



## Alberta's number one!

Photo Left Stout

by Mark Spector

It was a slap in the face, the number ten ranking. Same with the suggestion that the Alberta Golden Bears didn't deserve to be in the CIAU finals, that they came through the back door.

And with a resounding 5-2 victory over the University of Quebec at Trois Rivieres on Sunday, Clare Drake's troops earned the last laugh, a chuckle that was enjoyed until late in the evening between sips from the University Cup brimming with champagne and sometimes beer.

It was a merciless body attack

that disabled the Patriotes, a team that only one day previous had called that aspect of hockey one that they favoured.

In a 5-2 victory over York in their Saturday semi-final the Quebec team had beaten the defending national champions at their own game: bodychecking.

And awaiting the Golden Bears, the Patriotes perhaps felt that the going could not get any rougher.

"If the game gets that way, we are able to play it," stated tournament all-star point-man Christian Thellend. "I don't mind if it is physical." But UQTR didn't realize exact-

ly what they were welcoming.

Joining Thellend on the point was All-Star Eric Thurston from the Bears.

In the first two periods (in which UQTR had 4 and 8 shots compared to the Bears' 9 and 13) the boards were bending under the weight of flying bodies, mostly the orange-clad ones of the Patriotes.

It was a goaltenders' duel in the opening frame. After 20 minutes the score was still knotted at zero and indeed there were more checks thrown than shots taken.

But something must have gone on during the first intermission in

the Alberta dressing room because within 46 seconds of the second period, the score was 2-0 in the Bears' favour.

Dennis Cranston, who would later be named tournament Most Valuable Player, cleanly pulled a draw back to Colin Chisholm stationed on the blueline to the goalie's right. His shot along the ice was saved by Claude Guerard but the rebound came out just beyond the reach of the netminder, who sprawled out after it anyhow. All that Al Tarasuk had to do was lift the puck up into the top shelf, and he did just that to stake Alberta to a 1-0

lead.

Then before the 2,964 faithful had sat back down in their seats, Jeff Helland had put Alberta up by two with his first of a pair.

On a two-on-one with Bill Ansell, Helland's pass bounced off the skates of defenceman Thellend — and up into Helland's stomach. The 21-year-old Aggie batted home the puck as it fell back toward the ice.

"I tried to look for the shot and then pass," he later said. "Once it hit his skate, I just did whatever I could. You don't practice that kind of stuff. It just happens."

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