

Freshman squad pulls it off

by Bernie Poitras

After two weeks of practices, scrimmages and general mundane activities one associates with a training camp, the Bears' freshman hockey squad were given their first test of the season this past weekend.

They played host to the Third Annual Bears Junior Invitational Tournament at Varsity Arena, competing against five AJHL teams.

The results are in and, to very few peoples' surprise, the 1984 rookie edition of the Bears passed - with flying colors.

Oh, did they ever pass... and shoot...and score... and check... and, well, you get the picture.

The collection of 22 players captured the tournament trophy Sunday afternoon by beating the Sherwood Park Crusaders 7-4. The Crusaders took the high road to the final by edging out St. Albert, 6-5 and Hobbema, 3-1, while the Bears took the low (and much easier) route manhandling Ft. Saskatchewan, 7-5 and Ft. McMurray, 11-1.

In the final, the Bears spotted the Crusaders two goals before the fans could gulp down their first cup of hot chocolate. They had to rally with two of their own in a 44 second span to stay in the game. But, they finally settled down and took a 5-4 lead after the first 20 minutes.

Warren Yadlowski, Stacey Wakabayashi, Wes Craig, R.J. Dundas and Craig Kinsman staked the Bears to their first period lead. Kinsman and Tim Weiss scored the last two goals - in the second and third periods respectively.

In short, the rookies looked hungrier than their opponents, hustling to loose pucks and skating around opposing defences as if they were pylons. With steady goaltending and defence, the forwards were allowed to roam where they pleased and more often than not it resulted in a goal.

One line in particular that sparkled, was the Wakabayashi-Craig-Danny St. Arnaud trio as they amassed 11 goals and 23 points over the three games. Not too shabby considering that they only had one day of practice together as a line.

While they weren't exactly Team Perfect, finding a major flaw in their game plan was about as rare as finding a sober soul in RATT on Saturday night. After Sunday's win ex-Bear captain Dan Peacocke, who handled things behind the bench, said "the only holes in their play were due to slow execution of their (Bears) system."

Peacocke also added "when you have a group (rather than an established team) of players, you're going to have holes as you try to implement a system. There isn't as much of the ad-libbing going on, as these players are used to in their previous leagues (Junior and Tier Two)."

As for any rookies possibly making the big team, Peacocke said that there is a healthy competition for positions and despite the 25 returning players, the rookies have maintained a "positive attitude" in camp.

Peacocke helped out behind the bench allowing coaches Clare Drake and Bill Moore to evaluate

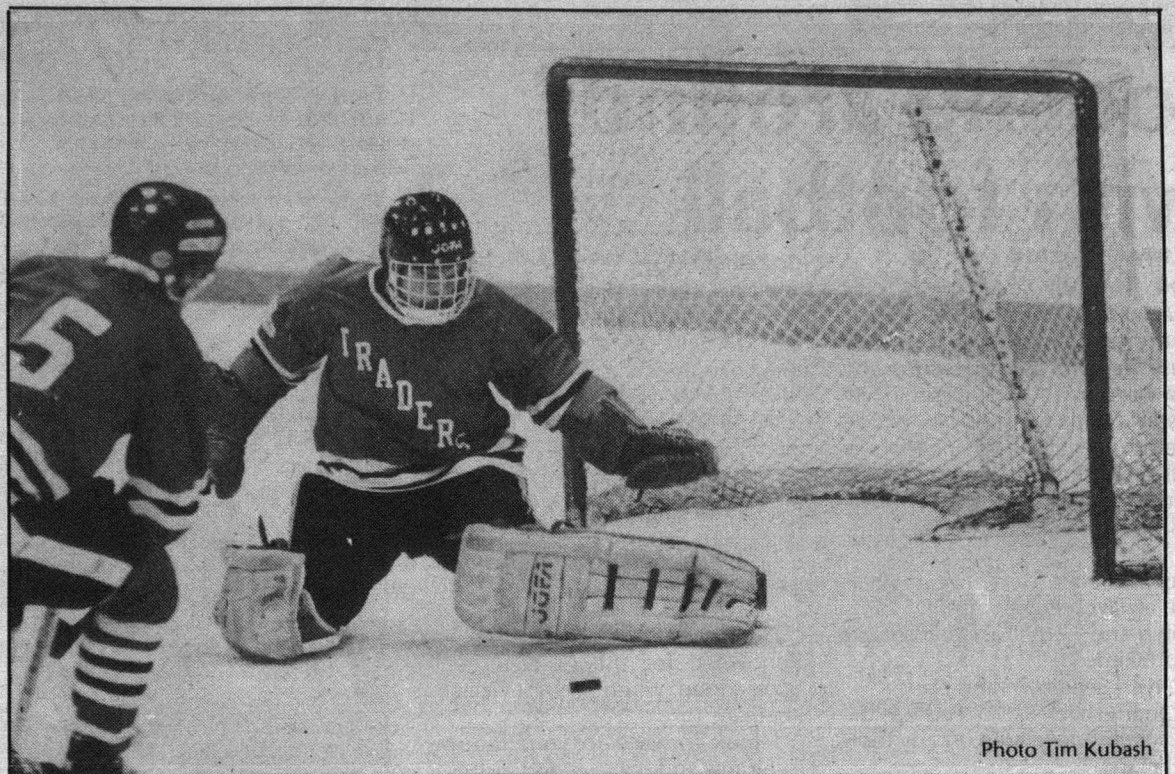


Photo Tim Kubash

Bears freshmen pass their first test of the season

their players from a better position (the press box).

If there is any chance that a few rookies will move up, it was greatly enhanced by their play this weekend. As a result, Coach Drake and his staff will have to weigh their decisions carefully.

FROM THE DEN: Dave Coombes and Nadr Jomba split the goaltending duties each playing roughly 30 minutes per game... The Bears had five powerplays and three short-handed goals...In the Bears' 11-1 win over Ft. McMurray on Friday, 16 of the 20 Bears' players were

credited with at least one point...Other scores were: On Thursday, the Crusaders 6-5 over St. Albert; on Friday, Hobbema 6, St. Albert 1; on Saturday, Ft. Sask. 6, Ft. McMurray 3 and Sherwood Park over Hobbema 6-1.

SPECIAL STUDENT PRICES

JUNIOR STYLIST - Plain Cut \$8.00
Cut & Blow Dry - \$10.00 • Zotos perm - \$27.00

SENIOR STYLISTS
Men Cut & Blow Dry \$10.00
Ladies Plain Cut - \$12.00 • Zoto Perm - \$35.00

Campus Hair Centre

8625 - 112 Street • Open Mon. to Sat. 9:00 to 5:30
Phone: 439-2423 • 439-1078

U of A Hospital Hair Center • 432-8403 • 432-8404

U OF A HOSPITAL STUDENT NURSES present HORRIBLE HAT & TACKY TIE DANCE

Nurses Res. Gym - 83 Ave & 114 St
Best of Top 40 Music
Beer, Wine & Food Bar

SEPT 29 • 8:00 pm
TICKETS \$5.00

AVAILABLE FROM CLASS MEMBERS OR AT DOOR
(OPEN TO CLASSMATES & GUESTS ONLY)

Rum flavoured.
Wine dipped.

Crack a pack of Colts along with the books.