

Friday 13th unlucky for 'Horns

by Bob Stauffer
Alberta 6 Lethbridge 2

The defending Canada West Champion Golden Bear hockey team opened their regular season in Lethbridge on Friday night. Friday the 13th to be precise, and for the Pronghorns the Bears have been as bad an omen as the terrifying figure Jason in the Friday the 13th movies.

Last season, the Bears pummeled the 'Horns 14-5, 14-2, 11-1, and 10-2. The 'Horns were so bad last year that the local media would bet on how many goals the team would give up... per period.

This season though, marks a new beginning for both the 'Horns and the Bears. You know the story here as the legend Clare Drake (who will soon have Varsity Arena named after him) retired, to end an era, and subsequently long time assistant Billy Moores took over as head coach, in so hoping to continue the glorious Golden Bear Hockey tradition. The 'Horns have made a coaching change as well. Gone is Dave McDowall, who coached the team to a 25-110-1 record, and in as new coach is Dave Adolph.

After a scoreless first period it was apparent that Lethbridge had made progress with their hockey program. Despite being outshot 15-6, the 'Horns showed much more discipline than last season, taking no stupid penalties and limiting Bear scoring opportunities to a minimum.

The Bears opened the scoring at the :30 mark of the second period as Brett Cox, playing on the Bears number one offensive line with Doug McCarthy and Adam Morrison,

converted a McCarthy pass and beat 'Horn goalie Scott Fischer on a bang-bang play.

The 'Horns tied the score at one when former Saskatoon Blade Kevin Yellowaga showed great speed getting free on a breakaway and deking John Krill to his knees before sliding the puck past him with a backhand.

Yellowaga was in the sin bin at 4:07 when Bear captain Howie Draper's slapshot from the point found its way through a maze of players, and the Bears were up 2-1.

With Dan Weibe in the penalty box, for the second time in the period, the 'Horns tied the score at two as Yellowaga took a great pass from Scott Orban and beat Krill with only twelve seconds left in the period.

One would think with the 'Horns late goal that they would have momentum going into the third period, but, it was the Bears who would dominate. First, Dave Hingley carried the puck over the 'Horns blueline and dropped a pass to Morrison and he hammered a 50 foot slapshot past Fischer.

Cox then made it 4-2 with his second goal of the game. The Bear powerplay came through next; as 'Horns captain, Rod Philpot, was in the box after a questionable call, and newcomer Garth Premak, 1989 Red Deer College Athlete of the Year, took a slapshot from the point and McCarthy was Johnny on the spot for the rebound to put the Bears up 5-2 with nine minutes left to play. The Bears then salted away the victory as Al Tarasuk showed size and speed breaking between the 'Horns Colin Baustad and Mike

Dyck and beating Fischer to put the Bears up 6-2.

The 'Horns were unable to mount a comeback, but remained ornery as Dyck challenged Weibe but Weibe maintained his discipline and opted out of a potential battle of heavyweights (Dyck is 6'3", 210 and Weibe 6'4", 205).

Bear assistant coach Peter Esdale was impressed with the 'Horns tenacity. "They never gave up, they seemed to have turned their program around." Fourth year Pronghorn forward Mike Jacobson attributed the difference between this year's team and last year's "as a change in attitude caused by the coaching change, things were stagnant last season... Now we think we can develop something to be proud of." Dyck reiterated Jacobson's point. "People sort of laugh at Pronghorns hockey... when I came here from the Pats (Regina of the Western Hockey League) I knew the story, this has been a junior hockey town with the Broncos and the 'Canes (Lethbridge Hurricanes). What we want to do is develop a tradition, like the U of A."

Bear Facts: Cox had two goals and an assist. Morrison a goal and three assists. McCarthy and Draper a goal and assist each. Premak had a strong game paired with Grant Couture. Rookie forwards Brian Gerrits and Stan Marple each saw action, Marple effective with his body and Gerrits showing playmaking ability. Last year's playoff hero against Calgary, Todd Gordon lost his balance in the warmup and crashed heavily into the boards, appearing to hurt his wrist, but played anyway.

New players will make their debut

by Jeff Chow

Golden Bear hockey fans can expect to see a few unfamiliar faces in the Bear lineup as the hockey team prepares for its home-opener against the University of Brandon this weekend.

There were several positions to be filled for this year's season and as a result, the Bears have ten first-year players on the roster.

Although veteran goaltender John Krill gives the hockey team plenty of experience in goal, he is in his last year of eligibility. The coaching staff used training camp to find a suitable back-up. "We had a difficult time deciding on goalies," Assistant Coach Dan Peacocke said. "A lot of the goalies worked hard and played well."

Standing out among the group was Gavin Armstrong. "Gavin's a technically strong goalie," Peacocke said. "He's determined and has a lot of desire."

The team's defence has not changed tremendously as four veterans return to the team. During the season, the team will probably use five defencemen and will move a forward to the blueline if necessary. Hoping to round out the defensive corps are Garth Premak, Serge Lajoie, and Jason Schnepfer.

Schnepfer, 21, is in his first year of Arts and likes the atmosphere created on the Golden Bears. "The guys on the team are great and it's been a great learning experience,"

he said.

Up front, the Bears lost some key forwards during the off-season, so there was room for several additions. These include Todd Goodwin, Cory Clouston, Jason Rankin, Stan Marple, Brian Gerrits, and Dan Baker

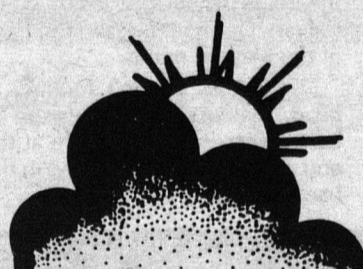
Baker, who is 24 and in his second year of Education, played a couple of seasons with Red Deer College where he won the ACAC scoring title last year. However, he finds the CIAU a much tougher league. "The teams in the CIAU tend to make smarter plays," Baker said.

"The coaches have emphasized defence," Baker added. "We want to be the toughest team in our own end in the league."

According to Peacocke, the Bears have a ten-player nucleus. "There are fifteen others who will race to fill in the remaining positions each game," he said. "In each practice, a player has to earn a spot for the weekend games. Everyone wants to play and everyone pushes each other. Fortunately, we can play any of these guys."

The Golden Bears then, are a team with plenty of depth. This may be the key factor for the team to once again be successful in the CIAU.

BEAR FACTS: The non-veterans in the lineup against U of Lethbridge last weekend were Marple, Gerrits, Premak, and Armstrong... Injured Bears include Clouston and Gord Thibodeau.



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