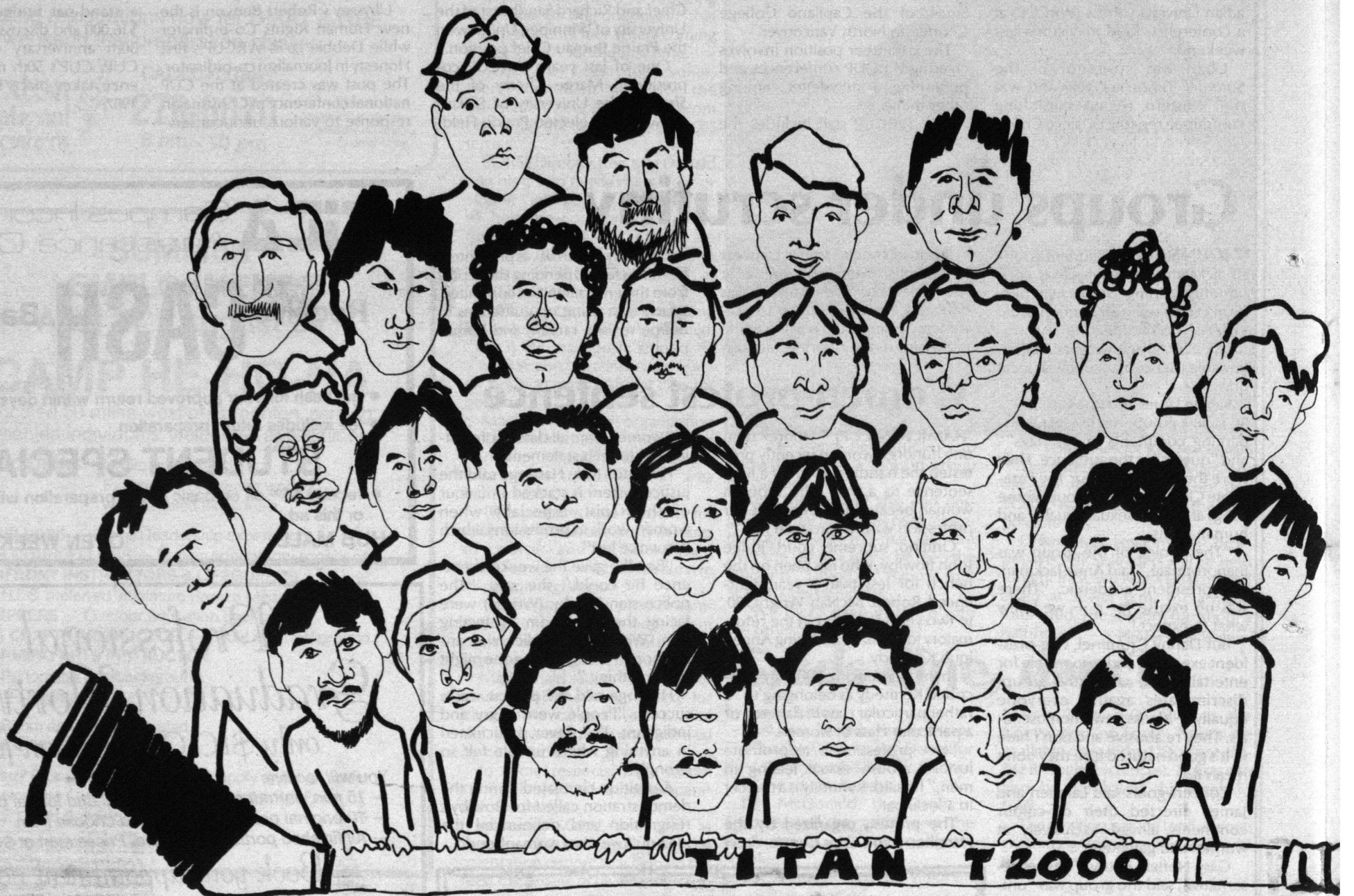


1984-85 Golden Bear Hockey Team



Guba the Bear is missing.

The suspects? The Golden Bear Hockey team and the Bear Basketball squad, hockey Bear's head coach Clare Drake, and basketball Bear's head coach Don Horwood.

The motive? Fan support for their respective Canada West University Athletic Association Championships.

The resolution? None in sight.

Actually there should be no problem. Guba can make an appearance at both championships. Conflict of time is no obstacle. The basketball tournament is being held March 2-3 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Varsity Gym. The best of three hockey series will be played on March 1-3 at 7:30 p.m. at Varsity Arena.

While Horwood's Bears try to terminate their nine game losing streak, their puck-chasing counterparts intend on sending the Huskies home wailing.

The No. 1 ranked Bears play host to the Saskatchewan Huskies in this year's CWUAA hockey final. The Bears are looking for their second consecutive Western title; last season the Huskies were eliminated in two straight games. This will be the fourth meeting of these teams in Canada West finals action; the Huskies hold the edge, two series to one.

The Bears ended the regular season with a 5-4 loss to the Lethbridge Pronghorns. The loss had a positive effect; it reminded the team that hard work is a necessity.

"I feel the team is reaching a peak, despite our one setback. Actually it woke the players up. It made them realize they had to be in charge of the work ethic," explained Drake.

Eva Bears All



An absence of talent is not a worry of Coach Drake's; the Bears boast both effective offense and defence.

"Generally, the whole team is capable of doing an excellent job. The team is in the best shape ever, condition wise, injury wise and in terms of depth," said Drake. "We are only missing one player, Craig Dill (out with a knee injury). He has been undergoing therapy and may start skating lightly within two weeks. We have the best depth in offensive ability, with four lines to lead us. On the whole the entire team has matured and blossomed."

The Bears led the western conference in all offensive categories: goals (166), assists (280), points (446), power play goals (34), shorthanded goals (11), winning goals (20), and hat tricks (9).

The Bears 166 goals this season broke the record they set in 1978-79 of 151. Four Bear players are among the top five scorers in the West. Gerald Koebel leads the pack with 36 points. He's followed by Parie Profit (34), Breen Neeser (33), and Dennis Cranston (33). Profit is the top scoring defenceman.

Other Bears who finished among the scoring leaders were: Stacey

Wakabayashi, who was the top scoring freshman with 12-18-30; Joey Engert (9-20-29); Dave Otto (8-20-28); Craig Dill (9-17-26); and Colin Chisolm (2-23-25). UBC's Bill Holowaty holds the scoring title with 47 points.

The Bear's defence was equally dominant. Owing to the proficient goal tending duo of Ken Hodge and Kelly Brooks, only 72 goals were allowed in the Bear's net, recording a 3.00 average.

Hodge is the top goaltender in the West with a 2.79 average in 17 games. He has a 14-3 record and .891 saves percentage.

Brooks is third with a 3.47 average in eight games, a 6-1 record and an .845 saves percentage.

Hodge and Brooks were awarded the Adam Kryczko Memorial Trophy as top goaltenders in the CWUAA.

The Huskies are not to be underestimated.

They have five players who are amongst the top scorers, Bruce Keller (31), Tony Vogel (28), Marc Chartier (28), Gord Tait (11), and Neil Reimer (8).

Their goal tender Ross McKay finished second in the conference. McKay is a freshman from the Calgary Wranglers. He won 12 of his 18 starts and has the best saves percentage of .892, having stopped 489 of 548 shots.

Nevertheless, the Bears intend on being the victors. The word defeat is not in their vocabulary.

Home ice advantage should prove to be an added bonus. To date this season the Bears have not lost a home game to the Huskies. The only loss at home was to the Calgary Dinosaurs.

After last year's taste of national

glory, the Bears naturally desire to represent Canada West in the national tournament. Being the No. 1 ranked team in the country, the Bears have to be overwhelming favorites going into this weekend's series.

With a brightly refurbished arena, Guba, adoring fans, and the will to win behind them, the Bears can prepare to board the plane to Winnipeg next Wednesday to face the Manitoba Bisons in the Great Plains Athletic Conference semi-final. The winner of the GPAC semi-final will represent Western Canada in the National showdown.

"...they may want it but we have to have it."

—Tim Krug

Four members of this year's Golden Bear Hockey team share their views on the upcoming CWUAA Hockey Championship series with the Saskatchewan Huskies:

"I foresee no problems. We're going to go out and play our best hockey. We'll have good solid goaltending like we always do. Our power play and penalty killing will work like it usually does. We will all come together as a team. The hard effort will pay off. There's no way we should lose. We have to bury the puck and finish off our chances. It would be nice to have a good crowd behind us. Home ice advantage is great because it's a bigger ice surface, so we get more puck movement and skating room."

—Parie Profit

"We're looking forward to the series. We definitely have to work hard. It is going to be a physical game with a lot of hitting. We have to be able to take the checks and not retaliate. The power play and the penalty killing will play a big part. We've been working on both and it's looking good. What it's going to depend on is which team wants it more. Saskatchewan will have to play very hard to win. Hopefully it will only go two games. Three will take a lot out of either of us. They haven't beat us here this year and that's positive. Crowds like last year would be a definite advantage. Like Coach Drake once told us, they may want it but we have to have it."

—Tim Krug

"We're confident. As long as there are no penalty problems we should have no difficulty beating them. We're well rested and we've been gearing up for them in the last two weeks. We can't think of playing ahead. We were brought back to earth last weekend in Lethbridge. We can't be over confident or cocky."

—Gerald Koebel

"I'm optimistic. We should see a repeat of last year's playoffs (Bears won 4-2, 9-2). We've improved throughout the season and we have a better team. But we do have to be at the top of our game. We learned this weekend that the team that works the hardest wins. We can't look ahead. We have to concentrate on one game at a time, period by period. They've been getting ready for us too, so both teams will be geared up. I expect a tight game, with tight checking and not a lot of free wheeling shots. Personally, I intend to stop all shots, like always."

—Ken Hodge