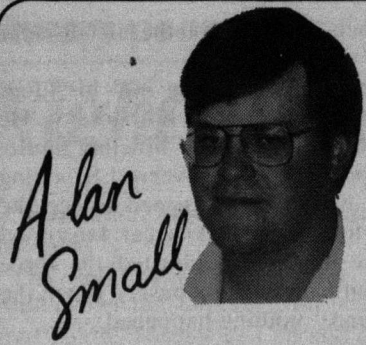


8 athletes nominated for top awards



Habs and Flames primed for upsets

The NHL wanted parity and they got it. Now, they have to worry about their two best clubs in the regular season not making the final four.

Despite what the experts have said, neither Calgary or Montreal will make their respective conference finals. It is so plain and clear.

Last weekend, on the finale of Hockey Night in Canada, they had Flame GM Cliff Fletcher and Canadien GM Serge Savard on for extended interviews on what the two teams are going to do when they face each other in the Cup final. No, they didn't say when they met in the final, but it was certainly implied quite heavily, despite the classic platitudes like "we can't look past so-and-so, they're a good club".

Two other times in the last decade have we seen a team virtually assured of coronation get beamed early in the playoffs and disrupt the hockey world. In 1981-82, the Oilers third year in the league, they romped to a first place finish in the Smythe only to get ambushed by the pre-Gretzky, pre-black-and-silver LA Kings. They had maybe 1/4 of the talent that the present day Kings have, while the Oilers of their day were on the verge of greatness, and really were a good team in the regular season as their 100+ points showed. Everyone said an Oiler sweep, but I saw a lot of Roger Neilson during that playoff year and a lot of blue-and-orange on the golf course.

The other time I remember was the year before. They were talking parity back then, too except in one series. Then it was the youthful, arrogant, undisciplined Oilers facing the Habs, who were the third best team in the league that year. Dick Irvin picked every series to go four or five games (back then they were best-of-fives) except for the Habs-Oilers battle, which was supposed to be a whitewash for the much-more experienced Habs. Little did he and many other people know that Moog, Coffey, and Gretzky (they're Oiler history now) would destroy the Habs in three easy games.

That same evil feel is creeping again this season. Nearly everyone I read picked the Flaming C's and les Habitants in four straight over Vancouver and Hartford, and while they probably will, they won't make it past Buffalo or Boston or LA or Edmonton. History says so.

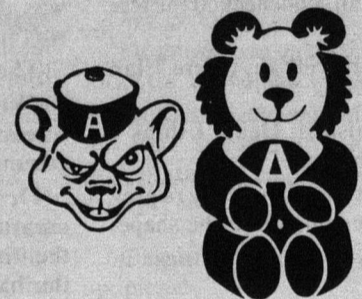
That's my final column at *The Gateway*. I'm sure it was easier for me to write than it was for you to read.

by Alan Small

Three Golden Bear athletes and five Pandas will vie for the top two U of A athletic awards on Friday night, as the U of A will honor its' own with its annual Color Night banquet.

Stacey Wakabayashi, a forward with the hockey Bears, Brent Korte, a defensive lineman for the football team, and Sean Chursinoff, the point guard on the basketball team, have been nominated for the Wilson Challenge Trophy, which goes to the most outstanding male athlete at the U of A.

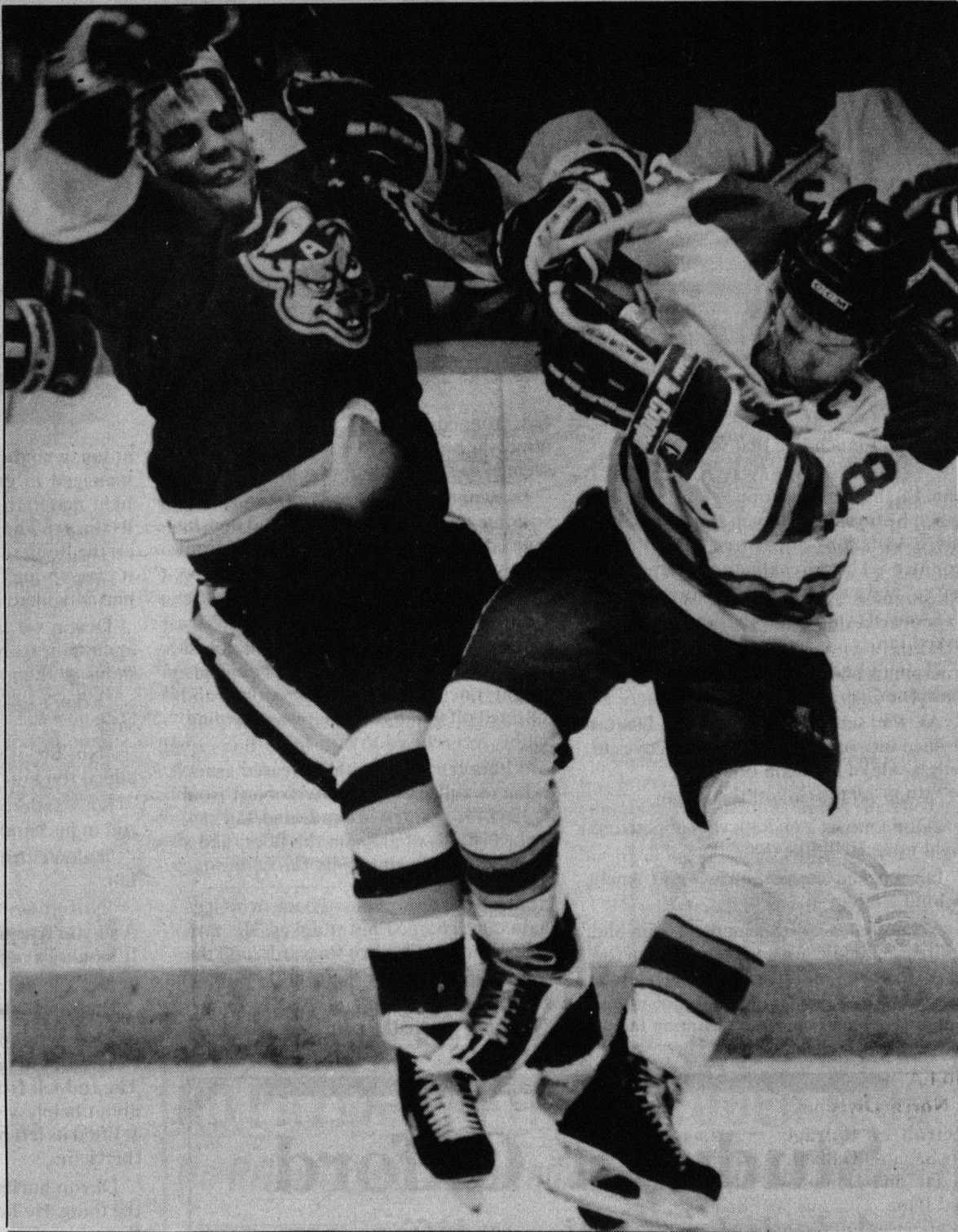
Nominated for the Bakewell Award, which goes to the U of A's top female athlete, are field hockey captain Bev Wolfert, Janine Wood, who led the Panda soccer team in scoring last season, Michelle Hannemann, and Diane Patterson, who won the CIAU gymnastics and western gymnastics titles respectively, and swimmer Keltie Duggan, who was the top female swimmer at the CIAU championships in Vancouver in February.



Wakabayashi, an education student, was the nation's top scorer and the west's most gentlemanly player last season. The Bears won the west last season, and in the nationals, Wakabayashi scored all three Bear goals in a losing effort against York University, the CIAU champions.

Korte, a physical education student, was the Bears top defensive player in a disappointing year for the gridiron squad. He led the west in sacks and was picked to the CIAU second all-star team. Korte was also one of two Canadians selected to play in the East-West Shrine Game in Palo Alto, California. His performance impressed the scouts, as he was selected by the Edmonton Eskimos, who signed the lineman to a contract last week.

Chursinoff, an education student, was the Bears top scorer last season and was selected to the Canada West first all-star team. He showed great leadership skills and ran the Bear offence for the



Check out this year in university sport — in photos, pp 22-23.

whole year, his fourth with the green and gold.

Last year's Wilson Trophy winner was Sid Cranston, who was the Bears top scorer from a year ago.

Hannemann, an arts student, and Patterson, a business student, were one-two in the country in university gymnastics for the second year in a row. They switched positions from last year however — Patterson won the nationals and Hannemann won the wests a year ago — but were still the most dominant gymnasts in the CIAU.

Duggan, an arts student, was about as successful a first year athlete as there was on campus this year. She won medals in both the 100m and 200m breaststroke events at the CIAU championships and was named the top female swimmer of the meet. She also represented Canada at the 1988 Seoul Olympics last September.

Another first year Panda was soccer player Janine Wood, who was the team's top scorer last season. She led the Pandas to their first ever Canada West title and a third place finish at the CIAU championships in Van-

couver. Wood was also named to the Canada West and the CIAU all-star clubs.

Conversely, Bev Wolfert is one of the most experienced athletes at the U of A. She was the captain and leading scorer of the field hockey team and was named to the Canada West all-star team for the second straight year.

Last year's winner of the Bakewell Trophy was Shelley Brewster, of the volleyball team.

Tickets to the banquet, held at the Convention Inn South, can be obtained at the U of A Athletic Department office (Butterdome 220) for \$20.

Fuhr to lead Oilers to Cup

by Will Gibson

The Edmonton Oilers will retain their hold on Lord Stanley's mug for one more year as Mark Messier and Grant Fuhr will sizzle in the playoffs. I am neither an optimist or an Oilers fan, I am simply looking at a couple of factors the Oilers have going for them that nobody else does: playoff experience and owning the

best pressure goaltender in the world. For first round prognostications, read on.

Smythe Division

Calgary vs. Vancouver - Calgary will be too good for the Canucks, even with goalkeeper Kirk Maelan standing on his head. Calgary in five.

Los Angeles vs. Edmonton -

With Steve Smith back guarding the blueline and bald-pated Grant Fuhr being his usual spectacular playoff self, the Oilers will give Wayne Gretzky an early start on golfing. Then the Oilers will douse the Flames in six, with Glen Sather outcoaching Terry Crisp.

Norris Division

Detroit vs. Chicago - Chicago will upset Detroit and MVP candidate Steve Yzerman with a solid performance in net by Alain Chevrier. Hawks in six.

St. Louis vs. Minnesota - The unsung Blues will take out Minnesota who are without top scorer Dave Gagner in seven. They will

then outbrawl Chicago in seven before being sunk by the Oilers in four straight in the conference finals.

Adams Division

Montreal vs. Hartford - Les Habs will grind out a victory over Hartford and finish Mike Liut's career, at least in Hartford. Montreal in four. Then they will shut down Buffalo in five games.

Boston vs. Buffalo - This should be Don Cherry's favorite series of this year's playoffs with a lot of bumping, clutching, grabbing, grinding, and any other cliché you could think of to describe playoff hockey. Buffalo