

Also run to number one

Stories and photos
by Shaune Impey

The Golden Bears defeated the Regina Cougars 7-3 on Sunday to capture the University Cup, emblematic of Canadian college hockey supremacy.

For the Bears it was the sixth time in the eighteen-year history of the cup that they have emerged victors and the third in a row.

The Bears were led by the Arndt-Brimacombe-Elliott line as all three players collected three points. Elliott and Arndt had two goals and an assist while Brimacombe had three helpers.

The Bears rebounded from a 1-0 deficit to lead 3-1 after the first period. With Danny Arndt in the penalty box Mitch Bozak opened the scoring for Regina at the 11:14 mark. Twelve seconds later Arndt evened the score on a rebound from Larry Riggan's point shot. Chris Helland on a good set-up by Mike Broadfoot and Joel Elliott's shorthanded effort put the Bears in front.

In the second period Arndt and Georges Robitaille traded

goals to keep the Bears' lead at two goals after forty minutes.

Elliott and Bozak got their second goals of the game in the final period with the Bears getting singles from Broadfoot and Jim Lomas to round out the scoring.

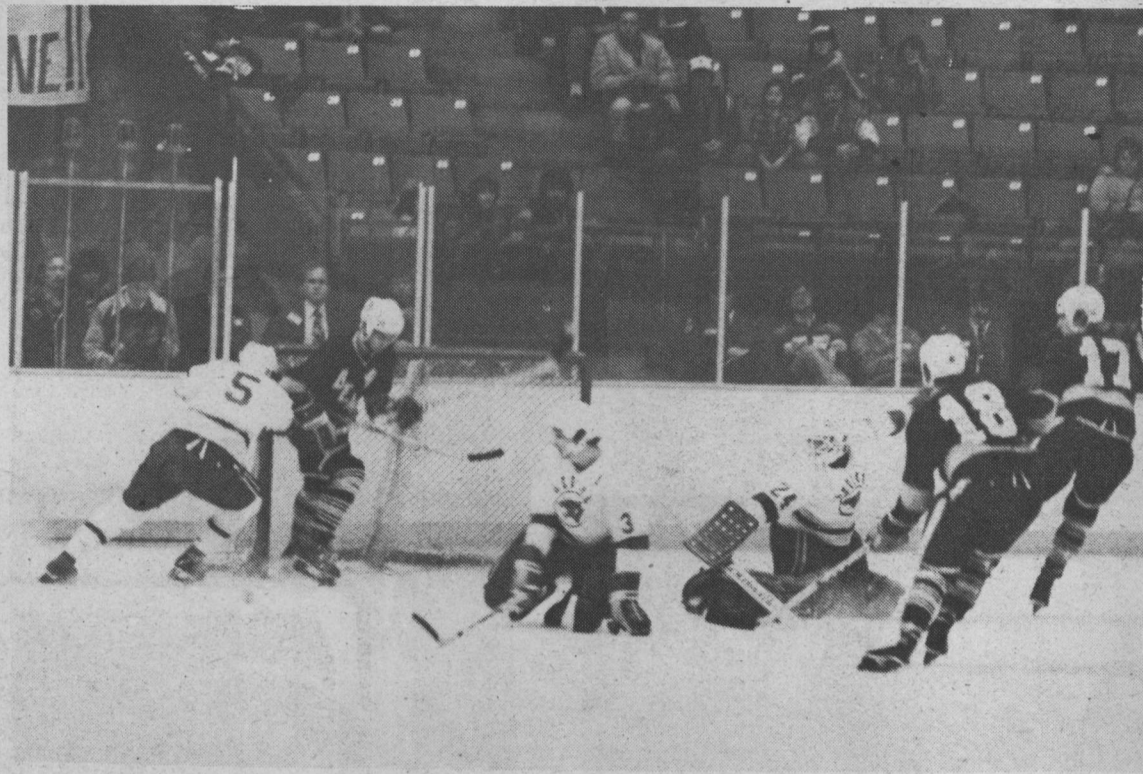
Alberta led in shots 37-32 and took four of five minor penalties.

Coach Billy Moores said the decisive factor in the game was the ability to recover from a deficit. "We've had trouble getting a goal back if the other team takes the lead."

Regina coach Reg Higgs attributed their loss to a lot of "individual errors and breakdowns. That third goal was the one that did it. A compounding of errors. We made too many stick checks and didn't bump enough."

Arndt was selected as the player of the game for the Bears.

The tournament all-stars were announced immediately following the game and three Bears were selected. Helland, Riggan and Poplawski were all recognized as the best at their



The line of Danny Arndt (in net), Joel Elliott (18), and Ace Brimacombe (17) were a dominant force in Bears' victory.

position with Helland also chosen as the MVP of the tournament.

Forwards Mitch Bozak and Mark Pillar of Regina, along

with Calgary defenceman Ron Fischer, rounded out the team.

Earlier in the week Poplawski also received his second consecutive all-Canadian award.

Vince Friya of Lakehead was chosen Player-of-the-Year and Dave King of Saskatchewan was recognized as Coach-of-the-Year.

Bears bite hand that fed them

It was the classic Cinderella story — complete with glass slipper and all the trimmings.

The Golden Bear hockey team, who were hanging up the blades and breaking out the golf clubs two weeks ago, now find themselves as the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) hockey champions.

The Bears overwhelmed the host University of Regina Cougars 7-3 in Sunday's nationally televised final. Both teams had posted perfect 2-0 records in round robin play to qualify from their division of the tournament.

The same Regina Cougars were the very team to get the Bears into the Nationals in the first place. Regina, after a third-place finish in the regular season, rallied in the playoffs to defeat Brandon and Manitoba for the Great Plains Athletic Conference Title and thus create a wild-card berth for the CIAU finals. If Regina had been eliminated in post-season play they, as the host team, would participate for the University Cup.

After Alberta got the nod as the sixth team to compete with the five conference champs things started to fall in place for a story book ending.

First of all, the Bears defeated Calgary 2-0 to avenge an earlier defeat in the Canada West playoffs. Secondly, they downed Concordia 4-3 to clinch a finals berth before Calgary and Concordia had even played. Meanwhile, on the other side of the draw, Regina was similarly disposing of Moncton and Guelph to capture a spot in Sunday's championship encounter.

A better script could not have been written as the local squad — not unlike the American team at Lake Placid — found themselves as sentimental favorites against the defending champions who they had helped to get there.

With the stage set and all the marbles riding on sixty minutes

of hockey the Golden Bears proved what kind of champions they are. Every player gave his best performance of the tournament and perhaps of the year.

They did the things they do so well. They skated. They checked. They played the system. They worked hard. They played the style of determined bump-and-grind hockey which has become a trademark of Golden Bear teams.

But best of all... they won. A team with thirteen rookies and a new head coach that was supposed to struggle to make the playoffs in their conference and yet finished first.

A team that had been dumped on all year for being inconsistent (among other things) and coming through with three consistent games in Regina.

A team that knew the feeling of losing and given a second chance weren't going to be losers again.

A team that had something to prove. Not only to the country but to themselves. To prove that they belonged in the Nationals.

A team with players like Danny Peacocke, Barrie Stafford, and others who through hard work and desire made themselves into quality hockey players.

They won it for themselves and they won it for the coaches. Bill Moores and Pete Esdale had the Herculean task of stepping into the shoes of one of the premiere hockey coaches in the country and molding a championship squad... and did it.

When Clare Drake took a one-year leave of absence to coach the Olympic team he also took along four of the top university hockey players in the country. Randy Gregg, John Devaney, Don Spring and Dave Hindmarch all followed in Drake's tracks to the Olympic team.

With these vacancies to fill plus others created by graduations the job would not be easy.

But fill them they did, and as in past years, it was done with

some unexpected players and results. Players who did not even expect to come close to making the team. Players who couldn't make a tier two junior team last year now find themselves on a squad which would embarrass practically any junior team it played.

Players like Danny Arndt who had been to the big leagues and then came back to school for an education.

For many of the players the magnitude of their accomplishment may still not have fully registered. The feeling of a champion which follows the initial ecstasy of victory. The knowledge that the team is the best and they — as a member of that team — have contributed to

that success.

The way the Bears overcame the many obstacles they faced this year is a credit to the players, the coaches, the University of Alberta, and university hockey.

The numerous injuries to key personnel such as Larry Riggan, Chris Helland, Ted Poplawski, Danny Arndt and Mike Broadfoot who made a remarkable recovery from a separated shoulder to play in the playoffs and the Nationals.

Congratulations to all the

Bears:
Pops
Hallsy
Lee
Danny
Schneids
Rolly

Greg
Gunner
Indecision
Rosco
Taz
Daumer
Floater
Pie
Syd
Big Train

Ace
Joel
Skor
Lomy
Riggs
Eugene

Billy
Peter
Shutty
Mark
for a job well done.

How they got there

Bears 2 Calgary 0

The Golden Bear - Calgary hockey game was a defensive struggle, with the only goals coming early in the first period. Chris Helland on a power play and Greg Skoreyko scored at the 2:36 and 3:12 marks of the period for the game's only scoring.

From then on, the game settled into a tight-checking affair with strong goaltending. Ted Poplawski blocked 25 shots to register the shutout. Jerry Farwell had 24 shots directed his way in the Calgary net.

The teams split twenty mins in what was the best-refereed game of the year for the Bears.

A pair of defencemen were selected as MVPs for their respective teams. Larry Riggan and Rick Williams — both first team all-stars in the Canada West conference — were chosen the outstanding players.

Riggan said the victory was a total team effort right down to the third-line players who only play every fourth shift. "When you get to the Nationals you can have all the stars you want but it's the whole team that counts."

Calgary coach George Kingston took a negative attitude toward his players, saying

they "weren't as sharp as they should have been and didn't shoot enough."

Bears 4 Concordia 3

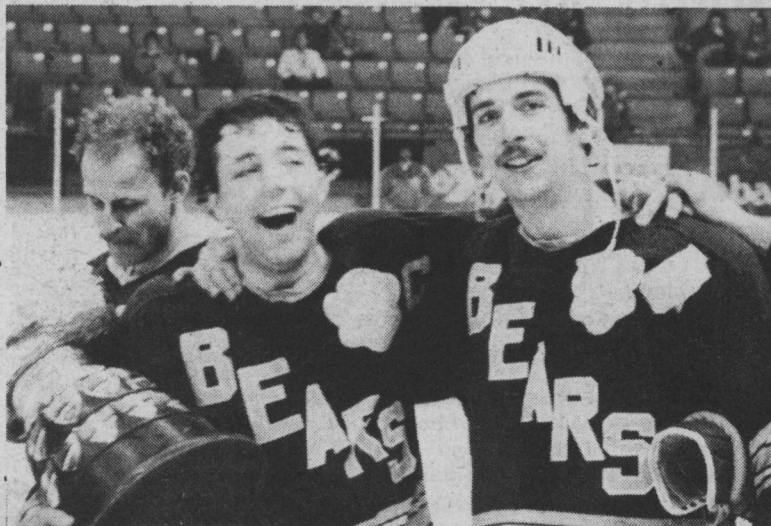
After losing a 2-0 lead at the end of the first period, the Bears rallied from a 3-2 deficit to take the victory and clinch a spot in the final.

Arndt and Helland scored in the first period with the Stingers outscoring the Bears 3-1 in the middle stanza. Jim Lomas

notched the lone Alberta goal on a powerplay at the 12:27 mark.

Helland — Bears' MVP of the game — notched the winner early in the third period and the Bears then withstood a Concordia powerplay late in the game to preserve the victory.

Brad Hall made several excellent saves in picking up the win as he faced 26 shots. The Bears had 33 shots and five of the ten minor penalties.



The graduates — how sweet it is. Veterans Ted Poplawski, Larry Riggan, and Bruce Rolin close out college career with third straight University Cup.