

Look for Bears to make hockey playoffs

by Martin Coutts

The Golden Bears hockey team kicks off its regular schedule in Vancouver this weekend with a pair of games against the UBC Thunderbirds. The Bears are hoping to get off to a good start in their pursuit of something that has eluded them in the past two seasons - a playoff spot. And though making the playoffs is not going to be easy, Coach Clare Drake has plenty to smile about, based on the team's pre-season performance. The Bears compiled a 12-4 exhibition record that included two major tournament wins and a 3-1 won-loss record versus their three Canada West rivals - Calgary, UBC, and defending champion Saskatchewan (the loss being a 4-3 decision against the Huskies in Saskatoon).

"I'm really pleased with the way

the team has played so far," said Coach Drake. "I think we'll be stronger in goal and better balanced on defence and at forward. We'll also have better overall team speed."

Goaltending definitely should be a strong point for the Bears this year. NAIT transferee Ken Hodge has continued to display the form that carried the Oopicks to the Junior College National Championship last spring. Returning Senior Terry Clark has another year's experience under his belt, and newcomer Kelly Brooks was named the all-star goalie in last weekend's CP Air Empress Cup Tournament.

On defence, the loss of Wade Campbell to the Winnipeg Jets definitely hurts, but the Bears still have four returnees who will provide stability on the blueline: grad. student Dan Peacocke, juniors Jim Krug and Rick Carriere, and sophomore Jeff Marshall. Amongst the newcomers,

Drake singles out Colin Chisholm who "has played well when he's been healthy" and Scott McKenzie, a Leduc Juvenile "A" product, who "has been improving each time out."

On the forward lines is where the Bears might encounter some difficulty.

This is a close checking league," commented Drake, "and the goals are hard to come by" (unlike another league we all know!). "With our inexperience we may have problems offensively. But we're going to work very hard on this aspect of the game." Many of the goals that the Bears do get will come from the left side, courtesy of last year's top goalgetter Garnet "Ace" Brimacombe and Terry Sydoruk, both of whom found the net with regularity during the pre-season.

At center Ron Parent and Breen Neeser are back to head a pretty solid group that includes Rick Swan and Craig Dill. Swan is a local product

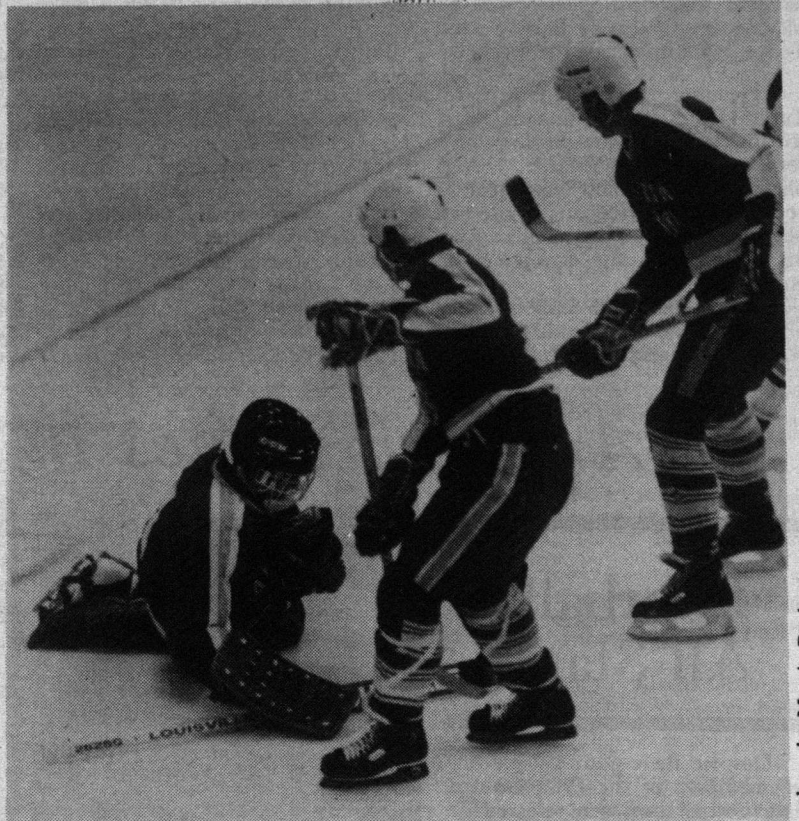


photo by Martin Beales

Goaltending will be a strong point for the Bears.

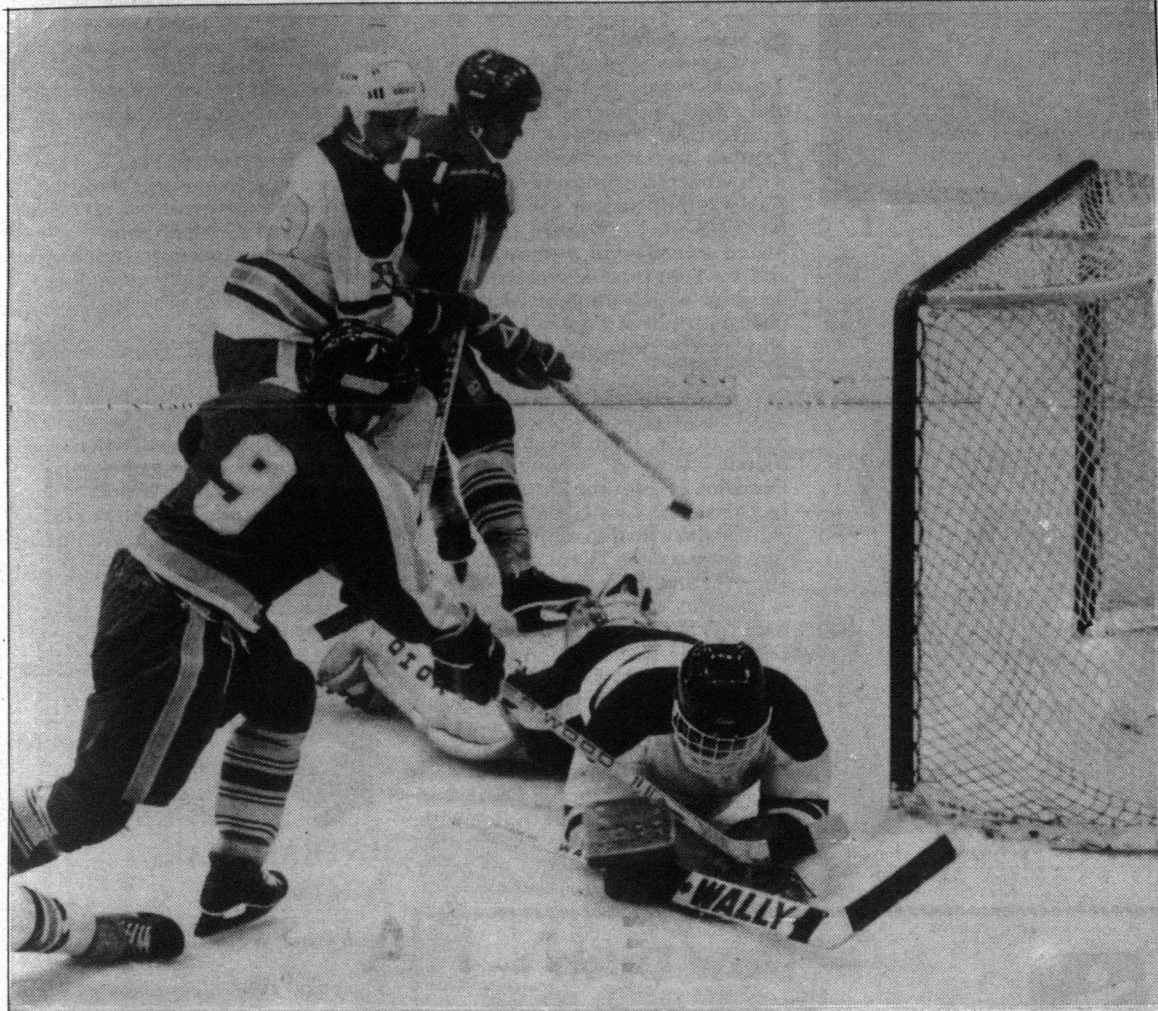


photo by Martin Beales

It'll be a "close checking league," says Coach Drake, "we'll also have better overall team speed."

who played hockey in the Maritime junior league last season while Dill played in Edmonton with the Juvenile "AA" CHED Good Guys. Swan played well in Calgary after a slow start (to the pre-season), and Dill is very good with the puck," said Drake.

On right wing, junior Perry Zapernick and sophomore Dan Henes are the two returning players. The scoring production from this group may be a little thin, but hustle and tenacity certainly won't be lacking, if these two are any indication.

On an overall team level, Drake commented that, "our inexperience might be bothersome, but it could be overcome by the enthusiasm of the

team. The players have a very spirited, positive attitude." As for the Canada West league, Drake views Saskatchewan as the favorite, but only because of their experience, in a tight race amongst all four teams. He foresees quite a few splits in the two game weekend match-ups.

Time for a prediction, you ask? Well, look for the Bears to be playing play-off hockey next March.

Bear Notes: Brimacombe was elected team captain by the players with Peacocke, Krug and Parent chosen as the alternates... The Bears are on an eight game winning streak heading into the regular season.

Yearly plug

Bear bash then pump iron

The University of Alberta Weight Training Club will be hosting a "beer bash" Thursday, November 4 from 5-9 p.m. in SUB Room 142.

Beer, popcorn and music will all be part of the day's goings-on with all profits earmarked for further improvements to the Weight Training facilities in the Physical Education Building.

Admission will be \$1.00 for Weight Training Club members and \$1.50 for non-members.

The Weight Training Club is actively involved in the upgrading of weight training facilities with a number of improvements already having been made and a number of major improvements still in the planning stages.

New members including women and beginning weight trainers are welcome. Anyone interested in joining the Weight Training Club may contact any member of the Club Executive as posted in the Weight Training Room.

Swim team goes to Washington

John Hogg's U of A swim team is off to the Evergreen State this weekend. The University of Washington in Seattle will host the meet featuring teams, including UBC, UVic, Simon Fraser, and U of Puget Sound. That meet is set for Friday.

On Saturday, U of A travels to Tacoma for a dual meet against the U of Puget Sound.

Hopefuls for the men include last year's CIAU finalists Jeff Riddle and Brian Carleton.

Hopefuls for the women include Barb Hemphill and Magan Watson.

GOLDEN BEARS BASKETBALL

GREEN & GOLD NIGHT — Save \$2.00

Sunday, November 7 vs. Mt. Royal College
7:30 p.m. Varsity Gym

All students with current U of A ID cards who are dressed in the colors green and gold will be admitted free of charge.

DATE NIGHT

Tuesday, November 9 vs. Rocky Mountain College
7:30 p.m. Varsity Gym

For all tickets purchased before game day you get ONE TICKET FREE! Buy one now at the Department of Athletic Services Office (W1-34).

Adults \$3.00 Students \$2.00 Children \$1.00

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PANDA EARLY SEASON BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

featuring the University of Alberta Pandas

Friday November 5 7:00 & 9:00 pm.*
Saturday November 6 11:00 am, 1:00, 7:00 & 9:00 pm.*
Sunday November 7 12:00, 2:00 & 4:00 pm.
Finals on Sunday

All Games played at Varsity Gym in the Physical Education Building
Tickets: \$4.00 Adults \$2.00 Students per day

*Denotes Panda Game