



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

PIVOT FOR THE POINT Derek Ryan and the rest of the Bears beat Manitoba last weekend and now play the Huskies.

Familiar foes face off in finals

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Anyone attending this weekend's Canada West men's hockey finals this weekend could probably be forgiven for feeling a sense of déjà vu as they watch the Bears take on the Saskatchewan Huskies for the conference banner.

The two teams have a long history of high-level competition: this the seventh time in a row that Alberta and Saskatchewan have met in the Canada West final and the eleventh time in twelve seasons. Last year, the Huskies broke the Bears' five-year winning streak by notching two come-from-behind victories at the Drake to bring the banner home to Saskatoon.

"They've been our rivals ever since I've been here at least," fifth-year Alberta forward Tim Krymusa said. "We know we're going to get their best game, and for us to be successful, we'll have to bring our best game."

According to Krymusa, the competition between the two teams has been especially intense since 2005, when the

Bears beat the Huskies in overtime at Rexall Place to take the national title.

"From that point on, things have really been heated," he said. "It's been a great rivalry, and we love to beat them. I know they [would] probably love to beat us, but hopefully we can come out on top this weekend."

The Bears are 4-0 against the Huskies in the regular season this year, but the matchup isn't as lopsided as that record would seem to indicate. Three of those games were decided by one goal; the fourth saw Alberta win by two with an empty-netter.

"The teams are just so evenly matched," Alberta head coach Eric Thurston said. "Because of last year and how tight things were—and [that] there's no shootout—it's going to be, as usual, a one-goal game [...] and obviously very physical. I just hope the overtimes, if they do go, don't go triple or quadruple."

Unlike some previous years, a nationals berth isn't on the line for either team this year. Both teams have already qualified for CIS cham-

pionships in Moncton—the Bears by beating Manitoba last weekend, and the Huskies by virtue of a sweep over Calgary. This series will only decide the Canada West winner and seeding into the championships. Still, Thurston says the pressure isn't any less than if they were facing elimination.

"I think Canada West is certainly very important, and it's a real feather for the guys' cap, and they also have a lot of pride in the program," he said. "On one side, you say, 'Well, both teams are going,' but once that puck is dropped, that is absolutely forgotten. It's going to be a really tight-checking, passionate, and emotional series."

"Obviously there's a lot on the line," rookie Bears forward Derek Ryan agreed. "It's a good rivalry, and there'll be a lot of emotion to go with it."

"Seeding going into nationals is a huge deal, and we want to give ourselves the best chance to go into nationals and win gold. I think this weekend has everything to do with how the rest of our season's going to play out, so we're not going to take it lightly at all."

GMC athletics head fired without cause

TARA REID
InterCamp (Grant MacEwan)

EDMONTON—Almost four months after Grant MacEwan College athletic director Mark Mahl was placed on administrative leave, the college has terminated his contract without cause.

"It's really hard to swallow when they say, 'We're going to put your life on hold and in turmoil for the past 15 weeks,' then essentially say that there are no allegations regarding the investigation, but we're going to get rid of you anyways," Mahl said.

College spokesman David Beharry confirmed that Mahl no longer an employee of MacEwan, but said that the college wouldn't be making any other comment on the situation.

Mahl was placed on administrative leave on 1 November and was told only that an investigation into administrative procedures was pending.

He was sent home, and he said that

he heard nothing from the college for six weeks.

Mahl was then brought in for a fact-finding interview by an independent accounting firm representing the auditor general, who was conducting the investigation. Mahl said he was never told exactly what they were looking for, but none of the questions gave him any cause for alarm.

"There was not even a hand-slap in these," he said. "It was absolutely ridiculous, the questions they asked me."

Following that interview, Mahl was again sent home and did not hear anything for nine weeks. On 21 February, he was called in for a meeting with the human resources department and Vice-President of Student Services Cathryn Heslep.

"It was a five-minute discussion, basically saying that they're not alleging I did anything wrong, but they are terminating me without cause. So I asked what that meant and was

not told," Mahl said. He said he was offered a severance package, and is considering his next step.

This hasn't been the only controversy facing the MacEwan athletics department this year.

In a separate issue, Mahl was also frustrated with the college's handling of an Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference investigation into the purchase of hockey skates for members of the men's hockey team. In a ruling handed down 7 February, the commissioner found that the provision of skates to four players constituted an illegal gift under the ACAC operating code.

Mahl disputes not only the decision, but the basic facts of the case as represented in the report: the number of players involved, the fact that players had done fundraising for the team, and the portion of the budget with which the skates were purchased. He is trying to get the ACAC to revisit the decision.

Experience of a Lifetime

** Overseas Job Guaranteed*

TEACH ENGLISH OVERSEAS

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

(780) 438 5704
globaltesol.com

Experience the magic of live theatre...

GRAND PRIZE!
Fujitsu Laptop - LifeBook E8410

microstore

DRAW DATE
May 24, 2008

A \$50 gift card to be used towards the purchase of merchandise in Geo's "Everything for Travel" retail store or towards the purchase of travel at UNIGLOBE Geo Travel.

**** Every 20th subscriber (up to the first 400) wins a gift card.**

**Offer valid mid October 2008 to the end of April 2009. Offer is not valid at Christmas / New Years, Family Day, Easter or Spring Break.*

***Gift cards can't be combined and only one per travel booking is permitted. There is no minimum spend on any of the products or services for redemption.*

Total retail value of all prizes is approximately \$3500. Prizes are not transferable and must be accepted as awarded. Winners will be contacted by phone.

Subscribe to the 2008/09 season using the official order form available at the Timms Centre for the Arts Box Office or online at www.studiotheatre.ca.

2008/09 Theatre Season will include:
(season subject to change)

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
By Edward Albee

Largo Desolato
By Vaclav Havel
(translation by Tom Stoppard)

Roberto Zucco
By Bernard-Marie Koltès

Major Barbara
By George Bernard Shaw

Assassins
By Stephen Sondheim

One of two weekend stays at Jasper's Mountain Park Lodges. The package includes lift tickets for two at Marmot Basin and two overnight messenger bags.*

EARLY BIRD DRAW DATE
Feb. 16, 2008

2nd DRAW DATE
May 24, 2008

STUDIOTHEATRE.CA

DROP-IN POOL TOURNAMENT

Second Friday of the Month

billiards, games music and more

for all your study breaks...

Register up until 5:30 PM on day of tournament
Start time: 6:00 PM Cost: \$10.00/person

STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING
Lower level

Tournament Dates: **Jan. 11, Feb. 8 & Mar.14, 2008**

Monday - Friday 10 AM - 8 PM
Saturdays 10 AM - 6 PM
Phone: 492-9468 | games@su.ualberta.ca