

# Tough sledding for hockey Bears

by Shaune Impey

Some of the players may have to re-learn the words to the victory song, it's been a while since they've had a chance to sing it.

The Golden Bear hockey team dropped three games on the weekend - one an exhibition contest to Regina - to stretch their losing streak to five games. Last weekend Calgary beat them twice on the Bears' home ice.

While the game in Regina didn't mean much, the two against the Saskatchewan Huskies were critical contests in the Bears' quest for a playoff berth. With the victories Saskatchewan moved into sole possession of second place in the Canada West standings, two points behind Calgary. Alberta is six back of the league leaders.

Unlike the Calgary games where the Bears play was less than inspiring most times and just plain awful on occasion, against Saskatchewan they played two of their best games all season. The difference was the breaks - the Huskies got them and Alberta didn't.

In Friday's 4-2 loss the Bears outshot Saskatchewan 34-25, including an 18-8 advantage in the first period, but couldn't solve Steve Amiss in the Huskie nets. The home town crew snuck off the ice with a 2-0 lead after twenty

minutes. Willie Desjardins knocked in a rebound on the powerplay and then combined with Bill Hlynsky to set up Rey Hudson in the slot for a quick shot that beat Terry Clark.

Alberta got one back in the second on a goalmouth tap-in by Ace Brimacombe. The eventual winner for Saskatchewan came at 1:35 in the third period as Randy Wiebe fought off a check by Danny Peacocke to pump in a centering pass from Stew Walker. Hlynsky, on a 25 foot slapshot, added a fourth Huskie goal while Chris Helland got Alberta's second in the last minute of play.

Saturday both teams came out flying but neither got on the scoreboard in the first period. In the second, after a goal by Peacocke was disallowed because a Bear player was in the crease, Saskatchewan scored at 5:03 on a two-on-one break. Hlynsky finished off a pass from Hudson with a quick shot to the top corner that eluded Bears' goalie Denis Porvin.

Mike Broadfoot tied it up 26 seconds later on a scramble in front of the net. He poked in a rebound after two saves by Amiss. Saskatchewan opened a 3-1 lead on markers by Greg Wiebe and Hudson before Jim Lomas scored the Bears second goal at the 17:00 mark.

Again the Huskies got the winner early in the third period. This time it was Bruce Keller firing a screened shot through a maze of legs past Potvin. The killer, though, was Saskatchewan's fifth goal. Alberta got caught with too many men on the ice and the Huskies took advantage of the break to score a

powerplay insurance goal. Tim Hodgson shovelled in a rebound from the edge of the crease with five and a half minutes remaining. Wade Campbell scored an unassisted goal at 18:06 to round out the scoring. His hard backhand surprised Amiss after the Huskies had coughed up the puck in front of their net.

Huskie coach Dave King said the two teams were so close that either team could have won both games. "We got a lift from the disallowed goal and won a couple of key one-on-one confrontations. That was probably the difference," he said.

King also said, "The season is so far from being over it's ridiculous. Alberta's a long ways from through. We have a really tough schedule to end the season and anything can happen."

In Regina Greg Ing scored his second goal of the game with 32 seconds left to snuff out a Bears' comeback and give the

Cougars a 6-4 win. Broadfoot and Greg Skoreyko had brought the Bears from a 5-2 deficit to within one at 5-4 late in the third period but Regina caught the Bears pressing and broke away on a two on one.

Brimacombe and Peacocke scored the other Alberta goals and the Bears outshot Regina 29-17.

## BEAR FACTS

Dave Recknagle, Duncan Babchuk, Rob Daum and Ray Plamondon didn't make the trip. If Saskatchewan makes the

playoffs it will be the first time since 1967.

A lack of scoring punch is hurting the Bears this season. Terry Lescisin has yet to score after nine goals last year while Joel Elliott is 19 short of last year's total of 21.

The bears have two games on the coast this weekend which they desperately need to win for a shot at the playoffs. UBC has beaten both Saskatchewan and Calgary once in the last two weekends, something the Bears were unable to do.

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