

## cole's notes

### Goalie decision a tough one

Leon Abbott is in the unenviable position of having to cut, in the very near future, one excellent goaltender from his roster.

He has said that he doesn't believe in carrying three goalies over the course of a season, so either Dale Henwood, Craig Gunther, or Jack Cummings will have to go. But which one?

Dale Henwood is a notoriously slow starter, and this year seems no exception. He has been the least impressive of the three in camp up to now, but he has proven himself to be invaluable in pressure situations, which is why Clare Drake chose him to go virtually all the way in the playoffs last season. He had a remarkable 1.67 goals-against average in the post-season.

Craig Gunther seems to have spent his career with the Bears playing behind someone else. It used to be Barry Richardson; then it was Richardson and Henwood; last year, Gunther had his best-ever season, appearing in 10 of Bears' 24 league starts, and his 2.70 average was second best in the loop. In the first half of the schedule, Gunther was easily the steadier of the two Alberta netminders.

Enter newcomer Jack Cummings, a former junior star who was denied eligibility last year by the CIAU because he played some pro hockey the previous season. He has been sharp in workouts and in intrasquad games, and is anxious to play good quality hockey again after spending a so-so season with Barrhead in an intermediate league.

The biggest factor in Cummings' favor, aside from talent of course, is his five remaining years of eligibility, while both Henwood and Gunther would likely be gone after this season.

There are other considerations involved. Henwood and Gunther were unspectacular but steady in the Alberta nets last winter, whereas Cummings, possibly due to lack of desire to play hockey at that level, brings a "hot-and-cold" reputation with him from last year. Cummings was previously a fine junior goalie who just happened to play for the WCJHL doormat, the Vancouver Nats.

Gunther and Henwood have always worked tremendously hard at their craft in practices, and Clare Drake had always been impressed by hard work. Drake might have found emotion creeping into the decision, if it were his to make, but to Leon Abbott, they're all new faces, so with an eye to the future, the decision to possibly release a three or four-year veteran will be easier for him than it might have been for his predecessor.

Should he cut a veteran who wants very much to play well in his graduating year? Should he cut an outstanding prospect who might decide not to come back next year after being twice denied the chance to play? Should he cut a proven performer on the basis of a bad start in training camp?

The decision may not be as tough as it seems. No matter which two goalies remain, the Bears will almost certainly have some of the best goaltending in the circuit, and that has to take a little of the pressure off the coach.

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Do you suppose there's any truth to the rumor that the Golden Bears have offered Ross Barros the Faculty Club and half of the UAB budget to play for another season with the club?

No sooner had Barros arrived back from Phoenix Roadrunners Tuesday, than speculation started that he might just turn up in a Bears uniform. Gawd knows the Green and Gold could use a defenceman of Barros' talent and experience to anchor an all-rookie blueline staff.

Barros showed up at Bears' practise Tuesday, but did not work out with the team.

Abbott said he talked with last year's all-Canadian defenceman yesterday, but refused to speculate on the possibility of his returning with the club. Abbott's official position was "No comment" although he admitted, "There's a chance. Not a good one, but a chance."

Barros will likely be looking for a shot at the WHA Oilers before he makes any kind of decision regarding the Bears, and University.

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The rookie defencemen Abbott has now are improving swiftly. After a few minutes of quizzing about Barros and nothing else, the coach pointed to the defence corps and said "These are the kids you should be patting on the back - they're coming along."

How well they're coming along will be tested for the first time when the Bears play in Camrose Tuesday against the national college champion Camrose Lutheran College Vikings, in their first exhibition encounter.



## Bears need win to stay alive

The Golden Bears' string of "crucial" games started immediately after they dropped their season opener to the Saskatchewan Huskies, since two losses over an eight game schedule might normally leave a team out in the cold.



But this year, it's a different story. Bad teams are beating good teams and good teams are playing poorly. Nothing is sane in the WIFL, with the result that, after five weeks of play, four of the league's five teams are very much in the running for first place, with only the Manitoba Bisons out of the picture.

Since their opening game loss, Bears have won a crucial game in Winnipeg, lost a crucial decision in Calgary, won a crucial bout with UBC last week, and are now bound for the crucial-est contest of all - against the league-leading Huskies, in Saskatoon.

Lose it, and not even the tightness of the league standings will save them from almost certain elimination from the playoffs. Win it, and they could move into a tie for top spot. It's as simple as that.

"It's THE game ... It's the season," says Jim Donlevy. "If we are going to beat Saskatchewan, we will have to play errorless football."

Errors and poor execution cost Bears in their home loss against the Huskies; but Donlevy feels that, personnel-wise, things have pretty well fallen into place after some initial juggling of players and positions.

## Track 'n Field club managers?

Two managers are urgently needed for the track and field club: one for women and one for men. Managers do not necessarily have to attend practices but must be available for road trips, booking hotels, handing out uniforms, and attending tournaments. For more information or if you are interested contact Gabor Simonyi.

## Women hockey stars wanted

Any women interested in playing ice hockey this season should contact Roberta Johnson at 479-0953 in the evenings.

## "Hen Hustle" should be egg-citing

The Flag Football season came to a finish this past week. The Monday nite champs were Recreation over Mac Hall (12-0) and the Wednesday nite winners were St. Johns over MLS (14-7). Our thanks go out to all who participated!

Thanks also to the weatherman for the great tennis weather. Final standings there have St. John's first with 46 points and Education and Science in second and third place respectively. The next tennis bout will be on November 22 at the Mayfield Tennis Courts.

The Intramural Free Throw Contest was run on Mon. Oct. 6 in the West Gym.

Nancy Hulbert won the free throw contest and Dianne Chisholm was the "golf" champion.

A reminder to all those "Hams" looking for a Thanksgiving turkey that the "Hen hustle" takes place this Thursday at 5 p.m. at the outdoor track.

Unfortunately canoeing was cancelled due to cold weather.

Lacrosse (instruction and games) will be held Thursday, Oct. 16 at Lister Hall Field. Come on out and learn something about the game.

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