

## Morrison '88 MVP

by Ajay Bhardwaj

It's a long way from the rinks of the CIAU to the rinks of the National Hockey League. But Tuesday night at Face Off '88, Adam Morrison took one large step towards the big time. Morrison scored once, added three assists, and was named the U of A's MVP.

An enthusiastic crowd of about 8000 at Northlands Coliseum looked on as the Golden Bears blasted the NAIT Ooksiks 8-2.

"Hopefully I'll get another shot at that (to play for the New Jersey Devils), it didn't work out this year... but maybe in a couple of years after I get my education..." said Morrison.

That Morrison was the best Golden Bear at Face Off was confirmed by Bears' Head Coach Clare Drake. "Adam played very well—he hasn't been playing well lately, but he certainly bounced back tonight,"

said Drake. Though hesitant to single out a Bears player for his contribution, the Ooks' coach Perry Brown did say that "Adam Morrison played well."

Morrison picked up his three assists in the Bears' first period blitzkrieg as they stormed out to a 5-1 lead. He scored his lone goal on the powerplay early in the second period. "I have a couple of friends on NAIT and I wanted to do well against them," said Morrison of one of his motivational factors. He cited the fact that "NAIT is a cross-town rival... we wanted to win this for our fans," as the other one.

Morrison and the Bears are used to playing on smaller ice surfaces and he said that he enjoyed playing on the large surface at the Coliseum. "It's great coming here, you've got a lot of room to make complex plays," said the 5 foot 10 inch, 185

pound center/left winger.

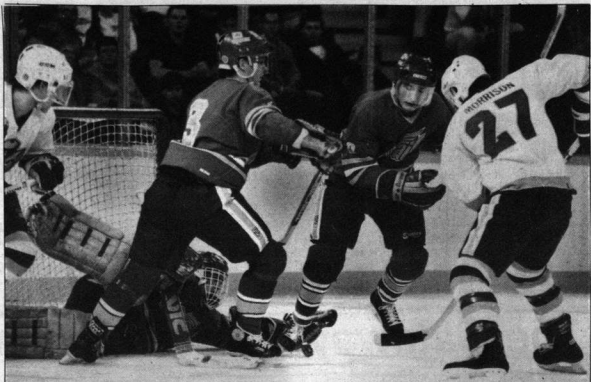
This Face Off game was Morrison's first. A recreation admin, major who played junior hockey with the Victoria Cougars of the WHL, the freshman was expecting a hard hitting affair with the Ooks. "The (older) players had told us before

hand that it (would be) a heavy hitting game. We were all prepared for it," he said. "We tried to combat it with our hard hitting."

Morrison scored over 100 points in his final year with Victoria, and currently is eighth on the Bears in scoring with 13 goals and 17 assists in 27 games. Certainly he has a

bright future with the Bears and, perhaps, in the National Hockey League.

**BEARTRACKS:** MVP honorable mentions go to Bears' goalie Darren Turner and forward Bret Walter (2 goals)... forward Murray Melnyk was NAIT's MVP as he scored both of their goals.



Face Off MVP Adam Morrison (27) bangs away at loose puck while NAIT's Bill Davidson (3) and Craig Cripps watch.

## BEARS NUKE OOKS

### — win 8-2 blowout

by Alan Small  
Bears 8 NAIT 2

The NAIT Ooksiks had a bad first period and it cost them dearly. For all intents and purposes, Face Off '88 was over 6:20 into the game.

That was when Bear winger Stacey Wakabayashi dribbled the puck through the legs of NAIT goalie Gates Genereux off a breakaway pass from linemate Dennis Cranston.

The goal, the Bears third of the game, was preceded by markers by Sid Cranston and Bret Walter, who both beat a shaky Genereux on the glove side.

The Bears were able to withstand the Ooks heavy hitting early in the game, as the Ooks came out throwing their bodies, ready for Bear. In past Face Offs, both teams tended to retaliate after receiving a hard hit from the opposition. This year, the Golden Bears participated in none of that.

"We have to learn to be disciplined," Bear head coach Clare Drake said, "once you get into playoff games you can't afford to retaliate."

"It's hard to hold your head when they're running you." — Sid Cranston

"It's hard to hold your head when they're running you," Bear forward Sid Cranston said.

The Bears kept taking the play to the Ooksiks, as they scored two more goals before the period ended. Rob Glasgow's first and Walter's second goal of the game made the score 5-0 until NAIT's Murray Melnyk scored on a nifty tip in off a Darren Schmidt pass with two seconds remaining in the first period.

"He (Genereux) struggled early

for them," Drake said, "You've got to make the opposition goalie stop the pucks." Genereux was pulled by NAIT coach Perry Pearn after the first frame when he let in three soft goals. He was replaced by Bill Cline who made some big steps in the third period, keeping the game from being even more of a laugh. After the first twenty minutes, the outcome of the game was not in doubt. It was the second time in a row that the Bears have blown out the Ooksiks.

"If you look at our roster, you would see at least 12 guys that have played three, four years," Bear goalie Darren Turner, who is in his final year of eligibility himself. "If

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you look at NAIT's roster, I think they have a lot of new guys. It makes a big difference."

The Bears added two more goals in the second period. The first by Bear player-of-the-game Adam Morrison came during the power play. A slick two-line pass from Sid Cranston sent the freshman forward on a breakaway. Morrison finished the play off with a perfect shot to the low stick side of Cline. The other goal came from Dennis Cranston 38 seconds later off a centering pass from Stacey Wakabayashi.

Melnyk scored NAIT's final goal early in the third, which Bear goalie John Krill (who replaced Turner at the beginning of the period) should have had. Bear grinder Jeff Hlland ended the scoring.

It was Morrison's sweet goal in the second and the three assists the first that earned him the Bear player of the game. It was his first time he's shown some of the dazzle that was expected of him early in the season.

"Adam's got a lot of ability and he's had trouble getting on track," Drake said, "he certainly started to play well tonight."

NAIT coach Pearn hopes his team doesn't take the loss too hard.

"We may be disappointed ourselves a little bit tonight," Pearn said, "but that doesn't end our

season. In the end, when you analyze it, it still is just an exhibition game."

It isn't the end of the season for the Golden Bears by any stretch of the imagination. Friday night sees the Calgary Dinosaurs come to town, three points up on the Bears with five games to play. The Bears also have Saskatchewan breathing down their necks so the Bears cannot afford another loss this season, or they would risk losing home ice advantage for a playoff series.

**CROSS CHECKS:** One just has to look at the injury list to see how physical a game Face Off was. Defenceman **Howie Draper** went out in the second period with a strained knee and will be lost to the Bears for three weeks. Also freshman **Todd Gordon** is finished for the season with a dislocated shoulder, while winger **Todd Stokowski** pulled a muscle in his shoulder and is questionable for Friday's game. Luckily for the Bears, defenceman **Brent Severyn** will play on Friday after missing both of the Brandon games to finish his suspension. The Calgary game starts at 7:00 Friday in Varsity Arena.

### Bears 8 NAIT 2



#### 1st period

1. Alta. S. Cranston 28 (Brandolini, Paradisi) 4:09
2. Alta. Walter 1 (Morrison, Proft) 7:13
3. Alta. Wakabayashi 16 (D. Cranston) 13:40
4. Alta. Glasgow 19 (Morrison, Paradisi) 15:04
5. Alta. Walter 2 (Morrison, Draper) 19:16
6. NAIT Melnyk 15 (Schmidt, Powell) 19:58, pp

**Penalties:** Brandolini, A.; 29, Courte, A.; 9:30, Bosse, N., Curran, N.; S. Cranston, A., Brandolini, A.; 12:26, Craig, A.; 19:38.

#### 2nd period

7. Alta. Morrison 14 (S. Cranston, Proft) 6:10, pp

Sid's brother Dennis, the Bears captain, noted the difference between this and previous Face Offs in the lack of tight checking.

"We got ahead of them early and it kind of took their enthusiasm away," he said. He added a goal of his own on a feed from Stacey Wakabayashi.

"Stacey put it right on my stick, and it went in as I got hit from behind," said Cranston. "You like to get those when you get hammered from behind like that."

One of the best features of Face Off is that the coaches can dress their entire lineups. This gave a lot of younger Bears a rare chance to play on a veteran team in a big game.

Forward Dan Wiebe is in his first year from the Fairview Monarchs of the South Peace Hockey League, and likes the bigger crowd.

"Coming from a small town, we'd get 200 fans a game out. It's a big change. It's interesting," he said. He played part of the game on the first line, which is also out of the usual, and credited the older players with "helping me on the bench a lot." He didn't look out of place.

When the puck is dropped, everyone just goes... playing on adrenaline. — Jeske

Wiebe also shone in the Viking Cup at Christmas, getting the winning goal against the Finnish squad.

Ross Jeske is another first-year Bear, although he had two years in Red Deer College. He also enjoyed playing in front of the crowd of about 8000 student bodies.

"It was great, it really gets you pumped. When the puck is dropped everyone just goes... playing on adrenaline," said Jeske.

The pro-Bear crowd even impressed the veterans, as both Cranstons credited the crowd for some of the team's early jump. "It was great!" enthused Sid. "The U of A really came out tonight."

"It'll be nice to see the same support for the team on Friday when the Dinos come to Varsity pond. Ask anybody — "It's the biggest game of the year."

Randal Smathers

### How to win a showcase game

The Golden Bears hockey team could have been forgiven for looking past Tuesday night's Face Off '88 matchup with the NAIT Ooksiks. After all, Canada West leaders Calgary are in town Friday night for the game which will probably decide the division title. All that was at stake against NAIT was that overhyped school pride; bragging rights for the city and a pretty banner pale when compared to first place and home ice for the playoffs.

The Bears could have put in a token effort under the circumstances... but they didn't, as they turned the Ooksiks into Oop-niks. Defenceman Brent Severyn said it simply: "It's a showcase game. We have to go out there and win."

The Bears, buoyed by a surprisingly pro-university crowd, hit the "Piks early and often, leading 5-0 in the first period, on their way to an 8-2 romp. The victory was special for Sid Cranston, who played with the Ooks in '84-85.

"It's sweeter when you beat your old teammates," he said. "It's hard to face them when you lose, especially when you're at the University of Alberta; we're supposed to beat them. With that loss two years ago (NAIT won Face Off '86, 7-5) we have to prove ourselves every game now."

Cranston opened the scoring four minutes into the game. "It was a great feeling," he said. "We picked the puck up, Brando (Curis Brandolini) dropped it to me on the blue line, I came cruising in... it was there... I could feel it all the way." That goal started the onslaught which ended the game before the first period was over.