

# Bruins prepare to defend WCIHL crown

## Bisons invade Varsity Arena; Clarke's status in doubt

When you're the defending champions, everyone else seems to play just that much harder against you. The puck Bears, if they haven't found that basic fact out already this season, will certainly discover it this weekend as they entertain Manitoba Bisons in a best-of-three semi-final series in the Western Canada Intercollegiate Hockey League at Varsity Arena.

Bears have won the WCIHL title two years running but in previous seasons it was always the club that ended up in top spot that went on to the Canadian championships. However, this season the WCIHL has introduced a playoff format involving the top four clubs with both semis and finals being a best-of-three affair. The winner will represent the WCIHL in the Canadian finals at Charlottetown March 6, 7, and 8.

The Bruins and Calgary Dinosaurs each finished with 11-3 won-lost records, but Calgary was awarded top spot after thrashing the Albertans 9-1 in Calgary last weekend. Manitoba was third at 9-5.

UBC Thunderbirds who finished

with 16 points, made of eight wins and six losses, travel to Calgary to meet the Dinnies in the other semi-final round. The WCIHL final will be played the following weekend in the home rink of the team finishing highest in the standings.

### Back to work

For the Bears, it was back to work this week following Saturday's disastrous loss. Coach Brian McDonald was naturally not the happiest person in the world with the shellacking but didn't appear to be overly concerned as he ran his troops through a tough workout at Varsity Arena yesterday.

"Sure we played below par, but I don't propose on pushing the panic button. I won't be making any drastic changes because of one game. The team has played exceptionally well recently and I think the club can come back. They're looking forward to winning this series."

The freshman coach knows whereof he speaks. His club has been in this position before, following the two earlier losses to UBC. In each instance, the team was able to



**BILL CLARKE**  
... may not play



**BOB WOLFE**  
... in action Friday

bounce right back off the floor and win key games.

However, if the Golden Ones are to get by the Bisons this weekend, it looks as though they'll have to do it without Bill Clarke.

Clarke, who came to the Bears two years ago from Brown University, suffered a shoulder sprain against the Dinosaurs, and although it doesn't appear to be serious, it is causing him a lot of pain and prevents him from grasping a stick properly.

McDonald won't make a decision on Clarke's status until just before game time and as a precaution has brought up George Repka from the Junior Bearcats for practice sessions.

If Clarke is unable to play, Sam Belcourt will be moved to centre ice between Bob and Tom Devaney. Oliver Morris will move to Bel-

court's right wing spot on a line with Gerry Hornby and Jack Gibson, while Dave Couves will work between Harvey Poon and Don Falkenberg.

Gerry Braunberger's injured right knee appears to be completely healed and he will take a regular turn on the blueline with rookie Dennis Zukiwsky.

Mike Ballash, who is over the flu bug that laid him low for the Dinosaur encounter will be paired up with Mike Lemieux, another rookie, while veteran Mel Baird will be the fifth defenceman.

Bob Wolfe will in all probability get the nod to start in goal Friday night, with Dale Halterman set to go in Saturday's game. If the series goes a third game, McDonald won't make his choice known until just before game time.

## Judo, swimming championships

The Golden Bear men's swimming team will be out to defend its title at the WCIAA championships at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina campus. The men's team is coached by Ross Hetherington. The women's team, under coach Ann Hall, men's and women's diving team with coach Stuart Robbins and the women's synchronized swim team, under coach Cathy Francis will also compete in the championship scheduled for Friday and Saturday.

Saturday, the Golden Bear judo team coached by Ray Kelly and his assistant Ron Powell, will be at the University of Lethbridge to defend the WCIAA judo crown.

Teams from the ten universities in Western Canada will be competing at these championships.

The University of Alberta will also be host for a major intercollegiate athletic event next week.

The Golden Bear wrestling team will host the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union Championships Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27 and 28. Teams representing the five college conferences across Canada will be entered.

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## A brief glance at Grouse Mountain

**VANCOUVER**—In the beginning, Grouse Mountain went to the dogs.

Husky dogs, that is. Historians tell of Grouse Mountain being a breeding ground for husky dogs back in 1926, just prior to the first steps in developing it into a major ski area.

Today, of course, Grouse Mountain stands majestic and proud, overlooking Vancouver. Located just 20 minutes from the city centre, Grouse is one of the most popular skiing resorts on the west coast and the most accessible.

And, to this grand old lady February 27, 28 and March 1, will come the finest 150 skiers in the world from more than ten countries to compete in the du Maurier International, Canada's World Cup ski event.

But, back to the huskies. It is recorded that Admiral Byrd, an explorer of note, sailed the SS Niagara into Vancouver harbor to take Grouse huskies on his now famous '26 Arctic expedition.

It was also in 1926 that Grouse got its first connection with the Vancouver lower mainland, a winding eight-mile road (cost \$1 million) that knifed its way up the backside of the mountain. A sample round-trip road tariff to travel the route was \$1.50 for a car with under seven passengers.

Despite the road, the most popular means of getting to the mountain top was by walking. A typical trip would be to take the now defunct North Vancouver Ferry across Burrard Inlet (Vancouver to the North Shore) and hike eight miles to the mountain.

What was to become one of the most unique buildings of its kind on this continent was constructed on the mountain in 1927. Called simply, the Grouse Mountain Chalet, it was constructed solely from native mountain wood in its natural condition. Cost of the building was \$100,000. It was totally destroyed by fire on June 19, 1962.

Grouse Mountain acquired its first chairlift in 1948. It was an historical moment for it was the initial chairlift built in Canada.

During the years, Grouse Mountain has played host to a coterie of personalities. Perhaps the two most notable examples were the visit of HRH Edward the Eighth (now the Duke of Windsor) who hiked the mountain's trails in 1934, two years before he abdicated the throne of England, and the late Sir Winston Churchill, who painted a landscape from on high in 1932.

More than \$500,000 in improvements is being spent to spruce up the site, including an already-operating high-speed, double chairlift to the peak of Grouse, starting point for the giant slalom, and a new double T-bar, only one of its kind in North America.

Put this together with the already famous Grouse Mountain Skyride and Grouse Nest Restaurant and the resort ranks up there near the top as an outstanding ski facility.

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## GOLDEN BEARS' PLAYOFF HOCKEY

vs. UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA BISONS

BEST 2 out of 3

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Game Times: Friday, February 20, 8:30 p.m.  
Saturday, February 21, 8:30 p.m.  
Sunday, February 22, 8:30 p.m. (if necessary)



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