

Bears face York in sudden death semifinal

by Alan Small

The Bears may have drawn the easy team in the tournament, the York Yeomen, but the suddenly sixth ranked club are the defending champions.

The Yeomen earned a wild card berth into the Ontario Universities Athletic Association (OUAA) playoffs because of their 10-1 interdivisional record. This despite their 7-5 loss two weeks ago to the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks in the OUAA playoffs. The Yeomen won't exactly roar into the nationals as they dropped three of their last four games. The only reason they are still alive is due to the final four format which allows two berths from the OUAA. York is currently ranked sixth in the CIAU, and have two teams that have been knocked out of the running ahead of them.

When they received their wild-card berth, they defeated the then number one ranked Trois-Rivieres Patriotes 4-2 to qualify for the national tournament along with Laurier who defeated the Brock Badgers for the other spot in the tournament.

The game should be a classic struggle of offence versus defence. The Bears are averaging seven goals per game and boast the CIAU's top point getters, Stacey Wakabayashi and Doug McCarthy. York, on the other hand, has no scorers among the CIAU's top 28.

At a tournament in Calgary over the Christmas holidays, the Bears faced the Yeomen and handled them easily by a score of 7-2. Since then, the Yeomen have slipped an ace from their sleeve. Fifth year goalie Mark Applewhaite has led York to two national titles and three appearances in his career.

One of those national titles Applewhaite backstopped was a 3-2 victory over the Golden Bears four years ago. Applewhaite smothered the Bears like a planket, while Yeoman teammate Don McLaren scored all three York goals in the first period. Applewhaite also was the goalie of



Rob Glasgow takes a shot against the fourth ranked Dinos. The Bears face sixth ranked York today at 4 pm.

decision in York's win over Western Ontario last season in the CIAU final.

Applewhaite has had injury problems of late however, as he missed their 7-5 loss to Laurier and was listed as day-to-day for their game against the Patriotes.

Applewhaite, according to Bear head coach Clare Drake, is the major reason why the Yeomen are still in the hunt for the national championship. With the tournament's sudden death format, a goalie with the reputation of being hot for the big games is a variable that must be taken into account.

"I really don't like the sudden death format," said Drake after their win over the Calgary Dinosaurs last weekend.

The other semi-final pits

OUAA champion, the tournament's third seed, Wilfrid Laurier against the Atlantic winner, the Moncton Aigles Bleus. Moncton last won the national championship in 1982, under present Quebec Nordiques coach Jean Perron.

This semi-final looks to be a tight, defensive struggle, since Moncton boasts the country's top netminder, Joel Drolet, who has put up a 2.40 GAA in 21 games this season. His counterpart, Laurier's Rob Dopson, has a 2.85 GAA in 25 starts.

GOAL POSTS: Both games will be telecast by TSN, with the Alberta-York game starting today at 4 pm (MST) with the Moncton-Laurier matchup to follow at 7 pm (MST).

Two Bears up for awards

by Alan Small

Bear forward Stacey Wakabayashi is nominated for two CIAU individual trophies in this, his final weekend in a Golden Bear uniform.

Wakabayashi, who led the CIAU in scoring, is one of three players nominated for the Sullivan Trophy, which goes every year to CIAU's most outstanding player.

Mark Mahon of the Concordia Stingers and Wayne Morrow of the St. Mary's Huskies are also nominated.

Wakabayashi is also looking

to repeat as winner of the Cooper Canada Limited Award, which goes to the CIAU's most sportsmanlike player. Ken Minello of the Windsor Lancers and Mike Volpe of the St. Mary's Huskies are also up for the award.

Bear head coach Clare Drake is also up for the CIAU's coach of the year award, against York's Graham Wise and Moncton's Len Doucet.

No Bears are nominated for the rookie of the year award. Manitoba goalie Nick Sereggela, Laurier's Peter Choma, and Moncton's Eric Galarneau are nominated.

Ajay Bhardwaj



Bears want it this year

champs. And the Bears were first to admit that this would be a re-building season.

The Bears lost Turner and the goal-tending duties fell on the shoulders of Krill and Blair MacGregor. Both were considered suspect. But they split the year and the Bears finished first in Canada West and second in goals against average. And then Krill silenced his critics once and for all when he slammed the doors shut on the Calgary Flame look-alikes.

They also lost Parie Proft and Brent Severyn (to the Quebec Nordique farm team). Suddenly they needed an offensive defenceman and a dominating hitter, too. Gord Thibodeau, who wore more ice packs than he knew what to do with, supplied the offense, scoring three goals and 25 assists in 25 games. And Ian Herbers, ex of the Swift Current Broncos, became the big guy to clear the front of the net.

When the Bears lost role players like Todd Stokowski, Curtis Brandolini, Jack

Patrick, and Jeff Helland, things looked even worse. But throw in Dave Hingley, Marty Yewchuk, Brett Cox, and Todd Gordon and you have the same amount of heart as last year.

Maybe the biggest addition came in the form of left winger Doug McCarthy. With Dennis Cranston and Dave Otto gone, so was a lot of the Bear firepower. McCarthy stepped in to play beside Sid Cranston and Stacey Wakabayashi (both of whom are graduating) and piled up 71 points to finish second in Canada West scoring.

Other Bears played their hearts out (as did the Dinosaurs) as if this was their last game in green and gold uniforms. Guy Paradis was double-shifted, playing his regular spot on defence and then up on left wing to give the Bears more size. "Anything to win," he said. "We wanted this one badly."

Dan Wiebe, who scored the goal that won it and then took a spear from Dinosaur captain Terry Jones (I've heard that name

somewhere) right in front of referee Tom Hansen. Adam Morrison, who seems to play better if there's more at stake, scored the goal which put the Bears back into it.

"I must have 80 shots and finally one went in," he exaggerated.

However, when the Bears needed a goal to put the Dinosaurs six feet under, it was fitting Stacey Wakabayashi beat Peter Fry on a breakaway. Wakabayashi is a Golden Bear through and through. Don't forget assistant captain Howie Draper, one of the smallest players, played his feistiest series ever, butting heads with bigger Dinosaur players.

Don't forget Rob Glasgow, who played a tough series wearing a knee brace, and Wes Craig, who scored the winner on Friday and Grant Couture who stayed with every player who came his way and you wonder why this team needed three games? "They're a good club," somebody said of the Dinosaurs. But not quite good enough.

Now the Bears need two wins to be crowned national champions. Maybe next year there won't be any ex-Bears, like Darwin Bozcek, who will say "it was a year late."