

Drake restarts the hockey machine

by Randal Smathers

The latest model of Clare Drake's Golden Bear hockey machine is starting to take its final shape under the master's hand.

Drake, as close as college hockey will ever get to a legend, has precious few decisions left to make about who will play on his team this year. Surprisingly, the Bears will field a very competitive squad this year, despite losing such stars as Dennis Cranston, Bret Walter, Brent Severyn, Parie Proft, Jack Patrick, Curtis Brandolini, Dave Otto, Todd Stokowski, Jeff Helland, and Darren Turner off of last year's western finalist team.

The Bears strength this year will be the result of two things: defence, and the Coach Drake's ability to attract top recruits to the U of A.

The blue line is returning five of seven players to the team this year. Ian Herbers, from the WHL, and Serge Lajoie, from the AJHL, will be the new faces on the backline this year. "We feel pretty good about our defence," said Drake, "We're going to miss (Proft and Severyn) initially, but our feeling is that if we get some of the other players working on the power play, they'll come along just as well."

One major question mark on defence is the ability of Howie Draper's knees to take a full

"Ian Herbers' shown a lot of poise defensively, he most often makes the simple play, which we try to encourage." — Drake

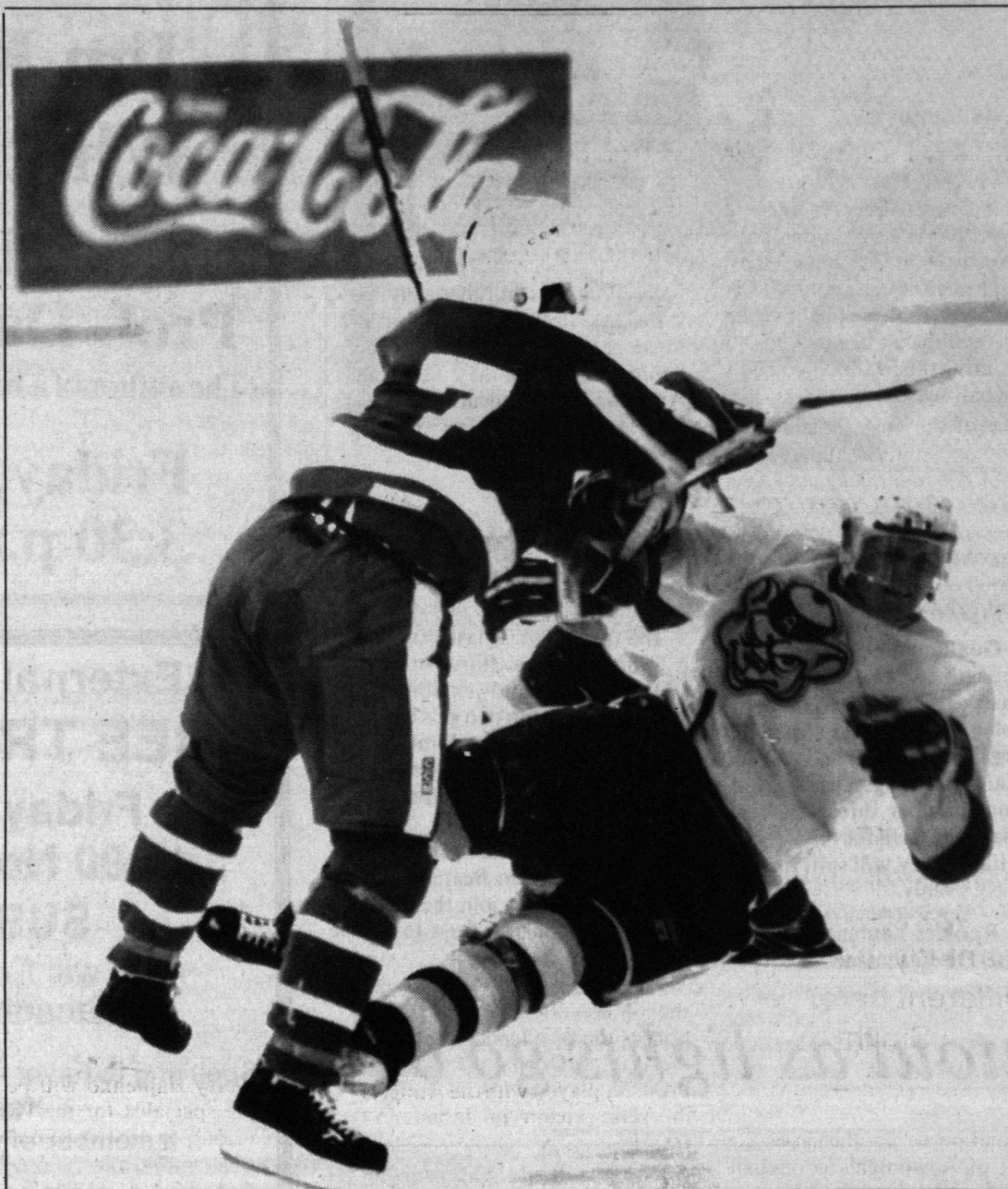
season of hockey. He has missed major parts of the last two season with knee injuries. "Howie's knees are wrapped up in braces," said Drake, but he's skating really well. I think he feels really confident."

Drake pointed out Herbers as the defenceman who has had a particularly impressive camp this year. "He's shown a lot of poise defensively, he most often makes the simple play, which we try to encourage instead of looking for the long pass," said Drake, "and he shows some potential as an offensive defenceman."

Darwin Bozek is the most notable of the remaining defencemen. Bozek, largely overlooked on last year's flashy blueline, is now an assistant captain of the Bears. Also returning are Guy Paradis, Gord Thibodeau, and Grant Couture.

On the forward line, the Bears were particularly hurt in terms of size: Walter, Brandolini, Helland, Patrick, Otto, and Stokowski all added strength to Alberta's impressive offensive arsenal last year.

Drake feels his new players



Bear defenceman Darwin Bozek (right) takes a tumble against the Saskatchewan Huskies.

will help in that area as well. "Marty Yewchuk is a good two-way player, and he's a pretty good size," said Drake, "Al Tarasuk, who was with us two years ago when we won the championship, brings good size and good speed." Todd Gordon, who was injured last year, and Dan Wiebe, who played infrequently in his rookie year, are also strong in the physical game. R.J. Dundas has spent his hockey career beating up people, but is unlikely to see much action until he adjusts to the non-fighting university game, much like Brent Severyn last year.

Going into the first weekend, the Bears to line looks to be CIAU player of the year Sid Cranston, this year's captain, with

Stacey Wakabayashi and newcomer Doug McCarthy. McCarthy, although a smaller forward, also draws good marks from Drake in terms of checking ability. "We try to be a complete team, one that is smart and fast



offensively," said Drake, "but my philosophy is that defence is more of a constant. Obviously you don't have to have the puck defensively, so you can be a bit more consistent because there aren't as many factors."

McCarthy has been a student

at the U of A for a few years now, but has been playing hockey elsewhere, most recently with the

Stony Plain Eagles.

The second line will open with Dan Wiebe, who had a tryout with the Quebec Nordiques this year, on left wing, with Dave Hingley, a first-year Bear, at center, and Rob Glasgow, a third year player, on the right side. Glasgow is one of the players Drake is looking for a breakthrough year from. "He has the potential to become an excellent player in this league. He has tremendous speed and strength," said Drake, "He has that break-away sort of speed."

Hingley also comes out of the AJHL and will be relied upon to find Glasgow and Wiebe with passes so they can use their size and speed to pressure the defence.

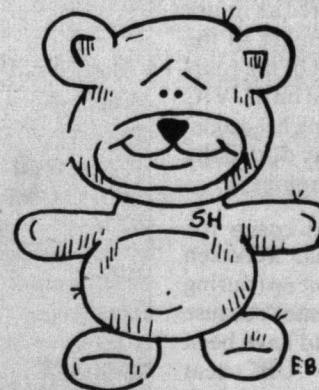
The third line (although assigning numbers on the Bears is often a purely academic endeavour) will consist of Adam Morrison, Wes Craig, and either Gordon or Brett Cox. Morrison is one of the most talented players the Bears

"Adam Morrison has the kind of ability to play professionally after he graduates." — Drake

have seen in a long while, with pro-calibre offensive moves. "He has the kind of ability to play professionally after he graduates," said Drake of Morrison. Craig was Sid Cranston's winger last year, during Cranston's best year ever. If he can carry some of his drive over into his linemate's play, Morrison could be in for a banner year. Cox has just missed making the Bears before, having played with the Fort Saskatchewan — continued next page

Student Help ROOM 250 S.U.B. 432-4266

Feeling Stressed? Overwhelmed by Obstacles? Tense over Tests?



We're Here to Listen, and We Care
Phone Us or Drop In
Hours 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. Weekdays,
5 p.m. - 11 p.m. Weekends

Students Helping Students
Confidentiality Respected

A FREE SERVICE OF YOUR STUDENTS' UNION

NEW-AGE FUTON MFG. * HALLOWEEN SPECIAL *
Double and Queen Platform Bed Frames \$99.

FRANKENSTEIN'S FUTON

4361-99 STREET EDMONTON, ALTA. T6E 5E4 436-7839 Mon. to Fri. 10 - 6 Sat. 11 - 5
10% Student Discount