

# Bears face number one Moncton in semi-final

by Mark Spector

The Final Four of Canadian university hockey was decided this past weekend, so the battle lines are drawn for the upcoming CIAU hockey championships this weekend at the Northlands Agricom.

In the Thursday night contest, our own **University of Alberta Golden Bears** will host the number one ranked **University of Moncton Aigles Bleus**. Moncton defeated **Wilfrid Laurier** in two straight games to claim a berth in the national tournament.

In the other semi-final slated for 2:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon, the defending Canadian champions **York Yeomen** will take on the **Universite de Quebec a Trois Rivieres**. UQTR beat Canada West champions **Calgary** two straight, while York won over **Dalhousie** in a deciding game on Sunday to advance.

As for the Golden Bears, they, of course, lost out to the **Saskatchewan Huskies** in a Canada West semi and have been idle for the past three weeks.

But instead of getting healthier over the extended break, Alberta, if anything, has gotten more bruised up.

CWUAA Freshman of the Year defenceman **Eric Thurston** (back), leftwinger **Curtis Brandolini** (back), and **Bill Ansell** (knee), are all questionable for the Thursday encounter. Meanwhile, some kind of a 'flu' bug has been circulating throughout the team, with the latest victims being rearguards **Colin Chisholm** and **D.J. Havrelock**, as well as coach **Clare Drake**.

Between the guys that are injured and those that are just sick, Alberta has barely had enough guys to run a decent practice. They had to call up an alumni unit of **Don Spring**, **Dave Souch**, **Rick Carriere**, one of the **Zapernick** brothers, and assistant coach **Kevin Primeau** just to be able to have an intra-squad at the Agricom on Saturday night.

On that note, the Bears have called back **Jay Reid**, whom they had cut earlier this season. Reid played for Alberta last year as well, but ended up the year in **Sherwood Park** of the **Alberta Junior Hockey League**.

The figures on ticket sales are not out yet, but they have been getting the push from minor hockey organizations, the **Knights of Columbus**, and the **S.E. Zone**. If you're looking for single games, the two semis are

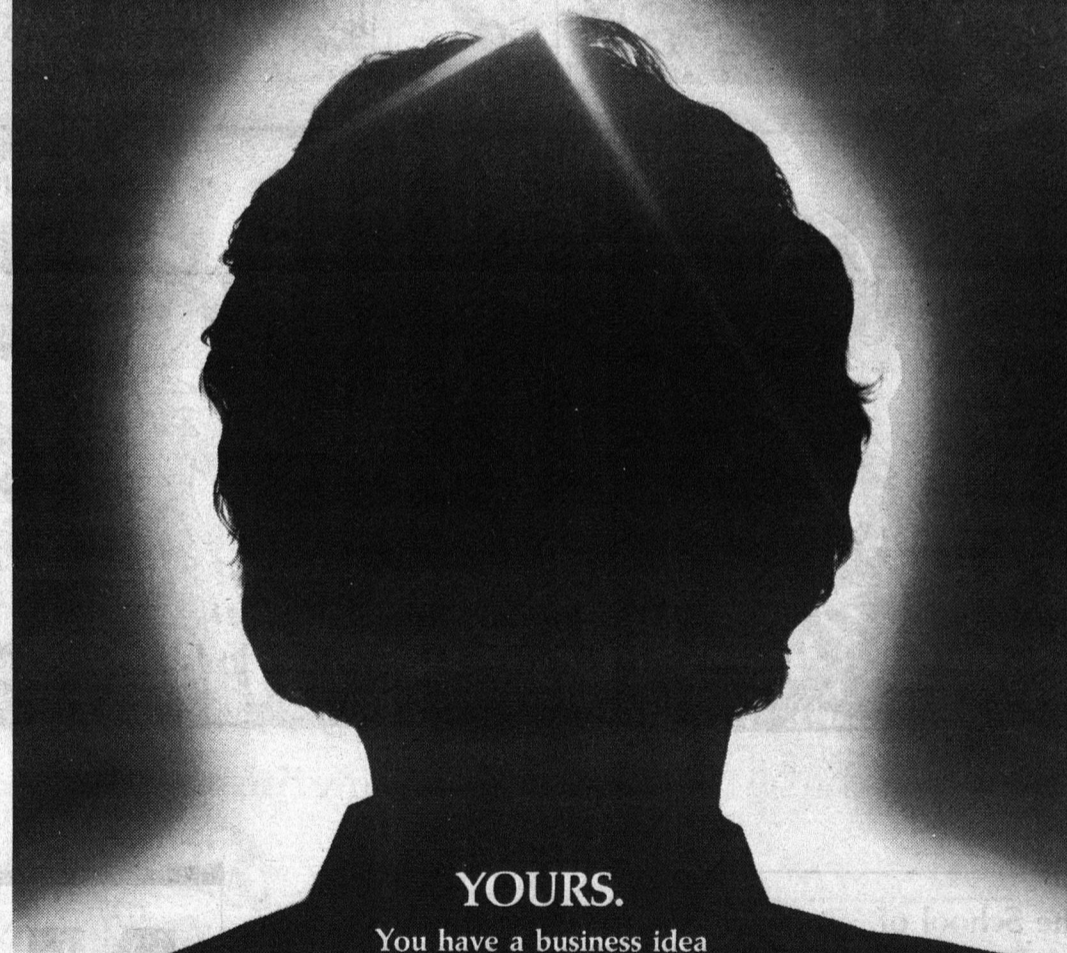
\$6 apiece, while the final is \$8. The entire package is going for \$15.

Finally, one of the two major sponsors, **Cooper**, wants all the teams to wear Cooper equipment

exclusively. Three of the clubs are willing to comply, but UQTR is not. It seems that they had struck a deal with **Koho** at the beginning of the year and want to stick to it.

Cooper doesn't have much say in the matter really, but would no doubt be better hosts to the Quebec team should they decide to buckle under.

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