



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

CUTTING EDGE Should the Bears be tripped up like this, they will probably score on the ensuing power play.

Tighter officiating could rule Bears-Dinos battle

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With stiffer rules on obstruction penalties in CIS hockey this year, a plethora of whistles have made Canada West arenas sound more like busy intersections than hockey rinks. The NHL-style officiating has created a noticeable surplus in minor penalties and consequently more power plays so far in the young season.

Last week in Regina, the Golden Bears were the benefactor of 25 power plays against an undisciplined Cougar squad. The Bears managed seven goals in 30:45 of power-play time, while Cougar players struggled to defend within the rules against the talented Alberta forwards.

This weekend, the undefeated Bears (2-0-0) expect another tight checking affair as they face off against their gritty provincial rivals, the University of Calgary Dinos (1-1-0), in a two game set at Clare Drake Arena.

"[The Dinos] are a tough, physical hockey club," Bears head coach Eric Thurston explained. "They are a quick

club—our game plan is to keep our feet moving because you can't check what you can't catch."

In past seasons, Alberta has complained of Calgary's penchant for using a clutch-and-grab style to irritate Bear snipers, slow down Bear checkers and agitate Bear goaltenders—infractions that largely went unpunished. This season, however, should prove to be different with the officials blowing down any and all stick infractions.

"The new rules should benefit us," assistant captain Ben Kilgour agreed. "But we have to make sure we keep our feet moving so we don't find ourselves in the box either."

Last week in Calgary, the Dinos were sent to the sin-bin 15 times. Although their defenders were able to kill off twelve of those infractions, Calgary can ill afford to go to the penalty box against an opportunistic Bears offence.

"It's important to capitalize on those types of opportunities," Thurston said. "We feel that if we can add power play goals to our even-strength tallies, then winning those percentages would

result in a lot of wins."

The Bears on the other hand were surprisingly disciplined against the Cougars, and are well aware of how potent the Dinos can be with the man-advantage—four of their five goals in last year's playoff series came while Alberta was a man down.

"If we happen to take penalties we have to make sure that they aren't lazy stick penalties but good, hard-working penalties; those you can live with," Thurston said.

Special teams should once again be the headliner at this weekend's games. With the increased scoring opportunities, Bears forward Dylan Stanley should have a legitimate shot to extend his point scoring streak to 31 games as the Bears look to extend their dominance over Calgary, having lost only twice in the past 53 games.

The action begins at 7:30pm on Friday, and the two teams will go again at the same time on Saturday. Also, the Bears will raise their 12th National Championship banner to the rafters as part of the Alumni Weekend festivities.

on Friday and Saturday. The Pandas will be looking to improve on their 2-3 pre-season record against the defending CIS champs.

Basketball

These Pandas also get a free trip to Québec, though they get to go to Lennoxville to take part in the Lady Gaiter Converse Invitational Tournament at Bishop's University. Friday they'll see action against the Brock Badgers at 6pm; Saturday they'll face the host Gaiters at 8pm, and Sunday they'll finish up against the UPEI Panthers, also at 6pm.

Field Hockey

The Pandas of sticks and grass, or artificial turf, take to the coast this weekend for the third and final Canada West tournament of the year. With the host University of British Columbia Thunderbirds and Victoria Vikes each having booked tickets to Nationals, this weekend will be a showdown for the final playoff spot. However, given that Calgary, who has yet to win a game or score a goal, needs to sweep the weekend to oust the Pandas for the final playoff spot, Alberta could

spend all weekend on East Hastings and still manage to qualify for the post-season.

Ice Hockey

Fresh off their season-opening dismembering of Regina last weekend, the steel-bladed, frozen water Pandas are also on the coast this weekend; they'll face UBC in a pair of games. Led by CIS Female Athlete of the Week Jenna Barber, who notched four points last weekend, the second-ranked Pandas should have an easy time with a Thunderbirds squad that split their season-opening series last weekend and have been conference bottom-feeders the past few years.

Shorts

Since Editor-in-Chief Matt Frehner is once again wearing boxer-briefs, it falls to A&E Editor Amanda Ash to carry on the Sports Shorts tradition. While wearing pink-with-white-trim female boxers—complete with penis flap—Amanda emphasizes that her sportrific underwear states that you must "Handle With Care" when dealing with her ass. I wish that I were making this up.

SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Paul Owen and Ross "Champ" Prusakowski

Swimming

The swim team heads to Lethbridge for their first meet of the year on Friday and Saturday, and their first meet under new head coach Bill Humby. Humby takes over from Sam Montgomery, who headed the team the past two years. A former assistant in Calgary—the perennial CIS silver medallists—Humby has been charged with making the Alberta swim program competitive once more, which it hasn't been since a stretch from 1988/89-1992/93 when the Pandas won four Canada West titles in five years and medalled three times at nationals, and the Bears won two conference titles of their own.

Volleyball

While the Bears host the Can-Am, the Pandas head to Québec for a pair of games against the Université de Laval

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