

Bears' revenge only partial

by Stu Layfield

Bears 5, UBC 3
Bears 4, UBC 7

Vancouver - Convinced that their loss to the Thunderbirds the weekend before in the championship game of the Hockey Canada Invitational Tournament in Vancouver ten days earlier had been more fluke than fact with respect to the relative strengths of the two teams, the Bear pucksters returned to the coastal city last weekend determined to prove their point before the same rabid U.B.C. fans. Unfortunately the results failed to meet their expectations. True the Bears did gain a measure of revenge on Friday night when they defeated the Birds 5 - 3, but the following night the Thunderbirds registered a convincing 7 - 4 triumph over the Golden Ones to gain a split in the weekend series.

Both games were exciting contests played before boisterous standing-room only crowds in the Thunderbird Arena. With only six or seven rows of seats, the British Columbia rink has a small seating capacity, but this was more than compensated for in terms of support for the home team by rows of fans standing four-deep in the walkway around the stands for both games, while hundreds more were turned away at the doors. And on Saturday night U.B.C. also produced the most rousing pep band this side of the Rose Bowl, certainly one which would make past musical endeavours at our own Varsity Arena seem like an aggregation taken right from the stage at Kiddies on Camera.

While the Bears did emerge with the victory on Friday night it could well be argued that they were fortunate to emerge with anything better than a tie. After a scoreless first period in which several Bears, particularly big Cal Botterill, failed to capitalize on a number of good chances to score, the Bears finally jumped to a 2 - 0 lead in the third minute mark of the second stanza when linemates Botterill and Billy Moores, who was outstanding all night for the Green and Gold, both scored on the same shift. Later in the period Doug Buhr for the Thunderbirds and Clarence Wanchulak, playing his best game of the season for the Bears, exchanged markers to set the score at 3 - 1 for the visitors heading into the third period of play. Early in the final frame Jerry LeGrandeur scored to give the Bears a commanding three goal lead. But shortly thereafter either the Bears faded badly or the Thunderbirds finally found their legs, depending on how one chooses to view the game, and the Birds applied concentrated pressure for the next ten minutes that saw the Bears scrambling even to get the puck to mid-ice. Despite some superb netminding by Barry Richardson in the Alberta goal, the continued U.B.C. attack produced goals by Brian DeBasio and the league's leading scorer Bob MacAneeley to reduce the Bears' margin to a single goal, 4 - 3. Furthermore, the T'Birds continued to press for the equalizer and the

capacity crowd sensed a tremendous home team comeback producing points for the Thunderbirds in the league standings when Bird forward Doug Buhr, who has to be the crudest Neanderthal on skates since fellow Vancouverite John Ferguson, took a ridiculously stupid penalty after a whistle had blown to give the Bears a man advantage and a chance to regroup their shattered forces. Shortly thereafter Jack Gibson beat U.B.C. goaltender Ian Wilkie from the slot after some great work by Gerry Hornby to get the puck to him and the Bears hung on for a 5 - 3 win. The victory extended the Bears' undefeated skien to seven games in W.C.I.A.A. league play, while the defeat was the Thunderbirds' second in seven games, having lost earlier in the season at home to the University of Calgary Dinosaurs.

The following evening the British Columbians continued where they had left off in the third period the night before as they rained shot after shot on the Alberta net but were unable to beat Richardson, whose acrobatic saves drew numerous rounds of applause from the packed house and were the principal topic of conversation in the between-periods break. While the T'Birds were being frustrated by Richardson, the Bears once again took a 2-0 lead on goals by Carlyle and Dave Couves. Carlyle intercepted an errant UBC pass at the center red line, carried the puck into the UBC end and beat goaler Wilkie with a good shot to the far corner from a difficult angle.

In the second period the Bears managed to gain a reasonable portion of the play, but the Thunderbirds finally managed to dent Richardson's armor for three unanswered goals, the first a deflection by Bill Cartwright of a screened shot, the second by Tom Williamson into the open side from a goalmouth pass, and the third by MacAneeley resulting from a rebound off near-perfect execution of a two-on-one situation with Williamson against Carlyle.

Leading 3-2 after two periods the T'Birds added two quick goals in the first two minutes of the third off the sticks of defenceman Bill Gaston on a long screened shot and centre Alex Dick from in close and appeared to be cruising to an easy victory. But the Bears refused to lie down and play dead and came back with two goals of their own only a couple of minutes later. The largely unheralded Couves counted an unassisted marker from in close shortly after Jack Gibson had beaten Wilkie cleanly on a good, low, hard slapshot from about 30 feet. For the first time in the

game the Bears applied pressure of their own, but Wilkie, who had not been impressive in either game up to that point, came up with some heroics of his own in the UBC nets to deny the Bears any further goals. Then in the latter stages of the game Dick with his second goal and rearguard Arnie Pederson beat a tired Richardson to round out the scoring.

The result of the two games here on the coast gave the T'Birds a one goal lead (10-9) in the competition between the two teams for the Eric W. Hamber Trophy, awarded annually to the team which scores the most goals against the other in regularly scheduled league games.

Moreover, the win and the loss left the Bears in first place in the Canada West conference of the WCIAA with a record of seven victories and one defeat, while the Thunderbirds are now 6-2. The surging Dinnies from Calgary handed the cellar-dwelling Victoria Vikings a pair of drubbings over the weekend in Victoria to improve their record to five wins and three losses. Since the Bears, T'Birds, and Dinosaurs all still have two games remaining against each other, the battle for the two playoff spots is beginning to take on an interesting look. The Bears resume action at home this weekend on Friday night against the always powerful Manitoba Bisons and Saturday evening versus the darkhorse Brandon Bobcats. In order to sweep both games and maintain their league lead Golden Bear coach Clare Drake will be working all week with his players to shore up the defence which gave Richardson virtually no protection at times and had little success in moving the puck out of their own end against the aggressive Thunderbird forwards.

Thunderettes rape Pandas (twice!)

This weekend the U of A Pandas basketball team impressed no one as they got punished by the UBC girls to the tune of 60 - 18 on Friday night and 62 - 23 on Saturday night. If someone can offer a set of plausible excuses they would be more than welcome as this reporter has picked his brains clean and come up with nothing (to the surprise of no one).

No news is good news, so the good news from Pandas basketball is outlined below.

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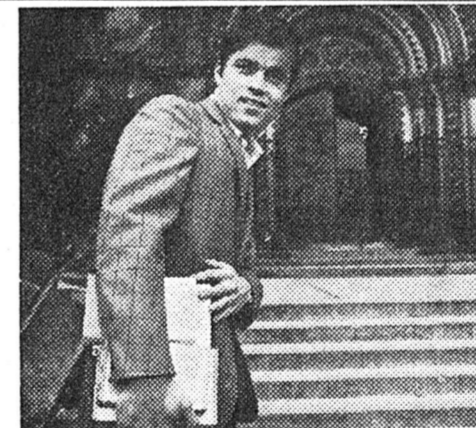
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