

Hockey Bears play Monarchs Thursday

By BOB ANDERSON

Although the regular season is a month and half in the future, the hockey Golden Bears are getting right down to work.

The Bears, defending Canadian college champions, continue daily practice sessions at Varsity Arena, as they prepare for their first serious test of the season—an exhibition game Thursday night against the Edmonton Monarchs of the Alberta Senior Hockey League.

The camp, under the watchful eye of interim coach Brian McDonald, now numbers about 65, and has been divided into two separate shifts. This represents a decrease of 45 from the 110 who were on hand as camp opened last week.

BELCOURT GONE

All but five of last year's squad are back vying for a position, and some of them are going to have their work cut out. Gone are Sam Belcourt, Dan Zarowny and Ron Cebryk, playing with Red Deer this year, and Dave Couves and Wilf Kettle who failed to make the grade academically.

On hand are several promising rookies and a couple of ex-Bears to make things tough for the veterans. In this latter category are Bob Wolfe and Mike Ballash.

Wolfe, who sat out last year in order to concentrate on his studies, was a top-notch performer with the Bears two years ago, and prompted his coach, Clare Drake, to comment that he was one of the top netminders in amateur hockey in Canada.

Ballash, who has seen duty with the now-defunct Edmonton Nuggets, is expected to add experience and muscle to the Bears' blueline brigade. Mike played with the Bears three years ago.

ROOKIES IMPRESS

Of the rookies on hand, Coach McDonald is particularly impressed with the likes of Oliver Morris, Randy Clark, Don Darling, and Gerry Hornby, all of whom played in the Alberta Junior Hockey League last year. In addition there are Mel Baird from Waterloo, Greg Jeglum, John Steinbach, Bill Suter, and Harvey Poon from the junior Bearcats of last season. Up from the city juvenile ranks is Dan Bouwmeester, who has been belting people all over the place.

In goal, McDonald has the kind of problem that most coaches would dearly love to have. He has three men, any one of whom could be first string by the time the opening game rolls around.

The incumbent is Dale Halterman, a WCIAA all-star in his rookie year last year, and one of the main reasons why the Bears won the championship. In addition to Halterman there is Wolfe and Zane Jacubec, last season with the junior Bearcats.

All in all, a very competitive situation at Varsity Arena these days. Once the roster gets trimmed down to a more workable number, the Golden Ones will be able to start preparing in earnest for the upcoming WCIAA season, which starts Nov. 15 in Calgary.

Thursday's game gets under way at 8 p.m. at Varsity Rink, and admission will be free with the presentation of your student ID card.



by george yackulic

JACK DOESN'T GET THE JOKE—Bear veterans Jack Gibson, Wayne Wiste and Milt Hohol take a break during Tuesdays practice. The team is practicing nightly in preparation for the WCIAA hockey season which opens in November. Brian McDonald will handle the coaching reins until Clare Drake is finished with his football commitments. Hohol claims he is coaching the team but this was disputed by coach Gibson (above left) who claims he is the brains behind the team. All Wiste said is, "do I have to play with these two idiots again?" And the coach said "Yes you do."



COACH MacDONALD

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