

Parie Proft

— is he the U of A's next Randy Gregg?

by Blaine Ostapovich

He is still the softspoken unassuming hockey player that hails from Barrhead, Alberta, but Tuesday night old number 14 of the green and gold was sporting number three representing the touring Canadian Olympic Team.

Moreover, Parie Proft was no longer manning the blueline, but patrolling the forward ranks.

The Olympic spirit was all around the Bears' top scoring defenseman of a year ago. During an intermission break, the five Golden Bears who represented Canada at the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics were honoured.

But about how he is doing in the unique atmosphere of the Olympic program: "It's different now that I'm not a full-time student anymore. I put a lot more hours into hockey instead of school and I really like it because I enjoy playing hockey so much."

What about the transition to forward and being relied upon to put the puck in the twine? "I like to skate a lot and I am really enjoying it right now... the only part I'm not enjoying is not putting the puck in the net, but they tell me that will come in time - I hope."

The Bears' contingent seemed to agree with Proft's assessment. Alberta assistant coach Jack Cum-

mings remarked, "We played Parie as a defenseman, so it was interesting to see him play forward."

Golden Bears' forward Dennis LeClair echoed similar sentiments about his former teammate. "I think it's a bit of an adjustment for him, but he's got great offensive skills... I think he played well."

Even if Proft is not one of the final group of young Canadians who will attempt to wrest the gold medal away from the defending champion Soviets, hockey will no doubt become a career for him.

Drafted in the 6th round of the 1983 amateur draft by the Vancouver Canucks, Proft chose the Olympic program to round out his skills and to play against top calibre opponents.

As for his mates of a year ago, Proft is optimistic. "I think they (the Bears) will come around and take the nationals. They still forecheck like crazy and they're a great team, they work very hard."

Talking about the change in coaching from Clare Drake to Dave King, Proft didn't think there was a transition to be made.

"The coaching is not a lot different, they are very similar in that they both teach the game very well and anybody that plays for either coach is going to learn about the game."



Parie Proft as a Golden Bear. The Olympic team member had one assist against his old mates on Tuesday. Photo J. Whittenberg

Finally, Proft got a bit sentimental about his chance to play against his former teammates in the arena where he showed well enough to make that prestigious squad known

as the Olympians. "This is home for me, it's been my home for the past two years and it's been a real happy place for me. The two years have been good years for me and I

enjoyed coming back... it brought back a lot of feelings and emotions that were really positive for me and I'm glad I had the chance to return."

Swimmers shaving more than just times

by Carolyn Aney

This weekend the Golden Bears and Pandas swim teams will be hosting the CWUAA conference championships in the West Pool. The meet begins on Friday night at 6:30 p.m. with the distance events - 1500m freestyle for men, 800m freestyle for women, and the relay events. On Saturday and Sunday the heats will be swum beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Teams that will be participating in the meet are UBC, UVic, U. of Calgary, U. of Manitoba, and the U of A. The men's teams expected to show strongly are Calgary, B.C., and Victoria who will probably all place in the top five in the country.

On the women's side, the teams battling for the top placings will be B.C., Alberta, Victoria, and Calgary. "But it is important to remember that swimming is an individual sport," says women's team captain, Barb Henning. "And overall scores

are not as important to the teams as individual improvements and getting qualifiers for CIAU's."

Assistant coach Cam Henning is expecting a significant improvement from the Bears. "Most of our men lack experience and this will be their first time swimming through a shave and taper which should provide significant drops in individual times."


Coach Henning explained the value of the shave in that when body hairs and the outer layer of dead skin is shaved off, the nerve endings are exposed letting the swimmer 'feel' the water better. "It is mostly to psych up the men, but regardless, if we want to do well we have got to get competitive."

According to men's team captain Stu Wilson, this should not be too much of a problem as "the team has really come together this year in spite of it being a rebuilding year for us (the men)."

Expect strong performances from the men in the 100m and 200m fly by Larry Schulhauser and Mark Bottrill, and in the freestyle relays.

The women are looking for strong performances by Tiffany Watson, Stephanie Lake, Dina Skinner, and Barb Henning. Hopefully these girls will qualify for CIAU's and join Elaine LeBuke, Colleen Delaney, and Mary Jo Clark at Laval University from March 6-8 for nationals. All four of the girls are close to meeting the qualifying standards and should make it.

One concern for all swimmers is that in order to receive funding from the Canadian Amateur Swimming Association (CASA) one must qualify in at least two events and must be among the top 85 males or females in the country. But the ultimate goal for the swimmers is to achieve personal best times at this meet or at least seasonal best.



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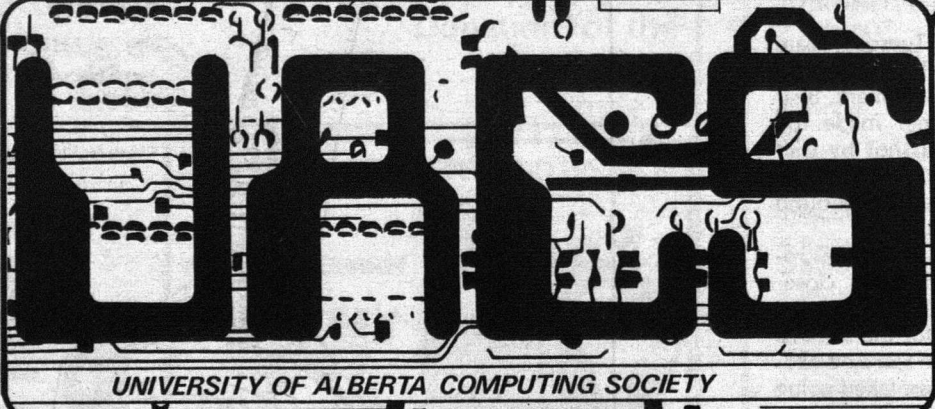
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