Soccer prospects excellent

National champions in 1972, and runners-up after losing a penalty-kicking competition last year, the Bears soccer team already look set for another very successful season. Although several key figures will be missing, their places have been filled by more than adequate replacements.

The most notable absentee is coach Dr. Stuart Robbins, the man who developed soccer at the U. of A. After several highly successful and productive years here, Stu recently accepted a post at York University. Also no longer with the team is his assistant for the last two years, Clive Padfield, who, heavily involved with the dance programme here, and also working on a Ph. D, couldn't afford the time for soccer as well. Of the players from last year's team, Ike Mackay, who played several times for the Canadian national team, Geoff Salmon, Al Bolstad, Doug Weisbeck, Mike Hird, and Trevor Duckett are no longer available, mostly through graduation, except for Salmon, who is no longer eligible.

Living to fight another day are John Devlin, Tom Schmidt, Frank Tassone, Rick Korol, Peter Chiu, George Lovell, Phil Craig, Terry Witney, Terry Kindrat, and Chris Kelly.

Among the new faces are old face Dave Clayton, who played for the Bears in 1970-71, John Baretta, Geoff Bird, Roland Leaute, and Glen Murphy. The most significant newcomer is another "old face", Dr. Gerry Redmond, the new coach. Redmond has been an assistant professor here since last year, and between 1970 and 1972, when he was doing his Ph. D here, he played centreforward for the Bears. Redmond's credentials are impeccable, and his record as a coach is impressive; he was a

student at Britain's leasing Phys. Ed. college, Loughborough, and in the mid-sixties he taught and coached soccer at the University of Otago, the major Phys. Ed. school in New Zealand. In 1972-73 he was the soccer coach at the University of Massachussets, where his team had one of their most successful seasons ever, and he was recognised as one of the best college coaches in the U.S. He holds the coached award of the Canadian Soccer Assiciation. In Edmonton Redmond has coached Edmonton Scottish, one of the most successful teams in the city, the current Indoor League Champions and Dragoon Cup holders.

Redmond has appointed Geoff Salmon his assistant coach. Salmon, who had played for the team since it was first formed, is one of the best players I have ever seen playing for the Bears, and his skill and steadiness command everybody's respect and admiration.

It's really too early to discuss the team in any detail; because they've only just started practising, but it's already possible to allay the fears that many people, myself included, had about the effect on the team of the loss of four starting players, Mackay, Salmon, Bolstad, and goalkeeper Weisbeck. Normally, to lose players of their calibre and importance would be a crippling blow. Mackay controlled the midfield for the Bears, while Salmon Kept the defence strong and cohesive; Bolstad covered lots of ground, winning possession, and providing support where it was needed, while Weisbeck inspired confidence in his defence, which is always important.

However, the Bears have been very lucky in both the returnees, and the new men. Terry Witney is too modest to admit it, but he is rightly

considered one of the best full-backs in the city, a player with lots of class; similarly, John Devlin is a seasoned, experienced player who can play both in attack and midfield, who plays for the city all-star team, and scored two of the three goals that won the national title for the Bears in 1972. A fellow Scot is Phil Craig, who, when things are going right for him, is deadly in front of goal. Local boy Frank Tassone is the sort of player that coaches love, a hard worker who plays hard, but never dirtily, who can play in defence or midfield. Another local boy is Rick Korol, quietly effective at the centre of the defence. Yet breathing down these players' necks are the Scottish goalscoring sensation, George Lovell, veteran defender Tom Schmidt, wingers Peter Chiu and Terry Kindrat, and forward Chris Kelly.

By some stroke of fortune, the most outstanding of the new men play in just those positions that have been weakened by the loss of key players. In goal, the Bears can call on John Baretta, a local boy who plays for Ital Canadians, and who is considered one of the best goalkeepers in Canada. He is already on the fringe of the Canadian senior national team, and is young enough to be a stron prospect for the Canadian team at the Montreal Olympics, and, looking even further ahead, for the 1978 World Cup in Argentina, for which Canada has a very good chance of qualifying. Another exciting prospect is Geoff Bird, who has just come to Edmonton from Australia. In 1971 Bird played twice for the Australian national team, and he has also played for the University of New South Wales, the State of New South Wales, and for senior clubs in the Sydney soccer league. He is a midfield player who has been



converted to play as a sweeper behind the defence, the position that Geoff Salmon played. He could replace either Salmon, or Ike Mackay, and has already made a big impression on coach Gerry Redmond. Another player who is at home both in midfield and defence, and who plays for the city All-Stars is Glen Murphy. Murphy plays for North West United in the local senior league. Roland Leaute is a team mate of John Baretta's and Frank Tassone's at Ital Canadians, and has already caught the coach's eye as an attacking prospect. Dave Clayton also played soundly in practice.

So far, on paper, the Bears look to have depth in defence and in midfield, and, although they have two or three very good attacking players, this is the weakest department from the point of view of cover for injuries and loss of form. Coach Redmond told me that he wants players who are willing to work hard, and that he prefers a team that uses the ball intelligently by passing and working for each other, rather than a bunch of individuals who try to do everything on their own. He doesn't want to commit himself to any basic system until he's chosen his squad of 16 players, and in any case, he wants the team to direct the system, rather than have the system direct the team; the key-word is flexibility. "I want to use a system that will make the best use of our strengths and hide any

Bears will go to Vancouver in October "as Western champions, play as Western champions, and, hopefully, come back as Western champions." Right now, his priority is seeing how much talent there is in the II. of A.

TEAMS

An organizational meeting will be held in Room 124 of the West wing of the Phys Ed. Building for prospective Golden Bear basketball players on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 at 5 p.m. All interested players should attend.

The registration meeting for Golden Bear hockey team tryouts will be held on WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18 at 5 p.m. in Room 124 of the Phys. Ed. Building.

Golden Bear Soccer hopefuls are meeting on the field behind the West Pool at 7 p.m. every night this week. Call coach Gerry Redmond at 432-3838 for more information or Geoff Salmon at 4330 6921.

Panda volleyball practises will start on MONDAY, SEPT 16 at 5 p.m. in the West gym. Practises will be Monday-Thursday from

Last week we reported that this weekend's football game between the Golden Bears and Manitoba Bisons would begin at

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