



AND AWAY WE GO

—Dave Snelgrove photo

... the swimmers kick off

## Swimmers smash four Canadian records in CIAU swimming finals

By LAWRIE HIGNELL

Swimmers smashed records left and right Wednesday afternoon at the third annual CIAU swimming finals and the last half the meet promised more of the same.

At the time of this writing, new Canadian records had been established in four of the first seven events and the fans began to wonder if special fast stop-watches were being used at the meet.

Something new that did prove to be worth the effort, was a specially installed closed circuit camera above the finish line.

Judges made use of the video-tape replay of several heats to decide the final placing of various

swimmers. In one event, the camera decided the difference between first and second spot, when the timers scored equal times for the first two finishers.

In the gruelling 200 yards Butterfly finals, Odegard of Western Ontario won with a time of 2:10.4, only two-tenths of a second ahead of Walker from UBC.

### FIRST MEDAL

Tale Van Ryn, of the University of Toronto, shaved almost a full second off the 50 yards Freestyle record with a time of 21.9 seconds. A perfect tumble turn after one lap, enabled the swimmer to turn in the almost unbelievable time,

two full seconds in the lead, on the short sprint.

In the 200 yard Backstroke, Gay Stratten, also from U of T bettered the existing record by three and a half seconds with a time of 2:05.9. Chris Ouellette won Alberta's first medal of the meet, as he finished third, after one swimmer was disqualified for an illegal stroke.

Lackowitz, from Guelph University, also cut the old record by three seconds in the 200 yard Individual Medley with a new time of 2:09.5.

In the 200 yards Freestyle, Bruce Gillespie broke his own CIAU record with a time of 1:53.0.

The 200 yards Breaststroke gave Alberta its second bronze medal of the day, as Eric Thompson edged out Winch from UBC for third spot.

### VIDEO-TAPE DECISION

Chapelle from Toronto came first, winning by one-tenth of a second over Chase from Sir George Williams University, in a decision that was made by observing the video-tape replay in stop action shots.

In the one metre Diving, Lawrence Smut won with a score of 407.30 on eleven dives. The University of Saskatchewan diver was 20 points ahead on Tony Schidlo, also from U of S.

After the first seven events, the Ontario-Quebec conference led with a score of 255 points, followed closely by Western Conference with 234 points.

The Price of the Melton U of A Jackets in Campus Squire Clothier's Ltd. Advertisement should have read \$19.95 rather than \$16.95.

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## Speaking on Sports

By DON MOREN

Wire a typical partisan Golden Bear fan to an electrocardiogram and measure his heartbeat at Wednesday's game.

That should give you diagrammatic representation of the hockey Bears' performance since December, 1966.

After thoroughly bombing the lesser teams early in the season, bright visions appeared of a western college hockey crown and a vengeful rematch with the Blues where the Bears would shoot them down in glorious flames.

The chart recorded "very high" until that fateful match December 10. The Bears lost to the Huskies and were no longer immune to defeat in college hockey play.

I can't help but feel the Bears were still overrated. After all, they had the stars. They had Harper and LeBlanc and the printer's ink went to Alberta. The Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union sent out their monthly ratings: "THE BEARS—NO. 2."

The Bears won the First Canadian Winter Games. And few got unsettled at the occasional loss to, say, St. Francis Xavier. After all, when their livelihood was at stake they would come through, wouldn't they?

By this time the needle was fluctuating at a mad rate. A loss to Manitoba, but they squeaked out the second game to assure a tie.

Losses to Denver. Then that Wednesday night when luck eluded them. Was it really the breaks? Not long ago I succumbed to the philosophy that a team makes its breaks. And the best team always shows up on the scoreboard.

Certain biases do not permit me to adhere completely to this philosophy. The Bears were potentially the better team.

### Loss wasn't all fate

There were empirical reasons why the Bears didn't win Wednesday night. It wasn't all fate.

Alberta played far too much hockey this season. Assistant coach Brian McDonald estimates the Bears took off at least as much time from their classes as the Edmonton Oil Kings.

The Bears played 40 games this season. Only sixteen of them were league encounters. This is far too much hockey, considering they practice almost every night.

In one stretch, the Bears played eight games in ten days, when you consider the Saskatchewan weekend and the Winter Games. Tack on a trip to Denver against a tough team.

Too much chicken and you lose your appetite. It must be true for hockey. There was administrative bungling in drawing up the schedule. The coaching staff practiced the players too much. The effects were perhaps more psychological than physical but the Bears were tired in Wednesday's third period.

Not only did they suffer from staleness, but the Bears were also a patchwork team. To begin with they lost heavily in player turnover from last season.

Jack Nicholl joined the club late in November. Hugh Waddell, the best second goaltender you could ask for, left in impatience at being second best. The lucrative money in the Eastern Alberta Hockey League got him.

### 'A patchwork team'

Hugh Twa was injured December 10 and didn't rejoin the club until the Winter Games. Dale Halterman, after half a season off skates, joined the club.

This is almost as bad as an Edmonton Eskimo air lift. Injuries and some other unknown factor caused Coach Drake to shift his lines around. The Bears had only one strong line in the finals. The lines were shifted almost constantly after they lost Gary Link.

Injuries are a matter of fate. But a lot of problems could have been solved with a junior team. More administrative botching. The junior team cost the University Athletic Board a measly \$500 the season before. We could have developed two or three good defencemen this season.

Don't believe the press releases you read on the success of the Molson Scholarship program. It's a farce without a junior team.

Lister Hall meals didn't win many games for the Bears. But the junior team cost them plenty.

So, there are empirical reasons. Perhaps the electrocardiograph will fluctuate again next season.

Julius Caesar caught his in March too. And it was no fluke.