

Hockey Bears win big over hard-hitting T-Birds

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The Bears hockey team threw big hits and got big payback this weekend against UBC, as Alberta was able to neutralize the Thunderbirds' usually aggressive style and put up two wins against the team that swept them in their opening weekend.

The Bears (11-2-1) beat UBC (7-7-0) on Friday night in a close 3-2 game, while Saturday's matchup was an even more decisive 6-2 victory for Alberta.

"It's definitely a bit of revenge after the start of the year, when we lost two games to them," said Bears defenceman Jason Fransoo, who had a goal and an assist on Friday night and two assists the following evening. "I think that's sort of the attitude we went into the weekend with. We wanted a bit of revenge, and we got it."

Alberta got off to a slow start on Friday, and were down by one after only 1:20 minutes of play. It wasn't until the 7:35 mark in the second period that Fransoo evened out the score. Though the Thunderbirds scored again minutes later, two Alberta goals—one each from Harlan Anderson and Dale Mahovsky—before the end of the period decided the outcome of the game.

Known as an aggressive team, UBC forced Alberta to play a more physical game than they're used to, but Thunderbirds coach Milan Dragicevic acknowledged that his team wasn't up to its usual standard.

"We have an identity of being a gritty hockey team," he said. "I thought tonight we weren't as physical, nearly at all, as we've been in the past. To be honest with you, I was pretty disappointed in how [unphysical] we were tonight."

The Bears were coming off a bye weekend, but Thurston said that rather



STU TREBELCO

MOVE IT OR LOSE IT The Thunderbirds may have pushed the Bears around on the ice this weekend, but the home team had better offence and earned two wins.

than giving them extra energy against UBC, the extra week's rest slowed his team down.

"The bye might have taken a little bit of our skating legs and our finely-tuned skill level that you get when you keep going," he said. "You can do all the one-on-one battles [and] all the game simulations that you want, but it doesn't compare to the real thing."

A few periods were all the Bears needed to get back on their stride,

however, and by Saturday night, they were once again on the top of their game and ready to show UBC why they were ranked second in the country going into the weekend. Alberta got goals from Richard Hamula and Anderson before UBC was able to reciprocate late in the second period, and shots were 26-12 in favour of the home team after two.

The Bears offence really took off in the third period, putting in four more goals.

"Tonight, we just came out and stuck to our game plan and didn't really give them much," Anderson said.

Anderson's dominating play had a lot to do with the Bears' success. In addition to scoring both nights, the defenceman—and team captain—chipped in with two assists on Saturday and one on Friday.

"He was tremendous; he was all over the puck," Thurston said. "That's the leadership that we need, and that's the leader that he is. When your

captain brings it on the ice like that, it makes a coach proud because he's really stepping up to the table and taking the game by the horns."

"I love playing with him; that's all I can say," added Fransoo, who pairs with Anderson on the backend. "You get him the puck, and he puts it in the back of the net. That's really my goal: to get the puck to him, and he's going to make plays, [and] with his lethal one-timer, most of those pucks are going to go in."



REID MCKAY

THE GUN SHOW Alberta's Samantha Wojtkiw (5) smacks one to the Huskies.

Alberta gets the broom out for Dogs

Volleyball Pandas bring the aces to sweep two games against Saskatchewan

MARC AFFELD
Sports Writer

The Pandas volleyball team (7-1) spent this past weekend showing the Saskatchewan Huskies (3-7) exactly why they're currently one of the best-ranked teams in Canada.

Friday night got off to an exciting start as the Pandas narrowly escaped defeat in the first set. The rescue came thanks to two consecutive aces by second-year outside hitter Tiffany Proudfoot, with Alberta winning 25-23. Alberta didn't take any more chances, however, and went on to sweep Friday night in three sets, winning the next two 25-13 and 25-20 respectively.

Samantha Wojtkiw led Alberta's offence on Friday night, managing 14 kills and no errors on 16 attempts.

"It's funny because you don't know when those performances are coming," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said. "There was a really good connection between [Wojtkiw] and the setter, Daryll [Roper]."

Roper managed to put up three blocks and made 38 assists on Friday night against the Huskies.

Saturday night was another showcase of the Pandas' offensive ability. Third-year middle Alexa Berton racked up eleven kills, and the Pandas also got nine from Jocelyn Blair and seven from Kaylan Berg. Again, the Pandas won in straight sets: 25-11, 25-14, and 25-16.

"It was excellent that we were able to get everyone off the bench in, and I was just really happy with the execution."

JOCELYN BLAIR
PANDAS OUTSIDE HITTER

According to Blair, the Pandas' success this past weekend was especially welcome after the team's surprising and much-talked-about split with Trinity Western two weeks ago.

"I think this weekend was good to regain our confidence. It was excellent that we were able to get everyone off the bench in, and I was just really

happy with the execution," she said.

Saskatchewan head coach Leslie Irie felt that, despite the discrepancy on the board, her team showed plenty of potential off the bench. She cited performances from third-year Rebecca Kolbenson, fourth-year Amber Smith, and rookie Sarah Nelubowich.

Nonetheless, the Huskies seemed to have spent the weekend struggling to maintain consistency.

"I think that in each set there were phases where the two teams played close to the same level," Eisler said. "But in volleyball, even more so than in other sports, you have to be able to sustain it to be able to win."

"We were too inconsistent," Irie said. "We needed to find a way to develop rhythm on our side, and they just didn't allow us to."

The Saskatchewan players also felt that the numbers didn't do justice to their performance.

"I think we came prepared to play, but it just didn't show," Saskatchewan power hitter Shannon Usher said. "If you look at the scores, it doesn't feel like we should have been down by that much. It just wasn't our weekend, I guess."