



## Junior teams get the axe

players themselves. It just gave more boys a chance to play hockey in a fairly good league under good circumstances.

"I think the main reasons are financial. From what I gather, the UAB did not see fit to provide further money for any junior team.

"The reason seems rather paradoxical—as the university gets bigger and there is less chance for freshmen and even sophomores to join the senior team, there are fewer chances for them to play in anything.

"What I am concerned with are the kids coming in from the outside points where they don't have contacts with Maple Leafs, Canadiens, and south-side teams.

"They come here, I find they can't make the senior team and just drop out.

### INTRAMURALS INADEQUATE

"I don't think the intramural program is that good or that extensive for fellows who are really interested in playing some serious hockey. However, if they are going to play junior hockey it takes up a lot of time outside the university. If they are playing at the university, practice times are arranged so the players are not out late at night.

"Now, last year wasn't a good year because we didn't have a league to play in. This is very unfortunate but I think if we really worked hard at it we could get a league to play in. I am just sorry to see hockey in general receiving such a low share in the funds or the interests of the UAB.

"This is the one game we can excel in and yet we seem to put it down in the same class as gymnastics, rodeos, basketball and what have you. I'm just opposed to this.

### NO FACILITIES

"I'm most unhappy that the junior team has been cancelled because the senior team will have to suffer. If it is discontinued continually, it could have a lasting effect. It always stands to reason that if kids don't play hockey for a couple of years we can't expect them to be as good as if they had played continually.

"We don't have enough facilities for winter sports other than basketball and I don't know why. I think you can play seven games of basketball at one time at the university and only one game of hockey. Now this to me is rather out of proportion.

"Canada's national sport is hockey, not basketball. We just sort of push hockey aside. It's another indication that schools aren't interested in hockey. The public schools, the high schools, and even the university don't really show that much interest in hockey. It also indicates why the pros get



**BRIAN MacDONALD**  
... schools not interested

such a big hand in the runing of hockey—because nobody else does anything about it.

Mr. Zemrau also said, in defence of the junior athletics, "there are various reasons why you should have a junior team. Basically, a junior varsity team is a team set up to groom players for the varsity team. This is the only real purpose for the team other than providing competition for university students".

Adhering strictly to this prin-

ciple, the volleyball Bears are going to be the team hurt most severely. For the past three years the Bearcats won the Edmonton Open, the Alberta Open, and the Western Canada Junior championships. Coach Costa Chrysanthous of the volleyball team wasn't too concerned about his club this season. But the future? He just couldn't be optimistic.

### NO PRESENT PROBLEMS

"It's not really going to hurt the senior team this year. We will carry more fellows on the team than normally which means more fellows on the bench. These players will not receive the attention and coaching they would have if they were with the Bearcats. We will have to work with ten players instead of six so everyone will suffer. Our senior team is composed of former Bearcats. When we find ourselves without them we have to change our thinking and develop a new method of continuity.

"This year we're going to have about five or six fellows on the first string who started university together. If I don't have any Bearcats two years from now I'm going to have to start at the very beginning for basic fundamentals. Whereas if I had any Bearcats, I could bring up one or two a year and keep the calibre up all the time.

"I don't understand what we are trying to prove. What is the economics of the thing? The capital investment of operating a junior team like the Bearcats is almost nil. When you start thinking in terms of twenty dollars for membership fees and \$150-\$200 to send them on one trip to Calgary a year, really it's a small item.

### NO MONEY?

"It does seem a shame to me to deprive ten or twelve individuals of a certain pleasure of coaching and attention for the sake of a few hundred dollars. Surely in this big organization of ours we should be able to find the money to finance a team. I am sure for the price of two football uniforms we could keep the Bearcat team for a full year.

"This is still a democracy and some of the members of the UAB

are elected by the students. It is the student decision to make. I'm sure if they wanted the junior teams bad enough and if there was enough publicity to bring the junior teams back, I'm sure they would come back.

### ONE EXAMPLE

Ralph Jorstad, a graduate student in mathematics, played on the junior team in his first two years at the university.

His reasons for playing on the team are somewhat different than most.

"I suppose I could have made the varsity in my first year and certainly in the second, but I didn't want to do all the travelling out of town. Academics come first and it was essential to get good marks at the beginning before hockey could interfere."



**COSTA CHRYSANTHOUS**  
... economics of it

For Jorstad, the junior team provided a dual purpose. It allowed him to play hockey on a competitive basis and still allowed him to keep his honors standing. When Ralph thought he could afford the time to play with the Varsity, he went out and made the club. In fact, in that year (1963) the Bears

won the Canadian championship at Kingston, Ontario and Jorstad was named to the second All-Star tournament team.

### WILL JUNIORS RETURN?

Most of the evidence has been presented and the jury will be out for at least a year. As our men have stated, there is a possibility the teams will be back next year—a mighty slim possibility.

This year's budget is based on a seven dollar grant from 11,000 students and the UAB still had a \$1687 surplus. The enrollment, however, is close to 12,000 full time students which would bring in an added revenue of anywhere from \$5000-\$7000.

It seems the money is around and if somebody or somebodies scream loud enough, the return of junior sports on campus might be sooner than anyone expects.

But how soon they return will be based on how loud the hollering is and how often and how intelligent. So instead of campaigning for Viet Nam causes, do something a little closer to home.