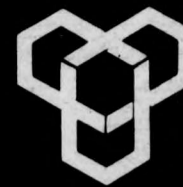




SPORTS



Dapper Dan and the Pats grab title as UQTR romps to victory at nationals

by Josh Rubin

The Alberta Golden Bears will be shaking their heads in disbelief all summer long.

Despite outshooting UQTR 40-19 in last weekend's CIAU hockey final, the Bears were crushed 7-2 by the Patriotes.

The Patriotes were backstopped to victory by the sparkling play of third-year netminder Denis Desbiens, who also copped tournament MVP honors.

Afterwards, a modest Desbiens shared the credit with his defence-men, who gave up a stingy 2.5 goals a game during the regular season.

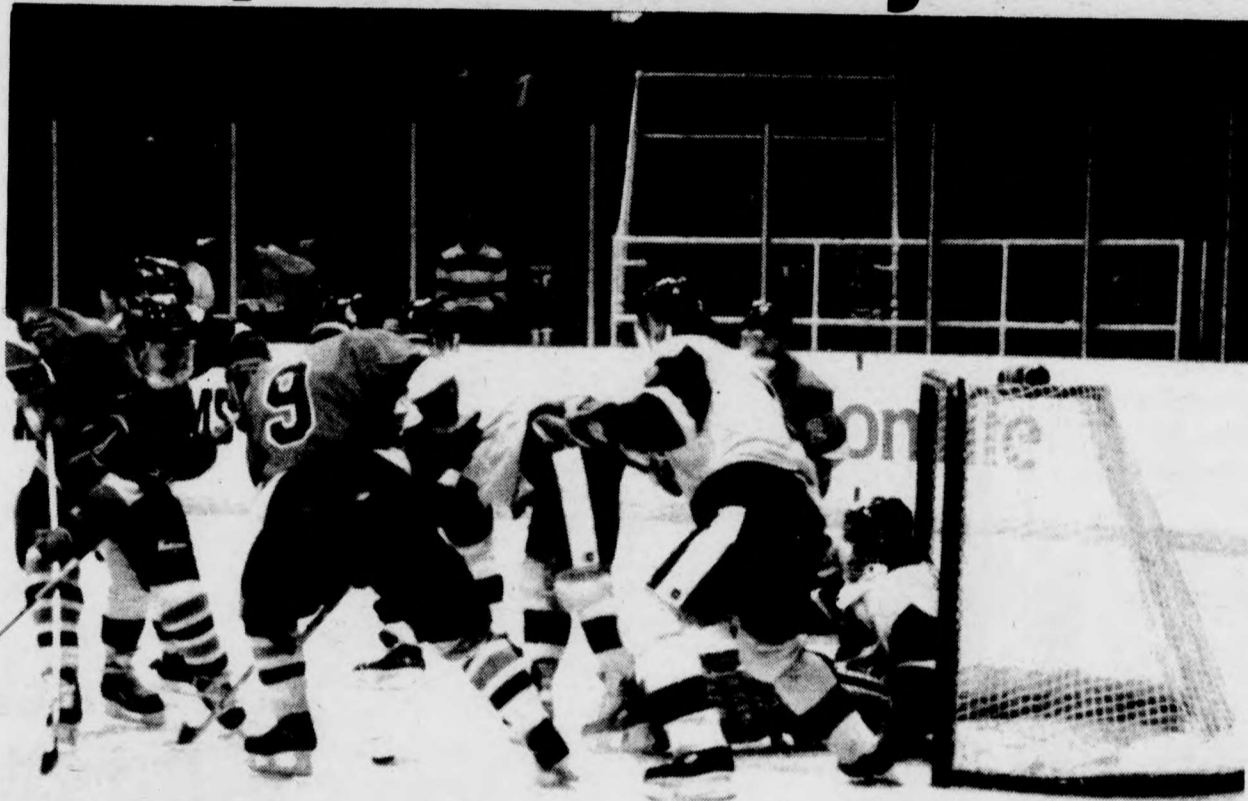
"I think they're the best defence in the country, but they're just not recognized that way," Desbiens said.

Alberta captain Doug McCarthy suggested he and his teammates certainly didn't help out their own cause.

"We aimed all our shots at his glove, which he plays a lot," McCarthy said.

Only one day before the matchup with UQTR, Alberta had squeaked past Waterloo 5-4 in a double-overtime semifinal matchup.

But McCarthy and the rest of his



ROB CABRAL

teammates refused to blame the tournament's scheduling for the way they fared in the final.

"The Golden Bear tradition is that we don't let things bother us," said one player.

The outcome of Sunday's final wasn't in doubt for very long, as the Patriotes jumped out of the gate with

a pair of goals less than five minutes into the first period.

The first one came when a tired-looking Alberta defence gave up the puck in the neutral zone, allowing Jean Bergeron to swoop in for his first of two goals on the day just 46 seconds in.

Minutes later, Bergeron struck again, this time giving the Patriotes a 2-0 lead with his powerplay marker.

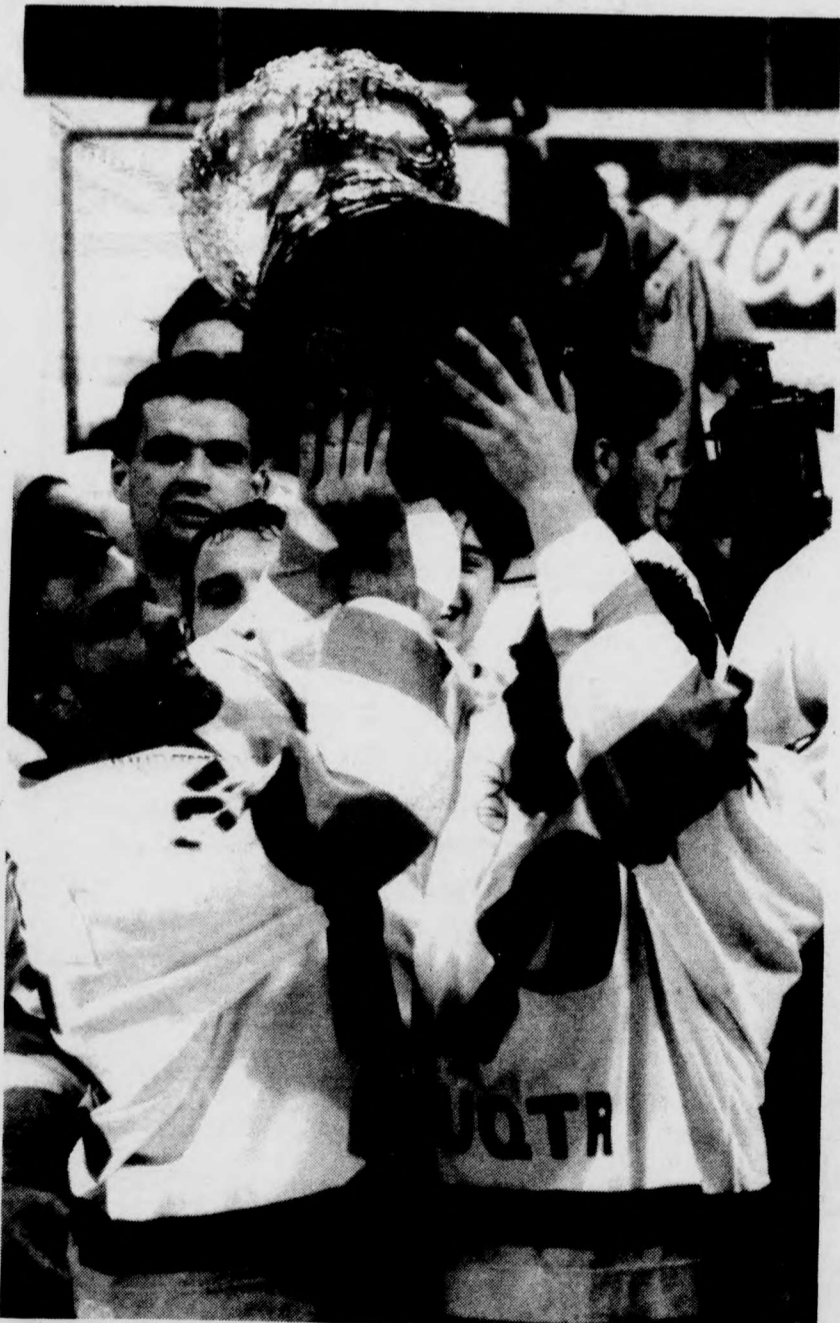
After a five on three situation let Alberta close the gap to 2-1 near the end of the first period, it looked as if there might have been a game.

But the Bears hopes were brought crashing down to reality as UQTR struck early and repeatedly in the second period as well.

Patriote winger Jean Bois batted it past Gavin Armstrong to seal the Bears' fate and give his team a 4-1 lead at 2:37 of the second frame.

The Quebecers added one more to cruise into the third period with an insurmountable 5-1 lead, and for a while, they were content to sit back and relax.

But after Gord Thibodeau notched a goal for the Golden Bears with less than half a period to go in the game, the Patriotes turned up the heat, rounding out the scoring with a pair of goals from Robert Pagé and Michel Bédard.



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GO PATS GO was the battle-cry for UQTR fans at Varsity Arena's CIAU hockey championships last weekend, and boy did they go, thumping the Alberta Golden Bears 7-2 in Sunday's final. UQTR All-Canadian Jean Bois (9 in top photo) heads for the net during Friday's 4-3 semifinal win over the UPEI Panthers. The Pats last won the tourney at Alberta in 1986-87.

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