

Surprise competition

By Cora The Explorer
sports news hunter

The Yoop U men's hockey team had the crowd on their feet this weekend; this time it wasn't because of how they played.

In the middle of a game between the Wintercats and the Alaskan Beavers, a wild polar bear raged onto the ice, just as play opened in the second period.

Head coach Kyle Walter said it was a frustrating scene and is something that never should have happened at the indoor ice rink.

"That is unacceptable," Walter said. "We've got guys on the ice, we have our teams in the rink and we have nearly 2,000 fans in the arena. There needs to be some level of security here; we cannot have people getting hurt because of something like this."

The garage door on the east wing was opened for a first intermission promotion when the 9-foot, 2,500-pound wild animal barreled through the opening.

Officials were not prepared, and the polar bear took charge and plunged itself into the game, working across the entire length of the rink to intercept a pass from Alaska freshman Joshua Frank.

The bear proceeded to push the puck down the ice directly toward Yoop University goaltender, freshman Matthew Dahley.

Dahley said the surprise interruption took everyone off-guard.

"We were in the middle of the game, and suddenly this enormous bear comes at me, moving the puck with his nose," Dahley said. "Everyone just stopped playing to watch, it seemed like we all froze. No one even tried to get off the ice at that point. The entire crowd went silent. I instantly went into competition mode and I didn't even think about that bear's size."

What happened next left the stadium in awe.

The bear and Dahley went one-on-one with each other, as if it were a planned part of the game.

The polar bear continued to push the puck down the ice, around several of the wide-eyed Yoop U athletes, and in between the Beavers.

The polar bear geared up to shoot as Dahley stood his ground and braced himself for the puck.

The polar bear was able to get the puck into the air as he aimed five hole. It bounced off Dahley's glove and landed inches in front of the goal box.

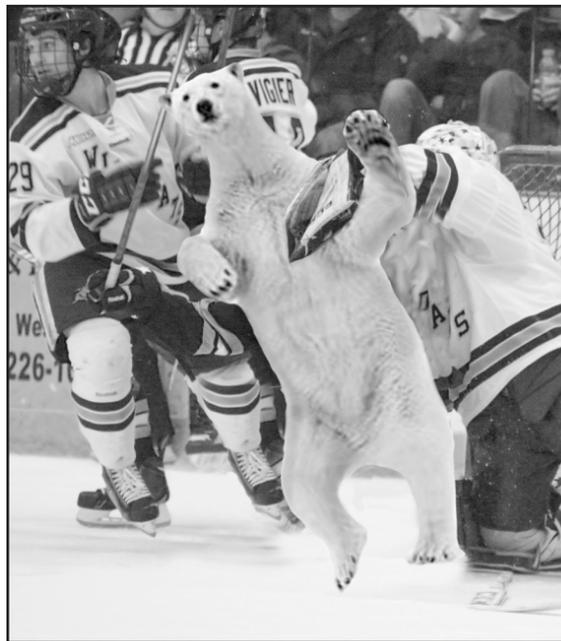
Senior Wintercat forward Steve Gier said everyone in the stadium froze, and one could feel the intensity between the bear and the goaltender.

"You could almost see the smoke coming out of their nostrils in an attempt to determine who was going to get the puck," Gier said. "Dahley wanted it more than that bear, I can tell you that."

At that point, both the bear and the goaltender lunged for the puck.

Walter said Dahley ended up on top of the bear, struggling to keep it away from the puck.

"In a matter of seconds this all played out, you've got to remember this," Walter said. "Boy was it an interesting result. Dahley was



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Freshman goaltender Matthew Dahley (03) takes on the polar bear that decided to rage the ice in the recent game.

struggling with that bear; you could have sworn we were watching a wrestling match."

At that point, the local park rangers had made it back with a tranquilizer gun to get the bear out of the rink.

Within five minutes the bear was fast asleep and brought back to the wildlife habitation center.

Dahley said he never even considered the animal a threat in any aspect aside from a competitive threat.

"He didn't score and that's all I wanted," Dahley said. "No way was I getting beat by a bear."

The officials allowed the teams to finish the game, and the Wintercats left with a 3-1 victory. There will be a public apology from the Alaskan arena tomorrow evening.

"I can honestly say that will be one of the most memorable games from any I have either seen or played in," Walter said. "And I've seen a lot of hockey over the years."

ing on down there," the radio announcer said.

After a misstep on the basketball court, local fans were scratching their heads when Wintercat Wilbur seemed to be cheering for the Yoop Tech Huskies women's basketball team last night, instead of the beloved Wintercats.

Head coach Roman Carpet was shocked at the outcome of the game.

"It was a tough loss on our part, the basketball game was alright," Carpet said. "But it didn't help that Wilbur decided to ditch us from the beginning. What a dick."

Wintercat fan

Corey Boyle said he was very disappointed.

"I would think that Wilbur would be better behaved," Boyle said. "I know he hit his head pretty hard, but this is a disappointment. We should fire him and become the purple horned frogs. At least they have a working brain."

Area student Willy Johnson was disappointed as well.

"We really wanted to see Wintercat Wilbur, but he was too busy cheering for Yoop Tech," Johnson said. "I don't like this one bit. I haven't been this upset since my dad left our family when I was two."

Wilbur has declined to comment, seeing as he's a costume mascot character that children enjoy and not an actual person.

Wilbur has since been forced out on medical leave and is being treated for a traumatic concussion in Yoop General Hospital.



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Wintercat Wilbur and foe, the Yoop Tech Husky, proved to be too close for Roman Carpet's liking.

Nordic skier lost in woods

By Teddy Bear
reads good

After being lost for three days, junior Sasha Rose of Yoop University's Nordic ski team was found Wednesday, March 26, ten miles from the U.S. Nationals course in Alaska.

Rose was competing in the freestyle competition and was in first place Sunday, March 23 when she went off course. She placed third in the classic competition Saturday, March 22.

"I had a really good day Saturday, and then on Sunday it started snowing really hard," Rose said. "I couldn't see the tracks at all, or the course markers, so I just went with what felt familiar from the day before."

Rose said she stayed warm by digging a hole in the snow and that's why it took the rescue team so long to find her.

"I kept skiing and skiing and when I realized I had no idea where I was, I stopped, took off my skis, and sat down," Rose said. "I remembered how the dogs kept warm in 'Call of the Wild,' so I decided to try it out and burrow in the snow. It definitely did keep me a lot warmer."

Alaska state police officer Jeffrey Fry said the police were alerted three hours after the meet ended. He said the Wintercats' white uniforms, combined with decreased visibility of Rose because of the hole, is what took the search and rescue team so long to find her.

"We had quite a few people looking for this girl," Fry said. "We hired helicopters, dogs and so many people vol-

unteered, including the winner of the Iditarod. She was also farther out than we expected. Usually when people get lost, they turn around in the direction they think they came from. She just kept going and then stopped."

Fry said Rose was found by one of the dogs, who started circling wildly and plunging its head into the snow once he got close.

As an apology for her experience, Rose was allowed to keep the dog, who she named "Eskimo."

Rose said her parents required her to take survival courses when she told them she wanted to be a professional cross-country skier just in case of situations like these.

"I remember some of the techniques I learned in the survival class, and I tried to stay calm," Rose said. "I knew if I panicked, then I probably would have died."

Course officials refused to comment, leading others to believe that this was not an accident.

"It's a shame," said coach Olaf Dahl. "Sasha definitely could have won the meet if this hadn't happened. She's a great skier with great potential and to see that ruined with something as silly as an inadequately marked course, well, it's just a shame."

Rose said it was an experience she will never forget, but she does plan to keep on skiing.

"I guess any other person might be scared and would stop skiing, but skiing is my passion," Rose said. "Everyone is saying I should be traumatized, but I knew I would be found eventually."



Delicious Fruiticious/NW

Junior Sasha Rose had difficulties on the course this weekend when she got lost in the woods near the end of the freestyle competition.