

the fifth column

by
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The virtue of stupidity

During a tough basketball, football or hockey game, it is pretty well common for the fans to get on the officials' backs. Often it is the result of frustration or just a reaction to the emotions that are brought to the fore during the game.

Sunday night however, the officiating at the hockey game that saw Bears lose 4-3 to Calgary Dinosaurs was inept, to say the least. If stupidity was a virtue, Sunday's officials would be beatified.

Referee Eric Patterson called his usual game - nothing much in the first period or, enough to let an undisciplined team like Dinosaurs lose what little respect they have for referees, thereby letting the game get completely out of hand. He then clamped down in his own peculiar fashion, calling penalties here and there as the mood struck him.

In the second period, Tom Yates of Calgary had Brian Middleton of the Bears down and was pounding the screaming devil out of him while the linesmen, who were undoubtedly bothered by the disruption of the nice little skate they were having, looked on.

Bears' Ross Barros noticed the fact that his man was being worked over pretty efficiently and went in to break it up. He was met on his way by Rick Sears of the Dinos who threw his gloves off.

Penalties went to Middleton (a double minor for elbowing and roughing - it is pretty rough when you're down on the ice being mangled), a five-minute major to Yates for fighting and two minutes to Barros for roughing.

Well done Eric!

Things got all sorted out and Calgary scored. To celebrate this happy event, Patterson called Bears' Dwayne Bolkoway for cross-checking after Calgary's Craig Stewart took a swan dive.

On the way to the penalty box, Stewart bravely came up behind Bolkoway and gave him a cheap shot in the back with his elbow. Patterson, however, was too engrossed with the view of dead air to catch it.

The linesmen had a lot of fun, too: they called off-sides whenever the puck crossed a blueline, nullifying a couple of scoring opportunities for both the teams.

With officiating like this, no one is really going to take university hockey too seriously. It puts the players on edge and the game slows down to a snail's pace.

Patterson is not consistent in his calls and he invariably lets games get out of hand. It would be advisable to see to it that he doesn't referee another university-level game until he shows that he is capable of dealing with players of this calibre and temperament.

Bill Bucyk calls good games. The players know that they won't get away with any chippy stuff or cheap shots. Very little gets by him. As a result, the games that he officiates are fast and fun to watch.

I can't believe that we are so desperate for officials that we need to dance to the tune of someone like Patterson. We are trying to let people know that college hockey is as fast and the players as skillful as they are in amateur hockey anywhere in Canada -- let's get the officiating under control so that we can give the fans a bit more evidence.

Watch for game story in Thursday's Gateway.

Huskies take all ...almost

The Saskatchewan Huskies and Huskiettes came to the Kinsmen Field House last Saturday and won the afternoon overall - 91-55 in the men's and 51-44 in the Women's events.

Doreen Jones was the Pandas' best, winning four events: 50 metre hurdle, 50 metre spring, long jump and shot put.

Brian Fryer also placed well, placing third in the 50 metre hurdle, 50 metre sprint and long jump.

John Kohinowski, the sure-handed receiver for the Husky football team won four events: the 300 metre (in which he holds the Canadian record), 50 metre hurdle, 600 metre and long jump.

Coach Brian McC Calder said that Bears lack of depth overall was the main reason for the loss. Several members of the men's

team were not running up to form and they were also plagued by injuries.

The women's team made an excellent showing considering the fact that there are only 4 team members.

Doreen Jones won four events as was mentioned earlier while Sue Hoffert took the 600 and 1000 metre events.

Jones also set a new Alberta Native record of 18' 5/4" in the long jump, 3/4 of an inch over the previous record.

Coach McC Calder is concerned over the lack of team members - particularly women. There is a tendency for people to cut themselves before a coach does.

If you are interested in trying out, the team practices in the Kinsmen Field House from 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Hoopsters' bubble burst

by Peter Best

There's a great verse by Lewis Carroll that describes exactly how the Golden Bears were feeling prior to last Saturday's game with the University of Victoria. Unfortunately I can only remember the last line, but that should be enough. It goes "...and all of us are fat!"

Friday night Bears had stomped the Vikings 81-56, and they came out Saturday feeling just fine, ready to do it again. Instead they were upset 60-58 on a last-minute basket by Victoria's Dean Sawyer.

Coach Barry Mitchelson readily admitted that his team had a let-down on Saturday. "The bubble burst. We just weren't ready to play - it was obvious from the start."

The "bubble" was U of A's undefeated record of seven wins and no losses.

Bears had recorded the seventh win in Friday night's game on the strength of an excellent second half.

For the first 20 minutes Victoria had kept the game close by preventing U of A from getting their fast break going, and by playing patient offense, waiting for a good shot.

So while Bears led 29-23 at halftime, mostly by virtue of better shooting, the game could have gone either way, depending on who could get hot in the last half.

It soon became apparent that it would be U of A.

Mitchelson's club speeded up its play, put the pressure on, and Victoria collapsed. With some good shooting (54%, compared to Vikings' 39%) Bears were able to run away with the game.

Steve Ignatavicius sparked Alberta by hitting 9 of 14 shots for 18 points, and making some great passes to set up his teammates. The rest of U of A's scoring was spread out as Terry Valeriote and Mike Frisby each had 11 points, and Wally Tollestrup and Steve Panteluk each counted 10.

The only Viking to make double figures was Tom Holmes, with 13 points.

Coming off their 25-point win, Bears were sleek and fat on Saturday. They weren't shaken out of their lethargic attitude until they looked up at the scoreboard after 5:28 had elapsed and saw that Victoria led 10-0.

They woke up then and got back in the game by using a trapping defense, getting two men covering the Viking with the ball in order to force a turnover.

By halftime U of A had fought back to lead 36-33 and it looked as if they would repeat Friday's performance.

But Victoria had different ideas. Remembering the previous game, Viking coach Gary Taylor told his team "...to be a little more methodical." They responded well, battling for rebounds and preventing Bears'

fast break from getting underway.

Guard Gord Hoshal started running the offense and making almost every shot he tried. Neither a man-to-man nor a zone defense could slow him down, as he hit 8 of 12 attempts in the final 20 minutes.

With Hoshal pacing them Vikings took a 45-44 lead with 13:25 to play and stretched it to 55-46 in the next five minutes.

Faced with the possibility of losing their first game, Bears came scrambling back, applying the pressure as they had on Friday. Vikings temporarily gave way as U of A cut their margin until with 2:41 to play Ignatavicius' driving layup gave Bears a 58-57 lead.

After Hoshal tied the game 58-58 on a free throw, Bears went into a stall. They wanted to hold the ball until time was nearly up, hoping to win with the last shot.

But the Vikings succeeded in getting possession and promptly set up their own stall. With 10 seconds left Hoshal started a drive for the basket, only to be cut off and forced to pass back to Sawyer, who sank a jump shot from the top of the key to win the game.

Hoshal was the game's top scorer with 19 points. Lee Edmondson had 12 for Victoria and Sawyer scored 10.

For Bears Tollestrup's 14 points were high, followed by Panteluk's 10.



Mike Frisby robs Victoria Vikings of two points as he leaps for the rebound.

photo by Sandy Campbell