

UQTR handles prairie Dogs for Cup — p. 12

Sports

Fiery Frenchmen were hot, Ontario teams were not — p. 13, 14



Mark Spector

It's tough to like tourney

So the CIAU's have come and gone again, this time for more than just a year probably.

Can't you just hear the sigh of relief coming collectively from the brass in **Ottawa** and the **Athletics Department**?

Predictably, whatever could have gone wrong did. It's amazing that **CTV** didn't leave the final game in the third period to go to a **Gilligan's Island** episode or something. Maybe **Star Trek**?

Did you read **Cam Cole's** column in **The Journal** on **Sunday** morning? If you didn't dig it up. That column said, in a nutshell, what is on the mind of every **media person** in this city.

For that matter, you're most likely getting tired of reading the **CIAU/Athletics bashes** that have appeared in this space for the last three editions.

I'm tired of writing them, believe me. But put yourself in my shoes.

You're the **Sports Editor** at a **university rag**, and your hockey team hosts the nationals. You've run a column in every paper all year long, and with no other university sports going on, it's the tournament or nothing.

So you make a point (while watching seven straight games over the weekend) of looking out for possible topics on which to comment.

Let's see. There's no fans in **Varsity Arena**. Ho hum.

Most of the credit can go to **Bob Steadward** and his band of merry marketing men. **Athletics** shoots itself in the foot again.

Big deal.

Hey, the **referee** that handled (?) the first **Alberta** game was pretty lousy. How about that?

Well, that's news in **Edmonton**, but once you've been through the rest of **Canada West** you'll know that it's the rule rather than the exception.

What about those **Ontario** teams: **Western** and **York** didn't win a single game and scored only three goals apiece here?

They were jinxed before they even started. **Western** was the supposedly worthy **wildcard** team, while **York** was ranked number one in the nation.

Everyone knows that everything that the **CIAU** does loses its wheels the minute it gets out on the public highway.

Scratch that.

Aahhh, **Trois-Rivieres**. There's a story. After plugging away for three years they finally realize their climb to the pinnacle of **Canadian University hockey**.

They were the mouthiest, hit-you-after-the-whistle team I've seen all year. Good hockey players, but not exactly pure.

I know — I'll write about the **Saskatchewan Huskies** — those underdogs from the prairies.

Well, maybe next week.

Anticlimactic end for '87 Bears



Alberta celebrates Stacey Wakabayashi's goal at 1:55 of the first period against York. This overtime victory turned out to be the last Golden Bear game of the '86-'87 season.

by Mark Spector
Patriotes 5 Bears 4
Bears 2 Yeomen 1

They should have saved it for last. The 1986 CIAU Final rematch between the Trois Rivieres Patriotes and the Alberta Golden Bears was potentially the best game of the seven game tournament held at Varsity Arena last weekend.

But somewhere along the way something went wrong. What began as an emotional, win-at-all costs game between two of the best three teams at these nationals ended as a 94 penalty minutes, three hour and 13 minutes embarrassment to Canadian University hockey.

The Al Dawe fiasco.

Both teams had reason to complain about the quality of the officiating in the Thursday night affair, and both did. Dawe, from the Ontario league, was not biased — just barring on incompetent. His superiors agreed. He was relieved of any further duties here the following day.

But the damage was done. A potentially great game was let out of control, and the Patriotes (who claim *no parole anglais* to post game interviews for the most part) managed to dig up enough words from their phrase books to draw the Golden Bears into their trap.

But Alberta didn't need much coaxing, as they made the perfect hosts, losing their tempers (and their cool) whenever their visitors wanted them to.

When all was said and said again however, in this reporters opinion, the better team won 5 - 4.

So it would be Alberta with their backs to the wall, having to face the York Yeomen, supposedly the best team in Canada. Although tired and worn down from the previous evening's game, Alberta's pride showed as well in their 2 - 1 overtime win.

It mattered little though, because when Three Rivers defeated York the next day it was over for Alberta. No back to back championships for

this team; and no respect either, as immediately after the contest they were cleaning out their lockers so that their other most hated rivals, the Saskatchewan Huskies, could use their dressing room for the Sunday final.

"This stinks, kicking us out of our own dressing room," said Bill Ansell, who scored the overtime goal, his final goal in his final game of a five year career under Clare Drake. Ansell will go down in the annals of Golden Bear history as one of the juiciest quotes this side of Yogi Berra.

And after the emotionally draining UQTR game he didn't disappoint, revealing what most of the Bears felt inside but few were willing to come out and say. "They were giving a lot of cheap shots and doing a lot of talking — stuff that they'd never get away with in our league," he said. "I don't think it's a rivalry," he said of these two teams' genuine dislike for each other. "It's

just a case of a class organization coming up against a totally no class organization."

"When they're skating by your bench and giving you the finger after they score," surmised Bears Denis Leclair, "that's bull----."

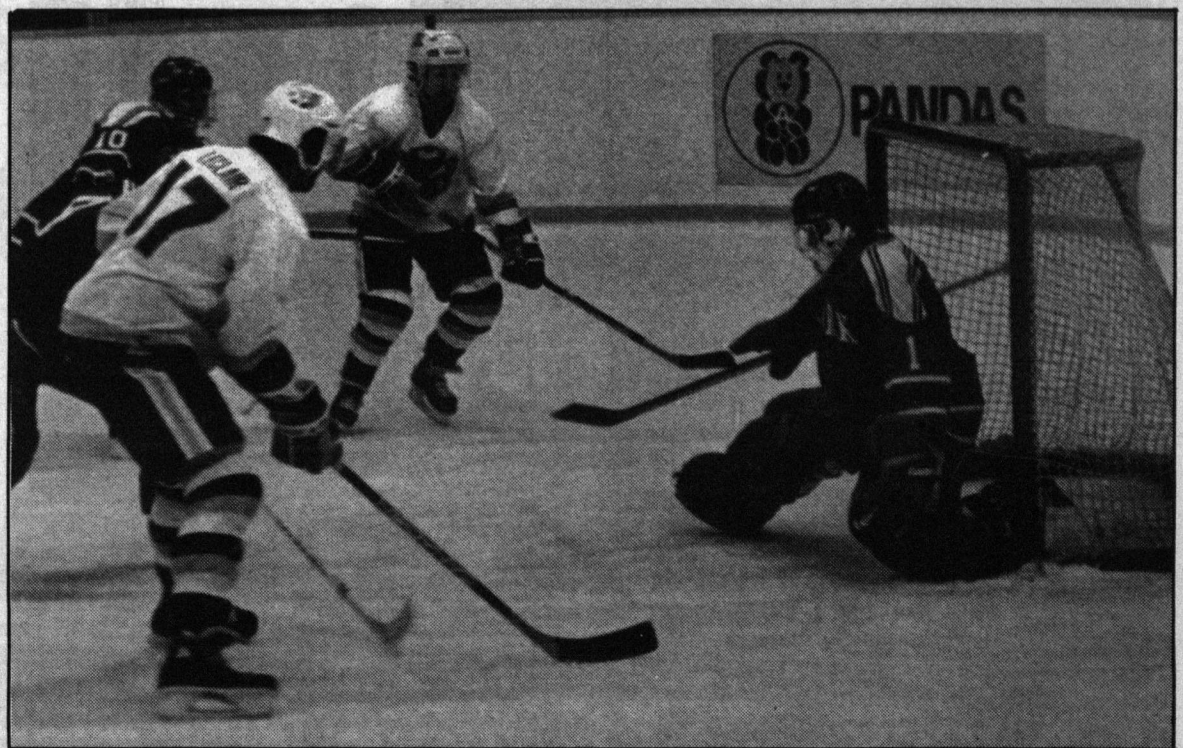
Where the game was lost for Alberta more than anywhere else though, was with their special teams. UQTR scored four powerplay goals and added a shorthanded marker to account for all of their scoring. After closing out the opening period of play ahead 2 - 0, the Pat's pumped home another powerplay goal at the 3:53 mark of the second. Before things got too far out of their grasp, fifth year man Denis Leclair opened the scoring for Alberta 31 seconds later.

After a Sid Cranston powerplay tally came a potentially back breaking goal by Three Rivers. Alain Bisson fired home a slapshot from 25 feet with only four seconds left in the period. "You have to admit

that's a big lift for them," said Curtis Brandolini, the type of guy who seldom admits something like that.

In the third it was all Alberta, as they outshot the Frenchmen 15-4 and outscored them two to one. Stacey Wakabayashi and Martin Nicoletti traded goals 41 seconds apart before Dennis Cranston drew Alberta to within one with 3:26 left. Craig Dill had the best chance late in the game as he had goaltender Claude Guerdard down but not quite out as the All Canadian goalie got a shoulder in front of Dill's shot.

The York contest was somewhat of a snoozer, as Alberta rested on Wakabayashi's powerplay goal at the 1:55 mark of the game all the way until York's Brian Gray evened the score with just 2:01 left to play. Ansell's rebound goal at 4:53 of the extra session gave the Golden Bears a 1-1 record and a win over a lethargic group of Yeomen who the CIAU, in their infinite wisdom, had rated as the team to beat here.



Bill Ansell searches for a rebound off of Denis Leclair's (17) shot. He found it and scored the overtime winner.