

# Sports

## Athletics announces meal ticket

by Mark Spector

At a rather formal press conference last Wednesday, the U of A Athletic department announced the induction of what is hoped to be a substantial fund raiser.

The Athletic department will hold the first annual Wall of Fame Dinner on Sept. 19 at the Westin Hotel.

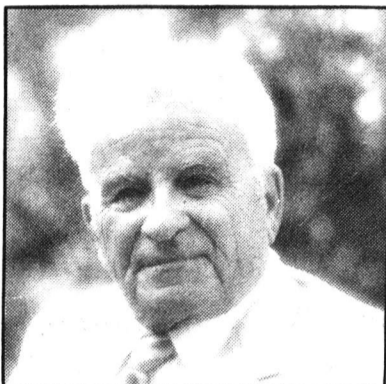
Chairman of Athletics Dr. Bob Steadward unveiled the plan as "the main yearly project of the Green and Gold Society." This is a society of U of A alumni formed in Sept. of 1984 in hopes of injecting two sorely needed elements into Edmonton's university sports: respectability and money.

The \$125 a plate gala event poses an enjoyable tax write off for the close to five hundred expected patrons.

Honorary chairman and ex-Golden Bear (Fleet) Pete Loughheed will preside over the dinner while entertainment will be provided by songstress Sue Moss and guest speaker, ex-New York Giant Tom



Ethel Barnett Cuts — 1927-29 U of A top woman athlete.



Bill Shandro — 1928 top basketball scorer for Canada West.

Costello. Sixteen local businessmen who form the financial backing for the dinner will serve as honorary vice chairmen.

Also at the dinner, six "builders and former athletes" will be inducted on to the wall. They will join the six alumni who currently reside there.

Steadward's goals for this affair are twofold.

"First we want to make this thing a successful, first class social event.

Secondly, we're looking for a decent fundraiser."

By "decent", Steadward means that he would be content if \$20,000 were raised by this initial endeavour.

Steadward discussed just a few areas that Athletics are aiming to improve with the money raised.

One factor that keeps many Canadian athletes from gaining international success is the lack of non-Canadian coaching that is made available. In the future the U of A hopes to import coaches from abroad (i.e. Germany and the USA) to give clinics on various different sports.

But primarily, Steadward stressed the need to increase the U of A athlete's daily meal money while on the road from the current six dollars per day. If the organizers were looking for the sympathy dollar they certainly have a case here. This particular goal was discussed at length at the press conference. Often used words were "embarrassing" and "ridiculous".

The Wall of Fame Dinner is just one of many changes for Athletics in 1985-86. With the formation of the Green and Gold society, the U of A is clearly following the lead of many American universities by involving their alumni in the financial scheme of the program.

As well, the 16 backers for the dinner are completely autonomous from the U of A.

"We must reach out over the city for program support," said Steadward. "In the past, the program has stagnated because of the totally closed-doors approach to anything off campus.

And in the past, the stands and the pockets have been empty. It is time for the U of A to realize that public behinds fill the seats just as well as student ones. And their money shores up pretty well the same too, thank-you.

University sports fans are in for a couple of other changes as well in the upcoming season.

The biggest move that has been made by the Steadward regime is to charge students to see athletic events on campus. A fee of two dollars will be charged beginning

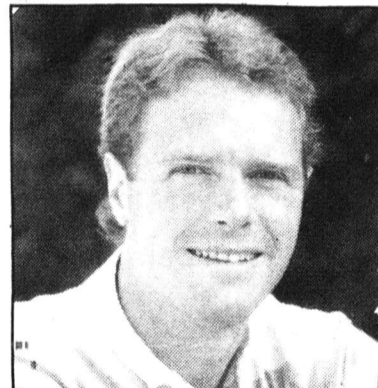
this year. Up until now, all games have been free for students and staff.

"We feel that by charging a nominal fee," explained Steadward, "the students will appreciate that this is quality sport." He bases this move on the many opinions that were solicited from students around campus.

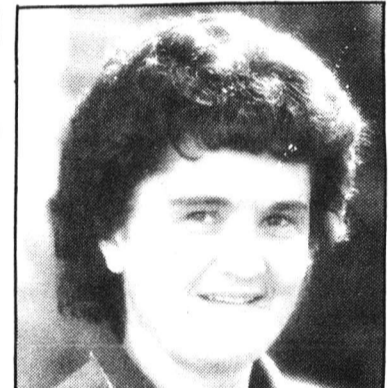
Also, 1985-86 will see the continuation of the highly successful NAIT Ookpik, Alberta Golden Bear hockey game. Last year's contest saw Alberta win in a mostly full Edmonton coliseum.

Finally, this year Alberta will host the CIAU hockey championships for the first of three years running. Steadward sees this as one event that will draw out more alumni to help the cause of an already manpower short Athletics department.

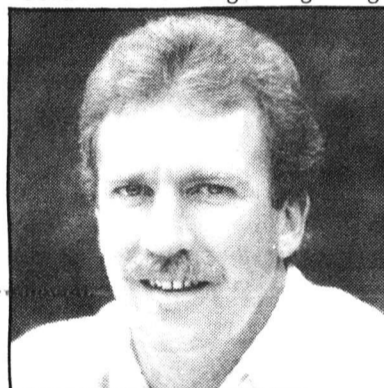
Bob Steadward is the type of man that the university needs to salvage their athletic program. He has numerous business connections (i.e. the 16 dinner funders) to make available the necessary dollars to make these big plans work. Give him a few years, if this doesn't work, nothing will.



Randy Gregg — 1979 U of A outstanding athlete.



Beverly Richard — 1966 U of A top woman athlete.



Brian Fryer — 1975 CIAU MVP.



Kathy Moore — 1977 U of A top woman athlete.

## Bears and Pandas sports digest

The hockey Bears will get the second half of the Cranston connection this season. **Dennis Cranston** played for Alberta last year while brother **Sid Cranston** toiled for the Canadian champion NAIT Ookpiks in '84-85. Sid led the Fort Saskatchewan Traders of the AJHL in scoring the previous season.

This season in Canada West hockey will see a rise in the number of teams from five to eight. The Great Plains Athletic Conference has been dissolved for hockey, and **Brandon, Manitoba, and Regina**


will move to Canada West.

While the soccer Bears wait for their brand new field to be completed at the Faculte St. Jean, they must play all of their home games out at the Edmonton Scottish pitch. In case you don't know where that is, it's just across the highway from the Ellerslie rugby grounds. It's a beautiful pitch but unfortunately Coach **Len Vickery's** charges will have to get used to playing in front of even sparser crowds than if they were right on campus.

The Pandas basketball team will sport a few new faces this season. Besides rookie head coach **Sherry Stevenson**, several of last year's squad will not be returning. Alberta's post of the future, **Yolanda Kruyer**, will take at least one year off. And if Toni Kordic is unable to play, look for Lisa Janz to see lots of time at center. After losing only two vet's due to eligibility rules this looked like a possible championship season for the Pandas. An injury to All-Star Toni Kordic and several defections may turn this into a rebuilding year.

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