

## Bears forced to hibernate

by Darrell Semenuk  
Calgary 91 Alberta 51  
Calgary 82 Alberta 65

The scene may have changed but the script was the same. Late in November the Dinosaurs racked up two wins over the Bears in the cow town in much the same fashion as they did in Varsity Gym this past weekend - with sheer raw power.

Calgary unloaded on the Bears in the opening game with a powerful scoring attack led by Tom Bishop, who racked up 18 points in the first half, shooting a red hot 56%. The Calgary team shot 42% in the first 20 minutes and led 43-21.

The Dinos lived up to their #3 ranking and continued to pour it on in the second half. Coach Mitchelson, who respects the talent of the Calgary team put the brunt of the responsibility for the humiliating loss on his players. "They're a very good team. I don't know how good we are but we're not that bad. We made a lot of mental errors." Mitchelson was also upset with the performances of some of his players. "I was happy with some of the people who came off the bench, but we didn't get the hustle from some of the people we expected."

Doug Baker who was averaging 17.5 points managed only 4 while Dave Holland was the only Alberta player to hit double figures with 10 points. Bishop, the league scoring leader, finished with 26 points while Ken Rucker had 16.

Saturday night the Bears wanted badly to prevent the humiliating defeat they underwent the previous night. The team came out fired up and in the words of Coach Mitchelson played "a hell of an intensity game" and had a 6 point lead seven minutes into the first half but Calgary came back to grab the lead for the remainder of the game with nine minutes left in the half. They built up their lead to 7 with 2½ left but the Bears came back in the final 2 minutes to trail 35-34 at halftime.

Bears outshot the Dinos by a considerable margin in the opening 20 minutes, 42%-29% and a possible upset was within reach. The opening few minutes in the second half sealed Bear's fate as they picked up some quick fouls and Calgary's

powerful bench went to work. After 7 minutes Calgary had their lead up to 12 and were in control of the game for the final 13 minutes.

Coach Mitchelson preferred to look at the positive side of the game. "It was a hell of an effort. It's a mental victory as far as I'm concerned for our people."

Mitchelson thought the referees nearly let the game get out of hand and that a physical outbreak was close at hand. "I'll take our guys anytime. They're gentlemen and they've got poise." Calgary however has considerably more talent and depth on the bench and their 15-1 record proves without a doubt that they are the top team in the west this year.

The losses have all but eliminated Alberta from the

playoff picture. But their weekend series on the coast against Victoria will probably decide third spot. For Alberta the leading scorers were Holland with 12, Keith Smith with 9 and Doug Baker and Mike Abercrombie each with 8 points. Tom Bishop and Ken Rucker again topped the Calgary scoring with 27 and 16 points respectively.

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## Bears keep winning despite injuries

by Keith Steinbach

Come rain, come snow, come sleet, come injuries, the Golden Bears continue to win. Even with the loss of some key hockey players, Alberta came up with a 9-0 pounding of Sask. and a 4-3 squeaker over UBC.

They went into the weekend without the services of Oliver Steward, Clark Jantzie, and Dale Fischer. Now they can add captain Bruce Crawford, who received a leg injury late in Friday's game.

In spite of this damage Leon Abbott can still smile with people like Rick Venance and Darrell Zaperniuk coming off the bench. Players like these make line juggling because of injury, easier.

"These guys are getting a chance to play and they're making the best of it," coach Abbott said. Blair Burgess and Ken Yaremkevich are two other people stepping in and doing a fine job.

But Friday's game belonged to one of the surviving starters. He scored three goals and assisted on two others. The man - Jim Ofrim. He now is atop the scoring heap with 38 points (17 goals, 21 assists). Ofrim played a stellar game but, so did every one else.

Ofrim scored the opening goal at 1:24 of the first period and the Bears never looked back. At the end of the first period the Bears had a 4-0 strangle hold on other goals by Frank Clarke, Rick Venance, and Dale Hutchinson.

The game was kept interesting by the usual supply of good looking fans, some strategy (?) by Huskie's coach Dave Smith, and some rough house tactics.

Smith's strategy and the fights occurred in the third period. Smith came up with the brilliant idea of changing goalies every whistle for about 3 minutes at the start of the third period. The reason could have been to give his team a rest and try to slow down the Bears. It didn't work as the Bears pumped 5 goals past the dazed Doug Spitzig.

The fights both involved Jim Rundrum of the Huskies. The first match fit right into the hilarity of the game, the 6'2" Rundrum sorted 5'7" Rick Venance out of a big fracas in front of the Sask. net. What's even more hilarious is that

## Pandas blitz Dinnies

by Darrell Semenuk  
Alberta 56 Calgary 48  
Alberta 89 Calgary 50

It doesn't quite seem fair that a team with a record of 12-4 with the capabilities of scoring over 80 points in a game along with the best player in the league, in the personage of Amanda Holloway will not be able to challenge for the right to represent the CWUAA. Only one team qualifies for the national finals in Guelph this March and Victoria all but locked up top spot after their two wins over the Pandas in January. With the exclusion of a playoff system (unlike the men's division) two losses can mean the end of a season.

Pandas got in shape for their showdown in Victoria by racking up two wins over the Dinnies from Calgary. Friday night's game wasn't the most exciting game you're ever going to see mainly because of the style of play of the Calgary club. "They play a zone defence and it's kind of boring to watch a team that employs a zone. I know I didn't like playing against a zone," explained Coach Debbie Shogan after the game.

Pandas had pretty well everything their own way in the first half, taking a 31-14 lead with Amanda Holloway cashing in 14 points. The second half saw Calgary come back to

within 7 due to some unenthusiastic play on the part of the Pandas.

Coach Shogan wasn't all that pleased with the club's effort either. "People that should be playing well aren't... it's been a long season for some and some people are inconsistent." Co-captain Deena Mitchell, who Shogan said played one of her better games since Xmas wasn't happy with the team effort. "I'm disappointed that this team can't play 40 minutes of good basketball." Their lacklustre performance is somewhat surprising to Shogan who says they have been having very good practices the last week or so and have been working on their running game, something that they will have to employ effectively in order to beat Victoria.

Both teams shot 30% from the floor with Alberta winning the battle of the boards hauling in 51 rebounds to Calgary's 35. Holloway led all scorers with 22 points, while Chris Leiske had 14, Dominique Varem, Shirley Booth and Jacky Shaw all had 10 points for the Dinnies.

Deena Mitchell said Friday she was disappointed that the team was unable to play 40 minutes. Saturday night Dinnie coach Marilyn McNeil and her

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Venance held his own with his much larger opponent.

Twelve minutes later at the 16:43 mark of the period, Rundrum then dropped his gloves and jumped on unsuspecting Kevin Primeau from behind. This time in addition to the five minute major Rundrum got a two minute minor and game misconduct for fighting. The game had 27 penalties including 12 during the rough third stanza. The Bears took eleven of the 27 penalties.

Oh yes, there was some hockey played during that period. The five tallies by the Bears came from Blair Burgess, Bill Andreassen, Dale Hutchinson (2nd of the game), and Jimmy Ofrim's two goals for his hat trick.

The Bears mesmerized goalkeeper Doug Spitzig with 46 shots. The Huskies played poor defense as Spitzig was often left alone with an Alberta man on his doorstep.

As for Jack Cummings performance between the pipes for Alberta, one must ask the question, what does the coach feed his goalies? "Competition" smiled Abbott. "They realize what might happen if they have a bad game." Cummings looked very sharp especially in the first two periods as he obstructed 32 drives to earn his second straight shut out.

Coach Abbott, however, was not overjoyed with his team's play. "We made some fundamental errors. We were helped by their inept play."

Those people who came away bored from Friday's game were sitting on the edge of their seats Saturday afternoon. The

Bears played decently for the second Saturday afternoon in a row. This is unusual as Saturday afternoon efforts are, up until recently, described as "blah". "Everyone played well, each line scored at least once. I'm pleased," were the remarks of Leon Abbott after the game.

The UBC game saw some different lines from the Bears. Replacing the injured Crawford and Sosnowski was top scorer Jim Ofrim. Taking Ofrim's place between Carr and Zaperniuk was Blair Burgess. These two lines produced three goals for Alberta.

But the big goal came from Rick Venance and his line mates Rick Peterson and Dale Hutchinson. With twenty seconds left in a 3-3 tie Dale Hutchinson took a draw at center. Venance picked up the puck and skated past three UBC players to deposit the puck behind the UBC's goalie, Ron Lefebvre.

"It was a funny play," commented Venance. "Everybody just stood around. He (the goalie) went down and I shot it over him." Funny or not the goal won the game for Alberta and improved the Bears' chances at finishing first. It also preserved Alberta's seven game win streak.

As for shots on goal the Birds outgunned the Bears 31-26. Dale Henwood did a good job of saving 29 of those UBC drives and couldn't be faulted on any of the three goals.

The scoring at the end of the first period was tied as BC's John Dzus and Alberta's Darrell Zaperniuk were the marksmen. Goals by Moyls and Laurence by the Birds and Sosnowski and Burgess for the Bears during the second period set up Venance's game winner.

The weekend action shows the Golden Bears 4 points ahead of Calgary in the standings. There is a possibility of the season coming down to the U of A - U of C series on Feb. 20-21. This weekend, though, the Bears take their act to Vancouver and the UBC Thunderbirds.



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