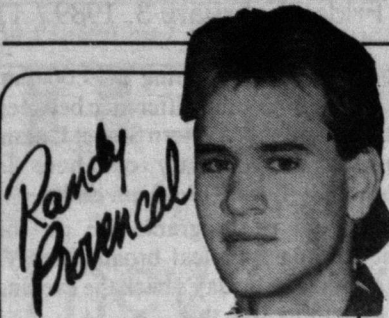


## #4 vs #8 in Bear-Dog matchup



Everything about the NHL all-star game is predictable and uneventful. Yet each of the previous 39 years it's been held, it has sent fans flocking to arenas and in front of their TV sets.

The all-star game doesn't even spotlight all of the league's talent. Sure, it pits the top scoring forwards and defensemen against one another, with the 'superb' goalies feeling the brunt of the attack.

But what about the role players; the grinders who make their living in the corners and along the boards? Sure, they don't have the fanciest moves or the hardest slapshot, but shouldn't they count?

Obviously nobody appreciates the few-frills-if-any players like Craig MacTavish.

Or what about a team which works well as one cohesive unit but has no true to the meaning superstars? Obviously they are stars in their own right, but where does its players fit in on a league-wide all-star team?

Take a look at the Calgary Flames, who are tied with the Montreal Canadiens for top spot in the league. Arguably they are the most well-rounded club in the NHL, no?

Now take a look at the starting lineup for the Campbell Conference: nothing but Los Angeles Kings (three) and Edmonton Oilers (also three). Hopefully, Campbell coach Glen Sather will notice the injustice and rectify it.

If you shelled out 100 bucks for reds in hopes of witnessing Grant Fuhr stand on his head en route to a shutout (a rare event, indeed), you'll be disappointed. This one should be a high scoring affair, perhaps lopsided.

While the all-star game is supposed to showcase the best of the best, one player — the best of the best — will stand out with everyone else reduced to mere spectators forced to watch from afar. Look at last year's Mario Lemieux one man show (he scored almost every shift, three goals and three assists) or Wayne Gretzky's four-goal romp in the third period of the 1983 all-star game for proof.

You can almost bet the farm that it'll happen again this year.

And yet another predictable: zero penalties will be called. Wouldn't it be nice if Mats Naslund gave Jari Kurri a two-hander across the melon? Excitement! Unpredictable!

Highly unlikely.

Actually, you can expect one unexpected in the all-star game. It'll be interesting to see which player gets what number on his jersey. Isles' Pat LaFontaine was quoted as saying it would be nice to finally get the chance to wear his number 16 in the game — now that Nord's Michel Goulet (also number 16) wasn't chosen to play.

Gee, I wonder if that'll make the highlights.

by Alan Small

When Robert Peary went to the North Pole, he said Huskies were the right animal to get you there.

To get to Edmonton though, the University of Saskatchewan better hope that their bus can live up to their name.

Once they bus the eight hours to get to frozen Edmonton however, the Huskies will have more than their hands full with the Golden Bear hockey team, who have won their last eight conference games in a row.

Despite their winning streak, the Bears still haven't gained any



ground on their arch-rivals, the Calgary Dinos, but they have opened a lead on the third place Huskies, who are six points back with a 13-7 Canada West record.

The game will be a clash between Huskie Ken Morrison, last week's Canada West player of the week, and Bear captain Sid Cranston. Both tied for the conference lead in goals scored last season with 34 (it was also a Canada West record) and now Morrison is poised to break it once more. Morrison has 31 goals, tops in the conference, and will most likely break the year-old record. Morrison's 16 power play goals leave him first in the conference as well.

The Cranston watch will be on as well, considering the last two home series have left him with



Bear Wes Craig stickhandles around the defense. Only Huskie Ken Morrison has scored more power play goals than the Bear forward.

this weekend. knee injuries. The last one left him out of a pair of games, but he played in the last game against UBC, so the Fort Saskatchewan native should be ready to play. If the standings remain the way

they are, the conference semifinals will be the same as last year, which will be a best-of-three series in Edmonton between Alberta and Saskatchewan.

During that series, the Huskies jumped out to a one game lead

before the Bears woke up and won the other two games to take the series. The Bears eventually lost the conference finals to Calgary in three games.

Games take place Friday and Saturday at 7 pm in Varsity Arena.

## V-ball Bears looking to end slump

by Alan Small

Looking at the standings, you have to wonder what is wrong with the Golden Bear volleyball team.

They've lost all six matches so far and in those six matches, they have only won two games. A quick look at the schedule and it is easy to see why the Bears have got off to such a slow start.

They have played four matches against the University of Calgary,

**"I don't think we're as bad as our record. We'll have a chance to put our talk into action." — Baudin**

the number one team in Canada, and lost all four. They have also lost a pair of matches to the UBC T-Birds, who aren't shabby either — they're number three.

The Bears, along with the volleyball Pandas, will try to move up in the standings by hosting the

Victoria Vikings for a pair of matches at Varsity Gym on Friday and Saturday.

"It should be really close," said Bear head coach Pierre Baudin, "I don't think we're as bad as our record. We'll have a chance this weekend to put our talk into action."

Victoria comes off a successful weekend last week, when they upset the eighth ranked Saskatchewan Huskies 3-1. The win vaulted the Vikes into the ninth spot in the CIAU's top ten.

"Victoria, Saskatchewan, and us are really close," Baudin said, "they're a little more experienced, but we're an inch bigger across the board. They won't intimidate us."

Victoria sports John Brisebois, a graduate of Bonnie Doon High School, as their top player. He is third in the conference in kills, and Baudin says the Edmonton product is their Victoria's main passer. Brisebois played on the junior national team a couple of years ago, and decided to join UVic when the coach joined the Vikings.

One problem for the Bears is

the fact that they haven't seen the Vikes at all this season. The young Bears have done well they are prepared, but this weekend, they won't have that luxury.

"We block better when we know what is coming," Baudin

said. "The first game might be difficult for the first couple of games. We'll just have to focus on our side of the net."

Panda matches start at 6:30 pm, with the Bear-Vikes games starting at 8:15 pm.

## Face Off buried under blizzard

by Alan Small

Face Off '89, scheduled for Tuesday, was postponed because of the horrible weather that invaded the city from Alaska on Monday.

The annual hockey game between the U of A and NAIT will now be played on February 16. Game time will be 7 pm.

The decision to postpone the event was made by both teams'

coaches, NAIT's Perry Pearn, and Alberta's Clare Drake, along with Edmonton Northlands, who are renting out Northlands Coliseum for the event.

About 5,000 tickets were sold for the game, but organizers were expecting 5,000 more to buy tickets at the door. These tickets will be honored for the new Face Off date.