

# SPORTS

## Bears host UBC to start season



Photo Brent Jeffrey

Hopefully the Bears defence will move people from the front of the net without taking crosschecking penalties against UBC

by Andrew Watts

The 1981-82 version of the Golden Bears hockey team is all ready to start their season of hockey against the UBC Thunderbirds tomorrow night. The team consists of more veterans this year than last and this should help the Bears in the fight for one of two playoff spots in the tough Canada West Conference.

Last year the Bears missed the playoffs for the first time in 18

years but this has had more of a positive effect if any on the players this year in wanting to re-establish the Golden Bear winning tradition.

"We have talked about this quite a bit and I think it is a motivational factor for the players," said coach Clare Drake.

The main problem, as the coaches saw it, with last years team was that they lacked the consistency game in and game out

which is crucial to University hockey. Clare Drake and his assistants, Bill Moores and Bob Day, have tried to instill this 'winning intensity' in the players at practice so they can maintain a high level of consistency throughout this year.

"In a 24 game schedule, every game is important and you must be at your very best for each one, it's a real dogfight," stresses Drake.

One area where this consistency must be established early is with the veterans. It's an old cliché but the veterans have to lead. They have to establish a pattern for the younger players to follow. This is crucial if the Bears hope to do something big this year.

"Last year, our veteran players were not as competitive

and consistent as we would have liked. Hopefully we will be better this year," commented Clare Drake.

Last year the team lacked the ability to finish off an opponent when they had the chance or to hang to a lead they had built up. In four or five games the Bears were unable to hang on and went on to eventually lose the game. This killer instinct has to be prevalent in this years team. They cannot let an opponent get off the hook. Obviously they will need a strong scoring punch up front which can go for the jugular when it is necessary. The defence will have to be able to hold off and get out of pressure when it is applied by other clubs. But the coaches feel that the team is ahead of where last years team was at this point in the year. Clare Drakes summation?

"I'm fairly optimistic and positive about the team, we've made a few changes in coaching for the better and I think we'll be challenging for first place all year."

The coach went on to say that this years team has a very positive attitude and one which is open and eager to learn. Well, there isn't a better coach in Canada to learn from than Clare Drake. The other teams in the Canada West Conference had better watchout, the Bears are back and they're hungry.

Following is a more in depth look at the individual areas on the Golden Bears Hockey team.

### How we stack up

#### Coaching.

This is one area where the Golden Bears do not have to worry about. Clare Drake is probably the best university coach in Canada and he has 21 years experience in coaching hockey.

His assistants, Bill Moores and Bob Day are both very able and are of a great asset to the team.

#### Defence.

The defence this year is laden with rookies and is of primary concern to the coaching staff. Veterans Wade Campbell and Tim Krug must play well early and help out newcomers, Brad Helfrich, Gary Marshall and Rick Carriere. The Bears are looking forward to the return of Dan Peacocke to defensive ranks. Dan is doing some graduate studies and won't join the team until mid November although coach Drake does not expect him to play much if at all before Christmas. They rush the puck well but need improvement in handling the puck in their own end, how fast they improve and to what extent will be a determining factor in how well the Bears do this year.

#### Forwards.

The forward lines contain six rookies this year and are faster and quicker than last years set. They work hard every shift and never let up on an opponent. This is crucial, they must maintain this intensity throughout the year in order to win. The coaching staff are looking to veterans Joel Elliot and Ace Brimcombe to have big years offensively.

Drake says they're not as fast as the Huskies forwards but they will still surprise a few goalies before it's all over.

#### Goal.

The Bears will have two veterans in goal to start the season. Both Terry Clark and Denis Potvin are returning and the years experience can do nothing but help them this year. Both goalies have good reflexes and challenge the shooter well. If they can hang in there until the rookie defence in front of them matures then the University of Alberta Golden Bears will be very tough to beat in 1981-82.



## sports

This sports column was entirely unexpected by myself but was prompted by a letter which appeared in the Gateway on Tuesday last.

The letter attacked the Golden Bear sports teams of the University of Alberta. Being the sports editor and a person who tries to generate some hype concerning campus sports I feel it necessary to offer my opinion on the subject. Also being the editor in sports I can get this rebuttal in the paper right away without having to wait in line with the letters. The power of the well-positioned.

The people who wrote the letter made some rather disturbing, untrue and very nasty comments about campus sports. The least of which is the statement suggesting that the athletes of our teams perform the duties of ambassadors to our school by "swilling beer and pinching bottoms." I think I need not rebuke the allegation, printing the silly-ass comment is rebuttal enough.

The letter further expresses the wish for more funds to be allocated to "intermurals." Gee guys, the UAB spends lots of money on "intermurals" I think you two meant intramurals. And you're supposed to be english majors. Tch, tch. I'm not even on the debating team too.

Which brings me to that desire that was implied in the letter to send our debating team to other schools in the country. Hey, I'm all for it. You may be surprised to find out that I, the sports editor, am an Arts student and enjoy a good debate. If you really believe in sending the debating team, instead of trying to be badly sarcastic, why don't you get off your butts and do something about it?

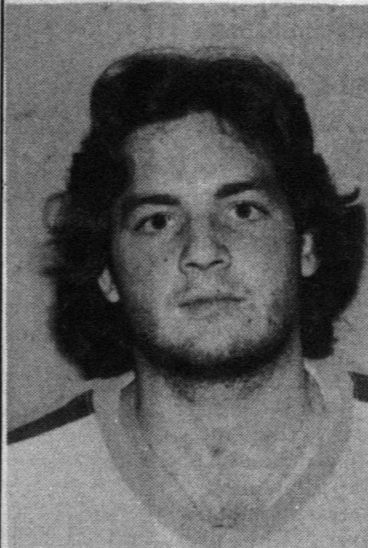
Now I would like to mention the one reasonable sentiment expressed in the article. You seem to realize the fact that many of the smaller less important teams suffer from lack of funding. This is true, they do. I would like to see more money spent on these teams. Your mistake here is in assuming that these teams are deemed "less important" by the UAB. These teams are deemed less important by the students of the university and so do not get the attendance that the hockey and football and basketball teams get. How many volleyball games have you been to lately? Perhaps if more students showed an interest in these types of teams the UAB would concentrate more on their need for greater funding and more money might be found to give to them. Is the problem here with the UAB or with student apathy? Think about it.

Finally I bring up the statement that was made in the opening paragraph of the letter. You stated that you had spent a month searching for a Golden Bear football fan. I admire your diligence but you could have saved yourselves a month of searching by coming to the Gateway office sooner, you would have found one sitting right behind the sports desk.

Thanks for the letter and keep 'em coming. I want to hear more about what students think of campus sports, kinda makes my job worthwhile.

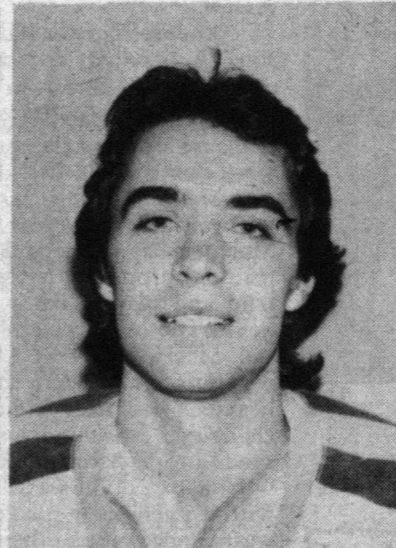
## Meet the Bears

Brad Helfrich



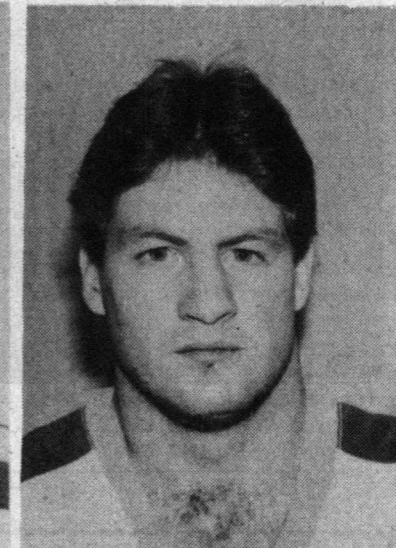
Brad is first year defence-ment who, according to Drake has good skating ability and handles the puck well. He has had good camp and should help the Bears considerably. His only problem appears to be that he sometimes forgets he is a defenceman and gets caught up ice. If Brad regains his memory soon then he'll be invaluable to the team.

Ron Parent



Ron is one of the six rookie-forwards this year. "Ron is an excellent centre, who always knows where his teammates are, so he is a good playmaker, he also has an excellent shot," comments his coach. Ron obviously used those abilities in pre-season scoring six goals and eight assists in ten games. Ron is the type of forward the Bears need, able to score and score regularly.

Rick Carriere



Another rookie defenceman. Rick has good size and is very enthusiastic and willing to learn. He has shown improvement over the exhibition games but still has a ways to go both offensively and defensively. Rick gives the Bears size and muscle at the blueline to keep opposing forwards looking when they cross it. If they don't then they had better take out accident insurance right now.