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Alan Small More voters for wildcards

It's too bad that the CIAU is not a professional league, then they would really feel the pinch of the moves they have made within the past month.

But they are an amateur organization. Unfortunately for all Canadian university sports fans, they keep treating their product in an amateur manner. If they continue to manage the CIAU this way, even fewer people will care about it.

One of the major ways the CIAU make themselves look foolish is their top ten rankings, their basis for which the wildcard positions are distributed. They seem to think they mean as much as rankings do in boxing.

Boxing's corrupt use of rankings so that opponents (losers) can vault up the rankings — sometimes without even fighting. This allows the promoters to gobble up more and more of the fan's dollar for a fight that is rarely so good.

When Muhammad Ali was in his hey day, in the late 70's, he fought the odd punching bag that had no right to be in the top ten rankings, the usual placement for challengers to the title. Howard Cosell uses a classic example how this worked in his book *I Never Played the Game*.

Randy "Tex" Cobb got the ranking inflation just before his fight with Larry Holmes. This caused the defection of Cosell from the boxing broadcast booth.

The CIAU seemed to do the same thing in both basketball and hockey this year. Besides their apparent eastern bias, they seemed to launch teams like Western through the rankings so that if they lost, they could justify putting them in the nationals. This was done at the expense of Calgary, who had dominated the CIAU rankings throughout the year.

What could be done to solve this problem is to set up a network of people to do the top ten rankings. Instead of having only five people involved, there should be twenty or thirty voting members for the top ten rankings. This is done in the NCAA with all of their sports and is probably the most equitable process around.

The scrapping of wildcards should also be discussed. It is a very controversial subject — who can actually pick which team is better when they haven't played each other?

The way that the wildcard positions should be determined is by having the top contenders play a wildcard tournament in order to qualify for nationals. That's the way they're doing it next year in basketball.

If they must have a wildcard, at least this way the best team is decided on the ice, not in the boardrooms.

The way it should be.

Proft makes All Star squad

by Mark Spector

Five of the twelve CIAU All Stars are in town for more than just silverware collecting, as they will be competing with their teams for the coveted University Cup when the CIAU Hockey Championships get underway tonight. The All Canadian team was announced at a press conference as the tournament affairs began Wednesday.

Golden Bear defenseman Parie Proft was the only University of Alberta player amongst three Canada West representatives to the All Canadian squad, as Manitoba de-

fenseman Chris Saint-Cyr and CWUAA MVP center Paul Geddes of Calgary also were selected.

Three players from each of the four conferences in Canada made this, the 17th edition of the CIAU All Star team. Last year Alberta failed to place anyone on the team, while only Saint-Cyr of Western University and pointman Chris McCauley are repeaters from 1986.

Rounding out the defensive corps is Kevin Skilliter of the Prince Edward Island Panthers, while the two goalies are Claude Geurard of Trois Rivieres and David Quigley of

Moncton. Ironically neither goalie was selected to the team last season, although both competed in the tournament with their respective clubs. This year only Geurard's Patriotes made it to the final.

In the forward ranks, Geddes was joined by Ottawa's Jocelyn Bolduc, Dalhousie's Martin Bouliane, Toronto's Don McLaughlin, McGill's Mark Reade, and Mike Tomlak from Western.

Unlike the National Hockey League, the twelve players aren't divided into a first and second team.



Alberta
Golden Bears

vs.

Trois Rivieres
Patriotes



Tonite at 8:30
Varsity Arena

Can Pats turn page on Bears?

by Mark Spector

It's ironic that for the Alberta Golden Bears and the Trois Rivieres Patriotes the 1987 CIAU Hockey Championships should begin exactly the way the 1986 ones ended.

If you're from La Belle Province though, you may not like to see it end the same way it did last year. Take UQTR head coach Clement Jodoin, for instance. He was extremely disappointed with his club's 5-2 loss at the hands of Alberta in the '86 final. But he's got his own way of dealing with that.

"I turn the page," he states in a thickly accented English. "Last year is last year — this year is this year. This year I have more depth," he continued. "Last year we were focused around two lines, then I had two injuries in the final game. This time we're focused on 20 players, not two or three."

Like any smart coach, Jodoin learns from his mistakes. Just as, in his opinion, the tournament organizers have learned from theirs. "They (the reporters) say that I was bitter after last year," he explains. "I think the format last year was unfair. We lost two players in the regional series, then two more in our opening game. But we had no time to rest. They (Alberta) had three days between games — we had one."

And it showed in the final as the Golden Bears beat the Patriotes by taking the body. They were worn down quickly.

And you can expect Alberta to do virtually the same thing Thursday night, as coach Clare Drake was more than happy with the outcome a year ago.

"Not very much," said coach Drake when asked what he may change. "We've got almost the same layoff as last year so we've really been preparing the same way that we did." Alberta skipped their league playoffs in capturing a bronze medal in Czechoslovakia at the World Universiade Games, and just like in '86 (when they were

beaten in the semi's) they have had almost three weeks to prepare. They played a pair of exhibition matches last Thursday and Friday, but other than that it's been practice, practice, practice.

"We just want to play the Golden Bears style," says fifth year right-winger Bill Ansell. "If you start letting the other team dictate to you what style to play you're going to lose." He admits, though, that the ball is in UQTR's court to defend their loss last year.

As does Bears' defenseman Howie Draper, who was knocked unconscious by a crushing centre ice hit, leaving little memory of the final. "Definitely, when you lose that game you've got to want revenge," he said. "I think that they expected to win, they were ranked higher than us."

And speaking of revenge... "Hey, when a team puts you out of commission for half a game, you bet (there's revenge at hand)," he admits. He lists rushing the puck well and some "devastating hits" as items of recourse for the game which he had to watch again on television to be able to cherish in his memory.

But not to be overlooked are the champions out of Ontario and the number one team in Canada, the York Yeomen. Coach Dave Chambers' team lost their opening game last year when one loss meant that you could kiss the final goodbye. They have a bit of revenge of their own to look after this year. But they're playing it low-key.

"I don't think it means anything," says Chambers of the top ranking. He must be doing something right, though, the year before last York defeated the Golden Bears 3-2 to take the University Cup home to Toronto.

They've also got two defensemen, Dirk Rueter and Lou Kiriakou, who played previously in the professional American Hockey League.



Patriotes coach Clement Jodoin remembers the bitter taste of last year's final game loss to Alberta. Howie Draper (bottom) had to watch the game again on his VCR to jog his memory.

photo Bruce Gardave

Geddes repeats but goalies steal show

by Mark Spector

At a luncheon Thursday at the Edmonton Inn, the CIAU handed out their silverware in conjunction with this weekend's Hockey Championships at the Varsity Arena.

While two goaltenders walked off with awards, Paul Geddes of the Calgary Dinosaurus claimed the Cooper-CIAU Most Sportsmanlike Player award for the second year in a row.

Ironically Barry Martinelli, coach of the same Western Mustangs that took the wildcard spot that the Dinos thought would be theirs, was named Coach of the Year in the CIAU.

Martinelli guided his club to a first place finish in the Ontario University Athletic Association in only his second year behind the bench. Their 20-2-2 record was good enough to earn them a trip to Edmonton as a wildcard after getting knocked off in the OUAA final, in overtime of the third game, by York.

Geddes, who established a new scoring record in Canada West this

season (32-37-69), was named MVP of his conference. The 22 year old native of Calgary led his team to first place in the CWUAA before losing to Saskatchewan, also in three games, in the final series.

The Senator Joseph A. Sullivan Trophy went to goaltender David Quigley of the Moncton Blue Eagles. In receiving Player of the Year honors, Quigley maintained a goals against average of 2.74 over 17 games. As well as making the CIAU Championship team last year, Quigley was named as one of two All Canadian goaltenders for this season.

Mike Bishop, a freshman goalie from the University of Waterloo, earned the Cooper-CIAU Rookie of the Year award with a stingy goals against average of 2.87. The 22 year old from Elmira, Ontario backstopped the Warriors to a 16-4-4 seasonal record, good for a fourth place finish in the OUAA. He was also selected as an All Star in his own league, a rarity for a first year player.

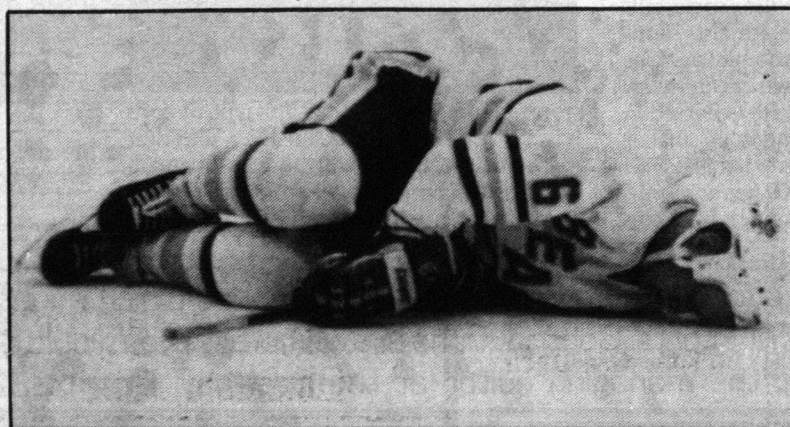


photo Bruce Gardave