

Sid Cranston returns to haunt old teammates

by Mark Spector

Sid Cranston's performance in Face Off '87 was the kind of story that slaps a sportswriter in the face. Write me!

The 23-year old centerman hadn't even travelled the four days previous on a road trip to Lethbridge. He has missed much of this season because of various nagging injuries, and only last October he tore up his left knee so badly some wondered if he would ever skate effectively again.

"Coach didn't even have me on a line in practice yesterday," laughed Cranston, as he sat in the dressing room with a game MVP plaque laying on the bench beside him. And coach Clare Drake didn't

have him on a line Tuesday night either — really. In typically Drake fashion, the 26-year veteran inserted Cranston into the lineup with all the precision of a watchmaker. And Cranston ticked like a Timex, scoring twice and adding two assists.

"He's a smart man," said Cranston of his coach. "He knows what he's doing out there." The Fort Saskatchewan native played with numerous different wingers, himself taking a few shifts out there on the Bears powerplay where he scored. Coincidentally, he had the best luck when he took his brother Dennis' spot between Ansell and Wakabayashi.

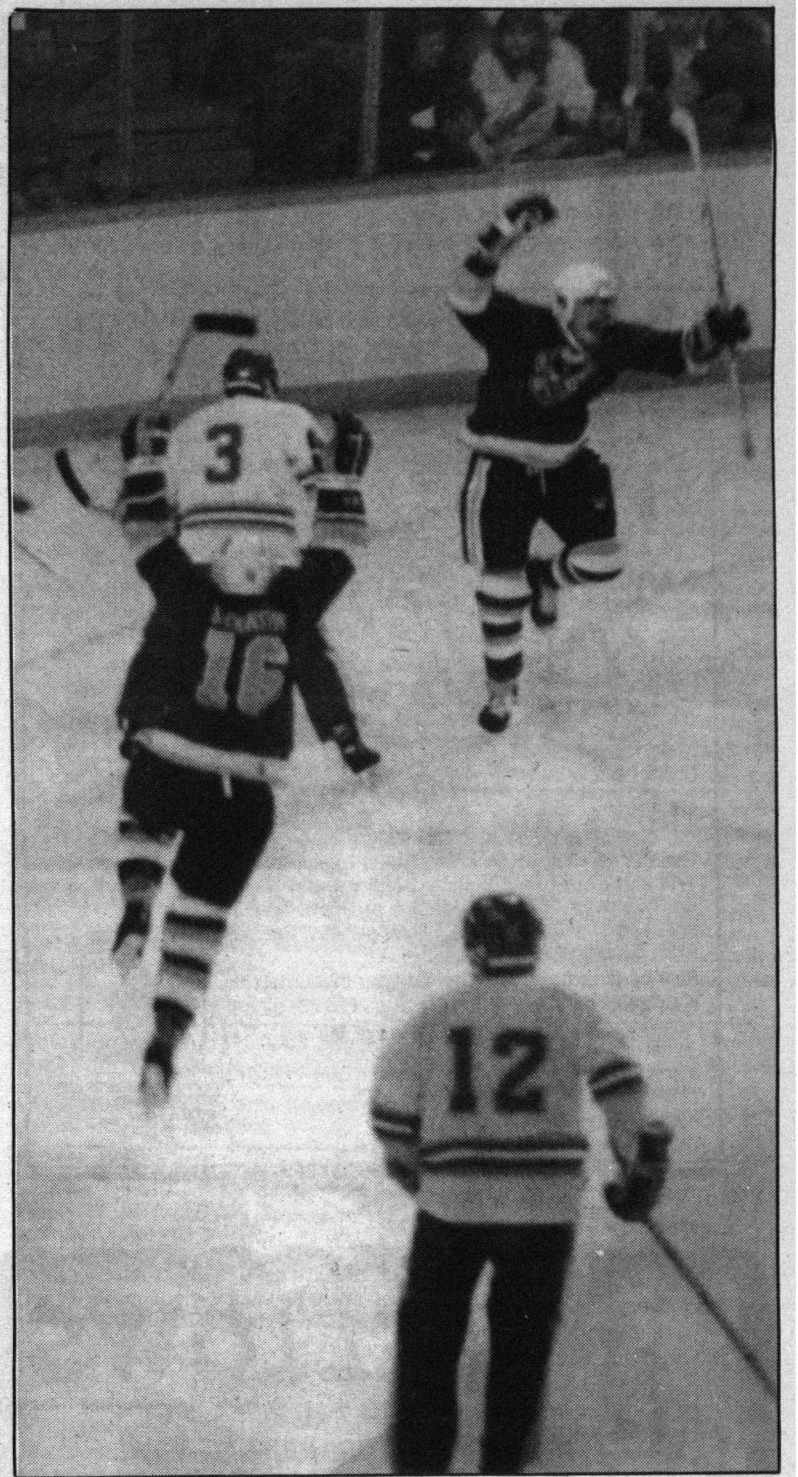
To top it all off, Cranston played

for NAIT two years ago, but had to sit out Face Off '86 with the knee injury.

"Last year I was just sittin' in the stands watching them run us," he remembered. "We were ripe for the pickin'. We had to redeem ourselves this year.

"I'll tell you, they felt great," he said of his two goals, both one-timers off of cross-ice passes from Wakabayashi. "And I'm glad that they weren't cheap goals."

Former MVP in both the AJHL and the ACAC, he said that some of his ex-teammates on the Ooks had a couple of choice one-liners for him as he skated by, but by his beaming smile you could tell that he knew he had the last word.



Sid Cranston celebrates after a third period assist.

photo Leif Stout

Calgary teams blow Bears, Pandas right out of pool

by Carolyn Aney

CALGARY — Outside it was beautiful. Inside at the U of C swimming pool it was less than that. On Saturday afternoon the U of A swimmers met with their rivals from Calgary, and the U of C walked away with the meet. The men's score was 87-22 and the women's was 72-47.

Head coach Dave Johnson was not disappointed with the afternoon, though. "We are definitely still in the work phase of the season (speed will come in the later part of the year). We will be swimming much faster by the time C.I.A.U.'s come around. You have to remember that some of the swimmers still aren't used to me and sometimes things are done by trial and error."

The U of A had only two individual wins, both in the 400m freestyle. Colleen Delaney finished with 4:46.59, 11 seconds ahead of the 2nd place finisher, and Scott Flow-

ers won with 4:04.51. Delaney also placed 2nd in the 200m free while Flowers finished 3rd in the same race.

The other women who placed were Stephanie Lake, 2nd in both the 200m I.M. and 200m back, Debbie Sigaty 2nd in the 100m breast and 3rd in the 50m free. Laura Sandoval placed 2nd in the 100m free. Thirds were turned in by Barb Hardy in the 200m fly and Mikki Promislow in the 100m free. The women also won the 4 X 100m freestyle relay.

For the men Scott LeBuke placed 3rd in the 200m I.M. missing 2nd place by .06 seconds. Third placings were also turned in by Curtis Ciona in the 800m free, Tim Salpeter in the 100m breast and Larry Schulhauser in the 200m fly.

So far this season three women, Judy Cowan, Lake and Sigaty, have qualified for C.I.A.U.'s in Halifax in March. Seven men have qualified.

They are Flowers, LeBuke, Salpeter, Schulhauser, Sam Sim, Howie Ewashko, and Regan Williams. Several more swimmers are expected to qualify before the C.W.U.A.A. conference championships February 20-22 in Vancouver.

In diving, Yanika Guilbault turned in excellent dives for the U of A, placing 1st in the 1m springboard and 2nd in the 3m, qualifying for C.I.A.U.'s in both. Guilbault also placed 2nd in the 50m free.

This weekend nine members of the swim team will be travelling to Winnipeg to compete in the Canadian Winter National Championships/F.I.S.U. Games Trials. Regan Williams has an excellent chance of making the Canadian Universiade Team that will travel to Yugoslavia in July.

The rest of the team will be swimming in the Golden Bear Senior Invitational Sprint Meet in the west pool Saturday, January 31 at 1:00.



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