

Bears Play Bisons

University of Alberta Golden Bears, their backs squarely against the wall, try to get back into the Western Intercollegiate Hockey Conference title picture tonight and Saturday.

Golden Bears play host to league-leading University of Manitoba Bisons at Varsity Arena.

Game time tonight is eight o'clock. Saturday's contest starts at 2:30 p.m.

Coach Clare Drake's Bruins were all but bounced from contention when they were beaten 8-5 and 10-3 by Manitoba last weekend at Winnipeg.

The twin losses dropped Golden Bears from first place in the four-team conference. They now sport a 5-3 won-loss record. Manitoba leads with a 6-0 slate. Each team plays 12 games.

Golden Bears received more bad news earlier this week. Doug Fox, a red-headed former Oil King

junior star, is expected to be lost to the team for the remainder of the season.

Fox developed a recurrence of infectious mononucleosis, after he appeared to have the disease beaten. His loss deprives Bears of some much-needed scoring punch.

Drake is hoping forward Duane Lundgren can maintain the ability to put the puck in the net that he displayed against Manitoba last weekend.

Lundgren, a 23-year-old, third-year commerce major from Red Deer, notched four of Alberta's eight goals.

Varsity Bearcats Travel South To Challenge College Cougars

By Web Macdonald

Coach Alex Carre's junior varsity Bearcats finally are getting their long-awaited road trip.

The virtually unknown 'Cats travel to Calgary this weekend to challenge the Mount Royal College Cougars, the current leaders of the junior loop which operates in the southern city.

The Bearcats are a bona-fide junior varsity with a roster of future Golden Bears as well as ex-Golden Bears. They play for the Bearcats because they can't afford the time which varsity basketball demands, because of the practice schedule and the road trips.

What may seem a bit surprising about the upcoming Calgary venture is that the entire trip is being

undertaken on a budget of \$60 with the coach and players paying for their own meals and accommodation.

The purpose of the expedition is to encounter some needed opposition which does not exist in Edmonton's senior men's league.

In ten games so far this campaign, the Bearcats have rolled up a 9-1 won-loss record, while racking up scores of over one hundred points on four occasions.

In the earlier part of the season, the Bearcats edged their parent club, the Bears, by five points and even now Coach Carre feels that a match between the top Bearcat 10 and the top 10 varsity men would not be a mis-match.

Despite this record, Coach Carre seems to feel that his charges are not getting the competition necessary to develop their full potential.

He admits that a junior varsity schedule on the same scale as the

varsity's is not possible, but what he would like to see is a junior league operating at the provincial level.

Carre is also disgruntled about his club's fan support. He feels that his team is the second best squad in the city of Edmonton and as such deserve the support of the student body.

The coach comments, "The boys are largely an unrecognized team and a little fan support at our preliminary matches would not be unappreciated."

These boys deserve to be supported. As a university team they should command the attention of the campus student body, yet one must realize that for the most part even varsity sports tend to go unnoticed by the average U of A student. A little of the traditional college rah-rah would definitely not be out of place on our campus. Let's start with the Bearcats!

Record Entry In U of A Playdowns

A record 56 rinks will take to the ice at the Sportex Saturday in the University of Alberta (Edmonton campus) curling playdowns.

By midnight Sunday the field will be sliced to a lone survivor, which will then carry the university's colors into the Western Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships at Regina Feb. 26-27.

Opening draw in the double knockout bonspiel is slated for 8 a.m. Saturday at the Sportex. Seventy sheets have been booked for play Saturday, an additional 35 Sunday.

In addition, nine sheets at the Balmoral Club have been secured. Drawmaster is Ron McMahon.

"We should have the bonspiel finished by midnight Sunday," says Phil Coatta, president of the U of A curling club.

Given the best chance of emerging on top are rinks skipped by former dominion high school king Wayne Saboe and Wayne McElroy.

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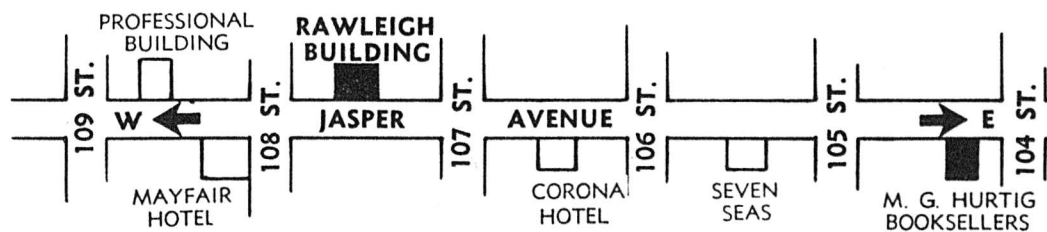
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