

Drake at 499

# Bears sweep UBC

by Martin Coultts

The Golden Bears hockey team swept a doubleheader from the UBC Thunderbirds at Varsity Arena last weekend to push coach Clare Drake's win total to 499. Drake can now crack the magic 500 win barrier if his troops can win either game of a tough two game set at Saskatchewan this weekend.

The Bears won 6-2 on Friday and 8-3 on Saturday to keep pace with Dave King's Saskatchewan Huskies, who took a pair of contests from the Calgary Dinosaurs. At the halfway point in the conference schedule, the Huskies and the Bears each sport 9 and 3 won-loss records, in what has very much become a two-horse race for first place. The Dinos are a distant third at 4 and 8, while UBC remains in the basement at 2 and 10.

Despite the wide margins of victory, however, the Bears weren't nearly as impressive against the T-Birds as someone who hadn't seen the games might think (and there's certainly plenty of that type of person out there, judging by weekend attendance!).

In both games Alberta really didn't get moving until the third period. But when they did find their game it was all over for the T-Birds. A five goal blitz snapped a 1-1 tie after 40 minutes on Friday while six unanswered third period goals wiped out a 3-2 deficit on Saturday.

The close start to Friday's contest was as much a result of the T-Birds' strong play as of the Bears' sluggishness. UBC were on the Bears from the outset and kept the play rather scambly with their close checking. Alberta did manage to open the scoring at 11:38 of the first period when Ron Parent fired a wrist shot from the slot that went in off the post. But UBC tied the game early in the second period when Mike Coffin connected from close range at 3:51. At the end of the middle frame the score certainly reflected the play since neither team had a distinct territorial advantage.

In the third period, however, the bubble burst for UBC. "Ace" Brimacombe, with a fine individual effort on the powerplay, and Dave Souch scored just 84 seconds apart to break the game open early in the final frame. Defenceman Dan Peacocke then notched his first goal of the season, on the powerplay, to up the count to 4-1 midway through the period. Souch capped off the Bears' explosion with his 2nd and 3rd goals of the period, while Greg Cockrill sandwiched one between them for UBC's second goal. Souch's hat trick was the first by a Golden Bear in conference play since the 1979-80 season, and earned him the third star nomination. Bears' goalie Ken Hodge and Parent were the first and second

stars respectively, and Alberta outshot the T-Birds 40-34.

In Saturday's game, UBC again came to play. The Bears, for their part, were more than just sluggish—they didn't seem to have their minds on the game. Well, for the first 27 minutes, anyway. By that point, they had spotted UBC a 3-0 lead and had failed to score on a 4½ minute powerplay that included 1½ minutes with a two-man advantage. But by the 8:00 minute mark of the middle period, the Bears were right back in the game. At 7:40, defenceman Jeff Marshall's point shot found its way through a maze of players past UBC goalie Ian McEachern. Then just 20 seconds later, Souch's fourth goal in two nights cut the T-Bird lead to 3-2.

That brief outburst set the stage for another third period onslaught by Alberta, in which the officiating played a major role. First, the Bears tied the game on the powerplay at 1:09, when Ron Parent's centering pass deflected into the net off Bill Ansell's leg. Then, for the second time in the game, the Bears were handed a two man advantage when the T-Birds were called for minor penalties at 2:04 and at 3:00. This time around, Alberta made no mistake with the big edge in manpower as Terry Sydoryk and Ansell clicked just 45 seconds apart to give the Bears a 5-3 lead.

All Alberta systems were now go, and the T-Birds looked helpless as the Bears scored two more quick goals to up the count to 7-3. Parent found the range with a bullet-like slapshot at 6:16 and Rick Swan picked up Alberta's fourth powerplay goal of the period just 73 seconds later. All told, five goals were scored in the space of 6:20.

Ray Plamondon rounded out the scoring for the Bears, who outshot UBC 19-9 in the third period and 49-29 overall. UBC goals went to Drew Hunt, Kevin Argue, and Anthony Thomas. Swan, Parent and Ansell were the three in the chippily played affair, which saw two T-Birds and Captain "Ace" Brimacombe of the Bears ejected for fighting. A total of 115 minutes in penalties were whistled, with 66 going to UBC and 49 to Alberta.

In the final analysis, the Bears will have to be more consistent when they go head-on with the Huskies in Saskatoon next week. Two good (admittedly, great) periods out of six won't get them very far against Saskatchewan. It will also be a while before they meet a kinder referee than they had on Saturday night.

**Bear notes:** 538 people flocked to Friday night's game while 467 managed to find the time to take in Saturday's contest. Believe me, the Bears are worth watching, folks! ... Saskatchewan beat Calgary 4-1 Friday and also won on Saturday.



Ken Hodge was sharp in the net for the Bears.

photo by Bill Inglee



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