



Bears lost two big ones this weekend but came up strong to mangle the U of Saskatchewan Huskies 18-3 Sunday afternoon. Rick Peterson is one of the causes of Husky goaltender Doug Spitzig's long afternoon. This time he makes the save, one of Bears' 72 shots on net.

photo by Sandy Campbell

Hockey Bears drop two to Thunderbirds

by Allyn Cadogan

Oh my god, but it was a rout.

You can't say that Clare Drake's hockey Bears were robbed, exactly, of the two wins that would have given them a CWUAA play-off spot. But they lost them both, and Sunday Saskatchewan Huskies bore the brunt of Bears' frustrations.

Friday night it was 7-6 for University of British Columbia Thunderbirds, giving them a tie with Bears for second place.

Saturday night 'Birds took it again, this time 4-3 in a come-from-behind gut wrencher, to give them sole possession of the play-off spot.

And Sunday afternoon Bears handed Saskatchewan an 18-3 kick in the teeth.

There were times when Huskie coach Dave Smith literally couldn't bear to watch. (no pun intended).

The score was 7-0 by the end of the first period. Rick Wyrozub had his hat trick in the first eleven minutes. He went on to pick up another goal and two assists.

Marcel St. Arnaud got five goals, and the puck from the fifth, as a souvenir of his last home game with the Golden Bears. He may also have set a record with his last two markers, scored within 37 seconds of each other, both while Bears were short-handed.

Steve McKnight tied Wyrozub's high points with a goal and five assists while Dwayne Bolkoway also got five with two goals and three assists.

Oliver Steward, John Horcoff, Abby Hebert, Ross Barros, Oliver Morris and Bob Beaulieu netted the other singles.

Lorne Frey, Pete Korthuis and Rick Jackson scored for Huskies.

It's not that Huskies are such a bad team; they're just horribly inexperienced. The dead weight they are carrying will be unloaded next year and, with Smith's experience and coaching methods, I give

them two years to take the league. Or at least to give the other teams a tough run for their money.

However, future promise did Huskies no good at all Sunday. Bears were very, very smooth.

Unfortunately, after one period of fantastic hockey Saturday night, the Alberta squad slowed down to give a mediocre performance in the second stanza. In the third they fell apart completely.

Tight checking kept Thunderbirds out of the game in the first period that ended 1-0 on a goal from Bears' Bruce Crawford.

'Birds began to check a little better and it took them just 23 seconds to capitalize on a power play to tie things up late in the second period.

Alberta goalie Dale Henwood was way out of position after stopping Rich Longpre's breakaway shot. Chuck Carrigan sank the rebound.

In less than two minutes, though, Bears managed to obtain a two goal margin.

Jim Ofrim carried the puck into BC territory and attempted to tuck it in from behind the net. Bob Beaulieu tried for the rebound but Steward finally put it home, lifting it over Fred Masuch who had gone down to stop the second shot.

Defenseman Abby Hebert made it 3-1 for Bears when he drilled a beautiful shot from the blueline.

Bears then went into hibernation, allowing BC captain Brian DeBiasio to narrow the margin just four minutes into the last period.

Things looked hopeful despite Bears' lapses as the game went into the final two minutes. Then Lady Luck switched causes as Longpre caught Henwood out of position at 18:55 and took a back hand swipe at the puck passed out from the corner. It went in off Henwood's leg.

That left Bears scrambling

madly for a goal. In an attempt to get the puck out of his own end, Hebert tried an off the board pass to a team mate. The pass was intercepted by Bruce Brill who drilled it to DeBiasio.

DeBiasio put it between Henwood's pads with two seconds left on the clock.

"I missed the winning goal," beamed Thunderbird coach Bob Hindmarch.

"I was getting another guy on the ice and then Fred (Masuch, BC netminder) skates over and says, 'hey, you missed a goal'."

Hindmarch will shed no tears for Bears if his team wins the play-off spot. Last year Drake's boys edged 'Birds out of first place with just seconds left on the clock. You could say Saturday night Thunderbirds took that one back in spades.

"Our kids came alive," he bubbled. "They played the best hockey for two periods. Brian and Rich are two kids who play really well under pressure."

"They were both fresh and they noted the way the Bear goalie was playing and where we had to score. It was the right combination on the ice at the right time. Maybe that's lucky, but it won us the game."

Friday night was one of those games Bears would probably like to forget just as soon as possible. It was a night when the defense literally did more harm than good, handing 'Birds four goals, and the game.

St. Arnaud drew first blood for Bears on a power play, but Bill Ennos took that one back exactly a minute later.

DeBiasio scored again for BC in that period and Bears played catch up hockey for the rest of the night.

Alberta was trailing 4-2 going into the final period. Then Bears came out flying and scored twice in five seconds.

At 2:47 Bear defenseman

Brian Middleton gave 'Birds the lead once again when he put the puck into his own net off goaltender Barry Richardson's skate.

Bolkoway and Wyrozub tried to put Bears back in the game, but Ennos scored the winner with four minutes left.

"It was a frustrating weekend," said Bear coach Clare Drake. "We made glaring errors that cost us goals, and we weren't able to convert their mistakes to get a comfortable lead."

"It was especially disappointing after we played so well in Saskatchewan the week before. I really thought we'd be up to playing this series."

Ennos got a hat trick for his pains, receiving credit for Middleton's goal. DeBiasio scored twice with Yoshio Hoshino and Bob Sperling netting the singles.

Wyrozub and Bolkoway scored two each. McKnight got the other single for Alberta.

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