

Randal Smathers



It's no mystery that the Golden Bears hockey team can't draw crowds. You don't have to look past the schedule to see why.

The Bears play a pair of games against the Manitoba Bisons at home this week — but you won't find the games on any schedule. The matchup has been moved from its scheduled date of January 6 and 7. A hot rumor says that this is to make room for a trip to China later in the year.

Surprisingly, moving games after your schedule has been printed isn't the source of the problem.

The source of the problem is that — unless some more games are moved around in the sked — we'll see the Bears next home stand in mid-January. That's eight weeks without a whiff of hockey on campus (except for those Campus Rec types).

Now, I'm a pretty serious hockey freak, and I like to follow a few teams, Bears included, but following a team involves more than just reading game summaries and team scoring lists in the newspapers. Following a team involves actually watching them play from time to time.

By mid-January, I'll have forgotten what half the players look like. If the old schedule had stood, it'd still be as bad — seven weeks without a home game. You can't take breaks like that.

Witness baseball, who makes sure the fan can stay in touch by dragging out the winter meetings, so as to produce little bits and pieces of information on your favorite team — even in the off-season — or hockey's June draft, which performs the same function.

If you think that I'm being mean to the players by asking them to play during the off-season, forget it. The Bears work hard during the Christmas break.

During Christmas, the Bears even play in the Calgary Dino Invitational Annual Christmas Hockey Tournament, or what-

ever they call the stupid thing.

That's one of the Bears problems. The U of A invitational tournament happens in October, during the pre-season. It's been the same every year within memory, which around here is about five or ten years. The same problem happens every year, too. Last year the Bears took off for four weeks.

What the Bears need to do is to rotate tours with the Dinos (although how you talk our pals in Cowtown into that, I'm not sure). One year the Bears could host the Christmas tournament, the next year, the pre-season one.

However they do it, the hockey team needs to play at home during Christmas. After all, you can't expect the fans to faithfully follow your team when your mid-season break is longer than professional teams' off-seasons.

C.W.U.A.A. STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	G	F	G	A	PTS
Calgary	12	9	3	0	82	50	18		
Alberta	12	8	4	0	89	50	16		
Manitoba	12	7	3	2	65	36	16		
UBC	12	7	4	1	65	57	15		
Saskatchewan	12	7	5	0	59	58	14		
Brandon	12	3	8	1	51	87	7		
Regina	12	2	8	2	49	70	6		
Lethbridge	12	2	10	0	38	90	4		

Results:

November 25: Alberta 5 at Regina 3  
Leth. 5 at Brandon 7 (OT)  
UBC 4 at Saskatchewan 3  
Calgary 4 at Manitoba 5  
November 26: Alberta 5 at Regina 6 (OT)  
Lethbridge 4 at Brandon 7  
UBC 4 at Saskatchewan 5  
Calgary 3 at Manitoba 5

SCHEDULE:

December 2: Manitoba at Alberta  
Brandon at UBC

December 3: Manitoba at Alberta  
Brandon at UBC

SCORING LEADERS FOR THE DAVE "SWEENEY" SCHRINER TROPHY

PLAYER	GP	G	A	PTS
Bracko, C	12	21	21	42
Fioretti, C	12	15	23	38
Wakabayashi, A	12	15	17	32
McCarthy, A	12	8	23	31
Morrison, S	12	16	13	29
Dusevic, BC	12	8	20	28
Scott, M	12	14	13	27
Wheatcroft, C	12	8	16	24
Delcourt, B	12	13	10	23
Craig, A	12	14	8	22
Cranston, A	9	7	14	21
Houlder, C	12	4	17	21
Quinn, C	11	9	10	19
Brown, M	12	5	14	19
Thibodeau, A	11	2	17	19
Mantell, B	12	9	9	18
Campbell, M	12	7	11	18



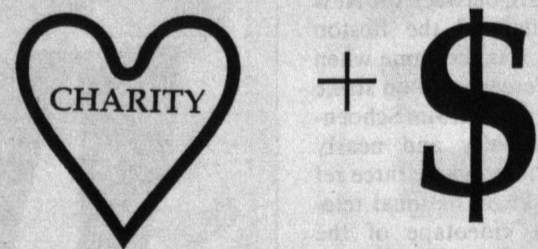
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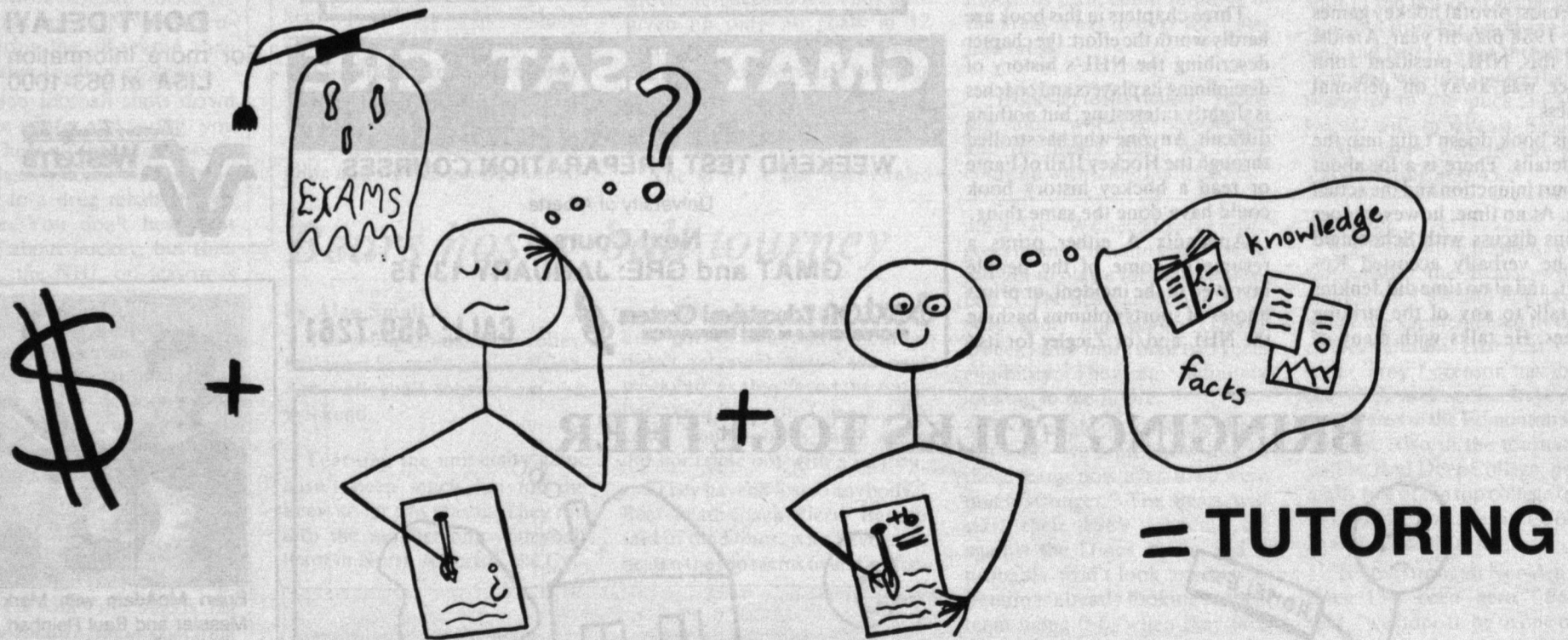


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