

Bears reclaim title from penalty-struck Oilers

Box Score

First Period

1. Edmonton, McDonald (O'Marra) 09:34

Penalties: O'Marra, Edm (hooking) 01:35; Woolger, AB (holding the stick) 03:00; Stamler, Edm (roughing) 08:59; Stamler, Edm (roughing) 08:59; Zalasky, AB (roughing) 08:59; Price, AB (roughing) 09:12; O'Marra, Edm (cross-checking) 12:51.

Second Period

2. Alberta, Woolger (Fransoo) 07:22
3. Alberta, Kilgour (Fransoo, Krymusa) 19:29

Penalties: Stempfle, AB (tripping) 00:38; Karamnov, Edm (tripping) 05:21; McDonald, Edm (slashing) 07:02; Zalasky, AB (holding) 14:53; Micflikier, Edm (holding) 15:34; Stanley, AB (roughing) 16:00; O'Marra, Edm (tripping) 19:08.

Third Period

No Scoring.

Penalties: Paukovich, Edm (hooking) 05:40; Kelly, AB (interference) 10:40; Price, AB (slashing) 11:37; Cogliano, Edm (roughing) 11:37; Klassen, AB (high sticking) 13:51; Moore, AB (high sticking) 15:33; Bisailon, Edm (cross-checking) 19:09; Peckham, Edm (slashing) 19:54.

Edmonton	1	0	0	—	1
Alberta	0	2	0	—	2

Goal— Alberta: Sorochan, Grenier (W); Edmonton: Fisher, Dubnyk (L)

Attendance—3009

	EDM	AB
Shots on goal	33	30
Faceoffs won	36	38
Power-play goals-chances	0-8	2-9
Power-play shots	9	7
Power play time in minutes	11:20	08:51
Penalties	12	10
Penalties in minutes	24	20

Golden Bear of the Game

Jason Fransoo was named the game's first star, and for good reason. The first-year defenseman was all over the ice, setting up the two Alberta goals, both on power plays. The young player from North Battleford, Saskatchewan was the only freshman in the Golden Bears line-up for Monday's game.

Oiler of the Game

Our pick for Player of the Game from the Oilers goes to Colin McDonald, the Rookies goal-scorer. He finished the game plus-1, with four shots on net. McDonald was drafted 51st overall in the 2003 entry draft, and has spent the last four years in the NCAA with the Providence College Friars. The right wing was signed by the Oilers in July.



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

WHO'S THE PRO NOW? The Bears' Lee Zalasky skates circles around Oilers Rookies Andrew Cogliano and Jacob Micflikier on the way to a U of A win.

NICK FROST
Sports Staff

One was enough for the Golden Bears.

By virtue of a single goal, the University of Alberta men's hockey team denied the Edmonton Oilers Rookies a second straight victory in the annual match between the two teams. In the 20th game of the series, held at Clare Drake Arena on Monday night, the Bears posted a 2-1 score and got revenge for last year's loss, when the Rookies broke a five-year Alberta winning streak.

Both teams hit the ice with plenty of energy in what ended up being a true see-saw battle between the exhibition rivals. In their first big test of the year, the Bears seemed to show just a bit more determination than the rookies, allowing Ben Kilgour to pot the winning goal in the second period.

It was a match that saw near-identical numbers in almost every statistical category between the two teams. The Bears' Player of the Game, Jason Fransoo—who picked up an assist on each of the Alberta goals—thought that the strong start shows that the Bears are headed back in the right direction.

"Even though it was one of the first games of the year, I thought the boys were playing really well, blocking shots, and those are the kinds of things you want to be doing all year long," Fransoo said. "It's games like these that are stepping stones—the regular season starts in three weeks, and we're always trying to loosen up and just get better, so it was a good start."

Both teams ran into their share of penalty troubles—the Oilers were sent to the box twelve times, while the Bears sat for ten. It was more costly for the Rookies, though, as the Bears capitalized on two of their power-play opportunities, resulting in the difference on the scoreboard. According to Oilers forward Ryan O'Marra, his

team was unanimous in claiming that their lack of discipline cost them the game.

"At times, our system just wasn't bang-on because we hadn't played this team yet, and so we ended up taking too many penalties," O'Marra said. "Myself, I had three, and I paid for it—I take responsibility for it, and I think all the boys do. I think we were a little too high-strung, and we were taking some liberties when we shouldn't have."

On the flipside, despite taking nearly the same number of penalties, Alberta's defense stepped up in short-handed situations, something that put head coach Eric Thurston's mind at ease.

"[Grenier] shut them down, and so did [Sorochan]. Both of them played really well. Neither of them allowed many rebounds; they both had good control over that, and their solid play definitely helped us win."

JASON FRANSOO
BEARS DEFENSEMAN

"I thought the penalty-killing of Hamula, Metcalfe, Kilgour, and all those guys was well done," Thurston said. "We paid the price when we were penalty-killing, in the sense of blocking shots, making sure that we got pucks out, and battling for loose pucks."

"Obviously, the Oilers have done a very good job of drafting and picking talent, and when you're able to have a team that has as much talent as they have go 0/8 on the power-play, it was a

real boost for us—we need to have that kind of success during the year."

Typically a high-scoring affair, Monday night's tilt finished as the second-lowest scoring game in the series' 20-year run, and the lowest since 2003. All four goalies—Bears Aaron Sorochan and Blake Grenier and Oilers Glenn Fisher and Devan Dubnyk—shined in the one and a half periods they each played.

"[Grenier] shut them down, and so did [Sorochan]. Both of them played really well," Fransoo said. "Neither of them allowed many rebounds; they both had good control over that, and their solid play definitely helped us win."

Grenier made 13 saves in the final frame—including a couple of key stops on mad scrambles in front of the net during four Oiler power plays—to preserve the victory, and left Thurston ecstatic over the idea of having two strong, game-ready goaltenders going into the upcoming season.

"It's going to be a very competitive training camp; we've still got six more exhibition games to play, and we'll be looking to tag-team. But goaltending for any team is the key, and if your team is going to get to the next level—to get to the playoffs and to get to nationals—your goaltenders are going to have to be really good, and I feel we have that in both our goaltenders," he said.

As much as the annual game is competitive for both teams, it's also a time to have fun in front of a crowd of over 3000 raucous people at the Drake.

"I thought the crowd was tremendous—and that it was very hot in there," Thurston explained. "I was impressed by our team's conditioning right through because, I mean, it was like an oven in there—I think Aaron Sorochan said he probably lost about ten pounds playing last night. You know, it's tough to play under those conditions, but we really fought through that adversity."