

# Drake gets 497th Countdown continues

by Martin Coultts

The Golden Bears hockey team gave Coach Clare Drake his 497th career victory with a 2-1 overtime decision over the NAIT Ooks at the NAIT Arena on Monday night.

The game was the opening contest in the 7th Annual NAIT Invitational College Hockey Tournament which features the host Ooks, the Golden Bears and Team Alberta. The latter squad is a Junior B all-star team which will represent this province next month in Quebec at the Canada Winter Games.

The NAIT tourney is a double round-robin affair which continues this weekend at the NAIT Arena.

The addition of this event to the Golden Bears' schedule provides Coach Drake with the opportunity of recording career win number 500 in the friendly confines of Varsity Arena.

Although the two games against Team Alberta won't count towards Drake's total, the tournament finale versus NAIT is an official non-conference contest. Should the Bears win that game and then sweep their two-game home set from UBC the following weekend, Drake will become the first Canadian college coach and only the third in North America to reach

the 500 win milestone.

On Monday night, however, the drive towards 500 nearly stalled as the Bears struggled to maintain their perfect record against the Ooks. They finally prevailed at 5:03 of sudden death overtime when Craig Dill lifted the puck over sprawled NAIT goalie Cleo Rowein. This was after Darrell Turnbull had hit the post during an Alberta powerplay. The Bears had totally dominated the overtime session and had several excellent scoring opportunities before NAIT was called for having too many men on the ice at 4:25. The penalty made the end result inevitable, and Dill settled the issue just 38 seconds later.

The overtime tally completed an Alberta comeback after NAIT had taken a 1-0 lead on Jeff Hendricks' goal at 12:12 of the second period. The goal seemed to wake the Bears up, but it was not until 12:18 of the third period that Rick Swan knotted the count with a close-in backhand.

In the final analysis, the Bears deserved the win as they outshot NAIT 52-28 and dominated the third period and the overtime session. But the score was closer than it should have been for several reasons.

One, the Ooks came to play on Monday night after drop-

ping an 8-1 decision to the Bears on Sunday night at Varsity Arena.

Two, the Bears ran into a hot goalie in NAIT's Cleo Rowein, who was simply outstanding in the face of the Alberta shot barrage.

Three, the Bears seemed to be fooled by their easy win the night before and four, they appeared to miss the firepower of Ron Parent and "Ace" Brimacombe, both of whom are presently touring with Canadian university select teams.

In Sunday's game, Alberta exploded for five unanswered third period goals after Ken Ludwig had brought NAIT to within two goals in the first minute of the final stanza.

Dill led the way for the Bears with two goals and two assists, while Turnbull, Dave Souch, and Dan Peacocke rounded out the scoring. Earlier, Swan, Gerald Koebel and Breen Neeser had staked the Bears to a 3-0 lead after forty minutes.

Here is the remainder of the NAIT Tournament schedule: Friday, January 7 at 9:00 pm: Team Alberta vs. NAIT. Saturday, Jan. 8 at 1:00 pm: Team Alberta vs. U of A and at 8:00 pm: Team Alberta vs. NAIT. Sunday, Jan. 9 at 12 noon: U of A vs. Team Alberta and at 7:00 pm: U of A vs. NAIT.

Note: There is an admission charge for the Tournament games.

# Time Out

The Soviet hockey team now playing NHL teams in Canada and the United States isn't as good as some people — mostly NHL officials, coaches and players, and sports writers and commentators — say it is.

In fact, a close examination of the Soviets' play reveals many faults. The Soviets have become far less disciplined in their play in recent years and, as a result, they are losing games they should be winning — against Calgary and Edmonton, for instance.

If you watch closely, you will notice the Soviets making a large portion of their plays on their right-hand side of the rink. Why? They can't pass on the backhand and most of their players are left-handed shots. Canadian hockey players aren't any better. You can count the number of backhand passes in any NHL game and you'll rarely get more than five, if that. The only thing saving the NHLers is they don't all shoot left. Nor right.

A second obvious fault in the Soviets' play is they chase their opponents behind their opponents' net. This is a hockey sin if there ever was one, unless you and your opponent are chasing the loose puck or you are certain to check your opponent before he gets out from behind the net. Neither of these two situations is common, however, and usually your opponent is able to pass the puck ahead, leaving you caught behind the play. Unfortunately, you will also see NHL players do the same. It makes you wonder about who is coaching in the NHL.

The Soviets also haven't learned how to conserve energy. I know they emphasize movement, but they move far too much without accomplishing anything. Better they should save their energy for their opponents' end than waste it in their own end or on the way down to their opponents' end by needless skating. They probably would learn a lot by watching Mike Bossy, who is a very energy-efficient hockey player. On this the NHL is superior to the Soviets.

Despite these faults, and others too, the sports writers and commentators make the Soviets out to be a great hockey team. No doubt it is done to build up the TV ratings so they can sell more commercials for more money. Unfortunately, one of its results is young hockey players in Canada and the USA believe the NHL is the greatest hockey ever played anywhere because of this propaganda. This is why the NHL has a tough time beating the Soviets. We aren't any sharper than they are; we're both wallowing in mediocrity. Instead of NHL hockey being like a literary masterpiece it is like a \$1.98 pulp novel — it has a glitzy cover, but not much substance.

- I don't know who decides who the most outstanding players for each team are, but they sure didn't know what they were doing in the Edmonton-Soviet game, as far as the Soviets were concerned anyway. Aleksander Kojevinikov was picked as the Soviet star. True, he did beat Andy Moog to the short side of the net with a tremendous shot, but anyone watching who was even slightly observant would have noticed that Igor Larionov was by far the best Soviet on the ice. Where do they get these guys? Do they poll the drunks in the bar? Or do they just pull names out of a hat?

- Did any of you catch Lou Nanne trying to rationalize the poor refereeing job by Dave Lewis in the Calgary-Soviet game when Jim Peplinski tripped a Soviet player? It was amusing how Nanne tried to cover up Lewis' incompetence. Or was it bias?

- Did you see Ed Westfall explaining how a Soviet player was retaliating against Calgary — by properly body-checking a Calgary player carrying the puck after the Soviet had been held by Calgary's Phil Russell. (By the way, Russell didn't get a penalty either.)

- It sure is lucky the Soviets skate unnecessary kilometers around the ice, chase their opponents behind the net and can't pass on their backhand. How would the NHL look if the Soviets didn't make all these mistakes?

John Roggeveen

# Busy, busy

In other sports action, the Golden Bears gymnastics team travels to Winnipeg for a meet against University of Manitoba on Saturday.

In volleyball, the Bears travel to Victoria and Coach Brian Watson will have to motivate his team to get a victory against the tough Canada West teams and highly-rated Seattle and Portland.

In track and field, the Bears and Pandas are off to Roughrider country for a Triple Dual meet hosted by University of Saskatchewan.

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