

Ski racing club formed

A new ski club has been formed on campus for those who like to race.

The Bear Ski Club is strictly a racing club for the benefit of students on campus who want to race and who are unable to get into one of the organized city or regional club racing programs.

The present organisations take 12 and 13-year olds and work them up through the racing program. Unfortunately, when they reach the university age everyone more or less forgets them.

The Bear Ski Club will encompass all Canadian Amateur Ski Association meets. This club will allow anyone on campus who wants to race, and who has possibly done some racing previously, to race the CASA circuit.

Organised under the auspices of the U of A ski team, the new club could enter about 25 meets in B.C. and Alberta. Some of the

younger fellows would thus have the chance to be considered for the Alberta team.

Badminton

The Pepsi Cola junior badminton team finals will be held this Saturday at 1:30 at the Royal Glenora Club.

Three U of A students, Peter Vaartaue, Dave Hopkins and Darryl Hutcheon will team up with Eric Vaartau to represent the West against the Boulevard Club from Ontario.

The Ontario team consists of Bob Henschliffe, Pradet Bassu, John Hanson and Guy Charron, all reputed to be excellent players. The competition is patterned after the Thomas Cup and the results will indicate how things stack up for the Canadian junior championships in Toronto next March.

Ski team selections near

by Henri Pallard and Rick Grant

The U of A (downhill) ski team is holding its team trials at Jasper from December 18-23. Meanwhile, the nordic coach will be selecting the cross-country team at Banff in a ski-filled Christmas break.

According to Ben Buss, the nordic coach, the team will be as good as last year's. However, the many new members will have to learn the technique for competitive cross country skiing. A couple of good downhill skiers who are exceptionally fit should change the whole picture.

Bruce Wilson, the downhill coach, has a different problem. Stiff competition for the five spots on the team has created a touch and go situation. Nobody is yet guaranteed a position. With 25 people at the beginning of the training season on September 15, he still has 18 or 19 left.

Bob Grady, one of the hopeful team members, was last year's national ski jumping champion. "It is just a matter of getting a few people to back him up," said Wilson. Three team members must compete in the same event (jumping, slalom, giant slalom, or downhill) to score any team points for the event.

Jim Bond, formerly of Les Espoirs, the Canadian junior team, is much stronger and is

training really hard this year. Last year at the Banff meet he finished sixth in the slalom and eighth in the giant slalom, his first time on skis in over a year.

Most of the cross country skiers should be staying in Banff after the team selections for the race there on December 24. After another training session, four or five team members will go to a race in Prince George.

The nordic team will also enter two provincial competitions: one at Devon, and one at the University of Calgary. They will also host a meet in Edmonton during the season. The cross country crew will hopefully also compete in many local events.

All that is needed for the sport is a change in elevation of two or three hundred feet and no snow mobiles. A river valley will often suffice.

The first intercollegiate competition for the alpine and nordic teams will be January 8-10 in Bozeman, Montana. Wilson also hopes to have the team go to at least three other intercollegiate meets this season. The Banff meet, from January 28-30, is hosted by the U of A, and is followed by a meet in Mizoula, Montana and another in McCall, Idaho. The Bears chose these meets especially because they

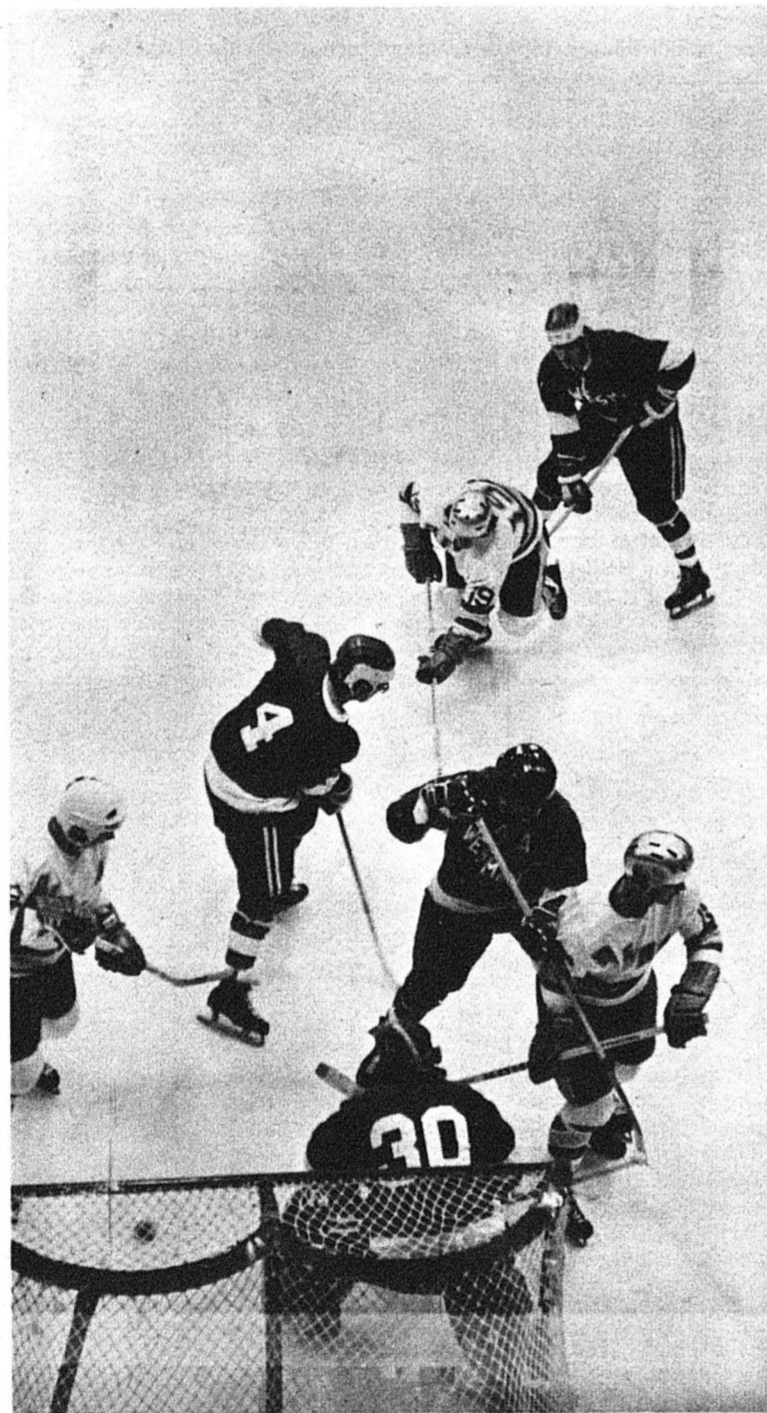
don't involve extensive travel.

The proposed tour is not part of a Western Canada Intercollegiate schedule (there is none). Rather the Bears ski the Big Sky Circuit, an American conference. Bears will be competing against the top colleges and universities in western North America.

"We compete against more top calibre, top ranking teams than any other sports team on campus," said Wilson. The University of Washington, Montana State, University of Denver, and the Air Force Academy will all have 'top notch' ski teams.

The prime mover of nordic skiing in Alberta, Irvin Servold, has gly helped the ski team, while several of the ski shops in town have aided the downhill team. Wilson and Buss really appreciate this since skiing is a very expensive sport.

Besides a UAB grant, the ski team have attempted to bolster their finances by holding a raffle, a swap day, and a ski film. While the team members must supply their own equipment, the UAB supplies all team uniforms, and, in Wilson's words, "in that respect we are a very professional ski team."



ONE OF MANY—Bear forward Harvey Poon's shot from the slot easily beat Wesmen goaler George Hopsinson, as did ten others as the Bruins routed the Winnipeggers, Eastern division leaders, 11-3 before a throng of joyous fans Saturday afternoon. Friday, the Golden ones thumped Saskatoon 6-1, and are now 6-0 and atop the standings of the WCJHL.

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