

# Bears Relinquish Hamber Trophy

## SPLIT T'BIRD SERIES

by Bill Winship  
Bears 3 — T'Birds 2  
T'Birds 3 — Bears 1

It's all over but the crying! Ironic as it may seem the U of A Golden Bears will not be making the trip to Kingston and the national hockey championships.

After reigning as WCIAA champions nine of the last 12 years the Bears must make way for the UBC Thunderbirds. Blame it on the Olympics or Father Bauer or the CAHA, but any way you look at it the Bears lost much more than the Hamber and Hardy Trophies last weekend (assuming a miracle does not occur in the next two weeks!)

They lost the well-earned right (over the last 25 years) to prove to the Eastern Universities once and for all that the West can compete with the East on equal terms—in any sport.

By virtue of their 3-1 victory Saturday afternoon the T'Birds almost assured themselves this right. **SOUR GRAPES?**

However, regardless of the outcome, the fact that the T'Birds are our representative will do little for Western status, since the T'Birds are a hand-picked, Olympic-bound squad—definitely not characteristic



**CHECKMATE!** Ralph Lortie (12) of the UBC Thunderbirds foils a clear shot by Golden Bear forward in Saturday's T'Bird-Bear game. T'Birds won 3-1, in doing so grabbing the Hamber Trophy for the first time in 12 years. Barring a complete collapse the T'Birds should occupy the WCIAA "throne" the Bears have monopolized for the past 25 years.

photo by Heinz Moller

of the other WCIAA teams. Enough, lest we be accused of "sour grapes."

**Golden Bears did not bow out without considerable argument, however!**

The Alberta players made it obvious from the opening whistle Friday that they were out to prove that the Green and Gold could still handle the BC upstarts. It took a ten minute overtime session to do it, but do it they did, and in a fashion 1,200 fans will long remember.

**NICHOLL "MAN OF THE HOUR"** Jack Nicholl fired the winner at

3:48 of the overtime session while the Thunderbirds were a man short. Manoeuvring his way past three T'Bird players Nicholls slid a shot from a bad angle which caught the far corner and sent the Alberta fans into hysterics.

**Although the 'Birds came within a "whisker" of getting the equalizer on a couple of occasions the determined Bears held out to end the 10 minute extra frame 3-2 victors.**

Nicholl also scored the first goal at 19:34 of the first period in a similar fashion to his winning marker. He manipulated his way through most of the BC team, pulled the sensational T'Bird goalie Ken Broderick out of position, then slid the puck into the open net. Bears had a man in the penalty box at the time!

Veteran center Pete Kelly tied the contest at 11:47 of the second period off a scramble in front of the Alberta net. John Parker moved the talented T'Birds into a 2-1 lead at 6:45 of the third period but the lead was short-lived.

Duane Lundgren tipped in a slap shot from the point 55 seconds later to send the game into overtime.

**PENALTIES COSTLY**

A rash of penalties late in the third period and in the extra session proved to be BC's undoing, with the winning goal coming with BC a man short. Two more penalties in overtime action kept the T'Birds on the defensive, but nonetheless, Bear fans didn't breathe easy until the final whistle.

In Saturday's rematch the Bears made it obvious that the previous night's game was no fluke. Matching the highly touted T'Birds stride for stride Clare Drake's minions looked capable of repeating.

Duane Lundgren, who picked up a 6 stitch cut in the Friday encounter, started the Bears off the right way at 16:33 of the first period by tipping Dick Wintermute's blast from the point past T'Bird netminder Ken Broderick. T'Birds didn't take long to reply.

Les Bergman found himself all alone in front of Bear goalie Gerry Schultz less than two minutes later, and promptly proceeded to fire a ten foot shot in the lower right corner.

**KELLY FIRES WINNER**

After a scoreless second period

T'Birds opened the final frame fast, with Pete Kelly potting what proved to be the game winner at 53 second mark off a goal mouth scramble.

Mike Smith added the insurance marker, and the goal which gave the T'Birds the Hamber Trophy, at 8:44, dribbling one by a surprised Schultz in the Bear net.

The Hamber Trophy, awarded annually to the winner of a two game series between the T'Birds and Bears, leaves the Alberta campus for the first time in 12 years. Father Bauer's Olympic hopefuls outscored the Bears 5-4 in this year's renewal to take the silverware.

Ironically, Bear coach Drake was a member of the BC squad which last won the trophy for UBC. In fact, he scored the winning goal. Nevertheless, it was a sad day for Drake and his players, who gave 100 per cent both games.

## Battle Bisons This Weekend

First place may be unattainable for the Golden Bear hockey team but second place is still quite within reach.

Four victories in remaining league games will clinch this position for Drake's pucksters, and this weekend series with the Manitoba Bisons in Winnipeg should be a step in the right direction.

Bisons have taken trimmings in the past from the Bears and Huskies, and the upcoming series shouldn't be any exception. Bears trounced the Bisons 7-3 and 10-3 on home ground last month.

**SHANSKI BUSY TARGET**

If the Bears play the game according to the "script" Bison goalie John Shanski should make even the continuously bombarded Gump Worsley in the New York Ranger net look lonely. Unless the Golden Ones declare a "let's be kind to Shanski" weekend, Shanski should pick many pucks out of the Bison net.

The series should get the Bears ready for the Varsity Guest Weekend invasion of the U of S Huskies, however. Huskies still have a chance to take first place so the "practice" could be needed. Huskies bombed the Bisons in all four games played between the clubs.

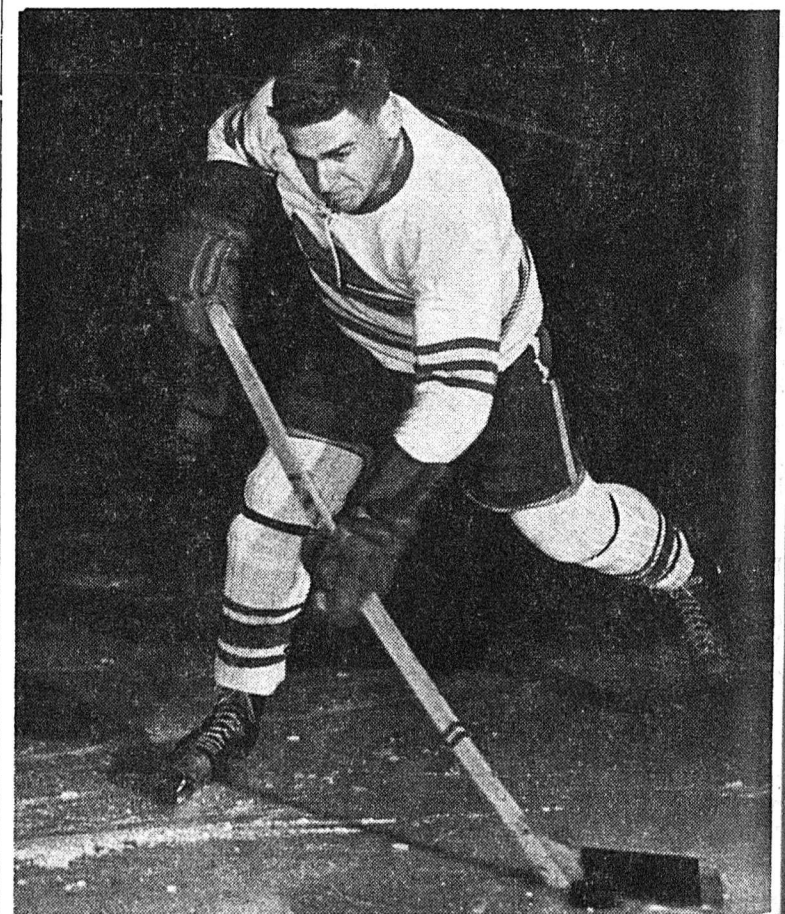
Then again, if Bison coach Bruce Robinson gets his team to play the way he thinks they can, the Golden Bears could be a mighty red-faced team on the return trip.

But Christmas has come and gone and the Bears are not likely to play Santa Claus!



**BEAR WINGER TERRY BICKNELL** get a "golden" opportunity against T'Bird goalie Ken Broderick, a product of Junior "A" hockey in the East, was a big factor in Saturday's 3-1 T'Bird triumph. For a netminder who wears contact lens and a mask Broderick doesn't miss much. Time and again Bear snipers had reason to curse the T'Bird goalie.

photo by Heinz Moller



**CENTER PETE KELLY** of the UBC T'Birds who scored the winning goal Saturday and the first UBC goal Friday. Kelly was named to the WCIAA all-star team last season and was the outstanding player on the T'Birds squad. His play this year earmarks him once again as all-star material. photo by Heinz Moller

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