

Bears loose before close series

by Ajay Bhardwaj

Practice was over and the Golden Bear hockey team strolled into its dressing room. The radio was on and all through the dressing one could hear Rod Phillips describing the play between the Oilers and the Flyers. Players sat in their stalls and read Canada West news which named Bear winger Doug McCarthy player of the week.

The Bears were a loose group as they began preparing for this weekend's best of three series against archrival Calgary. "Hey, two wins and we're in Nationals," said Marty Yewchuk. "But we're not looking past the weekend."

The Bears can't afford to look past this weekend as they face the team which eliminated them from last year's playoffs. But there is a difference this year. The Bears are playing at home, not in Calgary.

"It makes a difference," said forward Todd Gordon, who was the second star on Saturday against Manitoba. "You're eating at your home, you're sleeping in your bed." But the biggest edge the Bears have by playing at home is the crowd says Gordon. "We have the best fans in the league. If

we get 3000 people yelling, it hurts them," he said.

The Bears won both games they played here, 8-7 on November 18 and 6-3 on February 11. The Dinosaurs won both games in Calgary.

The Dinosaurs are coming off a tough three game series against Saskatchewan. Two of their games went into overtime. "You can look at it two ways," said coach Clare Drake. "One is that they won the close games, and that's good (from their point of view), the other is that it was difficult physically for them. I think they'll be recovered, though."

Defenceman Grant Couture echoed Drake's thoughts. "It'll help them," he said. "They've won close games and that's positive mentally. By this time, they'll be able to recoup."

Both teams had three players in the league's top 10 scoring department. Mark Fioretti, Barry Bracko, and Terry Houlder were Calgary's leading scorers. Fioretti had the most points (56), Bracko had the most goals (28), and Houlder had the most assists (40) of anyone on the team. "Maybe I have to give them a little more



Rob Galbraith

Dino captain Terry Jones slips a backhander behind Blair MacGregor. The Canada West final starts Friday at 7 pm in Varsity Arena.

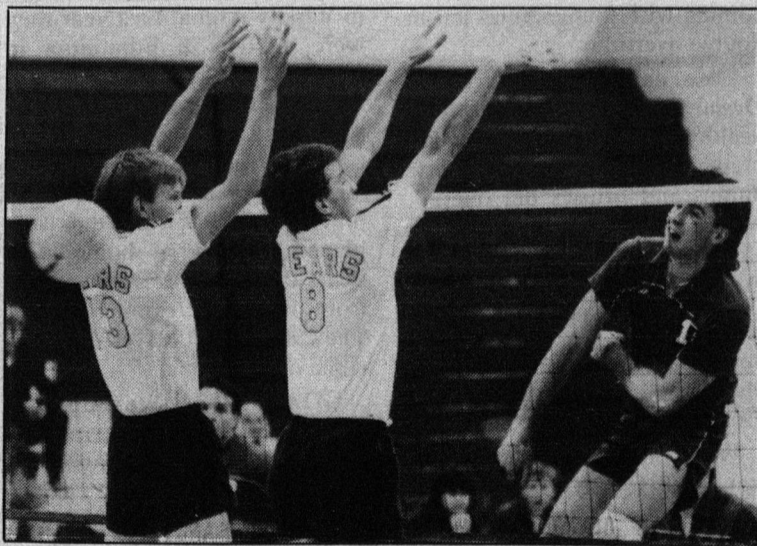
respect than to the rest of the team, but everyone on that team can put the puck in the net," said Bear goalie John Krill. "I'm already nervous."

"We won't do anything differently," said Couture. "We'll just stay in front of them and take the body."

So what's the prediction? A close series. "They've got good coaching and good systems," said Craig. "Anytime you get two close teams it makes a good game." Added Krill, "we can't take anything for granted."

BEAR TRACKS: Winger Rob Glasgow, who has been out since

Feb. 10 with torn knee ligaments, will play this weekend. He'll wear a brace on his knee and make his return against the team he suffered the injury. The brace doesn't put any constraints on Glasgow's knee. "I can practically do anything," he said. "It feels really strong." The only thing he's worried about is "the stress of the hits."



Clive Oshry

These two Bears are all-stars. Story on p 18

Pandas defend national crown

by Alan Small

They are the only team on campus that has the responsibility of defending a national title.

The Panda gymnastics team travels down to Calgary this weekend for the University Cup, or better known as the CIAU championships.

Diane Patterson, who is in her fourth year of eligibility, is this year's Canada West champ, also

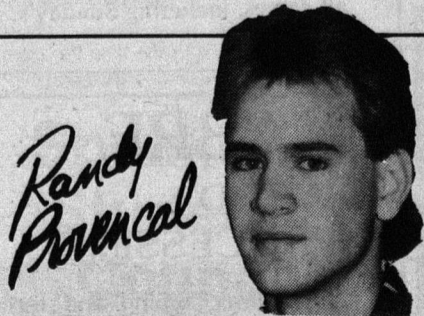
will defend her national individual title this weekend. Patterson was also the nation's best on the uneven parallel bars.

She will be closely followed by teammate Michelle Hannemann, who won the Canada West title last year, but finished second to nationals last year and the west's this year to Patterson. Both of them dominated the last two western championships and the

last national meet.

Three Bears will also make the bus trip down to Cowtown. Joe Freedman, Brad Law, and Marvin Lister will compete in the national championships.

The Bears, who finished in third place in the Canada West championships two years ago, placed sixth in the nationals one year ago.



NHL snowed under by Probert affair

The National Hockey League just can't win.

Every day it receives bad publicity for its oh-so-violent nature. Sure, it can be argued that hockey fights actually draw fans to games (who wouldn't pay to see Dave Manson punch out Jay Wells' lights?), but it's still an image the NHL would like to rid itself of.

Now the league is trying to brush off the recent Bob Probert saga, a series of incidents leading up to his arrest a week ago for trying to smuggle cocaine across the Canada-U.S. border.

At one time Probert was a mere headache for the Detroit Red Wings. His alcohol problem, admittedly a serious

one, didn't tarnish the league's reputation. After all, alcohol abuse is quite common place in the western hemisphere.

Besides, he *did* agree to check himself into an alcohol rehabilitation centre. Admirable, huh?

Then we start hearing stories about Probert hitting the bottle again. The Wings tried to help him by assigning a man who ensured Probert took a pill daily which, if mixed with alcohol, would cause him to vomit. What did Probert do? He put aspirin in place of the pill he was supposed to take.

Sounds just like a little kid who feeds the dog his dinner and then proudly announces that he ate it. Pitiful.

The headaches Probert caused his team have now grown to a thorn in the ass of the entire league — more like a spike.

The NHL's ruling to suspend Probert for life (until after his court hearing) showed it will not tolerate drug abuse. Period.

Had they not acted, it merely would have given anti-hockey fans yet another item to bitch about.

Other sports — namely baseball and football — have more than their share of drug abuse cases. The numbers are so high that the National Football League and Major League Baseball almost ignore them. Rather than make it a league-wide issue, they allow the teams and players to hammer out such problems.

So drug abuse runs rampant in baseball and football. Yet you don't hear fans complaining or boycotting the games.

Derek Sanderson, a one-time Boston Bruin and pretty good hockey player, had problems similar to Probert's. Drugs and

booze nearly killed him and his career, although he played for 13 seasons. He now is an announcer.

I'm not saying Bob Probert can fight his way back to the NHL. For that to happen, he first must take a long, hard look at himself in the mirror and come to grips with the gravity of the predicament he is in.

But he's a long way from that goal. After his arrest, Probert was in a Detroit bar and didn't care less whether he was seen by media or not. Great attitude.

Even when Probert wakes up and drinks the coffee (not Irish), I'm hesitant to believe the NHL will take him back.

It's a new age for no-nonsense. No more Bob Proberts. The league has taken a stand; it cannot afford any more problems.