

Pandas hoop team regroups for Huskiettes. p. 13



Alan Small

Nice capitalist rubles

Even though the Soviet Union is a communist country, they still seem to like the smell of democratic money when it is headed their way. Especially from absent minded groups such as Hockey Canada and the National Hockey League.

Since 1972, we have been paying gobs and gobs of dough to Mother Russia so they can have the privilege of beating whatever team we come up with.

This usually happens during the Christmas break, when their teams get a break from league play.

Remember, these are your tax dollars (in the case of Hockey Canada) or your ticket money (through the NHL). With the Calgary Cup, and the numerous exhibition matches to be played afterwards, the generic Soviet Selects, the World Junior tournament, and of course, the much bally-hooed Rendezvous '87 in Quebec City this February, that's a lot of games and one big pile of money to go to the Kremlin.

Let us not forget the visit to Edmonton by the great goalie Vladislav Tretiak, who is now the general manager of the Red Army hockey squads in the Soviet Union, but is also an ambassador for the Calgary Cup and for Rendezvous. Don't you think it cost someone money to get him up here to sign autographs in North America's Mecca of capitalism, West Edmonton Mall?

Now there is an under-17 squad of Soviets taking on a group called Team Pacific, which just travelled through Edmonton last night. Team Pacific (a lousy substitute name for Team Canada) lost in the North American tradition. 6 - 2.

Tradition? What do you mean tradition?

First of all, we send teams to the World Championship just so we can hold a tournament in our own backyard with our NHLers.

We have trouble winning that as well.

What will happen at Rendezvous? The best Canada will get is a split, I say. Since it is a two game series, nothing will be accomplished except our money turning into their money, then all of the ticket buyers money turning into the NHL's and Al Eagleson's lettuce.

The only other thing to come of it will be a continuation of these silly tournaments. All North American hockey is doing right now is adding to their masochistic desires.

At least Rendezvous will keep our dollars in North America instead of the Soviet Union.

Better our bombs than theirs, I guess.

Sports

Jim McMahon's book slams 'em all. p. 14

NAIT's got us beat already

U of A supporters conspicuous by their absence

by Mark Spector

You can sure tell how far the annual Face Off game has progressed in the three years that it has been around. Each year there's more guys in expensive suits at the opening press conference than the year before.

And you know they must be important because you never see them again in sporting circles until the hoopla begins all over again next year. Presumably they all go back to being business men, or running their respective institutes of higher learning.

Some things never change. Like the fact that fans can expect to see a helluva hockey game on January 27th when the defending CIAU champion Golden Bears take on the two-time defending CCAA kings NAIT.

It really was something, too, back in '85 when the two best teams in Canadian scholastic hockey squared off in front of 13,354 excited fans in the Coliseum with the Golden Bears prevailing in a thriller, 5-4.

In the heat of the moment everyone from Edmonton's top columnists to the fans in the stands sang of what a great tradition we would build here, and how they'd fill the Coliseum to the rafters next year and every year. In fact, they're still singing. Everyone except the fans from the U of A.

Quite frankly, Scarlett, they don't give a damn.

Some things never change. "The fans... that's quite the subject," said Golden Bear defenseman Parie Profit. "We play very hard and try to represent our university honourably. But we don't get any support from the students. For whatever reason, they just don't come out."

"It's disappointing for sure. Very disappointing." Familiar tune? Tell me about it. In two years I've written enough of these things too. Bears' assistant captain Craig Dill has grown tired of the subject also. The jovial native of Downsview, Ontario gets serious when asked about the uninterested 28,000 here in Old Strathcona.

"For the people that do come out to the game, it's unfair to lump them in with everyone else," says Dill, a second team Canada West All-Star last year. "Like Forestry. They often have a good section at the games."

"But when you look at the size of the two student bodies we're definitely the lazier of the two."

U of A is the second biggest university in Canada at 28,000, while the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology tutors about 12,000 full-time students in various technologies.

If you didn't know better at last year's 7-5 Oookpik victory, you would say that the Northlands Coliseum was NAIT's home arena and the Golden Bears were the visitors. Of the 8564 fans (down a considerable 4790 from Face Off '85), only about 2500 could have been cheering for the Bears.

Let's talk figures: Only about half of the U of A supporters were students. That figures to about 9% of the student body. A flattering 9% at that. NAIT, on the other hand, was spurred on by roughly 42% of their full-time students.

What's more, the U of A Athlet-

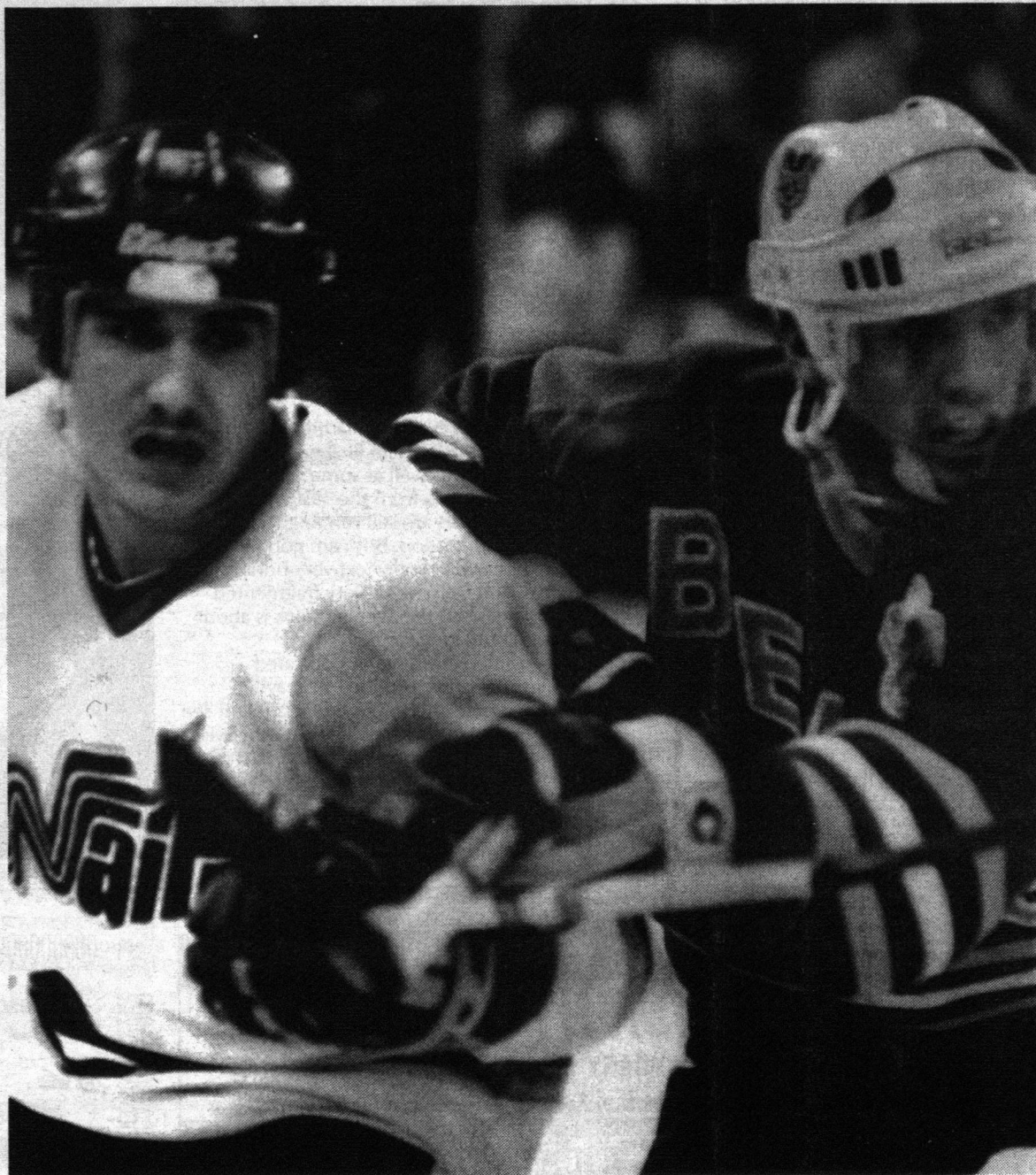


photo Bill St. John

Bears' Jeff Holland checks Scott Melnyk from NAIT in Face Off '86. Melnyk had a pair of assists in the Ooks 7-5 victory. On the 27th the two teams will square off for the third year in a row.

ics department gave away an equipment bag full of freebies at the last minute so that at least the families of their corporate sponsors would be there.

It's got to be hard to really believe that you're representing your university when the university doesn't seem to give a damn.

"That's about it," says Dill.

"You have to ask 'Are you coming out just to see us win or to enjoy

the sport?' What are they showing up for?" questions Dill. "Maybe the attitude has changed because of the Oilers. People come out just to be able to say that they were there."

This year it's NAIT's turn to organize the event, so if anything the ratio will be worse. And the NAIT Athletics department will be hardpressed to make a profit.

And the Ronald McDonald House Foundation will benefit, but not nearly enough.

And Bob Steadward will shake his head.

In the Crease — Alberta (8-6) opens up the second half of their season in UBC (6-7-1) this weekend... The Bears are in third spot in **Canada West** with 16 points. **Calgary** has 22 points, while **Manitoba** has 21.

Kennerd quits as QB coach

by Dean Bennett

Forrest Kennerd, Quarterback Coach for the Golden Bear football team, resigned his position last December 22 citing personal problems as the reason for his departure. "I wasn't developing as a coach," Kennerd said. "I've been coaching and playing in this town since 1969 and I'd lost my enjoyment of the game."

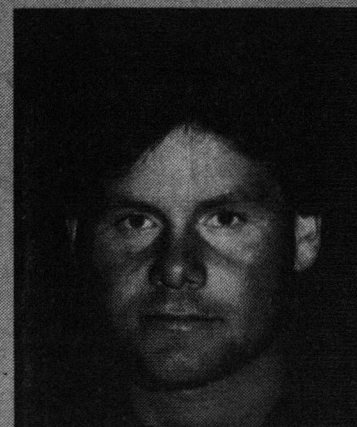
Bears' Head Coach Jim Donlevy was disappointed over Kennerd's decision and has already begun his search for a replacement. "I have a number of people in mind," he said. "They're all quality people."

Donlevy is looking at replacing

Kennerd with another quarterback coach but if another coach comes around with special skills in different areas, he would not be averse to hiring that coach and shifting a coach already on his staff into the QB slot. The decision, in any event, will be made right away.

"I want my coaching staff in place by the end of January," said Donlevy. "And at this point in time all coaches except Forrest will be returning."

Kennerd joined the Bears in 1979 and quarterbacked them to two WIFL championships and one Vanier Cup victory in 1980, the last time that the Bears reached the final.



Forrest Kennerd