

sports

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Bears are CIAU hockey champion



Clockwise from top left: Bears John Devaney (CIAU tournament all-star), Dave Hindmarch (tournament all-star and MVP), Ted Olson (tournament honorable mention) and Stan Swales (tournament all-star). Photos by Jim Connell and Shirley Glew.

Both Alberta and Dalhousie entered the final game with perfect 2-0 records in round robin play. The Bears first victory came against the Quebec conference champion Concordia Stingers. Dalhousie edged Guelph 6-5 and beat Chicoutimi 7-3 to earn their playoff berth.

Against Concordia the Bears were led by two goal performances from Devaney and Causgrove and singles by Hindmarch, Chris Helland, and Dale Ross. The Stingers started out strongly in the first period but couldn't capitalize on their scoring chances while the Bears were making the most of their opportunities. Concordia appeared to lose interest in the game midway through the second period after Causgrove had scored to up the Alberta lead to 4-1. It looked like they knew they were beaten and only wanted to go through the motions for the remainder of the game.

After the game both Drake and Stinger coach Paul Arsenault agreed that Concordia's inability to put the puck in the net was their downfall.

In the Regina contest the Bears were exposed to their own style of play as the Cougars came out skating, hitting and forechecking.

The superb play of Nick Sanza won the game for Alberta as he made numerous spectacular saves from point blank range.

Ted Olson opened the scoring in the second period with Sanza sitting on the bench in favor of an extra attacker on a delayed penalty situation. He was left unguarded in front of the net and slipped home a centering pass from Dave Breakwell. Greg Ing and Devaney traded powerplay goals before the period ended to leave the margin at one goal.

Olson got his second of the night at the 13:19 mark of the last period on a perfectly executed two on one break with Breakwell.

Regina outshot Alberta 36-29 in the game.

In post tournament allstar selections the Bears placed three players on the team. John Devaney, Dave Hindmarch and Stan Swales were chosen with Ted Olson receiving honorable mention. Dalhousie placed two players on the squad. Forward Paul McLean and defenceman Louis Lavoie received the nod from the panel of coaches. Allstar goaltender was Chicoutimi's Marcel Savard.

Hindmarch also received the Gruen Award as the MVP of the tournament.

Other activities in conjunction with the Nationals included the All-Canadian awards and coaches meetings.

Alberta had three All-Canadians in Chris Helland, Ted Poplawski and Randy Gregg. Gregg was also chosen as the college player-of-the-year for his outstanding performance in regular season play.

At the coaches meetings there were several topics covered. The formation of a "super league" was discussed which would see the top teams from all areas of the country play each other during the regular season instead of just during the Nationals.

A possible revision of the playoff structure which would see regional elimination rounds i.e. Alberta versus Regina instead of one tournament.

There are dark sides to just about any tournament and this one was no exception.

The organization was extremely poor and all the games were late starting with some of the evening contests not underway until after ten o'clock. The arena public address system was non-existent after the first game which is just as well because no one could decipher the garbled messages anyway. Proper storage space for team equipment and adequate skate sharpening facilities were absent also.

Attendance at all games was disappointing as the largest crowd for any game was around 1000 fans in the 2500 seat arena. The bright side was that

when CBC came on the scene the final started on time and was a p.a. system. The voice from Dalhousie also added to the tourney with their cheering.

On the whole all the players from all the teams appear to enjoy themselves whether they were winners or losers (what it's all about isn't it?)

BEAR FACTS
In other games Concordia recovered to defeat a dishonored Regina team by an 8-3 score.

The Ontario representative Guelph was winless in two games as they were downed by the card team Chicoutimi 7-2.

For Clare Drake it was his fifth national championship in fifteen years and third in five tries.

The Bears are losing four players to graduation: Gregg, Causgrove, Zap and Breakwell and as many as five or six to the Olympics.

