

Todd Saelhof

Petr Klima, Joe Murphy, and Adam Graves winged their way into Edmonton from Motown late Thursday evening. All three ex-Red Wings were victims of a former Oiler's crusade to play professional hockey in his hometown of Detroit. Each was a little bewildered at how one unhappy soul was able to dictate a change in all three players' fortunes. Regardless, the three new Oilers arrived just in time to contribute to a decisive 5-2 Oiler victory over the defending Stanley Cup Champion Calgary Flames.

The unhappy soul in question is Jimmy Carson, a 50 goal scorer who went AWOL

just four games into the 1989-90 Edmonton Oiler regular season schedule. The apparent reason given was the idea that undue pressure had been heaped on him upon becoming the immediate Oiler asset of "The Trade". The real reason, however, finds a young, immature hockey player unable to accept his responsibilities as a key member in a previously successful organization. Carson felt refuge in the security of his hometown was the only acceptable answer to an awkward situation.

Now he's gone and no longer unhappy. Obviously, Carson is unwilling to accept another responsibility that he forced a change in five other hockey players' lives. For tough guy Kevin McClelland, the change was inevitable, but for all four ex-Wings, including young defenseman Jeff Sharples who will join the Oiler line-up later on, a tiny amount of ill-will towards Carson can only be expected.

Perhaps the most displeased about the forced hand technique is Petr Klima, who brings to Edmonton a European style of finesse that the slow-of-foot Carson did not possess. In bringing his finesse from Joe Louis Arena to Northlands Coliseum, Klima also

unpacks many questions involving a rocky personal apst. Bear in mind, however, Glen Sather's masterful tradition of turning around those players' careers who have seemingly handled their last puck on professional ice (case in point: Craig MacTavish). Klima may not be the pure goal scorer that Carson is, but Klima is as or more capable a playmaker as Carson. The real kicker is that Klima, after initial hesitation, wants to play in Edmonton. In other words, Klima should prove successful in an Oiler uniform, teaming up with Mark Messier and Glenn Anderson to form, arguably, the fastest line in the NHL.

Speed also is apparent in Adam Graves, whose physical stature, 5'11" and 200-plus pounds can also not be ignored. Friday's battle against Calgary saw Graves deliver and take more body checks than Carson did in 84 regular season Oiler games. I guess Carson was unhappy with the idea of taking a hit for the team. Graves, on the other hand, seemed enthusiastic just to be in the blue and orange number twelve uniform, and appears sincere in proving his excitement.

Murphy's excitement, however, is shown in his anxiety at being given a second chance. Ironically, Murphy was chosen first overall

by Jim Devellano and Detroit in the 1986 entry draft, one pick ahead of Carson. Carson felt angered by the fact that the Red Wings selected Murphy ahead of Detroit blood. Murphy feels unfair treatment befell his career in Detroit and foresees the shift in scenery as a fresh start. Hopefully, the hidden talent can be exploited by the Oilers and Murphy can prove his 1986 worth over Carson.

Murphy did draw first blood following the trade, as Friday night he set up the first Oiler goal in sparking Edmonton to a round one defeat of the rival Flames. Graves also contributed with a helper while Klima finessed two assists. Obviously, the opening performances indicate that all are capable of contributing to the Oiler cause in the intense heat of an Oiler-Flame rivalry.

In the meantime, back in Detroit, Jimmy Carson's Friday night debut was pointless, even after quality ice time and a penalty shot attempt. Chances are Carson will not encounter too many repeat performances like Friday's Act I, but one has to wonder whether the 20 year old can stand the heat the media and people of Detroit are apt to throw at him.

Huskie goalie stymies Bears

Huskies 2 Bears 1
by Lindsay Ryall

A hot goalie and a frustrating Huskie defence proved to be the determining factors as the hockey Bears dropped a 2-1 overtime decision to the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Saturday night at Varsity Arena.

Despite making thirty saves over three periods, Huskie goalie Kelly Hitchins felt luck, rather than skill, was responsible for his success between the pipes. "I got a few breaks in the second period on screen shots that ran into me when I didn't see them and my team played very well in front of me. So it was all those things combined," Hitchins said.

The Bears took a 1-0 lead at 4:02

of the first when Bear centre Marty Yewchuk took a pass from linemate Brett Cox and struggled past the Huskie defender to flip a shot high over the shoulder of Hitchins.

The goal for Yewchuk was his second in as many nights and sixth of the season giving him nine points in eight league games. "I've had a lot more icetime and playing with good players," Yewchuk said.

Bear forwards Al Tarasuk and Adam Morrison both chimed shots off the post (2 of 4 goalposts on the night) in the first and the period ended with the Bears outshooting the Huskies 14-3 and guarding a fragile 1-0 lead.

After killing a five minute major the Huskies evened the score on a goal by Terry Lloyd at 16:07 of the second period. The Bears continued

to get chances in the second frame but either could not find the handle or were stopped by Hitchins. Bears coach Bill Moores thought the failure to capitalize on the chances presented was the major reason for the loss. "I thought things went pretty well we just couldn't put the puck in the net when we had the opportunities."

The third period was scoreless and penalty-free leading to an overtime showdown. The Bears appeared to have the advantage in overtime having outshot the Huskies 30-11 after three periods. However, Huskie winger Dean Ehrmantraut got the spoiler at 2:13 to end the game.

The loss puts the Bears in a first place tie with Calgary.

Hockey Bears bury rivals

Bears 7 Saskatchewan 5
by Randal Smathers

The U of A hockey team scored the first five goals and then held on to extend their unbeaten streak to seven games, with a relatively-easy 7-5 win over the Saskatchewan Huskies.

"I was surprised," said Rob Glasgow, who earned the game's first star with a hat trick. "There were a lot of goals scored." The traditionally-tough Huskies didn't show up until halfway through the game. "They were a little lackadaisical, but they came back."

A high sticking major gave the Huskies their chance to get back in the game, according to coach Bill Moores. Shortly after the Huskies got their first goal of the game—Chris Gall scored at 10:41 of the second period—Grant Couture's stick came up on an innocuous play, but it cut a Huskie and thereby drew the automatic major and game misconduct penalties. The Bears killed the penalty, but the Huskies found their skating legs during the advantage, and scored on a power-play later in the period.

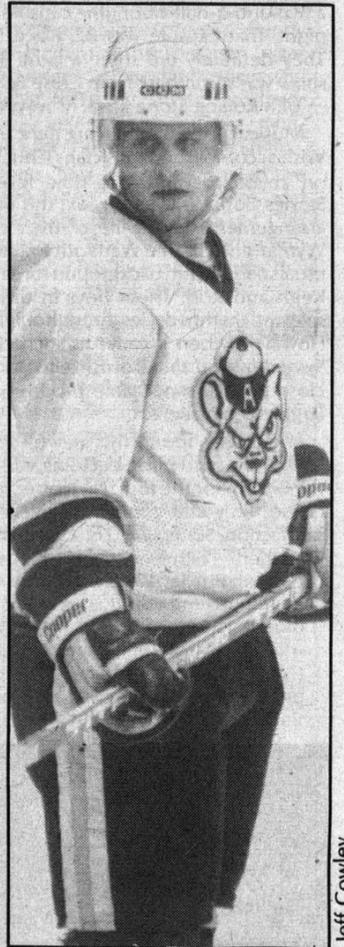
The Bears got a good effort throughout the lineup. Despite the fact that Saskatchewan's hitting game was on hold, it was two of the Bears big forwards who led the way. Al Tarasuk was named second star behind Glasgow, who had, in Moores' view, his best game "in terms of putting the puck away."

"Obviously, as a fourth-year player, you're required to be one of the leaders, to do things right," Glasgow said. He feels that he is "on schedule", playing on first line, but hopes that he will continue to improve. "A lot of players have started here as journeymen and wound up to be great players."

While Glasgow was playing along with Adam Morrison and Doug McCarthy, Tarasuk combined with newcomer Brian Gerrits for two goals. The depth of contribution was a major difference between the teams, as the Huskies best player, Ken Morrison, didn't make an impression until the second half of the game.

Another freshman with a good night was swingman Stan Marple. Marple has been handed the role of playing both utility forward and defence. He wasn't supposed to dress on Friday, but with a groin injury sidelining Howie Draper, and Garth Premak getting sick, Marple got called in to play on the blueline.

"I can't focus on one position,"



Stan Marple: the rookie Bear can play either forward or defense.

Jeff Cowley



Golden Bear forward Rob Glasgow tries to elude Huskie Ken Morrison. The Bears and the Huskies split over the weekend.

Jeff Cowley

said Marple, "but the coach and the assistants have done a great job of showing me both separate systems. The veterans on the team have been helpful with the adjustments as well." Friday, Marple was teamed with Ian Herbers, one of the most solid Bear defenders.

Brett Cox and Marty Yewchuk also scored for the Bears. Ken Morrison had a pair for the visitors and was named third star, although Chris Gall, who also had a pair of goals, plus an assist, was probably a more consistent performer. Wayne Bucsis finished the scoring for the Huskies.

RED LINES—John Krill only faced three shots in the first period, although two were excellent scoring chances off of Bear turnovers. Dan Wiebe missed the game due to a concussion suffered in practise. Asked if it was caused by a hit, Wiebe grinned, "Yeah, the ice came up and hit me."