

sports



Hockey

The 1976-77 season has to be filled with mixed emotions for coach Clare Drake. After being fired by the WHA Edmonton Oilers the previous season, Drake was forced to make a premature entrance back into college hockey. "I had originally planned to coach in the pros for 2 or 3 years," said Drake. That dream didn't come true. Neither did another dream that continued to materialize and become closer to reality as the season wore on. That dream was another national

championship. Drake has three to his credit and everyone was adding number four to his long list of accomplishments until the Toronto Blues came along.

The rest is history. The Blues won their ninth championship in the last 13 years under Tom Watt, upending the Bears 4-1 in the sudden death final.

The team accomplished so much during the season that the final game seems like a cruel mistake that couldn't happen yet somehow did.

The team set a league record

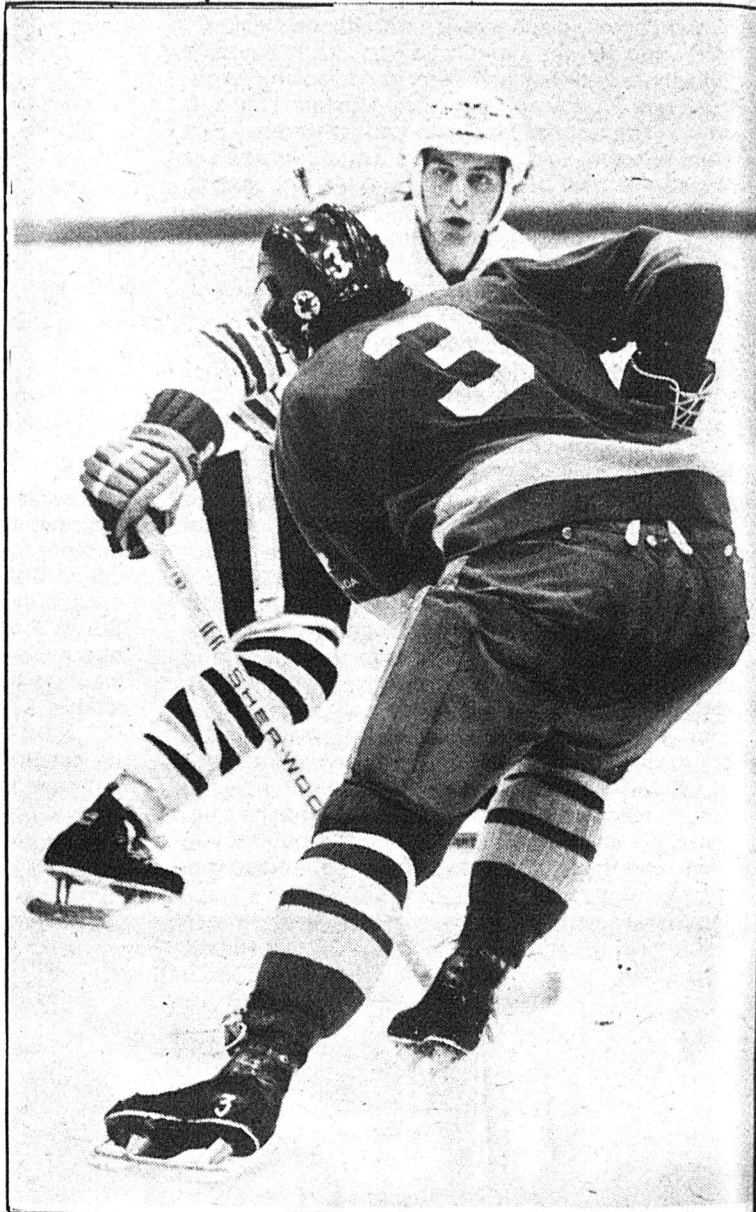
for wins, with 21, losing only 3, and Jim Ofrim captured his second consecutive scoring crown setting a consecutive point scoring streak in the process.

The team went 16 games without a loss at one point in the season and led the league in virtually all offensive and defensive departments.

Alberta has always been a national hockey power and with Drake coming back for his 19th season as coach that claim will hold true again next year.

Part two of the year end review looks at the two major varsity sports on campus — football and hockey. For head coach Jim Donlevy it was the 4th year in a row that his football club failed to make the playoffs. For Clare Drake it was the exact opposite. He led the team to its 12th CWUAA conference title under his guidance only to lose out to the University of Toronto Blues in the national final.

We'll take a closer look at the two teams and their seasons and on the following page an offbeat pictorial look at some of the scenes that seldom make their way onto the sports pages.



Football

Time was when the Golden Bear football squad were perennial powerhouses in the WIFL. That's no longer the case. The other teams have caught up with Alberta.

UBC, who were once the laughing stock of the league captured the league title this year and will be just as strong next year. The Bears, despite losing Brian Fryer to the NFL still had a formidable lineup in '76. Dalton Smarsh returned to the team and the lineup was bolstered by some impressive first year players. Everything was there except cohesion. Donlevy had to shuffle the offensive line early in the season and the team struggled, dropping 3 of its first four games. Alberta was clearly the domi-

nant team in the league during the second half of the schedule winning 3 games and tying one. The tie game cost them a playoff spot though. Saskatchewan scored in the dying seconds to give them a playoff berth and eliminate Alberta (thanks to a UBC victory the following weekend).

There were bright spots though. Centre Gerry Inglis won the J.P. Metras trophy, awarded to the top lineman in Canada and Dalton Smarsh had, according to Donlevy, the best season ever in his 5 year career with Alberta.

If you're looking for the Bears to start dominating the football scene again forget it. It's not going to happen. There's going to be another dogfight between the 5 teams next season. The Bears are going to have to fight and claw for every inch from now on.

