

Canada West hockey opens

Bears tackle UBC at home

by Shaune Impey

The Golden Bear hockey team opens their Canada West season this weekend at Varsity Rink. Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 they will meet the UBC Thunderbirds in the first league contests for both squads.

Last season the Bears were first in the standings but lost in the playoffs to Calgary. They entered the Nationals in Regina as a wild card team and beat Calgary, Concordia and the host Cougars to capture their third straight CIAU title.

Bears' coach Clare Drake says that the Canada West league this year will be as competitive as he's ever seen it in his 21 years behind the Bears' bench. "There won't be much distance between the first and last place team."

Drake says he hopes that students and other hockey fans will come out to the games to appreciate the calibre of the play at the university level. Many former college players have moved on to an NHL career.

Following is a preview of all four Canada West teams. Players, coaches, strengths, weaknesses and team performances are all examined.

Golden Bears

Coaches Clare Drake and Bill Moores face a challenging year.

The Golden Bears have been hit hard with losses in goal and on defence. How well the gaps are filled will determine whether the Bears can capture a fourth consecutive national title.



Clare Drake

Missing in goal are All-Canadian Ted Poplawski and Brad

Hall. Poplawski has used up his eligibility while Hall didn't return to school.

In their place this year will be rookies Terry Clark and Denis Potvin. Lee Arthur — the third goaltender on the team last year, playing just 50 minutes — recently packed it in because of a nagging wrist injury. He broke it playing baseball this summer and, according to Drake, after it was operated on it didn't respond properly.

Clark is a third year education student who played the last two seasons with the Sherwood Park Crusaders of the Alberta Junior League. Potvin tended goal for Barrhead Elks last year and is also a third year student. Drake says that right now Clark is the number one goalie and will start against UBC in the season opener.

Gone from the defensive ranks are Canada West all-stars Larry Riffin and Bruce Rolin. Also absent is Rod Tordoff. Second year man Dunc Babchuk will be out until after Christmas because of torn knee ligaments. Rolin will rejoin the team after Christmas as well.

The Bears will go with four defencemen for now. Sophomore Dan Peacocke and rookies Wade Campbell, Tim Krug and Curtis Jans will defend the blueline until Rolin and Babchuk return. Drake says he plans to drop some of the forwards back on defence occasionally to give the four a break.

Offensively the Bears will have their top six scorers back: Joel Elliott (40 points as a rookie), Chris Helland (39 points, CIAU Tournament MVP and Canada West all-star in 1979-80), Jim Lomas (38 points), Greg Skoreyko (35 points), Garnet Brimacombe (27 points) and Terry Lescisin (23 points).

Other veterans back are Mike Broadfoot, Rob Daum, Brad Schneider and Barrie Stafford.

Broadfoot and Lomas will be co-captains this season.

Rookie forwards are Rick Bartlett (Leduc Riggers), Breen Neeser (Enoch Tomahawks), Perry Zapernick (St. Albert Saints) and Ray Plamondon (Enoch).

STRENGTHS

As a unit the Bears have the best forwards in the league. They are a very good checking club who are tough to come back against. Bear tradition and reputation is worth a goal in most games.

WEAKNESSES

Young and inexperienced on defence and in goal. How well the

rookies mature may decide the Bears' season.

OUTLOOK

Three in a row and going for four. The Bears are national champions until someone beats them.



Saskatchewan

Last year the Huskies were the most improved team in the league.

Under the direction of Dave King, the CIAU Coach-of-the-Year, they finished in third place with a 14-15 record. In the 1978-79 season, Saskatchewan was 6-18 and in the league cellar.

In the tight Canada West conference last year the Huskies' biggest obstacles were overtime games. They had a 1-5 record in games extending past 60 minutes.

The Huskies have their top three scorers from last season back with the team. Willie Desjardins was fifth in league standings with 44 points, Rey Hudson sixth with a league-leading 27 goals, and Dell Chapman 11th with 37 points. Both Desjardins and Chapman were Canada West all-stars in 1979-80.

Also back with the Huskies this year is former CIAU All-Canadian Greg Wiebe. He was third in league scoring in 1978-79 and returns to the team after a one year absence.

Defensively the Huskies will be led by veterans Marlowe Allison and Stew Walker. Last year Allison was a second team all-star. A valuable addition is newcomer Mike Wirachowsky. Formerly with the Regina

Cougars, Wirachowsky played in Germany last season.

Goaltending for Saskatchewan will be handled by former Victoria Cougar Steve Amis. It's his first year with the Huskies after playing in the Western Hockey League.

STRENGTHS

Desjardins, Chapman and Hudson provided the Huskies with the best powerplay in the league last year. Wiebe should add even more punch to a potent scoring attack.

WEAKNESSES

Depth at the forward positions and penalty killing may hurt the Huskies.

OUTLOOK

It's been a lot of years since a Saskatchewan team had a crack at being in the top two at the end of the season.

They nearly made it last year. All they needed was a couple of overtime wins.

With some goaltending help, along with Wiebe and Wirachowsky — this might be the year of the dog.



Calgary

Experience from the goal out.

The Dinosaurs have 13 returnees from last year's team. Leading the list is Canada West and CIAU all-star defenceman Rick Williams. Along with his all-star selection, Williams also won the Red Dutton Trophy as the top defenceman in Canada West.

Joining Williams is first team all-star netminder Jerry Farwell. Jerry Bancks, second team all-star center and third in Canada West

scoring, is one of eight returning forwards.

Other defencemen back for the Dinosaurs include Ron Fischer (a CIAU tournament all-star in the national finals), George Gonis and Steve Blythe. Olympian Shane Pearsall will help bolster an already strong defensive contingent.

Besides Bancks, the Dinosaurs will also have veteran captain Randy Joevenazzo at center. Wingers Cal Halasz, Paul Murray and Gary Cummins will also be a part of the 80-81 Dinosaurs club.

Newcomers to the Dinosaurs include Alvin Szott, Grant Fagerheim and Rick Laycock. Szott played with Red Deer College last year after several seasons in the Western Hockey League with Portland and Billings. Fagerheim and Laycock both come from the tier two ranks of junior hockey. Fagerheim was with Estevan last season and Laycock toiled with the Calgary Canucks. The Laycock name is a familiar one as previously Bob and Robin Laycock have each worn the Dinosaur uniform.

Last year the Dinosaurs were second in league standings with an 18-11 record. In the playoffs they beat the Bears two straight in the best of three final to capture the league title. In the CIAU tournament in Regina they lost to the Bears (a wild card entry) and beat Concordia.

STRENGTHS

Depth at all positions and a very good defence. Also a good checking team.

WEAKNESSES

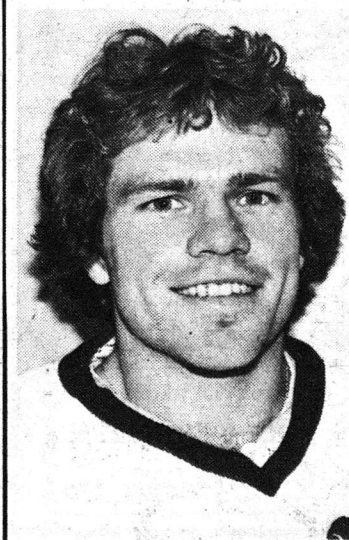
Do not have the talented goal scorers like the other three teams. Last year they had more shots on goal than any other team yet were last in league scoring. Tend to choke in the big games.

OUTLOOK

Calgary is hosting the CIAU Nationals this year. They would like to go in as Canada West champs. Probably won't.

Continued on page 10.

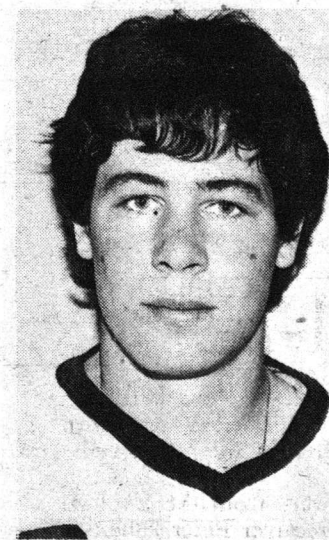
Meet the Bears



9 - Chris Helland

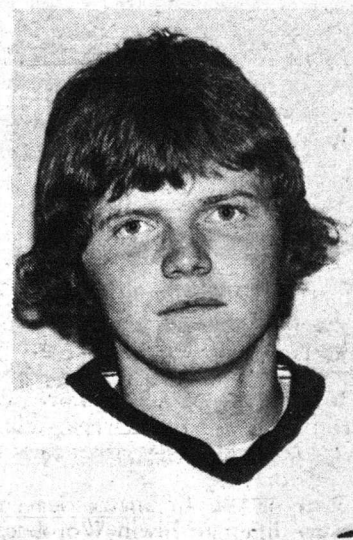
This fast-skating leftwinger is in his fourth year as a Golden Bear. Last season he had 39 points while missing seven of the Bears 29 games. Chris was selected to the Canada West first all-star team and was the tournament MVP in the CIAU Nationals.

Coach Clare Drake says Helland "has been a real spark plug over the past three years. He's a solid all around worker who always gives one hundred percent."



24 - Wade Campbell

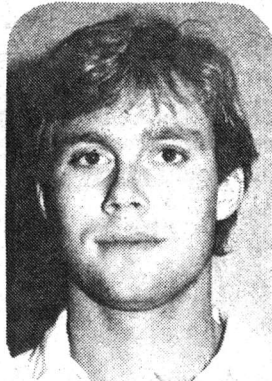
As one of three rookie defencemen on the team, Wad at 6'4" and 225 pounds, is the biggest Golden Bear. Campbell already has one year of university experience under his belt. Last year he played for the University of Illinois, the same school sophomore Garnet Brimacombe also attended. Drake says Campbell has excellent potential. "He handles the puck and passes very well. He's done a good job defensively so far."



30 - Terry Clark

Another rookie, this former Sherwood Park Crusader goaltender finally cracked the Bears' lineup in his third year of university. Coach Drake says that he has been "keeping tabs" on Terry the last two years. "He had an extremely good camp. He gained a lot of experience playing in Sherwood Park." Right now, Drake says he has Clark pegged as the number one goaltender and will start him in the season opener against UBC.

Athlete of the Week



BOB ENGELS

Bob Engels led the Volleyball Bears to the Cougar Classic Championship this past weekend in Regina. The Bears were undefeated in 4 matches, including a big upset win over Manitoba, defending national champs.

Engels was the Bear's leading blocker and serve receiver. Statistically, this third year veteran (a Law student) scored the most points for Alberta as well.

Sponsored by

Boston Pizza

10854 - 82nd (Whyte) Avenue
and 12 other Edmonton area stores.