

# Championships on March 7,8,9

## Puck Bears draw bye in opening round



—photo by Bill Kankwitt  
**BEAR FORWARD BILL CLARKE**  
 ... suiting up for practice

If current trends are any indication, history is about to repeat itself at the 1969 Canadian College Championships scheduled for Varsity Arena, March 7, 8, and 9.

By the looks of things at the moment, the same five teams that competed in Montreal last year will be back again this time for another crack at the laurels captured by our own Bears.

The Bears are back, representing the Western Canada Intercollegiate Athletic Association as are the Laurentian Voyageurs of the Ontario Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

But the other three spots have yet to be filled and won't be until after league playoffs this weekend. The University of Toronto and Waterloo will fight it out for the right to represent the Ontario-Quebec Athletic Association, while Loyola Warriors, who lost to Alberta in the final game last year, and Sherbrook University meet to decide the Ottawa-St. Lawrence Athletic Association winner.

In the Maritimes, four teams, St. Francis Xavier, St. Dunstan's, St. Mary's and Acadia are still in the running. St. Francis came out of that conference last year.

The draw for the tournament was announced Monday by organizer Chuck Moser. In the first game at 6:30 p.m. Friday, the

OQAA representative will meet Laurentian, while the Maritime winner will tangle with OSLAA champion. The Golden Bears swing into action Saturday as they meet the winner of Friday's first game. Game time is 2:30 p.m. In the evening encounter, the loser of the first Friday game clashes with the loser of Friday's second game.

Sunday morning at 10 a.m. the loser of the Alberta game will meet the winner of Saturday night's square-off for the con-

solation trophy, while the big championship contest is scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

All six games are slated for Varsity Arena, with seats for the series being available in a package deal—\$4 for students and \$8 for adults. Tickets for a single game will be available on a rush basis, provided that all the package deals haven't been sold. Ticket outlets are to be found at SUB information desk, The Bay and the Physical Education Office.

## Team off to Denver for final prep

Denver, Colorado is 1,200 miles away.

Yet that city may hold the championship hopes of the hockey Golden Bears.

Bears travel to the southern city this weekend to tangle with the University of Denver Pioneers in a two-game exhibition stint. The games will be the Bears' final tests before the Canadian Championships here next week.

The Pioneers are defending U.S. College Champions and as such should give the locals the stiffest test of the year. And this is what the Bears need, as they have been faced with a lack of competition for most of the current campaign.

The Bears have never managed to defeat the Denver Club in some four years of play. This may be in part due to the fact that American college hockey is played under a different set of rules than is in vogue in Canada.

"There is no redline in college hockey down there," says the Bears' Bill Clarke, who played four years with Brown University in the Ivy League. Once the player has crossed his own blueline, he can shoot the puck down into the opponents' zone, without incur-

ring an icing. This speeds things up and consequently their game is much faster."

"But up here," Clarke continued, "you have to be a smarter hockey player to be successful. Speed isn't everything."

Another thing that Denver has going for them is the altitude factor. The city is some 7,000 feet above sea level.

"It's like skating uphill against a wind when you're not used to the altitude," says Wayne Wiste, a Bear stalwart who played with the Pioneers four years.

"That third period comes and you're really sucking for air. And once you get back home here, things seem a lot easier."

The Bears will go into the series relatively injury-free. Gerry Hornby has shaken off a pulled leg muscle picked up two weeks ago in the Victoria series, while Wayne Wiste's injured right shoulder has responded well to treatment. As well, Don Darling, out since early January with a damaged leg, is back on skates and should be ready to go if called upon. But as his replacement, Harvey Poon, has been playing so well lately, Darling may have a tough time cracking back into the lineup.

# B'ball Bears hope to break jinx by bringing national title out west

By JOE CZAJKOWSKI

Alberta Golden Bears have been consistent winners in the WCIAA basketball league.

It has earned them the right to represent the league in the national finals to be held in Kitchener-Waterloo on March 6-8.

It may also have earned them the right to finally meet their Waterloo (as in Napoleon, not as in Ontario).

The East has been up until now

a traditional burial ground for Western basketball teams. Western clubs have come close to taking the honors but have never quite managed to break the barrier since the Canadian Championships were instituted in 1963-64.

Bears in 1964-65 placed fourth in the country and Calgary in the following year placed second. In the last two seasons UBC has placed second and third. But no winners.

Now, it's again the Bears turn to attempt to bring the laurels to the West. Prospects don't appear to be any better this year, however, than in years gone by. At least they're not worse.

Of the five conferences represented in the Canadian Championships, Ontario-Quebec (OQAA), Maritimes (MIAA), Ontario Intercollegiate (OIAA), Ottawa-St. Lawrence (OSLAA) and the WCIAA, teams from the OQAA seem to be the ones to beat. This hasn't changed from past years.

It appears as if the University of Windsor will represent the OQAA in the nationals. This will be decided this weekend in the OQAA play-offs. At any rate Windsor has a solid history of performing well in the nationals and has twice in the five year history of the National Collegiate Basketball Championships come away Canadian title holder.

The representatives from the other conferences are also as yet undecided pending play-offs, however it appears that the likely conference winners will be Acadia (MIAA), Loyola (OSLAA) and Waterloo-Lutheran (OIAA).

### American talent

All these teams, especially Windsor and Loyola, draw heavily on American talent. It's available to them simply because of their nearness to the American border.

There is one consolation for Alberta fans. The Bears will be sending down one of the strongest teams Alberta has ever had to compete in the championships.

Their chances of finishing first among the five league winners aren't all that high but at any rate they should improve on their fourth place finish of 1964-65.

The calibre of Western basketball isn't yet up to a par with the East or rather the OQAA, or at least hasn't been up to now. But then who knows? Underdogs often come out winners in the end.



—photo by Bill Kankwitt  
**GOALTENDER DALE HALTERMAN**—is going through practice sessions this week wearing a rubber sweatsuit. It's not known whether his wife or the coach ordered him to wear it.

## Champion top Bear shooter

What have the basketball Bears done this season?

Well, for starters they've compiled a 26-5 overall record and an 18-2 league record.

For seconds, the club has scored 2,684 points in the process while allowing 1,946 for an average of 86.6 points a game for and 62.8 points against.

Six players have scored 100 or more points, three have scored 200 or more, and one has scored more than 300 points. This shows quite well the diversified scoring attack of the Bears. The team didn't rely solely on one or two players for their points.

In general the club depended on its forwards for points and on its guards for playmaking, although the guards did get in on the scoring as well.

With this line-up the Bears almost breezed through the league except for one good-sized stumbling block—Manitoba Bisons. The Bisons proved to be the only real contender in the league with the Saskatchewan Huskies a distant third. All other clubs were second rate.

Bears split their four games with the Bisons, winning twice at home and losing two on the road. The difference was that Manitoba lost also to Saskatchewan and to Cal-

gary. Bears lost only two games in their schedule—those to the Bisons.

Lack of competition nearly killed the Bears in the race for the pennant. The club had a long stretch in the schedule where they met only second rate clubs and thus learned to take it easy. When the time came for an all-out effort against the better clubs in the conference, the Bears nearly faltered.

This was especially evident in Saskatoon when the club trailed throughout the game, then finally found their form and came on to net their final basket with but three seconds on the clock. It was a big one in a 69-68 win. Back in form, they clobbered Saskatchewan by 30 points the next night.

What have the basketball Bears done this season? They've only won the WCIAA pennant and a crack at becoming national champions. Nothing to complain about, is it.

### FINAL BASKETBALL STANDING

	GP	W	L	Pts.
Alberta	20	18	2	36
Manitoba	20	16	4	32
Saskatchewan	20	11	9	22
Regina	20	7	13	14
Calgary	20	4	16	8
Winnipeg	20	4	16	8