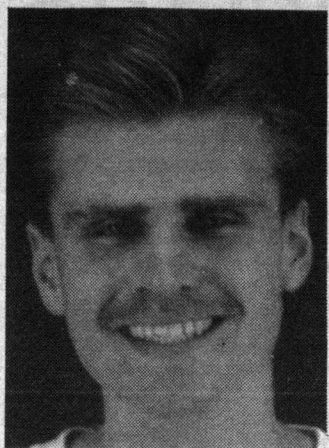


# Bears brace to butt heads with Bisons



Gord Stech

## A letter to Paul Coffey

Dear Paul Coffey,

By the time you read this Paul, it may be too late. Glen might be trading you at this moment. As a fan of yours, what I'm about to say is difficult for me. I'll be as positive as possible.

Now I've heard and I believe you're a nice guy, Paul. But lately, I fear your disposition may have acquired a greedy element. Either that or you ARE getting bad advice from your agent Gus Badali.

You've done charity work. You've helped less fortunate children. You've taught minor hockey players. Does it matter to you that the image all these people have of you has become a tad tainted?

I know it's stressful being a pro athlete, in that you constantly have to babysit yourself in public. If you ARE a tequila-guzzling, coke-honking, obnoxious party-animal-sheep molester, I haven't heard about it.

So why tarnish your image with this hold out like some clowns have done before you? I just hope that youngsters who idolize Paul Coffey the hockey player, don't idolize Paul Coffey the salary negotiator.

If you're holding out because you want time off for personal things like resting your back, fine. But you've stated you'd love to remain an Oiler, and play as soon as possible. You simply can't be very adamant about remaining an Oiler since you know you're asking to be traded when you jerk around with the likes of Sather and Oiler Peter Pocklington.

You consider yourself as good as Boston's Ray Bourque, and therefore should be paid accordingly. Sure, Bourque makes half a million dollars (U.S.) annually, but he's more valuable to his team and besides, we're talking about two different teams, two different owners, etc.

You also USED to be one of the league's best defencemen. You didn't shine at the recent Canada Cup and back problems or none, you weren't yourself last NHL season either. Considering the above, and the fact that your back may act up again soon, asking for a 150% salary increase borders vulgarity.

Perhaps you're saying, "Hey, I'm living in a free capitalist society, trying to support and financially protect myself as well as I can. If anyone, I'm only harming myself. It's entirely my choice; please respect that."

Maybe I will Paul. But if you receive the contract you're currently asking for and then don't play at least as well as you did during your reign as the Norris Trophy champion. I won't respect that.

Sincerely yours,  
Gord Stech

by Alan Small

After a two week layoff to heal the aches and bruises, the 3-1 Golden Bears football squad prepares to take on the winless University of Manitoba Bison.

In their first game this season, the Bears easily dispatched the Bisons 40-10 in Winnipeg, as they rushed for 223 yards on the day. The Bear defence intercepted Bison quarterbacks six times as well. With the success the Bears have had with the Bisons, one might think that they would be taken lightly. Coach Jim Donlevy hopes that this is not the case.

"The guys read the papers, they know Manitoba's record," Donlevy said, "it would be different if we were playing UBC, though."



Photo Paul Menzies

Bears hope to leap over Bisons on Saturday.

One must also remember that situations like these are ones that a young team like the Bears must face if they are going to be playoff bound. If they don't conquer this situation, Calgary would be more than willing to get back in the fight for second place.

Manitoba will pose a problem for the Bears this weekend. This is a team that was one fumble away from defeating the UBC Thunderbirds two weekends ago and have lost close games to everyone except the Bears. Donlevy is also concerned.

"If they really play with intensity," Donlevy said, "it could get ugly out there."

Manitoba will be going heavily with the option play, one rarely seen in the pros, but one that gives defensive backs and linebackers fits. Defensive co-ordinator Dan Syrotuik was working heavily with his defensive backs on that specific play.

But when it comes to the Bears offence, the offensive line will still be heavily relied on for opening the holes for the powerful running

game, which has never run for less than 200 yards per game this season.

"The game is won in the pit," Donlevy said, "it all happens in the line of scrimmage."

**Bears Facts:** The game starts at 1:00 Saturday afternoon, at Varsity Pasture (er Stadium). There was no money in the budget to water the field this fall and thus it has turned into green and gold concrete. The players were cursing it all through practice Tuesday. It is probably the only natural grass field you could get turfburn on.

### FOOTBALL — M

1. Western Ontario (1)
2. Bishop's (2)
3. UBC (3)
4. Saint Mary's (4)
5. Windsor (5)
6. Acadia (6)
7. Alberta (7)
8. Queen's (9)
9. Wilfrid Laurier (NR)
10. Concordia (NR)

# Panda field hockey rolling

by Philip Preville

Pandas field hockey coach Dru Marshall is very optimistic about her team. This sentiment is well-merited, as the Pandas had another successful tournament this past weekend, winning three of their four games at an invitational hosted by the University of Calgary.

The Pandas, ranked eighth in the country, opened the tournament with a 2-1 victory over Phoenix, a Calgary club team. They followed

with shutouts of 1-0 and 5-0 against two other non-university teams, the Roadrunners and the Selects. They lost the final to the University of Calgary by a score of 2-1, finishing in second place for the tournament. Panda Bev Wolfert scored four times in the tournament, and Maureen Conn produced a hat-trick against the Selects. Jane Lillywhite and M.J. Narning also scored for Alberta.

This year's version of the Pandas

is, by all accounts, exponentially better than in previous years. With their two victories and two losses in conference play thus far, they have already equalled last year's win total. They have shown that they have the ability to defeat every team in Canada West, except the powerhouse UVic Vikettes.

As they head into UBC for this weekend's conference tournament, in which they will meet UBC, UVic, U of C and Manitoba once each, three victories out of four would set them on the road to second place in the Conference. Coach Marshall says that a second place finish would ensure a trip to the nationals in Toronto in November.

"The potential is there," says Marshall, "and the division has never been tighter. Only four points are separating the top four teams in the division." Canada West field hockey also uses an escalating point system whereby wins later in the season are worth more points, giving Alberta added incentive to atone for their two conference losses.

In consideration of what possibly lies ahead, let us briefly examine the recent rocky history of the Alberta field hockey program.

"Only a few years ago, we used to set goals such as keeping our opponents out of double figures," explains Marshall, who has been coaching at Alberta since 1980. In

previous years, Alberta would send onto the field an assortment of energetic athletes who, for all their enthusiasm, simply had never played the game before. The resulting comedy of errors must have been a sight to see.

Now, the program attracts players from all over Alberta and British Columbia. Of the six new additions to the 14-player roster, only one is raw. The team is anchored by National team member Liz Czenczek, who is "undoubtedly a player of international calibre." Still a few others are involved in the provincial program. The remaining players seem more than able to complement this core of talent. "Our strong point is our team play," says the master of her subjects.

This team play will have to stay strong, as conference play draws to a close, with only one more tournament after this weekend. The Pandas will have to be particularly intense in their own zone to put a quick end to opponents' scoring chances.

### FIELD HOCKEY — F

1. Toronto
2. Victoria
3. UBC
4. York
5. Calgary
6. New Brunswick
7. Guelph
8. Alberta
9. Mount Allison
10. Laurentian



Photo Paul Menzies

8th ranked Pandas look towards tourney in Lotusland this weekend