



FILE PHOTO: TARA STIEGLITZ

SYNCHRONICITY Bears like Tyler Metcalfe (10) will have keep both hands on the stick if they want to win this weekend.

Rematch time for Bears and Dogs

After losing to the Saskatchewan Huskies in the Canada West final last year, Alberta's men's hockey team is eager to get back on top of the conference

BEN CARTER
Sports Writer

Over the past decade, the Alberta men's hockey team has rarely been anywhere but on top of the Canada West standings. But, despite their 7-2-1 record, the Bears find themselves second place to the Saskatchewan Huskies (9-0-1), who are visiting Clare Drake Arena this weekend.

"They're probably the top program in the country right now, and we have to make sure that we're ready for the task at hand," Golden Bears head coach Eric Thurston said.

The Huskies are currently ranked second in the country and sit in first place in Canada West. Though they've lost scoring leader Keegan McAvoy, they return with team captain Brent Twordik and Mason Wallin, currently tied for second in conference scoring—among others—from last year's Canada West championship team.

"They're very physical; they do a great job of moving the puck. Saskatchewan is a team where, if you don't do the little things right, they'll make you pay for it," Thurston says. "We just have to make sure we bring a high intensity level and a commitment to being physical."

This weekend's games will be the first meeting between the two teams since the Huskies defeated the Bears in last year's Canada West final,

coming back from a three-goal deficit in the final game to end Alberta's season.

While the Bears are looking forward, Alberta goalie Aaron Sorochan speculates that certain members of the team might have last year's events in mind.

"We're looking towards this year, and we've got a lot of fresh faces in our dressing room," he said. "[But] we also have a lot of guys that maybe want a bit of revenge."

"We just have to make sure we bring a high intensity level and a commitment to being physical."

ERIC THURSTON
BEARS HEAD COACH

Thurston agrees that while it may be something his players are thinking about, the Huskies present enough of a challenge even without considering the past.

"It might be in the back of their mind, but it's a brand new season," he said. "Obviously we have to learn from that."

Sorochan has been stellar over the past several games, winning three in

a row. In last weekend's games against Regina, he let only one goal past him, ending a 144-minute shutout streak. The goalie credits the team in front of him with making his job much easier.

"In that span, I don't think I faced a single breakaway. Odd-man rushes were very minimal; the defence were keeping shots to the outside, clearing out rebounds," the third-year said. "When you get a team effort like that, it's pretty easy to keep the puck out of the net."

Thurston isn't surprised with Sorochan's recent performance. He sees it as a continuance of the things the goalie's been doing all along.

"He sees the puck very well; positionally, he's very good; he's very mentally focused and calm. When your goaltender is playing that well, the chances of you winning are pretty good."

Despite the changes on both teams, the Bears and Huskies remain the top two programs in Canada West, playing each other often enough that neither team is likely to be surprised by what they see.

"It's no secret what they're going to bring to the game, and it's no secret what we're going to bring," Sorochan said.

"We've seen them enough times over the years that it's whatever 20 guys work harder and execute more are who's going to win the game."

SPORTS SHORTS

By Robin Collum

One-two punch

After their startling weekend win-loss combo against the Huskies, I predict that the Pandas hockey team (7-1) will be extremely keen on putting up a pair of wins this Friday and Saturday on the road.

They'll be playing Manitoba (7-1), and it could be a tough fight, seeing as how the Pandas and Bisons are the first- and second-place teams in Canada West, respectively. Manitoba's first loss of the season happened at the same time as the Pandas, but against the number-three Regina Cougars.

Putting the 'Win' in Winnipeg

Moving from the rink to the hardwood but staying in the same province, the Bears volleyball team (4-0) will be playing the third-place Winnipeg Wesmen (3-1) there this weekend.

The Bears have dominated their opponents pretty thoroughly so far this season, both in the pre-season and conference play, thanks to a deep and dynamic lineup, including Adam Kaminski, Brock Pehar, Joel Schmuland, and Thomas Jarmoc.

This ain't Sparta

The Pandas volleyball team (4-0) have yet to lose a single set this season, but the Trinity Western Spartans (3-1) will be doing their best to end that streak this weekend when Alberta takes them on in their home gym. That team's sole loss

was to Saskatchewan in the first weekend of the season. If the Pandas want to keep the Spartans from achieving their goal, they'll need the usual strong performances from Jocelyn Blair, Daryll Roper, and others.

Danger to the junkifold

Ryan's wearing really sharp boxers: they're not like an old man would wear, but rather a wise country doctor or perhaps even a fastidious patent-office clerk. When he pulled them up to show me—tucking his T-shirt into them in the process—he yanked them up so hard he sacked himself. It was comedy gold.

Natalie, continuing her recent matchy-matchy OCD trend, is wearing blue panties, a blue bra, blue socks, two blue shirts (one has sequins), and is using a blue highlighter.

Experience of a Lifetime
* Overseas Job Guaranteed

TEACH ENGLISH OVERSEAS

Free Info Seminar
Tues. @ 7pm
10037B - 82 Ave.
*Edmonton-based

GLOBAL TESOL COLLEGE
(780) 438 5704
globaltesol.com

SPRING BREAK/READING WEEK in CANCUN!
The Takeover
READING WEEK/SPRING BREAK 2008

The 5 things you need to know...

- 1. DISCOUNT EXTENDED!** Book before November 16 and SAVE \$100.
- 2. CONTEST EXTENDED!** Book before November 16 and you could win your trip!
- 3. Grab a group of 15 and you go for free!**
- 4. This is going to be a party you don't want to miss!**
- 5. Stop by Travel CUTS for all the details.**

Seats are selling out fast, so book today!

University of Alberta
Student Union Bldg.
Across from SUB Titles
780.492.2592

TRAVEL CUTS
Canada's Student Travel Experts

FREE POOL
in September
for U of A 1st Year Students*

for all your study breaks...

billiards, games music and more
cue

STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING, Lower Level of SUB
Free Pool Hours: Daily between 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

*Please bring in first year timetable and photo i.d. for proof of first year status.

Hours: Monday - Friday 9:30 AM - 8 PM
Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM
Phone: 492-9468 | games@su.ualberta.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
STUDENTS UNION