

Bear expectations

by Randal Smathers

Last year, the Golden Bears were supposed to win the Canada West, if not the national, hockey title. Clare Drake was supposed to depart along with fifth-year Bears like Jack Patrick, Dennis Cranston, Jeff Helland, Parie Proft, and Dave

Otto. Rumor had Stacey Wakabayashi foregoing his last year of eligibility to go to Europe with his linemate, Dennis Cranston. Darren Turner's goaltending magic was over - he had finished his five years.

Curtis Brandolini was asked if he was coming back for a last

year, possibly as team captain. "That is my intention," was his flat reply. Brando's gone now, along with the rest of the graduates, although he was in attendance at Sunday's CWUAA clincher. Wakabayashi made it back, married in the off-season, and looking happy as the proverbial pig in mud.

Drake decided not to retire, again. At the start of the year he admitted that he had been thinking about retiring last season. When I told him that Brandolini had said that Drake would retire if the Bears won the nationals in '88, he didn't reply; he just smiled a little.

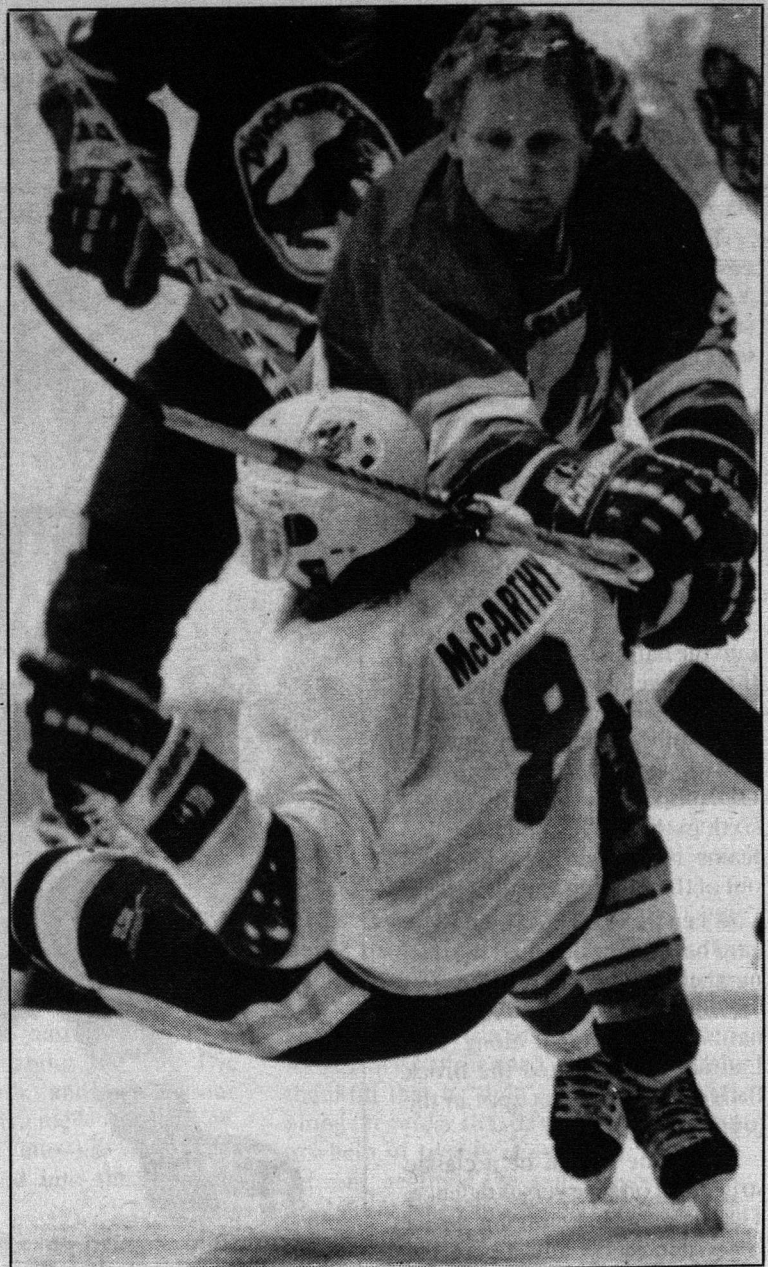
He told me, off the record, that he was "leaning" towards retiring this year, but that he didn't want it reported, because it might distract the team from hockey. I don't suppose it will distract anybody to print this now, and I expect that, win or lose, you'll hear all sorts of rumors in the summer anyways.

The Bears weren't supposed to win this year, Drake or no, but they have. Even if they don't get the national championship, getting out of the west has to count as a good year.

John Krill stood and watched last year's Canada West final in Calgary, as Drake danced with the one whut brung him, and Turner started all three games. Turner blamed himself for the loss, although nobody else did. He had to stand and watch as Krill played brilliant goal to beat Calgary this year.

Sid Cranston took last year's loss as hard as anybody. He too blamed himself. I don't have to flip back to last year's *Gateway* to remember his words in the dressing room: "I let myself down, I let the coach down, I let the team down." This year, as captain, it was less important for Cranston to score, but he chipped in goals anyways.

The Golden Bears weren't supposed to win this year. Here's hoping they come back on Sunday with a national title. Even if they don't, they've played like winners... but then again, they did that last year, too.



Doug McCarthy gets mowed over by this Calgary Dino.

Rob Galbraith

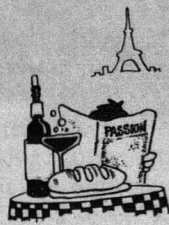
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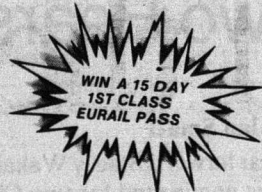


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Top Tens



Hockey

1. Alberta (3), 2. Moncton (2), 3. Wilfrid Laurier (5), 4. Calgary (4), 5. UQTR (1), 6. York (NR), 7. St. Thomas (6), 8. Brock (8), 9. Saskatchewan (7), 10. McGill (9)

Volleyball (M)

1. Calgary (1), 2. Manitoba (2), 3. York (5), 4. UBC (4), 5. Waterloo (3), 6. Laval (6), 7. Sherbrooke (7), 8. Dalhousie (8), 9. Victoria (9), 10. Alberta (10)

Volleyball (W)

1. Winnipeg (1), 2. Victoria (2), 3. Laval (4), 4. Calgary (5), 5. Manitoba (3), 6. UBC (6), 7. Alberta (7), 8. Toronto (8), 9. York (9), 10. Regina (10)

Men's Basketball (FINAL)

1. Brandon (1), 2. Victoria (2), 3. UPEI (4), 4. Western Ontario (6), 5. Toronto (3), 6. Regina (5), 7. Acadia (7), 8. British Columbia (9), 9. Guelph (9), 10. Concordia (10)

Women's Basketball (FINAL)

1. Calgary (1), 2. Victoria (3), 3. Regina (4), 4. Winnipeg (2), 5. Toronto (9), 6. UPEI (8), 7. Laval (NR), 8. Laurentian (7)

Swimming (M) (FINAL)

1. Calgary, 2. Toronto, 3. Alberta, 4. Laval, 5. McMaster, 6. Manitoba, 7. Victoria, 8. McGill, 9. British Columbia, 10. Western Ontario

Swimming (W) (FINAL)

1. Toronto, 2. Alberta, 3. McGill, 4. Montreal, 5. Calgary, 6. Laval, 7. British Columbia, 8. Manitoba, 9. Waterloo, 10. Brock

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