

# Ice Bears even record with wins over Dinos

BEN CARTER  
Sports Staff

Following a lengthy road trip and two disappointing losses last weekend at UBC to open their Canada West season, the Bears hockey team needed a couple of victories to get themselves back on the right track. They didn't disappoint, beating the Calgary Dinos 4-3 on Friday and 4-1 in their home opener on Saturday.

Alberta got goals from Ryan Stempfle, Harlan Anderson, and Eric Hunter, along with an empty-netter by Tim Krymusa on Saturday, and the team maintained heavy pressure on Calgary goalie Jordan McLaughlin throughout the match, peppering him with 33 shots.

The Bears defence was nearly impenetrable: goalie Aaron Sorochan stopped 21 of 22 shots, reducing the Dinos to playing dump-and-chase hockey for the majority of the night, including on the power play.

Sorochan faced only ten shots, and few real scoring chances, in the first two periods, but Bears head coach Eric Thurston was unconcerned with the idea of his goalie becoming cold due to lack of work.

"When you get that kind of mental focus Aaron brings, it's key, for the team and for him, that he's really able to stay sharp regardless of the shots he gets," Thurston said.

Following a scoreless first period, Stempfle opened the scoring for the Bears in the first minute of the second. Calgary tied things up at 12:48, but two Alberta goals in just over two minutes gave them the lead they would maintain for the rest of the game.

Several U of A penalties in the third period were the only thing that kept the final result in doubt, although Thurston wasn't worried about penalties becoming an issue for his team.



SHAUN MOTT

**STICKS AND BONES** Alberta left-winger Brian Woolger tries to squeak the puck past Dinos goalie Jordan McLaughlin during their 4-1 victory on Saturday.

"It's one thing to make a good hit and make a penalty; you'll kill most of those. If you take lazy penalties, those always seem to be the ones that come back and bite you. Both nights, and especially Saturday, our penalty-killing units did a very good job," he said.

Dinos coach Scott Atkinson was disappointed with the lack of effectiveness from his power play, which went 0-6 on Saturday and squandered three

advantages in the third period.

"Some days, our power play does really well, [but] today we can't even make a pass," he said. "When you face Alberta, you're going to see a lot of offence [and] face a high volume of shots. But we were able to take away a lot of those scoring chances."

Thurston was particularly excited by the play of first-year winger Eric Hunter—in particular, Hunter's third-

period goal, in which he followed up a thundering hit at the blue line to gain control of the puck with a beautiful drag move to put it high behind McLaughlin.

"[That play] really encapsulates Eric Hunter. Within a 10-12 second spurt, he showed us everything he can do," Thurston said.

The Golden Bears will have the opportunity to set aside the nomadic

lifestyle for a few days with games against Lethbridge this week. But Thurston feels that this weekend's sweep has minimized the impact of the two-loss coastal trip.

"Coming back from the Vancouver weekend, we were physically and mentally tired, and we realized—and it was a good lesson for us—how hard you have to play in Canada West in order to be successful," he explained.



TARA STIEGLITZ

**ON BENDED KNEE** The Bears have made some important lineup changes this year, like moving Ben Kilgour (19) to make him more effective offensively.

## New lines mean new life on ice

PAUL OWEN  
Managing Editor

With only Scott Henkelman graduating from last year's squad, the Golden Bears hockey team should have had a fairly similar look from last season, but one significant line switch is paying early dividends for the team through the first four games of the season.

Fourth-year forward Ben Kilgour, who led Alberta in conference scoring and tied for third in Canada West with 35 points in 27 games last season, is now centering a line with Richard Hamula and freshman Derek Ryan after playing last season with skill forwards Ian McDonald—who was third on the team in scoring in 2006/07—and Tim Krymusa. According to Alberta head coach Eric Thurston, it's a move designed to let Kilgour worry less about his own end and focus on his offence.

"My thinking was that Derek Ryan is good defender, and pairing Ben with him [and Hamula] would open up Ben to be more offensive and give us three lines of offence," Thurston said, adding that it would also provide Ryan with a pair of veteran mentors in Kilgour and the fifth-year Hamula.

"[Mentoring] is something that I've done throughout junior and here," Kilgour explained. "It's something

that you do as you get older in this organization. They really stress the legacy of the Golden Bear program, and it's your job to pass it along."

The move paid off for the Bears in action Saturday against the Calgary Dinos, as the line provided the first two goals in a 4-1 Alberta win, but it hasn't been the smoothest of transitions.

"It's been an adjustment," Kilgour

**"He opens up room for Tim and Ian that I couldn't."**

BEN KILGOUR  
BEARS FORWARD  
ON NEW TEAMMATE ERIC HUNTER

said. "We've just been getting used to each other; tonight was the first time we've really clicked."

Into Kilgour's old spot is first-year forward Eric Hunter. A former 40-goal scorer with the Prince George Cougars in the WHL, Hunter was drafted 174th overall by the New York Rangers in the 2006 NHL entry draft, but was a late cut at their AHL training camp this fall, paving the way for him to join the Golden Bears.

Hunter's been quick to show he belongs on what has thus far been

Alberta's top scoring line, as he leads Canada West in goals with four in four games, and is tied for the points lead with six.

"He's a horse. He's a big, strong kid; he's smart; he plays both ends of the rink well," Thurston said of his newest scoring threat. "He has the ability to play at the pace he wants to."

For Hunter, his hot start is a matter of believing he belonged on a top line in CIS hockey.

"It's a confidence thing," he said, noting that being invited to a pro training camp was important in establishing that self-assurance. "When I came in here, Coach Thurston told me, 'If you keep your game going, you'll earn your ice time.' He mentioned there was a chance at top-six, but that I'd have to earn it."

Kilgour says Hunter's done just that, and that the rookie—listed as 35lbs heavier than him—brings attributes to the line that he couldn't.

"[Hunter] is bigger, so he can crash and bang a little bit more," Kilgour explained. "He opens up room for Tim and Ian that I couldn't."

"He came in, worked hard and earned his spot on the top line. He's getting the touch because he's doing the things he needs to do to be successful."