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CALGARY AND SASKATCHEWAN HOST CONFERENCE OPENERS THIS WEEK ALBERTA CAPTURES HUSKIE HOCKEY CLASSIC TITLE

The University of Calgary Dinos and the University of Saskatchewan Huskies are set to host the opening games of the 2008-09 Canada West Hockey conference schedule this week. The Dinos will host the UBC Thunderbirds at Father David Bauer Arena in Calgary and the University of Manitoba Bisons will visit Rutherford Arena in Saskatoon to take on the Huskies in two-game series on Friday-Saturday, September 26th and 27th marking the start of the 73rd season of conference play.

The two series marks the earliest opening date in the history of the conference dating back to the inaugural season of 1919-20. Prior to this season, the earliest start to a Canada West Hockey season came in 2007-08 when Saskatchewan and the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns hosted the University of Regina Cougars and Calgary Dinos, respectively on September 28, 2007. The Huskies earned a 4-2 victory over the Cougars while Lethbridge defeated Calgary 3-2.

Both Lethbridge and Regina will open their conference schedules next week on the road as the Pronghorns visit Manitoba and the Cougars travel to Saskatoon to take on Saskatchewan on Friday-Saturday, October 3rd-4th. The University of Alberta Golden Bears will be the last team to open their conference schedule as the defending CIS University Cup champions host the Calgary Dinos at Clare Drake Arena in Edmonton on Friday October 10th.

Alberta and Saskatchewan were involved in the very first game in Canada West Hockey history with the Golden Bears earning a 4-2 win over the visiting Huskies in Edmonton on January 14, 1920.

Saskatchewan, Manitoba and UBC will be looking to extend their winning streaks in season openers this week as the Huskies, Bisons and Thudnerbirds each won their season openers in 2007-08.

The Huskies have a two-game winning streak in season openers having defeated UBC 7-1 in 2006-07 and Regina 4-2 last season. Manitoba opened its 2007-08 campaign with a 4-2 victory over the Cougars on October 5th, while UBC needed overtime to defeat Alberta 4-3. The win over Alberta was UBC's first season opening victory since a 3-1 win versus the Brandon University Bobcats on October 12, 2001.

Following are the records of each Canada West Hockey team in season openers dating back to the conference's first season in 1919-20. Please see the attached document for the breakdown of each team's season-by-season record in season openers.

CANADA WEST HOCKEY SEASON OPENERS 1919-20 to 2007-08

TEAM	HOME	AWAY	TOTAL
Alberta	27-6-0 (.818)	24-12-1 (.662)	51-18-3 (.729)
British Columbia	13-14-1 (.482)	3-13-1 (.206)	16-27-2 (.378)
Calgary	10-5-2 (.647)	13-14-0 (.481)	23-19-2 (.545)
Lethbridge	8-6-0 (.571)	3-5-2 (.300)	11-11-2 (.500)
Manitoba	12-9-0 (.571)	11-10-0 (.524)	23-19-0 (.548)
Regina	4-3-2 (.556)	4-10-0 (.286)	8-13-2 (.391)
Saskatchewan	21-19-1 (.524)	12-19-0 (.387)	33-38-1 (.465)

EARLIEST CANADA WEST HOCKEY SEASON OPENERS BY TEAM

TEAM	DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Alberta	October 4, 2002	at British Columbia	W. 4-3
British Columbia	October 4, 2002	vs Alberta	L. 3-4
Calgary	September 28, 2007	at Lethbridge	L. 2-3
Lethbridge	September 28, 2007	vs Calgary	W. 3-2
Manitoba	September 29, 2006	vs Regina	L. 4-6
Regina	September 28, 2007	at Saskatchewan	L. 2-4
Saskatchewan	September 28, 2007	vs Regina	W. 4-2

EARLIEST CANADA WEST HOCKEY SEASON OPENERS

SEASON	DATE	TEAMS
2007-08	September 28	Calgary 2 at Lethbridge 3
2007-08	September 28	Regina 2 at Saskatchewan 4
2006-07	September 29	Regina 6 at Manitoba 4

Non-conference action is also on the schedule for the upcoming week as the Lethbridge Pronghorns and Regina Cougars will both be in action. The Pronghorns and Cougars will faceoff against each other on Friday, September 26th in a neutral site game played at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. The following night will see the Pronghorns travel to Calgary for a game against the



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SAIT Trojans of the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) on Saturday, September 27th. Alberta will be the only team off the ice in the coming week as the Golden Bears have the weekend off before travelling south for a trio of games against NCAA Division I opponents from October 4th to 6th.

Alberta went 2-0 to capture the championship at the Huskie Hockey Classic tournament in non-conference play last week. The Golden Bears, who opened the week with a 3-2 loss to the Edmonton Oilers Rookies before a sellout crowd of 3,009 at Clare Drake Arena on Monday, September 15th, defeated the host Huskies 4-3 and the Manitoba Bisons 2-1 to finish first in the four-team tournament in Saskatoon on Friday-Saturday, September 19th-20th.

Goals by Jesse Gimblett, Ben Kilgour and Dale Mahovsky in the first five minutes of the game gave Alberta a 3-0 lead and freshman goaltender Real Cyr made 29 saves as the Golden Bears defeated Saskatchewan 4-3 on the first day of the tournament. Lee Zalasky extended Alberta's lead to 4-1 with a second period goal, before the Huskies rallied to score twice in the final period before falling 4-3. Saskatchewan outshot Alberta 14-4 in the final period and 23-15 over the final 40 minutes, but Cyr made some key saves to earn his first career victory. Steve DaSilva and Casey Lee each had a goal and an assist for the Huskies and Bryan Kauk added a single goal.

Gimblett was the hero for Alberta in the Golden Bears 2-1 win over Manitoba on Saturday afternoon as he netted his second goal of the tournament with only 36 seconds remaining in regulation. Mike Hellyer gave Manitoba a 1-0 lead with a power-play goal 1:16 into the second period and the Bisons held onto their one-goal lead until the third period. Ian McDonald tied the game midway through the third before Gimblett netted the deciding goal at 19:24 with the Golden Bears enjoying a two-man advantage.

Saskatchewan's DaSilva scored three times, including the game winner with 1:37 remaining, to lead the Huskies to a 4-3 win over Regina on Saturday to claim second place in the tournament standings. DaSilva scored a power-play goal 31 seconds into the second period to tie the game 1-1 after Ryan Bender had given the Cougars a 1-0 first period lead with his first of two goals on the night.

Down 3-2 entering the third period, Saskatchewan rallied for the victory on two more goals by DaSilva. The Huskies freshman forward tied the score 6:13 into the final frame with his second power-play goal and then netted the game winning goal at 18:23. DaSilva finished the tournament with five points on four goals and an assist to lead all scorers and earn Canada West Hockey Player of the Week honors.

Bender finished second to DaSilva with three goals as the Regina freshman also scored in the Cougars' 5-2 win over Manitoba on Friday. Kyle Ross and Dustin Bru each scored twice and Dylan Chapman added two assists in the victory that saw the Cougars score four times in the third period to erase a 2-1 deficit.

Alberta's tournament victory was the Golden Bears 39th tournament championship since 1966-67 and their 11th title in 25 appearances at the Huskie Hockey Classic since the tournament began in 1980-81. The Golden Bears have compiled a record of 190-64-11 (.738) in 91 tournament appearances since their first tournament - the Centennial College Hockey tournament in Montreal in January of 1967.

2008 U of SASKATCHEWAN HUSKIE HOCKEY CLASSIC							
	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>GA</u>
1.	Alberta	2	2	0	0	6	4
2.	Saskatchewan	2	1	1	0	7	7
4.	Regina	2	1	1	0	8	6
4.	Manitoba	2	0	2	0	3	7

The UBC Thunderbirds opened their season with a two game series against the defending ACAC champion SAIT Trojans in Vancouver. NCAA transfer Tyler Ruel scored twice, including the game winner while shorthanded, to lead the Thunderbirds to a 7-1 victory on Friday night. Jordan Inglis, who was a teammate of Ruel's at Wayne State University last season, Keith Voytechek, Kyle Block, Matt Allen and Jeff Lynch also scored for UBC, who outshot SAIT 44-26. Voytechek added two assists to his goal to finish the night with a team-high three points, while defencemen Nick Duff and Craig Lineker each earned two assists.

Voytechek, with his third goal of the series, and Brennon Sonne gave UBC a 2-0 first period lead on Saturday, but the Thunderbirds surrendered three second period goals to fall 3-2.

Lethbridge took both ends of a series with Calgary, winning 3-2 and 4-2. Defenceman Ryan Pottruff scored twice on the power play and Andrew Courtney added two assists in the Pronghorns' 3-2 home ice victory on Friday night. Austin Davenport also scored for Lethbridge, who outshot Calgary 28-21. Brock Nixon and Tommy Mannino replied for the Dinos. The teams met again on Saturday in Okotoks, Alberta with the Pronghorns earning the weekend sweep with a 4-2 victory.

CANADA WEST HOCKEY PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Freshman forward STEVE DaSILVA of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies has been named the Canada West Hockey Player of the Week for the week ending September 21, 2008. The 5'11", 190-pound forward from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan scored four goals and an assist to lead all scorers at the Huskie Hockey Classic in Saskatoon on Friday-Saturday, September 19th-20th. DaSILVA scored a power-play goal and added an assist in a 4-3 loss to the University of Alberta Golden Bears in the Huskies opening game of the tournament on Friday night at Rutherford Arena. The 21-year-old forward then registered his first career collegiate hat tick with three more goals, including the game-winning goal with 97 seconds remaining in regulation, in Saskatchewan's 4-3 win over the University of Regina on Saturday night. DaSILVA's five point weekend helped the Huskies claim second place in the four-team tournament with a 1-1-0 record. DaSILVA has scored 6-1-7 in his first four games for Saskatchewan this season and has registered two multiple goal games.

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