



FILE PHOTO: JOSH NAULT

C IS FOR CAPTAIN Harlan Anderson's leadership has been key for the nine Golden Bears rookies this season.

Anderson carrying the load for depleted hockey Bears

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Sports Writer

When it was time for the Golden Bears hockey team to lean on their veterans, they answered the call. With injuries tearing through the locker room and a number of freshmen in the lineup, the Bears needed experience more than ever to get a two-game sweep of the Manitoba Bisons two weeks ago.

The Bears say that it was a team effort, but leadership can come in a variety of forms and none more important than the quiet confidence that their new captain, fourth-year defenceman Harlan Anderson brings to the table.

Anderson scored a goal and five assists in the victories, and was named the Hudsons On Campus Athlete of the Week. It was the latest in a string of accolades for the Vernon, BC product, who was named tournament MVP of last year's CIS championships.

"When Gavin McCleod got injured, my minutes went up; I scored some goals and had a pretty good week," Anderson recalls. "But I don't know who was picking the MVP because it could have went to any of our guys."

Since he received the extra responsibility after McCleod's injury,

it was no surprise that with the graduations of McCleod and Canada West Defenseman of the Year Chris Ovington, Anderson would be thrust right into a prominent leadership role this season.

"For the first eight regular season games this year, Harlan has been the only veteran we've had on defence," Bears head coach Eric Thurston says. "So, there is a lot riding on Harlan this year, he's got to put up the numbers—which he's been doing; he's got to log big minutes, and he's got to be a leader on and off the ice."

Because this isn't Anderson's first time as captain of an elite level hockey club, the adjustment hasn't been that difficult. As a member of the Moose Jaw Warriors in 2002 Anderson became the captain at the age of 20, joining a list of distinguished NHLers to don the Warrior C, including Edmonton Oilers Ryan Smyth and Kelly Buchberger.

"Anytime you get a chance to wear the C it can be a little bit humbling, even looking at the guys who have worn it here is pretty special," Anderson admits. "But as for Moose Jaw it was good experience but it helps to be surrounded by a good bunch of guys."

"He's not an overbearing captain, he won't get in your face, he just

has a quiet confidence about him," Bears defensive coach Serge Lajoie says of Anderson. "A guy that comes to mind is Steve Yzerman who was never too boisterous and always had his emotions in check ... I see a lot of those same characteristics in Harlan."

Anderson's quiet persona and attention to detail may cause him to go unnoticed by the media, but in the locker room his words are never unheard.

"He's a good captain and he's not afraid to step up in the room," Anderson's defensive partner Derek Price says. "Because he's so relaxed he never gets too high or too low. He's good in all aspects."

"Harlan has taken it upon himself to be a leader out there and he really leads by example," Lajoie adds. "He's doing a lot of the little things that we need for him to do ... I don't think he has played his best hockey yet but he is certainly improving."

With the defensive-minded Regina Cougars skating their way into Clare Drake arena for a two-game set this weekend, look for Anderson and the rest of the Bears to have a little more jump in their step after a much needed weekend off.

The puck drops at 7:30pm on both Friday and Saturday night.

SPORTS SHORTS

Written by Paul Owen

Bears Basketball

The Bears start divisional play by heading to the land of wheat and grain to tackle the Saskatchewan Huskies. The toughest task for the Bears will be handling Husky all-Canadian Andrew Spagrud, whose change from a flop-top to a buzz cut has had an anti-Samsonic effect. Spags put up 39 on UCFV to open the season and dropped 27 more on TRU the next night to lead the conference in scoring.

Pandas Basketball

Like their male counterparts, the Pandas will also head to the City of Seven

Bridges to do battle with some dogged opponents. Similar to the troubles the Bears will face, the Pandas must contend with senior national women's team member Sarah Crooks, who torched the Pandas in the four meetings between Alberta and Saskatchewan last season. Crooks is currently second in conference scoring after putting up 25 points per game in the opening weekend. She tops the conference rebounding charts after picking up a whopping 32 in her first two games.

Rowing

The U of A Rowing Club just finished competing in the Canadian University Rowing Championships where Christine Bennett was named Oarswoman of the Year by the Canadian University Rowing Association. Bennett also won gold in the lightweight women's single at the event, her third major medal of the season.

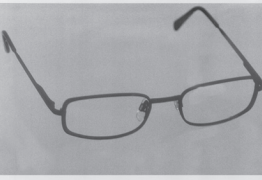
Fantasy Hockey

After dispatching of Chloé "Lehtonen screwed me" Fedio this past week and moving into third place a mere six points behind the league leader, my squad faces its toughest task yet by taking on that first place team: David Berry's Funtime Orchestra, last season's champion. Dave is employing a different strategy this season by trading away all his goalies and accepting that he'll automatically lose three categories every week. In return he hopes to be able to sweep the scoring categories. The rest of us just think that he's an idiot.

Shorts

While Ashy and Natalie argue the merits of full-bum panties versus thongs, I'm rocking out with the Looney Tunes brand boxers with Taz on them. And yes, there is some strategically placed slobber.

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