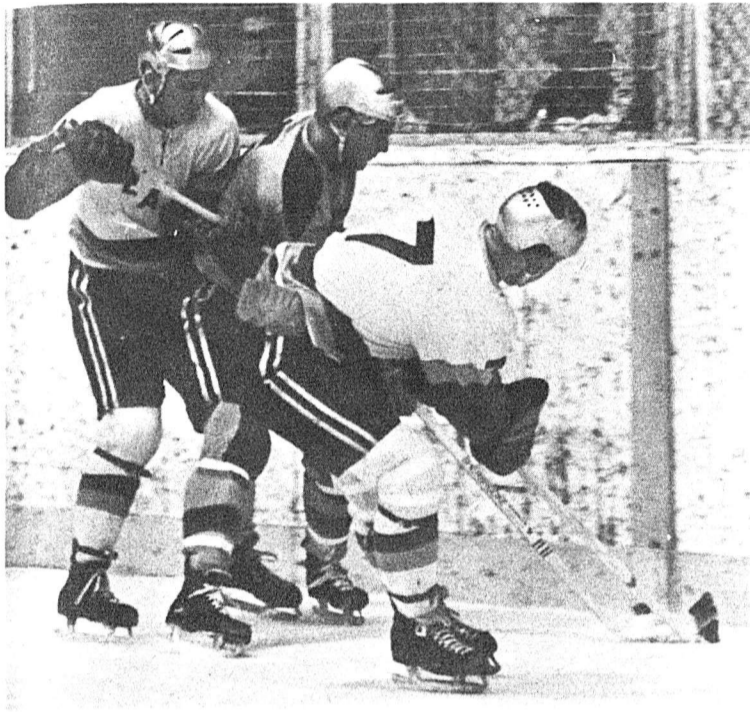


Drake's boys set for home opener



By DON MOREN

It's showdown at Varsity Arena tonight when the Golden Bears clash with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

Both teams are undefeated, each having clobbered Manitoba and Calgary in WCIAA games, and this is the drama in the weekend encounters.

The Bears are loaded with ammunition again this year. Coach Clare Drake has so many good players in the fold, he's been tearing his hair out trying to decide where everyone will fit in.

Heading the list of Bear weapons is **Brian Harper**. Brian is team captain, plays left wing and form-



DARRELL LeBLANC

erly starred with the Regina Junior Pats.

Brian is the superstar of the Golden Bear club. Last season he finished second in scoring in the WCIAA, netting 17 goals and 15 assists. And this season he's playing even better, picking up some of the slack left by the departure of Wilf Martin, Austin Smith, Doug Fox and Steve Kozicki.

Harper is more of a team man this year. He still likes to carry the puck end-to-end, but he's also been setting up Billings and Rippel. He doggedly checks at both ends of the rink and his skating is the best ever.

Brian is part-time policeman on the ice, scoring a few TKO's when

tempers get hot. He comes from a hockey family—his brother Terry plays for Montreal Canadiens. This may be the last season Brian wears U of A colors. He is bound for the National team and will suit up for a few exhibition games in the Christmas holidays.

Another big gun this year is **Darrell LeBlanc** from Moncton, N.B. Last season Darrell was a standout, scoring 12 goals in intercollegiate play, third best in the league.

Darrell has not hit last year's form. The coach tried him at centre but the fine play of Ron Cebryk has returned the husky veteran to the right wing. He has a hard, accurate shot and will score a lot of goals before the March playoffs. In his second season with the Bears, LeBlanc played with the University of New Brunswick Red Devils before entering grad studies here. He stands 5'10" and weighs 170 lbs.

One of the most pleasant surprises this season has been the fine play of **Del Billings**. The 5'9", 155 lb. rookie from Red Deer has demonstrated great poise thus far. In four games, Billings has four goals and seven assists to his credit—second on the club to Harper.

Billings starred with the Red Deer Jaycee Junior 'B' club last year. Very shifty, Billings has the knack of being in the right place at the right time. Only 19, Del has a bright future as a Golden Bear. He centres a line with Harper and Dale Rippel on the wing.

Gordon Jones, a 6', 175 lb. centre from Ponoka, is another Bear veteran. Last year, despite playing in only 12 games, Gordon scored five times and totalled ten points.

Alternating between left wing and centre ice, Jones is more at home at centre. The third year science student is a former Oil King. He is 21. Gordon pivots a unit with Stelmaschuk and Zarowny on the wings.

Gerry Braunberger's slap shot is one of the biggest pieces of artillery in the Bear arsenal. The 6', 184 lb. left winger mans the point on the power play and is very effective. The 20-year-old science student is another former Oil King. Last year, he played defence and was one of the best in the conference but was switched to forward at his own request.

Dale Rippel is the most versatile Golden Bear and one of the more experienced. He is equally proficient on defence or right wing. At

Saskatchewan here; WCIAA lead at stake

6' and 190 lbs., he is effective in digging pucks out of the corners and presents a formidable and immovable figure in front of the net.

The 26-year-old native of Yorkton, Sask. has played with Melville Millionaires, Yorkton Terriers, Vermilion Tigers and Lacombe Rockets plus three years with the Bears. He has returned to university to finish a teaching degree.

Dave Zarowny is an Elk Point product. The best penalty killer on the team, Dave is an excellent checker and likes to play an aggressive game. He weighs in at 170 lbs. and stands 5'11". The third year Commerce student usually patrols right wing and has a good shot. He is 22.

The commencement of the WCIAA schedule saw a marked improvement in the play of **Ron Cebryk**. The 5'7", 160 lb. Edmonton native scored the winner in the first game against Calgary. Ron is an excellent forechecker and centres a line with Braunberger and LeBlanc on the flanks. The 20-year-old ex-junior Bear is a third year engineer.

curved-blade stick and his slap shot has certainly improved.

George Kingston is another Bear defenceman with experience written all over him. He is a cool, poised performer, handles and passes the puck well. George is 6', weighs

So a stray enemy does get through the Bear defence. **Bob Wolfe** and **Hugh Waddle** are waiting. To date, the pair have been exceptionally stingy allowing five goals in four games.

Hugh has given up one goal in the two games he played. The 21-year-old student majors in recreation. Hugh weighs 180 lbs. and stands 5'10". He has played with the Moose Paw Canucks and is a second year Bear. Basically a stand-up goaler, Hugh has a great glove hand and covers the angles well.

Wolfe also comes from Edmonton, having played with the Universal Concrete juveniles. Despite his relative inexperience, he made the jump to intercollegiate hockey without a hitch and compiled the best goals against average in the conference last year with a sparkling 1.88.

Bob is 19 and stands an even 6 feet. He weighs 180 lbs. He is exceptionally great on breakaways but is weak on high shots due to a tendency to sprawl. He was criminally robbed of a WCIAA all star berth last year.

Unfortunately, if the puck gets past Wolfe or Waddle that means a



GORDON JONES

in at 185 lbs. and hails from Landis, Saskatchewan. He is back taking grad studies after teaching high school in Edmonton.

Hugh "Cow" Twa is a stumbling block to a lot of enemy outbursts. Hugh is a 6', 180 lb. native of Grande Prairie. Hugh is a consistent performer; he controls the puck well and plays good positional hockey. He is an excellent puck carrier.

Gary Link is another of the nine Golden Bear six-footers. Gary played with the Junior Quakers in his hometown of Saskatoon. He sat out last year to concentrate on his studies but the hockey bug has bit again and he's back crumpling opponents on the blue-line. He has played all four conference games with cracked ribs and hasn't missed a shift on the ice.

The recent acquisition of **Jack Nicholl** to the defense has been a shot in the arm. Nicholl, a second year law student, brings experience to the blueliners. His last two seasons have been in the Nugget livery and he played with the Bears before that.

A tremendously fine puck carrier, Jack could be the leader on defence the Bears have lacked in recent seasons. He tips the scales at 210 lbs. and stands 6'1".

Eighteen-year-old **Jim Seutter** is the youngest Bear defenceman. He has size (6', 185 lbs.) and is a strong skater. All Jim needs is experience to be a real good rearguard. The second year education student played with the junior Bears last year.

Dave Wray has not seen action in WCIAA games to date. He performed on the Golden Bear football team and was selected to the WCIAA all stars at an offensive guard position. As a result, he had a late start with the hockey team and it has cost him a starting position.

Dave was the recipient of a Molson's scholarship. A native of Edmonton, Dave is 18, stands 5'11" and weighs in at a solid 180 lbs.



DEL BILLINGS

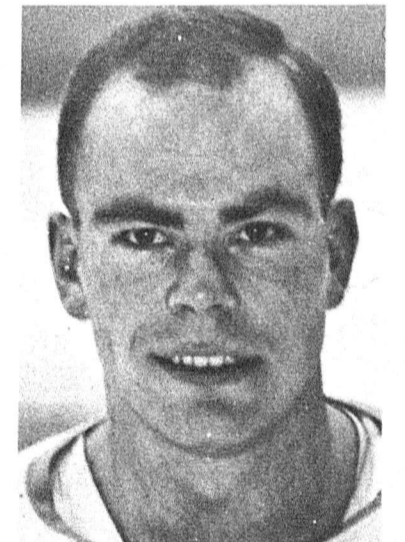
Merose Stelmaschuk joined the Bears after a strong showing with the Edmonton junior 'B' Redwings. Merose stands 5'11" and weighs 170 lbs. A strong skater with plenty of moves, Merose will add scoring punch to the Bear offense. He had a throat ailment early in the year, but is in top form. He is 18 and plays left wing although a right handed shooter.

Terry Cutler, a 5'11" Edmonton product is another fine addition to the forward lanes. Terry received a Molson's tuition scholarship and has earned every cent of it. He is effective around the net but needs work on his checking to be a top forward. He weighs in at 160 lbs. and is 19 years old.

The big guns roar up front but the Bears' defensive brigade keeps intruders off the doorstep.

Ralph Jorstad is a true Bear veteran, this being his fourth year with the club. A 5'10", 170 lb. native of Taber, Ralph plays a key role in the Bears' power play and penalty killing combinations. He is a grad student in math and is 23 years old.

He is the first Bear to use a



RALPH JORSTAD

goal against the Bears, but that won't be the end of it because Clare Drake will start tearing at his hair again. And if it happens too often the coach will have to wear his hat full-time to cover the bald spots.

In all seriousness, **Coach Drake** is the mastermind of Bear barrages. Drake is the Toe Blake of intercollegiate hockey. In eight seasons his Bears have won five WCIAA crowns and have reached the national finals two of the four years the CIAU championship has been held. Clare is a physical education professor here.

His assistant is **Brian McDonald**, who has coached the Junior Bears for the past three years.

Team managers are **Art Hookes** and **Gordon Tucker**, assisted by **Jim Stambaugh**.

If the Golden Bears do shoot down the Huskies tonight and tomorrow afternoon it could put the Bears in the driver's seat in the race for the WCIAA crown.

And then Clare Drake won't have to wear his hat.