

You'd better believe that WE'RE Number ONE!!

Pucksters edge Dinnies twice to nail down Western title

By Bob Anderson
Gateway Sports Editor
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CALGARY — In every athletic success story, there are at least two elements which go together to produce the end result.

Talent and enthusiastic support by dedicated fans.

Sometimes that combination meshes together, and then again, sometimes it doesn't.

Alberta's puck Golden Bears are fortunate. They have both.

With more than 300 great supporters urging them on, Brian McDonald's club put on one of the finest displays of intercollegiate hockey in many years and came up with their eighth Western title in the last 12 years by edging Calgary Dinosaurs 3-2 in overtime Friday and 3-1 the following evening.

"We may have won that series out there," said a tired sweat-stained Mike Ballash in the delirious setting of the Bear dressing room, "but we're only number two. Our fans are number one."

To a man, the rest of the players agreed that the noisy fans, supplemented by a large pep band and the cheerleaders were the big difference. Most of the time it seemed that the small section of Alberta fans were making more noise than the other 2,800 fans.

But an even bigger difference than the spectators was the play of the Bears themselves. This was hardly the same club that started out the Western Canada Intercollegiate Hockey League in shaky fashion and continued to puzzle the experts when shellacked by the Dinnies 9-1 in the final game of the season here two weeks ago.

However, the club began to roll in the playoffs eight days ago against Manitoba Bisons and since then has never looked back. Not that they want to. A trip to Charlottetown and the Canadian Championships is the reward and the Bears now start concentrating on winning that series which they last won two years ago in Montreal.

Followed same pattern

The most remarkable thing about the games here was that they followed almost the identical pattern. The Dinosaurs took an early 1-0 first period lead, Bears tied it up and soon after went ahead. Once they got their margin, the Albertans

put on a great display of forechecking and backchecking to keep the Dinnies at bay.

Friday, Frank Richardson put Calgary ahead on the first shot on Bear netminder Bob Wolfe only to have Jack Gibson square matters at 1-1 15 minutes later. Dennis Zukiwsky, who played his most solid game as a Bear blueliner, made it 2-1 midway through the second period and things were all Alberta.

Wolfe, however, got careless and allowed Dave Smith to slide a shot between his legs midway through the third, and, despite the fact that the Bears should have been ahead by two or three goals, the score was deadlocked 2-2.

But old reliable Gerry Braumberger, playing his best hockey of the season, came through at 5:57 of the first overtime period, blasting a shot from 40 feet out that trickled



DALE HALTERMAN

... clutch performance

off Dave Margach's glove and into the net. Don Falkenberg, who is having trouble buying a goal these days, had scored earlier but it was called back on an offside at the Calgary blueline.

Saturday night, it was Gord Jones a Bear three years ago, who gave Calgary a brief one-goal lead until Tom Devaney tied the score midway through the opening period. The Bruins once again had many chances to score but couldn't beat Gord Konowalyk in the Calgary nets.



—Chuck Lyall photo

THE GOAL THAT WON THE WEST

... Gerry Hornby scores winner in Saturday's 3-1 win

The second period belongs to Calgary, as the Golden Ones temporarily abandoned the checking game which had stood them in good stead up until that point. But Dale Halterman came through in the clutch and the clubs left after 40 minutes tied 2-2.

Hornby with winner

The winning goal came off the stick of Gerry Hornby on a break-away at 7:31 of the final frame. Hornby, switched to left wing from centre ice for the series, broke in on Konowalyk from mid ice and beat the Calgary netminder cleanly with a drive to the short side about half way up.

Calgary appeared to have notched the equalizer with the Bears two men short with only five minutes left, but referee Doug Young ruled that the whistle had sounded before the puck entered the net.

Winger Bob Devaney put the game on ice with a goal into the empty Calgary net with 30 seconds left in the game.

It was a real team effort all the way as far as the Golden Ones were concerned. McDonald had his club mentally prepared and his troops were able to effectively implement his plan of keeping the Dinnies off balance with persistent forechecking and tenacious backchecking.

The Bruins have only two days of practice before heading down east Wednesday at 1:50 a.m. on Air Canada's flight number 804. Nevertheless, with the momentum that they've been building up, they'll be awfully hard to stop.

Familiar faces in playoffs; Bears vs Blues Thursday

TORONTO—University of Toronto Blues, defending Canadian intercollegiate hockey champions, whipped Waterloo Warriors 7-4 here Saturday night to earn the right to represent the Ontario-Quebec Athletic Association in the national playoffs in Charlottetown next weekend.

Blues, who knocked off University of Montreal Carabins 11-0 in semi-final action Friday night, thus captured the conference championship for the fifth year in a row.

Waterloo had defeated Ottawa Gee Gees 7-3 in their semi-final round also on Friday.

York University Yeomen knocked off Laurentian Voyageurs 8-2 to take the Ontario Intercollegiate Athletic Association title for the first time in their brief history. The Voyageurs were defending conference champions.

Meanwhile in Halifax, St. Mary's Huskies, defending title-holders in the Atlantic Intercollegiate Athletic Association, edged St. Francis Xavier X-Men 6-5 to win the right to represent that league in national play.

And in Montreal, Loyola Warriors, enjoying their best season ever, edged Sherbrooke Beavers 2-1 to capture the Ottawa-St. Lawrence Athletic Association title.

The Warriors handed Bishops Gainters an 8-2 setback in semi-final action, while Sherbrooke was disposing of last season's winners Sir George Williams Georgians 5-2.

The Canadian Championships get under way Thursday in the P.E.I. centre with Alberta and Toronto squaring off in one game and York and St. Mary's in the other.

Eugene, Oregon, on a sabbatical leave:

"Calgary has doubts because they have never been champions. There has never been a Golden Bear hockey player that couldn't be a champion. It's yours if you believe in it and are willing to pay the price of great effort that is demanded of all champions. Desire always determines success."

Kind of gets you right here, doesn't it? Just imagine how fired up the players were after reading something as inspirational as that.

But aside from all the psychological devices, the Bears did truly play like the champions they are. They came from behind one-goal deficits in both games and struggled with the officiating which was the worst seen in a long time.

It's been an uphill battle most of the season, and it's bound to get tougher. But McDonald's men have got that quality known as momentum now going in their favor and that can mean the difference in a short series such as will be encountered in Charlottetown.

CALGARY—Bruin icemen had a lot more going for them here this weekend than just hockey ability.

Toss in about 300 puck-crazy fans for both contests, five enthusiastic cheerleaders, and a large dose of superstitious rituals. Oh, yes, and the odd telegram.

That's right, superstition. Hard to believe in this so-called modern age of science, right?

Ladies and gentlemen, the real reason that the Golden Ones prevailed in the West this weekend was because of a certain shoehorn and a hat, both of which have been around for several years.

The shoehorn belongs to trainer Ray Kelly who attributes the success of his undefeated judo outfit in intercollegiate competition over the years to the small piece of green material.

Naturally, with such success Kelly decided to try it out in hockey. Needless to say it worked.

Dale Halterman's "lucky Austrian hat" was another item that helped. He wore it while sitting in the press box Friday

night while Bob Wolfe was playing, then gave it to John Milligan, normally the football and basketball club's manager, to wear while he donned the pads for Saturday's skirmish.

Nor is this thing called superstitious pride restricted to carrying objects around. Kelly won't change clothes during a winning streak and "suggested" that everyone around him including this writer do the same. Again, needless to say, everyone co-operated, including Bear coach Brian McDonald.

Players, themselves, won't do anything which might upset the current state of their clubs. For example, a player will always stay in the same hotel room

Bob Anderson ... one man's opinion



number when on the road or will refuse to stay in a room that ends in a certain number.

Hell, there was even a rumor that the reason that the Bears moved from their usual occupancy at the Highlander this weekend downtown to the Summit was because they hadn't won a game in Calgary in the past three seasons while staying at the former.

Who's to say that these little things don't count?

As for the telegram, it might have had a little more to do with the 3-2 and 3-1 wins than di dany of the above. It contained a message from former coach Clare Drake who is now down in