

Alberta Golden Bears

by Blaine Ostapovich and Mark Spector

Canada West conference



The 1985-86 CWUAA hockey season is now just four game old for the Alberta Golden Bears. After going undefeated in their exhibition schedule and claiming the championship at both the Molson Golden Bear Invite and the Saskatchewan Huskie Invite, the Bears swept their season opening series with the UBC Thunderbirds for a 12-0 start to the year.

Last weekend, however, Alberta suffered their first loss at the hands of the Brandon Bobcats 10-9 in overtime. The following night they defeated the Bobcats 13-5 for a 3-1 record thus far.

The 1985-86 hockey season is a year of transition for the Alberta Golden Bears. Gone from last year's squad are ten veterans, including both goaltenders. Eight of those losses were due to graduation. Fortunately for the Bears though, in

the final year of the rule, Alberta receives a bye into the national final tournament as they are the hosts this season. The U of A will host the CIAU's the following two years as well, but the Bears will have to earn their way into the finals from next year on.

Of the ten graduates, the list reads like an all-star team. Goalie Ken Hodge was the CIAU all-star goaler last year, along with being a co-winner of the Adam Kryczka award for the lowest goals against average in Canada West. Also sharing that award was Kelly Brooks, all-star goalie in two tournaments last season who has retired.

In the forward ranks, five have graduated: CWUAA all-star and leading scorer Breen Neeser, the very reliable Joey Engert, Canada West scoring champ of two years ago Rick Swan, a steady Dave Souch, and the most popular Bear, Perry Zapernick.

Another loss suffered by the Bears comes from behind the bench. Assistant coach Billy Moores has gone to the Western Hockey League to work as both coach and G.M. of the Regina Pats.

So here is *The Gateway's* outlook on the 1985-86 Golden Bear hockey team.



Alberta Golden Bears



UBC Thunderbirds



Brandon Bobcats



Regina Cougars



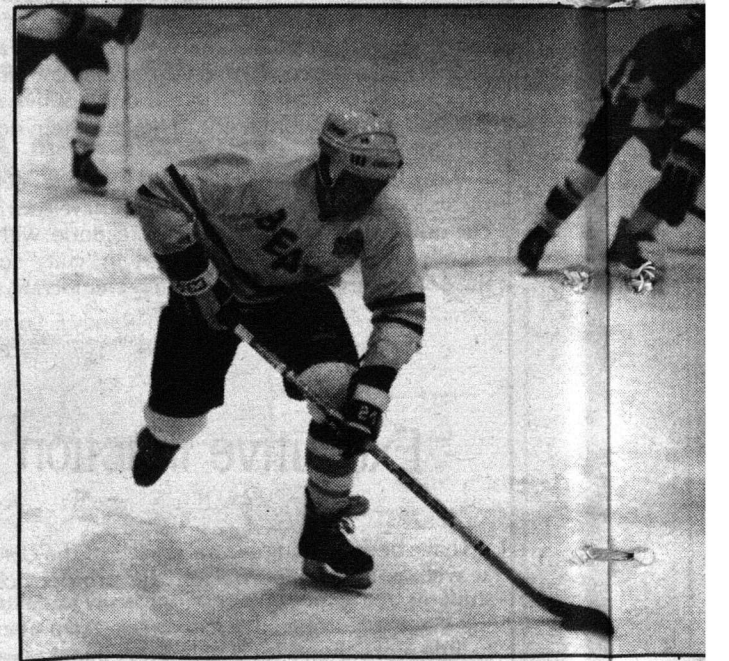
U. of S. Huskies



Lethbridge Pronghorns



Manitoba Bisons



Forwards

The forward ranks of this season will be hard pressed to match the output of last year's squad, who tallied 166 times to set a new Canada West record for goals scored.

This year's Bears feature the brother combination of Dennis and Sid Cranston.

Dennis Cranston, who along with Gerald Koebel and Colin Chisholm will be the Bears' assistant captains, has the best camp of the returning veterans according to the Drake. His brother Sid comes to the Bears after two highly successful seasons with the Fort Saskatchewan Traders and the NAIT Ooksiks respectively. Cranston should provide some of the scoring punch lost from last year's team.

Gerald Koebel was one of two players from the Bears to attend the Oilers training camp in the fall. He returns for his fourth year after leading the Bears in scoring in Canada West play last year. Koebel will play the point on the powerplay and effectively kill penalties. He had three shorthanded goals last year to lead the Bears in that department.

Alberta's Rookie of the Year last season, Stacey Wakabayashi, returns for his second campaign. After coming over from the Kamloops Junior Oilers of the WHL, Wakabayashi played himself onto

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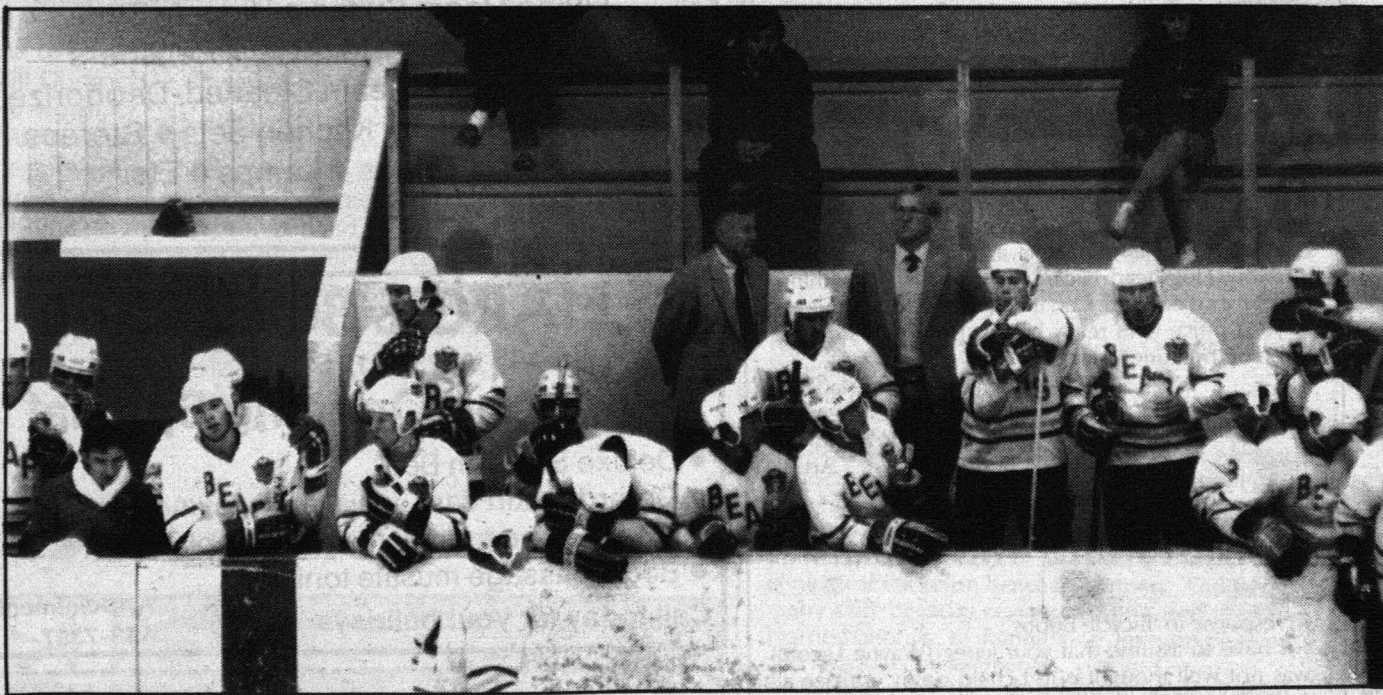


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