

Bears beat a path to CIAU title

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Then referee George McCory started whistling penalties. And he didn't stop until he had called 36 minutes worth in the second period alone, including a 10-minute misconduct to Curtis Brandolini for slamming the penalty box gate after an altercation in front of the Patriotes' goal.

Quebec's Stephane Thivierge brought his club to within one when he sidestepped an Alberta defenceman at the blueline and ripped a slapper high over the blocker of Alberta's Darren Turner. Turner would stop All-Star forward Marc Gervais on a breakaway with just 2:33 left in the period to preserve the Bears' lead.

"I knew that he was going to deke so I just sort of waited on him," said Turner, who played goal Thursday against Moncton. That 5-4 win and the title game marked Turner's strongest weekend mind-ing the magnets since before Christmas.

But just as Alberta had come out smoking in the middle frame, Trois Rivieres proceeded to bottle up the Golden Bears in their own zone right off the start of the third period. What seemed like 10 minutes for Alberta was only really two, as the Bears once again found that ability to break out of their own zone which carried them through the



Photo Leif Stout

weekend.

At 4:26 of the third period came the eventual winner off the stick of Stacey Wakabayashi. The 20 year old set up all along to the left of the Quebec goal, took a pass from Ansell (who along with Chisholm had two assists on the day), and fired a patented wrist shot past

Guerard, who looked around like he had never seen a puck travel so fast in his life.

It was only fitting that Wakabayashi get the winner. Early last week he was informed of his father's passing away. He flew back to 100 Mile House, B.C. before the Thurs-

day game, back to Edmonton, back to B.C. for the funeral Friday, and back in time for the final.

With just over eight minutes remaining to play, Gervais finally clicked on the powerplay to bring the Patriotes back up within one.

But restoring the two-goal lead

for the Bears was, once again, Helland, who had only 11 tallies in 47 games this year. After Colin Chisholm's coast-to-coast rush was foiled by Guerard, Helland tucked home the rebound just 25 seconds after Gervais' goal.

It was the straw that broke the Patriotes' back.

"I don't know what it is," said Helland. "Maybe in a game like this it just brings out the foot soldiers like me and Ansell. Coach said between periods that we should follow up to the net more because their goalie was leaving a few rebounds. After Chizzev [Chisholm] drove in there, I just kind of hung back instead of going right after him. The rebound was right there."

And so was the championship, right there, for the 13 veterans who had come up losers in this same game in both of the last two seasons. Helland was one.

"We paid our dues for the last two years. This game was different [from the Moncton game]. We knew in our hearts and souls that we were going to win it. No one could take it away from us anymore."

And no one will

The University Cup will rest at the University of Alberta for yet another season, and host team or not, the Cup resides with the best team in Canadian hockey.

Sid for M.V.M

by Mark Spector

If there was such an award as the Most Valuable Motivator, Sid Cranston would have an award to put in the trophy room right next to brother Dennis' MVP award.

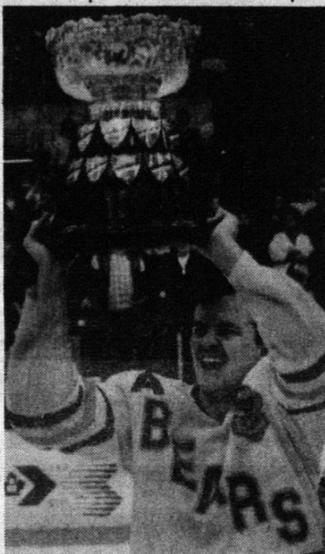
Sid, who missed the entire last half of the season with a serious knee injury, was dressed for Alberta on the weekend, and saw his first action since going down at Varsity arena.

Dennis, the Golden Bears' second overall scorer (28, 49-77 in 54 games), was playing right alongside long time linemate Stacey Wakabayashi, and earning tournament MVP honours.

Dennis, the younger Cranston by a year less ten days, was a force throughout both games. He had two assists against Moncton and one versus UQTR, and as usual split the more important faceoffs with Dave Otto, winning more than his share.

Sid played two short shifts against Moncton and had about six turns in the final. So how can you talk about a guy that barely left the bench in the same breath as a guy who was MVP?

"His personality is a real spark-plug," says assistant coach Jack Cummings. "At times this year we



Dennis Cranston hoists cup high

needed that guy who pats everyone on the back and gets people going. Sid took that role."

"He's got that great leadership ability," states Jeff Helland, "guys like him and Brandolini."

"They aren't wearing a 'C' or an 'A', but they get you going."

As for Dennis, he's been doing his job so consistently this season that he just sort of gets taken for granted.

"Dennis is more of an unseen quantity for us," admits Clare Drake. "He's probably been our MVP this year, though."

And Sid has been the M.V.M.

Confessions of an announcer

by Blaine Ostapovich

As my clothes were being drenched by the locker room shower, my eyes burning from the champagne and beer, I realized how lucky I was to be related, in a small way, to the CIAU hockey champions, the University of Alberta Golden Bears.

My job (if you could call it that) is to the radio play-by-play for the Bears. But as much as the players love to play the game, I really enjoy my opportunity to yell, a la Foster Hewitt, "He shoots — he scores!"

The most enjoyable part of the season was to see the transition and evolution that led to Sunday's 5-2 win over Trois Rivieres.

The first road trip of the season was the long and arduous bus trip to Lethbridge. Amid -30 degree temperatures in a rink that was more suited for Pee-Wees, I got my first taste of road life.

Doing the game from "rinkside", my colourman was hit by a puck and I was the lucky recipient of an errant stick. The Bears were on track and ranked #1 in the country and I began to realize that this was a very talented hockey team.

The next road trip was to the cozy confines of the Max Bell Arena in Winnipeg. The plane flight (the first in my life) was not with the hockey players, but with the Pandas volleyball team (good scheduling).

In game two of the series, the Bears lost big giving up seven goals in the second period, but for me it was a chance to get to know the different personalities on the Bears. Like any team,

Alberta did some soul-searching.

Meanwhile, I was trying to figure out the Dean of college hockey, coach Clare Drake. On one particular bus ride, the coach called me 'Dave', quite to my amazement. That is until one of the players informed me that the coach was still calling defenseman Howie Draper by a first name that didn't sound anything like Howie.

Next stop was Saskatoon for two excellent games, a pair of wins, and the infamous Barnacle Bill tape on the bus trip home. Bill's songs are filled with some of the lowliest, crudest, and funniest things ever mentioned. The two resident musicians, Darren Turner and Jeff Helland, led a small group through a four hour sing-song that, at Eric Thurston's request, included "Margueriteville" about 15 times.

While some players sleep and/or study, others celebrate the victories. Players like Thurston and Curt Brandolini turned heads at the local fast-food joint with arabian headdresses. But all the players are stories in their own right.

Bill Ansell and Brandolini playing hard and always in the middle of team spirit and camaraderie; the talkative Gerald Koebel letting loose yet another corny joke; big, burly Colin Chisholm, the gentle giant (at least off the ice); rookies Shaun Clouston and Steve Cousins who play with the same determination that is a trademark at the UofA; Dennis Cranston, a first team all-star on and off the ice; Craig Dill pulling a chair out from an unsuspecting teammate while Howie Draper takes some well-intended ribbing for his Archie-style haircut; Draper and Krill like frick-'n-frack in a hearty conversation; big John Lamb, whose production and contribution can't be counted in goals and assists; Doctor Dave Otto who is not a bookworm, but has a sense of humour that only a medicine student can have.

More players and more stories. Hustling Jack Patrick, his antennas buzzing in the breeze; Al Tarasuk who is always receptive to us media hounds, as is Captain Ron Vertz who is like an extra coach; practice prankster Stacey Wakabayashi and rookie Bret Walter who gets called Bert more than Ernie's sidekick; Sid Cranston, Denis Leclair, D.J. Hawrelak, and Jay Reid who despite injuries were a vital part in the making of a champion.

If this whole thing sounds a little biased, it should because the Bears are winners and winners should not be put down (Take that, Terry Jones!).

The players, coaches (Drake, Cummings, and Primeau), along with trainers Marty Schmidt and Ron Melusa, and other U of A staff have made this year a most enjoyable one.

Heck, I'm ready to follow the team next season to a second consecutive victory and, being given this special look at our best varsity team, I am most grateful.



Bears 5
UQTR 2

FIRST PERIOD

No scoring
PENALTIES — Dill Alta, 0:13, Lapointe UQTR, 3:36, Carrier UQTR, 3:50, Dill Alta, 6:13, Vinet UQTR, Patrick Alta, 9:02, Mercier UQTR (tripping, roughing), Koebel Alta, 13:56, Ansell Alta, 14:54, Ouellet UQTR, 18:58.

SECOND PERIOD

1. Alberta, Tarasuk (Chisholm, D. Cranston) 0:19 (pp)
2. Alberta, Helland (Ansell) 0:46
3. Trois Rivieres, Thivierge (Lebrun) 3:27 (pp)

PENALTIES — Vinet UQTR, Brandolini Alta (roughing, 10-minute misconduct) 1:43, Cousins Alta, 3:01, Tarasuk Alta, 3:58, Paradis UQTR, 4:59, Carrier UQTR, 7:02, Rousseau UQTR, 12:18, Chamard UQTR, 12:33, Lebrun UQTR, Clouston Alta (delay of game) 15:42, Tarasuk Alta 18:04, Lebrun UQTR, Patrick Alta, 18:46.

THIRD PERIOD

4. Alberta, Wakabayashi (Koebel, Ansell) 4:26
5. Trois Rivieres, Gervais (Doucet, Lapointe) 11:52 (pp)
6. Alberta, Helland (Chisholm) 12:17
7. Alberta, Otto (Dill) 18:02 (pp)
PENALTIES — Edmond UQTR, 5:06, Carrier UQTR, Ansell Alta (delay of game) 5:56, Patrick Alta, 8:40, Tarasuk Alta, 11:16, Koebel Alta, 12:49, Thivierge UQTR, Lebrun UQTR, D. Cranston Alta (double roughing minors) 14:25, Quebec bench, 16:26, Genest Alta, 18:28, Guerard UQTR, S. Cranston Alta, 19:15.

Power-play conversions

Trois Rivieres: 2-9
Alberta: 2-12

SHOTS ON GOAL

Trois Rivieres: 4 8 7 — 19
Alberta: 9 13 11 — 33

Goal — Trois Rivieres: Guerard; Alberta: Turner

Referee — McCorry; Linesmen — Castle, Hilker.

Attendance — 2,964

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