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 offense, but also expect them to be scored on just as much, and maybe even more.

Goaltending will most certainly be the key to their entire season, and so if they get it adequately enough from returnees Kurt Corman and Bill Bowen, I expect them to finish at 13-11.

Last season the U of Calgary Dinosaurs had first-rate goaltending

in Mike Craig. He would make save after save in a seemingly endless barrage of pucks, and keep the Dinos in games they would have otherwise been blown out of. The pucks would eventually get past him and what resulted was a shell-shocked netminder and a 3-21 record.

Well, now Craig is gone to the NHL's Buffalo Sabres and the Dinosaurs are in trouble. There's no

doubt that head coach George Kingston has a long ways to go if he is to improve his team, but there are signs he is doing that right now.

As this issue went to press, Kingston was down to 30 players, and has told many of the eight returnees they'll have to make the team. The word from training camp is that at least five returnees will make the squad, and that translates into a rookie-laden team that, especially in this conference, will be eaten up and spit out.

The few experienced players the Dinos are expected to keep are: goalie Mark Frank, who backed up Craig last year and did an admirable, if not heroic, job at it; forwards Ken Vinge, a second-team all-star last year, Steve Mounkes, Damien Steiert, and Paul Geddes; and defencemen Denis Friesen and Grant MacKay.

In short, the Dinos are in for a long and frustrating winter with the thin lineup they have, and I predict them to finish at 5-18.

If you're even slightly sympathetic, then you have to feel just a little sorry for the U of Lethbridge Pronghorns — the conference's new entry this year.

Realistically, the Pronghorns have no chance of winning the title this year, and have very little chance of making the playoffs. Their only concern this year should be to establish some sort of respectability, but without a group of experienced players and a relatively unheard of

hockey program, that's hard to accomplish.

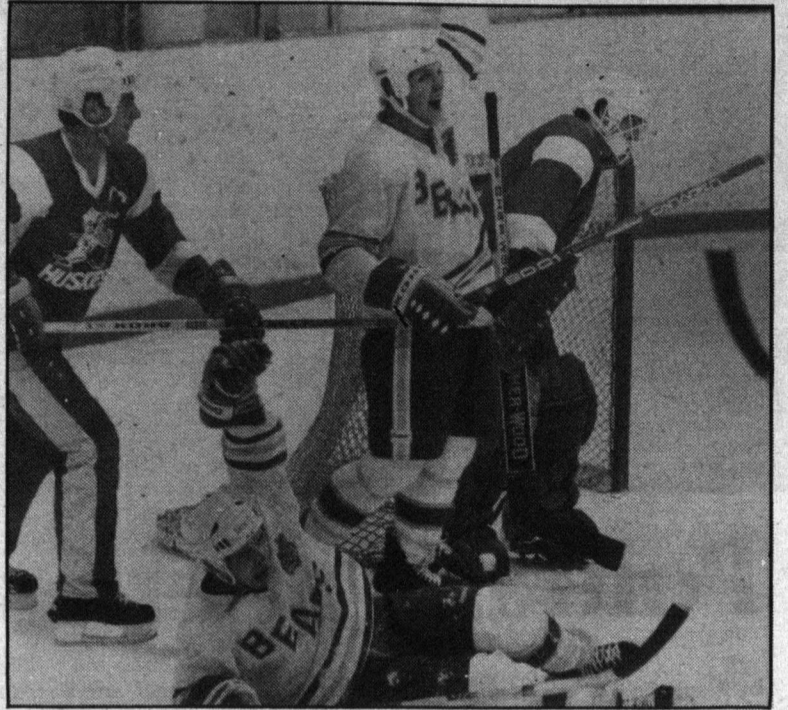
The Pronghorn's hockey program is still in its infancy. Head coach Dave McDowell and his team have been operating since 1979-80 with a varying degree of commitment as to the number of teams the play each year.

Last year the Pronghorns competed against Canada West teams

on a probationary basis, meaning simply they played only exhibition games.

They'll field a team with 12 returnees, but they'll be without top scorers Harvey Pocza, who had 25 points in 20 games, and Dave Snoppek, who had 25 goals in 30 games.

I expect this year to be a painful but learning one for the Pronghorns, and thus they will finish well below .500 at 4-20.



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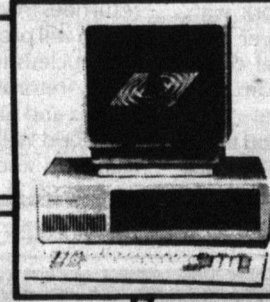
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