

Sports

No tickets sold for the Green and Gold

Gregg disappointed at lack of interest

Tim Enger

The figure standing at center ice was not smiling. The spotlights glancing off his brilliant red hair lit up his face and showed a definite look of disappointment.

It's not that he wasn't pleased, the charity which he so proudly represents had received a lot of money as a result of this game; it's just that, well, something was missing and he knew it.

As Randy Gregg stood before what remained of the 8564 fans (who's the math wiz that figured out 11,000?) who were at Sunday night's game between the U of A Golden Bears and the NAIT Ooks, The Doctor had several things on his mind.

When you first meet Randy Gregg, he strikes you as anything but an NHL defenseman. He is quiet, well-mannered and respectful to everyone he meets, and above all that he is a qualified doctor (which makes you think more of golf courses than hockey rinks). But the most striking thing you

notice about the man is his genuine care and concern for the Ronald McDonald House.

He is not like many professional athletes who simply lend their name to a charity. He works for the Ronald McDonald House, actively trying to raise funds for it, making personal appearances as a representative of it, and doing special things for the families who reside in it. Like inviting them to Oiler games and into the Oiler lockerroom after the game.

That's why, as he looked around the Coliseum Sunday night, his mind was on the seven families presently residing at the House and on 9000 empty seats. These chairs were empty mainly due to the absence of students from his alma mater, the University of Alberta.

"It's too bad that the university students don't want to come," said Dr. Gregg, "but I'm really pleased at the way this game brings out the alumni and the general public."

Another group this game brought out was NAIT students,

about 4500 of them. That is over nine times the amount of tickets reportedly sold here on campus. This doesn't mean that there were only 500 U of A students at the game, as many people bought their tickets through BASS outlets and at the door. But you could certainly tell who had the greater student cheering section.

In many ways this year's Face Off '86 was not like last year's Face Off '85. Along with the smaller crowd, the cheering was a bit subdued, and the sideline entertainment was a bit much.

The only spontaneous thing that the crowd did was to rain paper airplanes down on the unfortunate singing group performing between the second and third periods.

But you had to be there to see it. And obviously most of you weren't.

The sad fact of the matter is that 90% of the student body could've cared less about that game. It didn't matter that the rival institution, though half as small, sold nine times as many tickets.

It didn't matter if the game was for charity, you didn't care. And for a variety of reasons you didn't come.

Had no money for tickets you say? The tickets were five bucks — that's two drinks. So you drive home safely for once.

You say there wasn't enough advertising? Unfortunately, the Athletics Department is not blessed with the kind of bank account that a UCLA (who could rent the Goodyear blimp to advertise the game) is fortunate enough to have.

Let's face it, there are hundreds of excuses you can use, but the bottom line is you don't care. And it seems that there is nothing the Athletics Department can do to change your mind.

Another prominent figure at the game who also appeared to be a bit disappointed was U of A Athletic Director, Dr. Bob Steadward.

As he gloomily walked along the catwalk high above the ice watching his team getting routed by the underdog Ooks, you could almost sense his frustration.

What does a guy have to do to put people in the stands? Maybe he is guilty of expecting too much too soon. Maybe he has given the

student body too much credit. Nevertheless he is going to keep on trying until he can prove to the university and the city of Edmonton as a whole that university sports are worth watching.

Look, if you didn't go to Face Off '86, then you probably won't go to Face Off '87 or '88 or '89 for that matter. And all the preaching in the world won't change your mind.

But that's too bad because in the words of Dr. Gregg, "the calibre of hockey is very good, the match-up itself is very interesting, and the charity is a very worthwhile cause". Plus, for all those closet Kevin McClellands out there, you'll see more hits in that one game than you will in 20 Oiler games.

There are people out there who genuinely don't like hockey and have no reason to come, and that's fine. But there are over 1200 people who participate in intra-mural hockey on campus and countless others who love the game, and who still don't come out.

It's a shame because people like Dr. Randy Gregg and Dr. Bob Steadward deserve a lot better.

So do the families residing at the Ronald McDonald House.

Olympic team visits Tuesday

by Mark Spector

If you need a break during mid-term week and you like international hockey, the University of Alberta Golden Bears will be hosting the Canadian Olympic team on this coming Tuesday, the 11th.

The contest should be worthwhile not only on a competitive level, but there exists a number of personal elements that should make the match all the more interesting.

First of all, Tuesday marks the first Varsity Arena appearance for ex-Golden Bear defenseman Parie Proft, now a member of the Canadian squad.

Proft was the Bears' leading point getter on defense with 13 goals and

48 points in 42 games.

A current Golden Bear who would just love to follow in Proft's footsteps is 17 year old rookie Shaun Clouston.

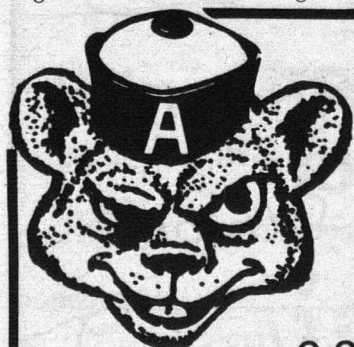
Clouston, a native of Viking, Alberta, has had his eye on the Olympic program for a while, and "it was basically a tossup" between the U of A and the U of Calgary where the Canadian team is based.

"There's no question that there's going to be a couple of people on the opposite bench that I'll be trying to impress," admits Clouston.

And to stir the pre-game pot just a tad more, Leduc product Zarley Zalapski, another 17 year old, has joined the Olympic team on a permanent basis.

But here's the twist: Zalapski was practicing with the Golden Bears for a couple of weeks around Christmas and became fairly friendly with the Bears.

In the Corners — The Golden Bears still have some fairly serious injury problems with **Dave Otto** (face), **Sid Cranston** (knee), **Denis Leclair** (ankle), and **Stacey Wakabayashi** (knee) out of the lineup... To add to the injury total, coach **Clare Drake** has been more than just a little under the weather of late, and may be admitted to hospital... The **Bears and Pandas hoop teams** head west for games with **UBC** Friday and **UVic** on Saturday. The UVic games will both be broadcast live beginning at 7:15 p.m. on **CJSR-FM 88.5**.



BEAR & PANDA VOLLEYBALL Fri. February 7

Vs. U of Lethbridge
6:30 pm & 8:00 pm Main Gym

Sat. February 8

Vs U of Calgary
6:30 pm & 8:00 pm Main Gym

Bear & Panda Swimming

Golden Bear Invitational

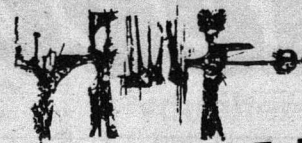
Sat. February 8

8:00 am West Pool

Golden Bear Hockey Vs Canadian Olympic Team

Tues. February 11

7:30 pm Varsity Arena



SU ELECTION

STUDENT UNION GENERAL ELECTION

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

SU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President
VP Internal Affairs
VP Academic
VP Finance & Administration
VP External Affairs

UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC BOARD (UAB)

President Men's Athletics
President Women's Athletics
VP Men's Athletics
VP Women's Athletics

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1 Student representative

CLOSING OF NOMINATIONS:

1700 hr. Tuesday, February 25, 1986

ELECTIONS

Thursday & Friday March 13, 14 1986

Advance Poll — Wednesday March 12 1986.

For further information, please contact Paul Pallister Chief Returning Officer 234 SUB or the Receptionist. SU Executive Offices 259 SUB.