

Sports

Dill makes playoff debut against Huskies

by Mark Spector

Craig Dill is anticipating this playoff season perhaps more than any other Alberta Golden Bears hockey player.

Dill is in his fourth season under head coach Clare Drake, but has never once suited up for post-season play. An assortment of injuries has kept him out, the latest a knee injury coming late last season with Dill at the top of the Golden Bears' scoring stats.

"Yes, I'm certainly looking forward to actually playing in the playoffs for a change," admitted Dill. "The last time that I played a playoff game was in Juveniles."

"He's definitely not much of a playoff performer," joked teammate Gerald Koebel. "He needs to get a little more involved in the play."

The Quebec City native does tend to get involved in the scoring column however. He led his club in scoring in both Juvenile 'AA' (when his CHED Good Guys won the provincial crown) and in Midget 'AA' for Montgomery Legion.

A science student, Dill was leading the Golden Bears in scoring this season for the best part of the schedule, but after a bit of a scoring slump, ended up a close third in the team standings.



Photo: Bruce Cardane

His 20 goals and 20 assists left him two points back of Dennis Cranston and one back of Koebel at year's end. However, he outdistanced Al Tarasuk and Stacey Wakabayashi by four goals for top goal scoring honours.

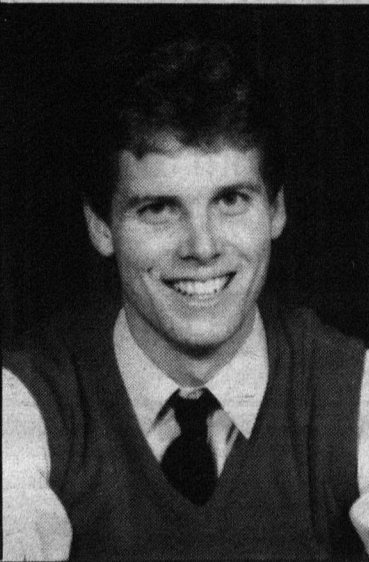
Over his four years with the Bears, Dill has become no stranger to this weekend's playoff oppo-

nents, the Saskatchewan Huskies.

"When I first came into the league they were the powerhouse and we were the underdogs," said Dill of the club which finished ahead of Alberta in his first two seasons to claim the Canada West title twice and the CIAU crown once.

But things have turned around between the two clubs this season.

Craig Dill battles for one of his team leading 20 goals. In his fourth year, Dill will play in his first post-season game Friday.



Alberta swept the seasonal series in four straight games, outscoring the Dogs 25-11 and the Golden Bears also defeated Saskatchewan in tournament finals in both the Golden Bear Invitational and the U of S Huskie Classic.

"I guess we just take turns beating each other," explained Dill.

But if Alberta doesn't pick up their own game, the tide may start to turn quicker than they would hope.

"We've hit a pretty rough stretch lately. We've lost one or two games in a row before, but nothing like this."

Alberta has lost six of their last eight conference games, and throw in exhibition setbacks to NAIT and the Canadian Olympic team, and the streak falls to eight losses in their last ten games.

True, Alberta receives a bye into the CIAU national tournament to be held in Edmonton, but should Alberta lose the CWUAA semi-final series to the Huskies, it would mean a full three week layoff before nationals. And since the CIAU's offer only two games maximum for each team, the Bears would be hard-pressed to perform under that kind of pressure.

On that subject, Chairman of Athletics Bob Steadward announced Monday that the site of all three games for the tourney will be the Northlands Agricom, not the Coliseum as previously advertised.

With the nationals being held here for three straight years, Athletics decided that it would be better to perhaps turn away a couple of thousand people from the 3900 seat Agricom than to have 10,000 empty seats in the Coliseum. Smart move.

Bear Facts — The Bears' injury situation heading into the playoffs reads like this: **Steve Cousins**, who's missed the last four games with a deep charley horse, will start skating today, but shouldn't be ready this weekend; **Bill Ansell**, who missed the last Calgary game after suffering a deep elbow gash in a fight, will play on Friday; **Curt Brandolini** has a nagging sore knee and a muscle pull in his shoulder, but will tough it out this weekend; **Denis Leclair** (broken ankle) and **Sid Cranston** (knee) are probably both through for the year. Cranston is skating, but must recover slowly and Leclair gets his cast off in a couple of days, but won't be able to compete at a playoff level this year... The **Java Jive** cups which advertise both the track and hockey nationals are in. They should be over the counter in ten days or so... The CWUAA Player of the Week for last week was Calgary's **Brent Meckling**, the third time this year that a player has earned those honours at the expense of Alberta.

Eskimos draft three Bears

by Blaine Ostapovich

This past Saturday, the CFL held its annual amateur draft. Among those picked were three University of Alberta Golden Bears, with all three players picked going to the hometown Eskimos.

They are offensive guard Andrew Stephen (fifth round), defensive lineman Dale Mounzer (sixth round), and linebacker Gerald Telidetski (eighth round).

Head coach of the Bears, Jim Donlevy, says that all in all he was

pleased with the CFL version of a talent raffle.

"The draft is very positive from my point of view, with the three players taken."

Talking about Stephen, Donlevy remarked he has very little experience, but he is working very hard. It's good of the Eskimos to recognize that hidden talent.

The two recurring themes in talking to Donlevy were his praise of the manner in which the Eskimos scout and the work of the double

E's chief talent finder Frank Morris.

"The evidence is clear with the Eskimos' success in recent years... the fact is you cannot win without good Canadians."

Bear Bones — Eks's first pick was Simon Fraser lineman **John Coffin**, brother of Bears' line-coach **Mark Coffin** and UBC T-Bird hockey forward **Mike Coffin**... A press conference is scheduled for Tuesday to announce additions to this year's Bears' coaching staff.

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Friday, Feb. 28 7:30 pm

Saturday, Mar 1 7:30 pm

If Necessary:

Sunday, Mar 2 2:00 pm

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