

## Race from p.13.

life." Steve Podborski, Olympic bronze winner, states, "I didn't know what I was getting into," when he joined the team. Now Podborski believes being available to the press and the public is part of the job. Still, he declares, "All I want to do is ski."

Canadian head coach John Ritchie tries to protect his racers from outside pressure. Clearly, Ritchie is a successful coach and his four-man A team is among the strongest the circuit has seen. Ritchie maintains his job is to protect an environment where all that his racers "want to do is go as fast as they can." In addition, he admits he is always paranoid "about external problems, like travel problems, ruining a good environment."

Although Ritchie was vague about problems aside from spectator and media pressure, he emphasizes "the whole idea is to go around things that put stress in the guys." In all, Ritchie says his influence "doesn't take place on the hill," but during the "rest of the 24 hours of the day."

Still, the question remains how the racers will use a comfortable environment. Ritchie says A team members "love skiing and love going fast." According to Ritchie, the program encourages racers "to win ski races." Ritchie admits the aim is simple, but adds, "100% commitment is necessary too." Without it, he believes, "there are no rewards."

Again the principles are simple: The environment must be the best and the racers must always want to win. All this must be accomplished with external pressure sure to seep through in spite of Ritchie's measures. Consequently, Ritchie believes having a race on Read's own ground was no special advantage because the setting brought new stresses.

Finally, the preparation and training ended in an hour and a half with the Molson's World Cup race. The results were understandable. Italy's Herbert Plank, who had Monday's best training times, won the race. The

conditions suited his style and lengthy experience. Understandably, Read and Murray, both with early start numbers, were out of the race before it had started. Fresh snow lay on the track and their runs helped speed up the course. The top six finishers, with the exception of second place Harti Weirather of Austria, started from 12 spot and down. They were, because of their later numbers, given a better chance for success. Read did not make more errors than the top racers; more likely he did not have a fast track.

It is unlikely many will know the complexity of a victory. Still, blame, in downhill racing, can seldom be pointed at only the racer. World champion Peter Mueller won the title from Read by 96 points to 87. Read did his best, but this year his luck and equipment were not as consistent as Mueller's. In any case, the circuit will give Read, and the Canadians, another chance next year, but not without new variables.



Austria's Anton Steiner kicks up dust at finish.

photo Russ Sampson

# Will the circle be . . .

by Shaune Impey

The Canada West hockey awards were announced last week and six Bears were honored.

Veteran left winger Chris Helland and goaltender Ted Poplawski repeated as first team all-stars. As well captain Larry Riggan was chosen for one of the defence positions on the first team. Fourth year man Bruce Rolin was selected as a second team all-star on defence.

In individual categories Jim Lomas was chosen as the player best combining sportsmanship and ability. Poplawski and rookie Brad Hall were the top goaltending duo in the conference.

The rest of the first all-star team consisted of Jerry Farwell (Calgary), who was tied with Poplawski for the goaltender position, Rick Williams (Calgary), also chosen as top defenceman, Jim McLaughlin (UBC), tied for scoring championship with team-mate Rob Jones, and Dell Chapman (Saskatchewan).

The second team consisted of goaltender Terry Kryczka (Calgary), Rolin, Marlowe Allison (Sask.), Jerry Bancks (Calgary), Jones and Willie Desjardins (Sask.).

Bill Holowaty of UBC was

selected as the rookie-of-the-year.

The Bears can still go to the Nationals in Regina if the Regina team wins their conference. The

Bears would have the inside track on a wild card berth. Playoffs in that conference are being held this coming weekend. Keep your fingers crossed, the Bears are.

## Bears end season And even score

by Ernie Lotz

The basketball Bears evened the score with Lethbridge last 22nd and 23rd of February. The Bears won both games, however, the Lethbridge Pronghorns proved to be tough opponents.

On Friday the 22nd, the Bears had a slow start notching their first points at the 17 minute mark. Lethbridge took the advantage and pulled ahead. But the Bears didn't give up and came back with five at the half. Tim Ryan stood out in the comeback, especially in the rebounding department.

The second half saw the Bears playing better ball. Jim Bonin and Tim Ryan played well to put the Bears back in the game. With two minutes the game was within 1 point. Jeff Gourley put the Bears ahead and they stated there to win 72-69.

Top scorers for the Bears were Jim Bonin with 21 points and Colin Fennel with 16 points.

Saturday was the team's last home game of the season. Honourable mention was given to four of the players who were veterans and had played five years. Presentations were given by Gary Smith and Coach Heaney to Jim Bonin, Brent Patterson, Colin Fennel, and Jamie Thomas. The spectators showed their appreciation with a lengthy applause.

The Bears played a better game Saturday, but the Pronghorns also played well and led at the half. Jamie Thomas had the hot hand shooting 59% from the floor and collecting 22 points. Teammate Tom Groat also played well, shooting 54% with 19 points.

The game was as close as the first night and again the Bears pulled it out of the fire to win 80-79, which was a good way to end off the season at home. The great fan support all year was appreciated by the team.

Continued on page 15



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