

Injuries are Bears' concern

by Mark Spector

For the Golden Bears hockey team it is not just another day — it is day 11 of an 18 day layoff between games. In exactly one week Alberta will face off against the number one ranked team in the CIAU tournament hoping for what will have to be termed an upset should they win.

With this week's national rankings Alberta falls to a season low tenth in Canada, with six of the clubs that they trail battling it out in three regional playdowns this weekend.

In one regional best of three, the Canada West champions Calgary Dinosaurs travel to Trois Rivières, while in the other two, Dalhousie plays in the home of defending national champions York, and number one ranked Moncton plays host to wildcard Wilfred Laurier.

If you are an Alberta fan, you have to be cheering for UQTR to win over Calgary, as the Dinosaurs defeated the Bears on all four occasions during the regular season. And after beating a Saskatchewan club that upset Alberta in the Canada West semis, should the Dinosaurs make it back here for the nationals they will no doubt be a very confident bunch.

It might be nip and tuck for Calgary, however, as they are in some injury trouble after playing the two biggest teams in Canada West in the Huskies and Manitoba.

If Moncton does the expected and beats Laurier, the Golden Bears will play them in the first game of the tourney on Thursday night at 7:30.

York is the odds on favorite to defeat Dalhousie, and that would be just fine with the Bears. You'll remember that it was the Yeomen that bested Alberta 3-2 in the national final a year ago, and per-

haps a revenge motive is just what the doctor ordered for a Golden Bear team that may be sorely understaffed come March 20th.

As of right now Curtis Brandolini, who plays leftwing on the Bears' number one line, is questionable with a possible stress fracture in his spine. He will go for a bone-scan on Friday, but with an injury of that serious nature, coach Drake will have to be careful in inserting him back into the lineup.

And the guy that was slated in to replace Brandolini should he not be able to play, Bill Ansell, came up with a 3rd degree knee ligament sprain yesterday in practice. He isn't supposed to skate for a week, but you can bet he'll try.

Probably the most costly injury for Alberta is to CWUAA Rookie of the Year defenseman Eric Thurston, who has a pinched nerve in his back. He will undergo tests to find out the extent of his injury this week.

Defenseman Steve Cousins should return to action for the Bears in time for next weekend after missing three weeks with a thigh injury.

But there's not a lot that Alberta can do to avoid the boredom of three solid weeks of practice. "If anything we're streamlining our workouts," said assistant coach Jack Cummings. "We've already got all of our systems down so there's not much new that you can do in that area."

Both goalies have their own ways of dealing with the extra practice time. "You have to keep up your level of intensity," relates John Krill. "You've got to keep in the right frame of mind or else you're liable to get hurt."

Other goalie, other option: "I think the best idea is just to relax. Practice has to be intense, but I like

to just stay cool and stop the pucks," said Darrent Turner, who off the ice is one of the most laid back people you'll ever meet.

"By Friday I hope to be at the 90 percent level of my game, and at the peak by Monday. Then Tuesday and Wednesday we'll just sort of keep sharp."

Both goalies agree that not knowing who will start in the all-important opening game is a plus during the preparation period.

"I'd rather have it like this," says Turner, "this way you don't get too worked up or take the starting role onto your own shoulders. It keeps us looser."

"Whoever proves the best over these weeks will get the start. This way both of us will be sharp," said Krill, who would no doubt be starting if the game had been right after the Saskatchewan series.

With Drake absent from practice due to illness, Cummings and assistant Kevin Primeau ran the workout Tuesday, a hard one at that.

Cummings took time out at the end of practice to tell the team about a couple of other teams that have gone from a wildcard position to national champions, a feat that Alberta would dearly love to



Action from the Bears last game, vs. Saskatchewan. Today is Day 11 of Alberta's 18 day countdown to the CIAU's.

photo: Fernell Tarnowski

duplicate.

Says Turner, "We figure we're ranked the lowest in the tournament, so let's just go for it and see what happens."

And in exactly a week we shall see what happens.

Bear Facts — The Bear Bash is set for Friday the 21st in the **Butterdome** (also known as **BUB** - the Big Ugly Building) with tickets at \$8 advance,

\$10 at the door. The three bands will be **Voice**, **The Tim Feehan Band**, and **Kids Wanna Rock**. Apparently Athletics courted **Chilliwick** and **Doug and the Slugs**, but couldn't land the headliners... Tickets for the CIAU games will be on sale all next week at **SUB**, **CAB**, and **BUB**, from 11:30 to 1:30, and **HUB** at that same time Monday and Tuesday.

Slam-dunk for the Bookstore

by Barry Willing

During the week of March 24th, Campus Recreation will host the 3rd Annual Bookstore Basketball Tournament in the Main Gym of the U of A.

The Bookstore Basketball Tournament is a 5 on 5 basketball tournament jointly sponsored by Campus Recreation, who looks after the organizational details, and the University of Alberta Bookstore, who donates the prizes.

The difference between this tournament and the regular Campus Recreation basketball is the inclusion of intercollegiate basketball players. Each team that enters may have on its roster one intercollegiate basketball player. One of the major reasons for the tournament is to allow intercollegiate players and Campus Recreation participants to compete together and get acquainted with one another.

There will be an 18 team limit for

this year's tournament - 12 men's teams and 6 women's teams. Entries will be taken on a first come basis. Teams entering after the places in the tournament have been filled will be placed on a waiting list. There will also be a \$25.00 entry fee to cover the cost of officials.

The entry deadline is on Wednesday, March 19th at 1:00 p.m. at the Campus Recreation Green Office.



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