

# SPORTS

## Crawford a question mark as hockey Bears head for semi-finals

by Cam Cole

The Golden Bear hockey club will be in reasonably good health when they face the Quebec Conference Loyola Warriors this weekend, with the winner advancing to the Canadian College final next week.

The only player who may see limited action is center Bruce Crawford, who severely bruised his left shoulder against



Bruce Crawford - shoulder injury still painful.

## National Track/Field here this weekend

The biggest Track and Field event ever to be held in this city is scheduled for the Kinsmen Fieldhouse this Saturday and Sunday.

The Canadian Indoor Track and Field Championships, with the best Canadian athletes competing in Junior and Open age groups, will be the selection meet for the International event against West Germany next Friday in Montreal.

The meet will afford fans the chance to see world-class athletes such as:

- Grant MacLaren (Ontario) World ranked middle distance runner
- Claude Ferragne (Quebec) A 7'3" high-jumper from Montreal
- Diane Jones (Sask.) Canada's Olympic-class Pentathlete
- Abby Hoffman (Ont.) Olympic finalist in the 800 meters.
- Joanne McTaggart (Sask.) Set world 300 m. mark in CWUAA meet last week
- Brenda Walsh (Edmonton) It was her record that McTaggart broke
- Barry Boyd (Edmonton) Defending long jump champ
- Randy Makalosky (Calgary) Record holder in 800 meters
- Debbie Brill (BC) A 6'2" high jump this year.

Along with Walsh and Boyd, Edmonton athletes George Smith (400 m.), Shauna Miller (1500, 300 m.), and Tom Manske (3000 m. walk) are considered to have good chances to make the International team.

Preliminaries begin both days at 11:00 a.m., with finals going Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

by Al Cinder

UBC two weeks ago, and missed the Brandon series last weekend.

Crawford is wearing a special molded-plastic, cast-like apparatus on the injured shoulder. Mobility, according to Crawford, isn't affected by the added equipment, but he is still experiencing pain whenever he shoots the puck.

Trainer Ray Kelly says Crawford actually sustained injuries in three separate parts of the shoulder area, "any one of which might have kept him out of action" - when he was crunched against the boards by BC defenceman Rod Hare in the 2nd game of the CWUAA finals.

Other players injured in the series, Jim Ofrim and Kevin Primeau will take regular turns, although Primeau's left leg remains heavily bandaged.

In their only previous meeting this year, Bears dropped a 5-4 decision to the Warriors in the Sudbury tournament, held during the Christmas break.

Coach Clare Drake, along with Ross Barros, Brian Middleton, Crawford, and captain Steve McKnight, were in Europe with the Student National Team at the time.

Loyola is considered to be one of the toughest clubs in Eastern Canada - rated 2nd or 3rd in the nation for the latter half of the regular schedule.

Should the Bears win this weekend, they would host either the Toronto Blues or the St. Mary's Huskies in a best-of-three series for the National Championship next weekend.

## Bear swimmers have the Blues again

by Mike Morrow

The Golden Bears swam their way to a second place finish at the CIAU swimming championships held at Lakehead University last weekend. Perennial champions, the Toronto Blues, although having superior numbers, did not have superior quality, and were pushed all the way.

The outstanding swimmer of the meet was Paul Hughes of UBC, who won the 200 backstroke in record time and won both the 200 and 400 individual medleys. Olympic medal winner Bob Kasting, swimming for McGill, broke the 50 free record and won the 100 free and 100 fly to match Hughes's record.

For the Bears, outstanding performers were: Ross Nelson, who won the 1650 free and 500 free, both in record times, and finished second in the 400 individual medley; John Starratt, who completely dominated the field in the 200 free and 200 fly, and finished second in the 200 individual medley; Barry Kennedy, swimming in his last meet for the Bears, who dropped his times in both the 50 free and 100 free finals. He also swam on three relays, and earned pieces of four provincial records at the meet. UA's Derek Cathro first

went to the hospital and was told to rest ten days for a bad case of flu. He then went to the pool and placed third in the 100 fly and second in the 100 back and 400 free relay, the last two his best times ever.

Mark Polet finally got his backstroke together and finished sixth and seventh in the 200 and 100 back. Ron New and Chip Wilson continued their 200 individual medley grudge match and pushed each other to taking three seconds off their times. Their swims, together with John Starratt's, made the 200 IM into the biggest point getter for the team.

Stewart Nelson finished among the finalists in the 1650 free, 500 free, 400 individual medley, and 800 free relay. Up and coming distance star Tom Degroot took a total of 64 seconds off his times and made it look easy.

CWUAA three meter champion Rob Edmunds made the final in the three meter diving. Here, then, is the second best men's swim team in Canada: If you see a guy with shaved legs, don't laugh, shake his hand.

Derek Cathro 100 back 2nd, 100 fly 3rd; Tom Degroot - 1650 free 10th, 400IM 5th in consolation, 500 free consolation final;

Rob Edmunds - 3m diving final; Barry Kennedy - 50 free 4th, 100 free 6th; - Ross Nelson - 1650 free 1st CIAU record, 500 free 1st CIAU record 400 IM second; Stewart Nelson - 1650 free 7th, 400IM consolation finals, 500 free 2nd in consolation; - Ron New - 200 IM first in consolation final; Mark Polet - 200 back 6th in final, 100 back first in consolation 100 fly consolation final; John Starratt - 200 free 1st, 200 fly 1st, 200 IM second; Chip Wilson - 200 IM 4th, 100 fly consolation final

RELAYS  
400 free (Ross Nelson, Derek Cathro, John Starratt, Barry Kennedy) second.  
800 free (Stu Nelson, Barry Kennedy, Ross Nelson, John Starratt) second.  
400 medley (Mark Polet, Ron New, Chip Wilson, Barry Kennedy) fourth.

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## Merrill - behind every good team...

by Cam Cole

"The biggest thing is getting the guys to think you're doing everything they want you to do, when really, they're doing all the work. If you can do that, the job's pretty simple."

Sounds like management talking, doesn't it? Well, it is.

Doug Merrill's the team manager for the Golden Bears hockey club, and he claims that the better part of his job is handling the players - and the coach. "Like (Bryan) Sosnowski and (John) Horcoff, for instance. If they're getting in my hair while I'm trying to get things done, it's no problem. I just throw a ball of tape at Sosnowski, and say Horcoff did it - they'll spend hours pushing each other around, laughing, shouting - and I don't have to worry about them."

Merrill, in his first full year as a combined baby-sitter, den-mother, and equipment manager, says that the actual duties he must perform aren't that difficult. "You worry about things. Like the way players float in and out of here (arriving about five minutes before a bus is scheduled to leave for a road trip, without having their equipment packed), you can never tell when a player is going to forget his skates or something."

"You always worry about skates - that's the worst thing that could possibly happen - forgetting skates. Of course, I've forgotten tape, and pucks, and I felt a little silly when Stewie missed the plane to Vancouver." (Apparently they don't pipe the announcements of departure times into the washrooms at the International Airport.)

"It's kind of tough trying to handle 20 different personalities.... we've got some high-strung players, players like Middleton (Brian) who's probably been pampered all his life, and now his wife probably pampers him, and guys expect me to do the same thing," he



Doug Merrill displays the tools with which he "handles" difficult members of the Bears' hockey team.

says with a grin.

Merrill's duties include handling most of the arrangements on road trips - meal money for players, room assignments, keeping equipment in repair, making sure sticks, equipment bags, uniforms, mechanical equipment, and first aid materials are all packed for the trips.

In addition, he is a sort of buffer between players and coach.

"I guess I get it from both sides a little," he says. "I know things are going well when the coach has nothing to complain about."

"There's a good feeling on this team.... a lot of players have come up to me and said they thought this is the best organization they've ever played for. You can put any two players

together and never have to worry that they won't get along. They are different types, but they handle it well... and that's what it's all about - getting along with other people."

Merrill is a 24-year old student, who will have an Arts degree after this year, and possibly a Computing Science degree if he decides to complete six more courses.

"I'll be around next September, though, whether or not I decide to go for the CS degree. There's really no other manager around, and it might be tough on the coach, trying to find somebody right away."

It's apparent that Merrill has the greatest respect for Coach Drake. "I think the reason I took this job is that I've always been drawn to athletics. My big dream is that one of these days, six or seven of the players are going to get caught in a snowstorm or something, and the coach is going to have to suit me up and put me out there", he says. "He (Drake) is the best, though - there's nobody better in this league.... he never says anything demeaning to a player - it's always something constructive, though the players sometimes don't see that."

The job doesn't pay him anything, he had no real training for the position, and he receives no credit for the work he does - so why does he do it?

"Good times. I guess it's a good sort of feeling being part of a team, even if you're not really out there playing."

- You never really know whether "Slapshot" (his nickname, courtesy of the players) is serious about thinking of playing for the team - he skated and practised with the team for several weeks. Maybe he is serious.

Then you see him poised, machine gun, whip and switchblade in hand, wearing a woolen poncho and a hat with a picture of a duck that says "Drake's Raiders" on it, and you wonder.

### THIS WEEKEND

**Hockey** - Golden Bears vs. Loyola Warriors at Varsity Arena in the semi-finals of the Canadian College Championships.

- 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday (if necessary)

**Badminton** - U of A teams travel to Calgary for the CWUAA finals, with the Pandas defending their title, and the Bears hoping to win one of their own.

**Fencing** - The U of A squad defends team title at CWUAA finals in Saskatoon.