

The best offence is...

by Lindsay Ryall

With the loss of key players in the Golden Bear Hockey offense there has been much speculation as to the future effectiveness of the team. The Bears now face the problem of reconstructing their team while maintaining the Golden Bear winning tradition in a highly competitive league. Possible? Head coach Billy Moores thinks so.

"I think we'll have a pretty good offense in terms of trying to get five players in on the offensive play. Not just having your forwards on the offense but your defense recognizing when it's a good opportunity for them to go as well," Moores said.

Moores feels that the development of this kind of strong transition game is the only way the Bears can remain competitive. "It's very important in the game today and the game of hockey really, that you get everybody involved offensively. It's kind of a five man active concept so we've always stressed on our defenseman to look for an offensive play if they have an opportunity," Moores said.

With the gaps in offense now present, Moores believes it's time for some of his veterans to rise to the occasion and contribute to the Bear offensive cause. "We have to get more offense out of more people than we did in the last couple of years. 40 per cent of our offensive total was between Darwin Bozek, Sid Cranston and Stacey Wakabayashi. Just generally we have a lot of players that are second and third year players and those players have probably had eight or

nine goals last year. So we have to get more production out of them," Moores said.

Although the loss of key players will detract from the Bear offense, Moores believes the vacuum created will give other players an opportunity to make more substantial contributions to the team. "They'll be getting more icetime in more crucial situations. For instance powerplays, Sid and Stacey logged a lot of powerplay time last year. Now all of a sudden we have a new group in there and hopefully they'll be as efficient on the powerplay as the guys that were here in the past."

One of those players who may

be expected to show more offensive output is Al Tarasuk, who aggressively executed the Bear offense in the pre-season. "That's kind of a challenge for Al as a maturing veteran player. We need some team leadership from Al and I think that when he's playing well he's very effective and that's what we're trying to get out of him is to be consistently effective," Moores said.

Moores sees offensive stars like Adam Morrison and Doug McCarthy leading the Bear offensive attack this season. "They both handle the puck well and they do a lot of things smartly so I would

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Al Tarasuk of the Bears knocks Dan Logan of the Dinos off stride. The Bear offence is hoping to be on stride despite the loss of several veterans.

Moores is moving up

by Ajay Bhardwaj

When Clare Drake announced his resignation on July 11, all eyes turned to his assistant coach, Bill Moores. Rumors swirled around that Moores would be named the head hockey coach at the University. On August 2, Moores was officially given the position.

However, every time Moores steps behind the Bear bench, he will be scrutinized heavily, just because he is the successor to college hockey's winningest coach. "I haven't focussed on that because it's a no-win situation for me," Moores said. "Clare has a great record and for me to compete with that is ridiculous."

Although a coaching change has been made, the Bears approach to a game won't change very drastically. "Our philosophies (Drake's and Moore's) are the same," Moores said. "A lot of that has to do with the fact that we've been together so long. It wasn't only him (devising game plans)."

Moores is also quick to point out that he has done a great deal for the hockey program as well. "I recognise that I've made a contribution to this university for a number of years. I feel confident in my ability to continue to contribute," Moores said. "We have to focus on what we're going to do as a team and not get caught up in the past. The past is important only to maintain the Golden Bear tradition."

To accept the job as head coach of the Bears, Moores left his teaching position at Balwin Junior High School. However, he will continue

to be a teacher. "I consider myself a teacher first. But a good coach is a teacher. To be successful, you have to be able to coach, teach, and motivate," Moores said. "I feel I can motivate people."

Unlike many coaches, Moores is interested in his players as people first. For Moores, it's important to develop the human being. "For me, it's important to have a high level of rapport with my players. There's a fine line between getting too personal but being personally involved—off and on the ice. We're interested in the person first. Hockey is a vehicle for reaching one's potential."

Even though Moores has had the opportunity to leave the University of Alberta, he has elected to remain here. He was offered a job by the Edmonton Oilers, and had another offer from another team when he was coaching in Regina. "I'm very happy here," Moores said. "This is a very good fit for me. Dale Schulha (Athletic Director) and Gerry Glassford (Dean of Physical Education) have been great. They've made the job fit me."

His hockey team is important to him, but it is not Moores' only concern. Moores is married and has a son, who is also married. "My family is very important to me," Moores said. "With hockey season it's difficult to spend as much time with my wife. I try to spend as much time as possible with her."

Moores also has a close relationship with his assistant coaches, and

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