



SPORTS



Bears still chasing Calgary

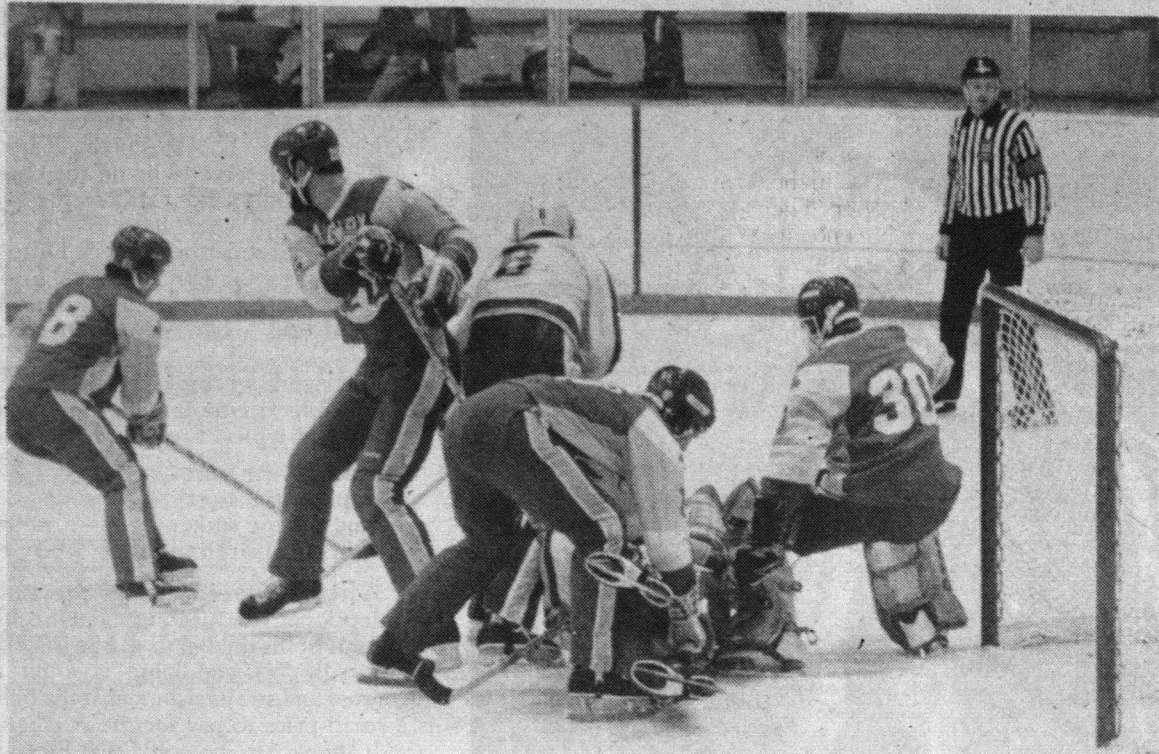


photo Martin Beales

There's quite a crowd in front of the Dinos net, well as long as it's not the Bears.

by Andrew Watts

Lightning never strikes twice and history never repeats itself. For the Alberta Golden Bears hockey team Sunday afternoon, these two rules proved true. On Sat. afternoon the Bears went down to Calgary and were leading the Dinosaurs 3-2 heading into the third period but eventually lost the game 6-4. On Sunday afternoon the Dinosaurs came to Varsity arena and going into the third period it was again 3-2 for the Bears. This time, however, the Bears came away with a 4-2 win.

"We didn't talk about it at (Saturday's game) in the dressing room," said Coach Clare Drake after the win Sunday. The win on Sunday evened the Bears record at 8-8 and kept them one game back of the 9-7 Dinosaurs in the hunt for the last playoff spot. "This game was the biggest win of the year so far because it keeps us within shooting distance," commented Drake. Sunday's contest was marred

at times with some chippy play but that, says Drake, is to be expected when these two teams get together. Aside from these few incidents the game was well played with the Bears doing some fine forechecking and not allowing the Dinos to break out of their own end. Perhaps the key to the win though was the fact that the entire squad played well as a team with everybody working hard every shift. "We have to play as a team to

win and tonight we had a great team effort," said Bears goalie and first star Denis Potvin.

This team effort was exemplified by the fact that the coach used all his players Sunday. Instead of going down to a three line rotation in the third period he used a fourth line, primarily as a checking unit.

"I thought the fourth line did a good job, it was Ryans (Wilson) first time at centre and he played well," Drake said.

The Bears also had a stand-out performance from Terry Sydoryk who scored twice but the remaining cast contributed and played well.

"We've had problems with inconsistency this year," said Potvin, "that may be because we're a young club, but if we just play together as a team then we do well."

On Sunday the Bears opened the scoring at the 37 second mark as Ace Brimacombe combined with Jim Lomas and Brad Schneider to score his 13th of the season. Terry Sydoryk picked up his first goal of the day (fourth of the year) at 13:29 with assists going to Breen Neeser and Wade Campbell.

In the second period Calgary cut the lead in half with Trevor Erhardt banging in the puck at close range at 1:40. Terry Sydoryk restored the two goal lead as he teamed up with Lomas and Campbell at 7:38 with a sharp shot from the side of the net. At 15:50 however, Grant Fagelheim broke in on Potvin and flipped a backhand high into the corner of

the net to close the gap to three to two.

The third period saw plenty of action but no goals as both goalies came up with some outstanding saves. As the game reached its final minute the Dinos were trying desperately to pull their goalie. With approximately :15 to play Dinos goalie Jeff Lastiwka began a frantic dash to the bench but Joel Elliot stole the puck at his own blueline and as Lastiwka tried desperately to scramble back Elliot calmly flipped the puck into the net to put the game away.

BEAR FACTS

The goal scorers for the Bears on Saturday were Brad Schneider, Jim Lomas, Perry Zapernick and Tim Krug. Denis Potvin played both games on the weekend, the first time this season that coach Drake has used one goalie back to back. Ron Parent is said to be progressing well with the dislocated shoulder but he will be out for another four weeks at least. Terry Lescisin was back in action on Sunday and played very well. The three MVP's for the Bears in Sunday's contest as picked by this reporter were:

1. Denis Potvin
2. Terry Sydoryk
3. Wade Campbell



SPORTS WRITERS

Bears settle for split in heartbreaker with Lethbridge

by Brent Jang

Centre Leon Bynoe fouled out late in Saturday's basketball game against the U of L Pronghorns, thereby weakening the Golden Bear's offensive thrust, and allowing the Pronghorns access to a come-from-behind 84-82 victory. Bynoe led the Bears attack with 33 points but it wasn't enough as the Pronghorns kept their Canada West playoff hopes alive with a 6-6 record.

The loss left the Bears with a split on the weekend, as they had won 93-84 on Friday. The Bears are currently 3-9.

Besides Bynoe, the Pronghorns were keying on guard Shawn Izzard.

"We couldn't let Izzard get the ball at the junction," said Lethbridge coach Ken Olynk, "we had to make him get the ball at the top of the key. Shawn's a good player."

Olynk was also surprised at the improved play of Bear's guard Willie Delas who ended up with 17 points.

Standouts for Lethbridge were Al Chapple, who scored 20 points on Saturday and had 43 the night before, and Tom Elwood, who had 13 points, including the winning basket. As well, Olynk

complimented the defensive play of Lethbridge native Jerome Ell. For the Golden Bears, it was a letdown from Friday's performance.

"We were complacent tonight," said Bear's forward Brian Jones of the loss, "we weren't mentally prepared." Jones was inserted in the game after Bynoe fouled out. Jones gave the Bears an 80-78 lead before the heroics of Elwood gave the Pronghorns eventual victory.

On Friday, the Bears pressed the Pronghorns right from the opening tip-off and were up by ten points before Lethbridge was forced to call a time-out. The early strategy made the difference as Lethbridge played a strong game in the last minutes.

Bynoe had 37 points in the Bear's win while Shawn Izzard shot well from the outside and produced 26 points.

The Golden Bears host the University of Calgary Dinosaurs this Friday and will need a top effort in order to stop the premier guard in Canada, Karl Tillemann.

On Saturday, the Bears play in Calgary. If it's of any consolation, they can be thankful that Canada's other top guard, Eli Pasquale, doesn't play on the same team as Calgary.



A jump for the ball looks like a tie from here.

Pandas win two

The U of A Pandas basketball team came away double winners this past weekend and improved their record to 9-5 as the Lethbridge Pronghorns were in town.

On Friday night the Pandas got a strong performance from Sherry Knutsvig as she put down 20 points to lead the team to a 69-

63 win.

The Pandas are currently chasing a wild card berth for the playoffs and the two wins against Lethbridge aided in that cause immensely.

On Saturday night the team looked like it was going to fall to defeat as they were behind by five points with about seven minutes

to play. But the women put together a string of ten consecutive points and held on to the game winning 54-50.

Sherry Knutsvig was again the hot hand as she contributed 19 points to the Pandas attack. Tony Kordic had a very strong game on defense, picking off 15 rebounds off her own backboard.

The team is currently playing very well and a wild card spot seems likely. The team has six games remaining and if they win four of those, then the spot in the national championships is virtually assured.

Second place is still a very real possibility for the women as they are now currently in that spot. Whether they are alone in second or tied with Calgary or Saskatchewan depends on how those teams fared over the weekend.

If the Pandas continue to play as they have been in recent weeks then they should be going to the nationals.

