carol Brinkhurst has qualified for the national. Still, O'Brien is hoping Trish Macmillan can qualify by modifying routines to compensate for and injured ankle. Macmillan's, and the Pandas, last regular season chance to qualify is this weekend in Calgary.

CANADA WEST HOCKEY STANDINGS

| | W | L | T | F | A | P |
|---------|----|----|---|-----|-----|----|
| Alberta | 18 | 7 | 0 | 128 | 73 | 36 |
| Calgary | 16 | 9 | 0 | 100 | 89 | 32 |
| Sask. | 11 | 14 | 0 | 119 | 117 | 22 |
| UBC | 11 | 14 | 0 | 127 | 135 | 22 |



Terry Jonestown

RECRUITMENT IS GOOD. Just ask any able bodied American 18-21 year old, or go talk to Brian Heaney. By golly, those Americans have really latched onto a sure fire problem solver. Lack of height on your team, or just a lack of freedom fighters ready to save the Western world? Well for one reason or not, the US psyche has the recruitment solution. Always room for personal choice and local development when the battle for freedom or basketball supremacy is over.

OFF THE TOPIC THOUGH many b-ball observers are shocked at the number of tall US tourists involved in city league games and the Bear's practices. It must be Edmonton's charming frontier atmosphere attracts these skilled, b-ball wise southerners. Perhaps if the draft is revitalised some may stay and take advantage of some new courses open to intercollegiate athletes: Hoop and Net Engineering 202, Scholarship Dynamics 206, and Remedial Contract Writing 102.

WEAR THEM FOR LIGHT DAYS or anytime you want a little protection. Remember, Joktex jock pads are deodorized to prevent embarrassing masculine odor. Smart sophisticated athletes turn to Joktex when their time comes. Why, federal sports minister Paproski testifies "Joktex is great, Joe can frighten me at table hockey, but he'll never see the evidence now. Besides, I can wear the same jock for weeks."