

First series a thrill for all star forward Craig Dill

by Mark Spector

Craig Dill had never been much of a playoff performer for the Alberta Golden Bears.

As a matter of fact, Dill had never played in post-season play until this year.

"The last two years I've been on the sidelines watching. My injuries have all been long ones, the kind where you lose a good part of the season," said Dill. Last year a knee injury felled the leftwinger and he was forced to watch as Alberta lost the final 3-2 to York.

"You just want to be out there so bad. It really kills you. Especially two years in a row."

And finally given the chance, Dill's performance in the CIAU finals earned him a forward spot on the tournament All-Star team. But it is difficult to say whether it was his two goal and one assist night against Moncton, or rather his gutsy hard-

hitting (1 assist) outing versus Trois Rivieres, that put him on the elite team.

One assumes that it was both. "I just try to play my own game," softpedals Dill. "I take a lot of hits every night, so it boosts your spirits when you can give a few back."

And there is a whole lot of truth to that. If you're one of a select corps of Golden Bear followers, you've seen Craig Dill take more punishment than any other Alberta player. Not because he skates with his head down, but because he doesn't know the meaning of the word fear.

"I've been one of the smaller players ever since I've been playing hockey. I'm used to it."

At 5'9", 155 lbs, Dill, and tournament MVP Dennis Cranston, are the Golden Bears' two smallest players. Last year a fellow named Perry Zapernick was one of Alber-

ta's team leaders and top ----disturbers, and he was even smaller than Dill.

Along with Dave Otto and Jack Patrick, Dill's checking unit has been Alberta's most steady line,

game in, game out. And as Alberta's top scorer on the season with 37 goals and 79 points in 51 games, Craig Dill has taken the lion's share of the acclaim. It all culminated in the championship this weekend

and the All-Star selection.

But you don't have to worry about Craig Dill, his head won't get big. "Just winning the cup will stand out in the future. The All-Star isn't quite the same."

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