

Sports

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"But I don't think that our ego is too fragile to risk it against NAIT," admitted the 25 year veteran of the coaching ranks.

In the NAIT dressing room on Tuesday, things were already heating up. "This is the biggest game of the year before nationals, no question," commented Amyotte. "This game has had two years to build," chipped in goalie Kevin Stapleton. "This is where it's at, the fans, the pressure, everything."

And the game is unquestionably better prepared this year. "The three alumni that put the game together last year deserve a lot of credit," remarked Bears' center Dennis Cranston. Those three alumni were Jack Cummings, Jim Carr, and Randy Lemay.

What was only an idea became an event in a very short time. This year, the two Athletics departments have had ample time to produce an event that should be even better than last year.

Organizers have divulged that there will be from \$13,000 to \$15,000 in entertainment at the Coliseum on game day, but not a word has

been said about who has donated their services to the extravaganza. Also, a hockey trade show has been organized to run on Sunday at the Coliseum, so interested fans will no doubt get their money's worth.

The injury situation shouldn't pose a problem for either club, as both teams have had injury-plagued seasons and are growing used to it by now.

For Alberta, Stacey Wakabayashi has returned to action after knee surgery, but is not one hundred per cent. He remains questionable. The leading scorer for the Ooks last season, plus their Face Off MVP, Sid Cranston will be on the Bears' sidelines with an injured knee. Sid and brother Dennis served as poster boys for Face Off '85.

NAIT too has a couple of injuries. Ron Amyotte took a stick in the eye in practice last Tuesday and is just now skating again. He'll wear a cage on Sunday. And Murray Melnyk is nursing a charley horse and will be questionable.

One thing that is not questionable is whether or not it will be a hard-hitting affair. "There's going to be some unreal hits out there,

that's for sure," states Perry Pearn. "I'm just glad that I'm going to be behind the bench."

Both NAIT and Alberta still have their regular season schedule to worry about, however. The Bears will host the second place Calgary Dinosaurs while NAIT plays host to Red Deer College and Camrose College over the weekend.

"We've got to keep things in perspective," states Dennis Cranston. "Calgary is a much improved team and if we look past them we'll be sorry."

Bears must first deal with Dinosaurs

by Mark Spector

Amidst all the hype over the Face Off '86, the Golden Bears still have to deal with a two game series with the up and coming University of Calgary Dinosaurs. Both games begin at 7:30 at the Varsity Arena on Friday and Saturday nights.

The Dinos are an improving club that have slowly worked their way into second place in Canada West. An impressive series sweep over the U. of Saskatchewan Huskies last weekend in Calgary sends the Dinos north on a roll. At 13-7, Calgary has their sights firmly set on

second place on the CWUAA and a decent shot at the nationals through the regionals' route.

Calgary is an offense-oriented team that is last in the league in penalty minutes. And they know that this weekend will show just how good they are. "There's no question. This weekend will be the acid test for our club," admits UofC sports information director Jack Newman. "Our next eight points are big ones. We have the two games in Edmonton and then go into Saskatoon for two more."

"After that, we should know just

how good a team we are."

But first place is realistically out of reach for the Dinos. "For all intents and purposes first place is out of reach. Our main goal is to secure second place and avoid that first place team for as long as possible," states Newman.

In terms of injuries, Calgary isn't in too bad a shape, though. Mike Dobberthein is out with a knee injury and they hope to have him back for the stretch drive. Mike Kardash is questionable with a bad leg.



Jeff Helland takes a shot but is stopped by the NAIT goaltender. Helland predicts "Bears by two."

Photo: Dan Watson

Face Off '86 At A Glance

At Stake — The Ronald McDonald Cup. Alberta defends the cup after a 5-4 win in last year's game.
Site — The Northlands Coliseum
Capacity — 17,498. Face Off '85 drew over 13,000 fans.
Time — Sunday, February 2nd. Game time is 6:00 p.m.
Tickets — All tickets are \$5.00 and are available at all BASS outlets and at any McDonald's restaurants. Fifty cents from each ticket sold goes to the Ronald McDonald House Foundation. Tickets sold at McDonald's donate \$1.00.
Record versus each other — Last year Alberta defeated NAIT 3-2 in an exhibition game and then 5-4 in Face Off '85. This year Alberta has defeated NAIT twice in exhibition play, 6-5 (double overtime) and 13-3.
Coverage — CJSR-88.5 FM. Play by play with Blaine Ostapovich. Pregame 5:45 p.m.

University of Alberta Golden Bears NAIT Ooksiks

Team — The University of Alberta Golden Bears.

Colors — The Golden Bears will be wearing their home whites with green and gold trim.

League — Canada West University Athletic Association.

Record — Alberta is in first place in their league with a record of 18-2.

National Ranking — Number '1' in Canada.

Coaches — Head Coach - Clare Drake; Assistants - Jack Cummings, Kevin Primeau.

Face Off Vets — Alberta has 13 players that played in last year's game.

Team — The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Ooksiks.

Colors — The Ooksiks will be wearing their road blues with gold and white trim.

League — Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference.

Record — NAIT is in first place in their league with a record of 15-3.

National Ranking — Number '1' in Canada.

Coaches — Head Coach - Perry Pearn; Assistants - Paul St. Cyr, John Phelan, Darrel Bokenfohr, and Rick Carriere.

Face Off Vets — NAIT has 13 players that played in last year's game.

FRI. JANUARY 31 1986



GOLDEN BEAR HOCKEY

Vs. U of Regina
7:30 pm Varsity Arena

Sat. February 1
Vs. U of Regina
7:30 pm Varsity Arena

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SAT. FEBRUARY 1 1986



BEAR & PANDA BASKETBALL



Vs. U of Saskatchewan
1:00 & 3:00 pm
Main Gym
Win a waterbed

FACE OFF '86

Sunday, February 2
6:00 pm

NORTHLAND COLISEUM

Tickets \$5.00 Available at: Bass & The Door

