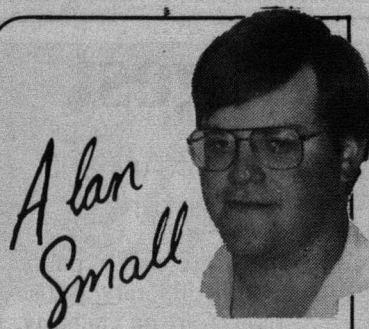


Bears beaten by cheap OT goal



TORONTO — The York Yeomen: TV's CIAU champions.

The CIAU national championship was handed to York captain Bill Maguire for the second straight year on Saturday. However, the three games held in Toronto did little to find the best hockey team.

The CIAU always backs down to the media when it comes to their national hockey championship. For good television, there must be a one-game, winner-takes-all show down for the University Cup, or else CTV will just pack up their cameras and go home.

Both the Canada West and Atlantic clubs in the final four this year (Alberta and Moncton) had to go through two arduous best-of-three showdowns with their regional rivals to have a shot at the CIAU championship. Even the Ontario teams have to win one best-of-three series before they advance to their own final four, which decides the OUA champion.

When teams lose some generic playoff series, they are definitely disappointed, but when pressed, they will say that they were beaten by a better club. The Golden Bears did look disappointed but were not satisfied with the double overtime decision. They were like Marvin Hagler after he lost to Sugar Ray Leonard. They were beaten, but they didn't lose.

"I'd like another shot at him," said Bear captain Sid Cranston about York goalie Mark Applewhite. Although the York goalie beat the Bears in the semi-final game, there is considerable doubt that he would beat the Golden Bears in a best-of-three series.

A final four hockey tournament goes against all hockey tradition. Hockey titles of any weight are settled in a multi-game format. NHL has its best of sevens, the Olympics and the world championships have their round robins. The CIAU has sudden death knockout for basketball and soccer, but those sports' traditions (NCAA final four, FA Cup) allow it.

Sour grapes you ask? There are none at all. It just doesn't make sense that a team can play two best of three series to find if they are the best in the west and then find out one game later that their not good enough to play for all of the marbles.

CTV would cry about the lack of a sudden death finish being bad for ratings. If CTV (or TSN, who showed both semis) cared enough about university hockey they would broadcast it anyway, because it is Canadian content.

They should love it or leave it because university hockey is for the players.



Bear captain Sid Cranston gets a faceful of fist from York defenceman Rob Crocock. The game was Cranston's last as a Golden Bear, but Sid would have liked to play one more game—the CIAU championship match.

by Alan Small

York 4 Alberta 3 (2 OT)

TORONTO When games go to double overtime, announcers hope that the winning goal doesn't result from a bad bounce or a blown call. That is exactly what happened to the Golden Bear hockey club.

With only 2:08 gone in the second overtime period Dan Resko lobbed a desperation shot at the Bear net which bounced off of the skate of Yeomen Curtis Coyne and past a helpless John Krill. The goal ended the Golden Bear season.

"I just went for the front of the net," said Coyne, who strangely was credited with the assist as Resko was given the goal. "I figured he was going to shoot it. The next thing you know it's there."

The goal ended the marathon

"It's kind of a cheap way to end the whole year."
— Wakabayashi

game which the Bears controlled. They fired twice as many shots at Yeomen goalie Mark Applewhite than York did at Krill. The York netminder was more than up to the task however.

Coyne believed that the intermission break helped them focus on the task at hand: score one goal.

"We said 'Listen guys, first goal wins. We're in the finals. Another ring.'"

"We were a little bit sloppy," said Bear captain Sid Cranston. "We worked so hard to make some chances in their end and for them to get a goal like that...a

stupid pass out front...what can you do?"

"The goal was certainly a letdown," said Stacey Wakabayashi. "It's kind of a cheap way to end the whole year. Many times in a close game like that, it's the bad bounce that decides the game."

The first period told the tale of the game. Despite outshooting the Yeomen 14-5, the Bears headed to the dressing room down 2-1. Greg Rolston snapped one past Krill from the deep slot at the 17:14 mark. Wakabayashi tied it up 81 seconds later with his first of three power play goals, as his wrist shot went through a maze of legs and past Applewhite.

The tie didn't last long. 25 seconds later, Ian Ferguson bounced the puck off some legs and past Krill.

"We played nervously in the first period," said Bear head coach Clare Drake. "Coughing the puck away. We tried tremendously hard. They didn't give us many chances for sustained pressure."

They struck quickly into the second frame to make it 3-1 as Luciano Fagioli had only the open net to shoot at after being fed by Brian McDonald. That didn't stop the Bears from pressuring Applewhite, however.

Wakabayashi scored his second by being in the right place at the right time. A scrum had formed beside the York net, the puck came loose and went to Wakabayashi who beat a diving Applewhite to the puck. The fifth year forward snagged the puck like a scrum-half and scored the goal into an open net.

Wakabayashi struck again four minutes later, as he lifted a Doug McCarthy feed over Applewhite for the tying goal. It looked like the Bears had solved the Applewhite puzzle. Ultimately, the Bears were missing the final piece.

"We face him so few times," said Wakabayashi, "you just have to try put it where he's not. (Applewhite) just came up big tonight like he has in the past."

"They had a couple of breaks on their power plays," said Coyne. "The coach told us, 'Discipline guys. Stay out of the box.'" Referee Mike Lynch didn't call another infraction after the second period.

"We had to keep playing our game, keep plugging away," said Cranston.

"We could definitely get the next one."

"That's when Applewhite came up big," said Wakabayashi. "We had all of the momentum going into the third period and he really took it away from us."

Not only did Applewhite shut down the Bears attack in the third but in the first overtime period, a full ten minute period, he stopped Wakabayashi and Marty Yewchuk from in close.

FACE OFFS: Bear forward Adam Morrison left the game in the second period as he reinjured his left shoulder. His hard, accurate shot was missed in the overtime period.

Wakabayashi named country's top player

by Alan Small

TORONTO — Bear forward Stacey Wakabayashi was named the country's top university hockey player Saturday night but would rather have been dodging defencemen instead of dodging reporters.

The fifth year winger removed any doubt to his selection as the CIAU MVP and the All-Canadian team, with his three goal performance in the CIAU semi-final game against York. He'd give the Sullivan Trophy back for another crack at the CIAU championship.

Wakabayashi was joined on the all-star team by Saskatche-

wan's Ken Morrison, McGill's Tim Iannone, Moncton's Claude Gosselin and Dany Gauvin, Calgary's Doug Quinn, Trois-Rivieres' Normand Nellis, York's Bill Maguire PEI's Bob Giffin, Manitoba's Nick Seregela, and Waterloo's Mike Bishop.

Wakabayashi was nosed out by Ken Minello of Windsor for the country's most sportsman-like player, while Moncton coach Len Doucet was named CIAU's coach of the year ahead of Bear head coach Clare Drake.

Moncton forward Eric Galarneau was named the nation's top rookie.

Rob Galbraith