

sports

Huskies no longer easy prey

by Darrell Semenuk

Alta 5 Sask 8

Alta 6 Sask 3

It's usually taken for granted that whenever coach Dave Smith brings his University of Saskatchewan Huskies into Varsity arena to play the Golden Bears, inevitably two things will happen. The Bears will win two games, embarrassing the Huskies and infuriating Smith in the process.

Well, Smith left a happy man after splitting the weekend series and impressing upon a lot of people that the Huskies will no longer be a pushover for the other clubs in the league.

Friday night, coach Clare Drake and his troops may have taken the traditionally inept Huskies too lightly. Alberta's ineffectual play at times gave them more of a resemblance to the Bad News Bears than something of the Golden variety, as Huskies trimmed them 8-5 before 1800 disbelieving fans.

Things started off according to previous form with Alberta striking for 2 power play goals, coming off the sticks of John Devaney and Rick Venance in the first few minutes. But unlike past games, Saskatchewan came back with goals by Brent McEwen, Pat Rooney and Gary Sluchinski to offset Alberta's third goal by Kevin Primeau to come out of the first period tied 3-3.

Saskatchewan went ahead after the 2nd period with two unassisted markers by Don McLeod, including a shorthanded effort. His two goals were sandwiched in between a power play goal by Jim Ofrim, who also had 3 assists in the game.

Despite being outshot 19-6 in the final period the Huskies outscored the Bears 3-1. Venance made it 5-5, with his 2nd goal of the game early in the period but Saskatchewan added two power play goals, by John McIvor and Doug Volk midway through the frame to again put Huskies in front. Tom Gould added an insurance marker late



Alberta's Kevin Primeau hung around the net long enough to collect four goals in weekend action against the Saskatchewan Huskies.

Primeau potted three goals on Saturday in Bears' 6-3 win. Photo Don Truckey.

in the period to salt away the victory, the first one in Varsity arena for Saskatchewan in over 10 years.

"We'll be pretty tough for anybody in this league," pronounced the coach after the game. "This is going to be a competitive league and we're going to be fighting for a playoff spot," asserted Smith, who's Huskies usually find themselves thinking about next year at Xmas time.

A major portion of the Huskies' success on Friday was due to the Bears' play, an observation that was confirmed by Drake.

"We had too many guys that came up with mediocre games. You can get by with 3 or 4 guys playing shaky games, but not 9 or 10. But we've got to give Saskatchewan credit for making

us play below par." Goaltender Jack Cummings, who had something less than a strong game in the nets on Friday, was replaced by Ted Poplawski, while Pat Walsh relieved Doug Senyk in the Huskie net.

It wasn't the goaltending that made the difference, but the new found scoring potency of one of Alberta's strongest defensive forwards.

Kevin Primeau, who totalled but 8 goals last year, moved over from his usual right wing spot to the left side and fired 3 goals before the midway mark of the 2nd period. The hat trick gives him 5 goals in the Bear's first 4 games. "That's the first hat trick I've ever had," smiled Primeau after the game. I never even had

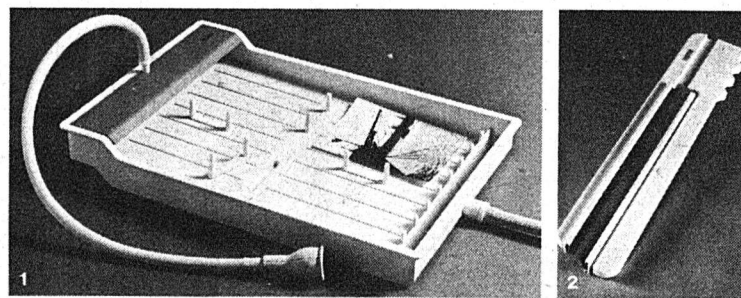
one in Pee Wees or anything. I could have had 10 tonight." Bears led 2-0 after the 1st on goals by Primeau, and a power play tally by Dave Breakwell. Bears struck for 3 goals in a span of 1:34 to up their lead to 5-0 before Rooney gobbled up a juicy rebound by Poplawski to give Huskies their first goal. John

Danko, plus the pair by Primeau accounted for the Bears' markers. Dave Neil and Brent Sosnowski exchanged goals to make it 6-2 after the 2nd. Rooney added his 2nd goal in the 3rd close out the scoring. Alberta outshot the visitors 59-30 in the game.

CWUAA hockey standings

	Won	Lost	Pts.	Goals For	Goals Against
1. U of A Golden Bears	3	1	6	19	19
2. UBC Thunderbirds	3	1	6	19	19
3. U of Saskatchewan Huskies	2	2	4	16	16
4. U of Calgary Dinosaurs	0	4	0	9	9

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