

U of A opens area track center

by Alan Small

The U of A will be the home base for a new track and field training center.

The Northern Alberta Track and Field Development Center will provide track and field athletes the top-level coaching and facilities that are necessary in creating top-level interprovincial and international results. The center will also help the weekend track athlete as well as teach skills to school age athletes throughout northern Alberta.

A similar center for southern Alberta has been set up at the University of Calgary.

"We have to fill the gap that is out there," said Ted King, the Director of Coaching and Center Coordination. "The whole organization of track and field in northern Alberta is important, from the elite athlete to little Joe or Joanne."

King comes to the track and field center from England via the University of Arkansas, where he coached Mike Conley, the world record holder in the triple jump, and Edrick Floreal, the Canadian champion in the same event.

Also hired at the center is James Tenant, who will be the

administrator of the center. Tenant comes from the University of Waterloo, and the University of Idaho, where he went on a track scholarship.

Tenant says more than one top track and field athlete has left the Edmonton area for the States.

"Before, there wasn't enough access to top flight coaching in northern Alberta," Tenant said. "We have to keep athletes like that here in Edmonton."

Unlike total elite track centers (like York), the track center is looking at the whole spectrum of athletes that participate in track and field.

"I'd like the opportunity to see the development of the athlete from when the first start to when they go to the nationals," says King. "The middle section (between the elite athlete and the newcomer) has been missing. That's what we're all about."

The track and field center will not be replacing the job the clubs around the city have been doing. Clubs and the center will work interdependently.

"This will be complementing the local track clubs," Athletics chair Dr. Robert Steadward said. "They'll get access to these facil-

carefully. Johnson's sprinting body is a finely tuned instrument, much like a violin. I doubt that Stradivarius painted his violins with Tremclad rust paint.

The unfortunate part of this entire situation is knowing how much of this goes on. Steroid use is so rampant that it might be difficult to stamp out.

King is worried about it not getting stamped out. Steroid use may have become so entrenched in our sporting society that we may be too late if we make reforms.

"Athletes have to be reeducated to challenge themselves," King says, "and not necessarily challenge a statistic."

"We should take what has happened and use it as an educational tool for the youngsters coming up. There are rules. You stay within the rules. You succeed because you challenge yourself," King says.

The media is also partially to blame for the spreading of steroids. The media says that Ben Johnson will beat Carl Lewis at any cost. Well he did. And it cost him. Another problem is kids see that Johnson breaks the world record on steroids. The kid says "All I have to do is pop some 'roids, beat the drug tests and I can win a gold medal."

Steroids don't make you fly. Steroids are harmful to humans. Educating these young athletes now is essential. Just the way Ted King will be doing at the U of A. Let them challenge themselves. Let's not have a whole generation of athletes trying to beat the competition and the spectrometer. The competition is more than enough.

ities and access to performance testing and access to the Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic."

Many administrative details must be hammered out yet before the center gets into full operation. The target date for the center's full opening at the Butterdome is September 1989.

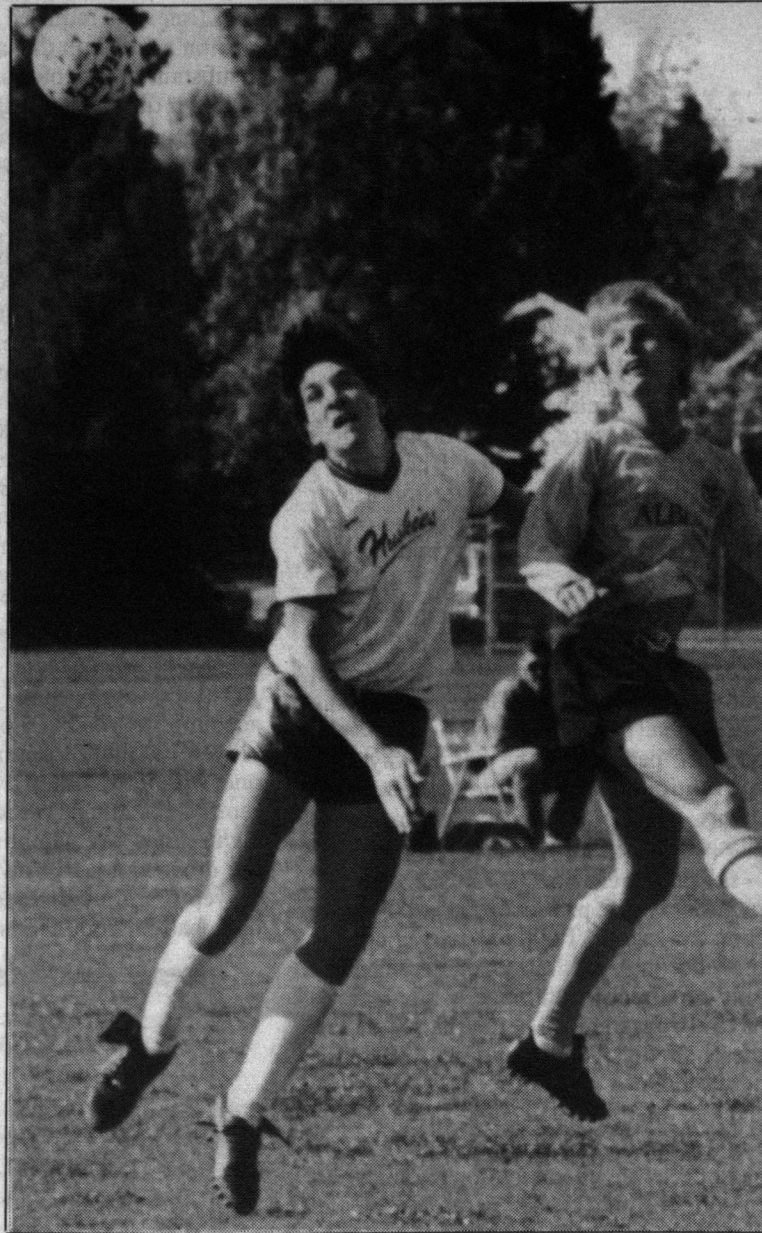
"We can keep some of our academic athletes in the area, rather than provide them for other universities." — King

In a separate announcement, the Phys Ed faculty has allowed the Athletics department to reinstate the track and field team for the 1988-89 season. King says the university team will be a large part of the center's role.

"We can keep some of our brighter, academic athletes within the area," said King, "rather than provide good academics and good athletes for other universities."

Steadward has also applied to the Canada West Universities Athletic Association so that the track and field team can compete in the Canada West and the CIAU meet next spring.

"We don't anticipate any problems," said Steadward.



The Golden Bears soccer club play a pair of crucial matches with UBC and Victoria.

Bears face 24 hrs. of dogwood soccer

by Alan Small

British Columbia is the soccer province of Canada.

The Vancouver 86ers won the Canadian Soccer League championship this year. In university ball, Victoria has won four Canada West championships in the last six years. The other two years were won by the UBC Thunderbirds. In that time, UBC has also won three national championships and Victoria has won one. Going into this season, Victoria is ranked number one and UBC is ranked fifth.

The Bears face the ominous task of facing the Vikings and the T-Birds within a 24 hour span.

"It's quite a challenge," said Bear head coach Len Vickery, "but we've got enough depth to get the job done this weekend."

"It is like the basketball team playing Victoria and Brandon on the same weekend."

Another difficulty is the fact that both teams play different styles. Victoria plays a wide open scoring affair, while the T-Birds use a solid, defensive mode of play.

"Victoria has lost two main players from last year," says Vickery, "but they've got some players to fill in. Defensively, we'll have to shut them down."

Another reason this two game weekend looms large is that the Bears must get a good result off of these teams to reach the playoffs. The Bears must beat one of them to do that.

"If we take at least a point off

of Vic," says Vickery, "then all three of us would have lost a point or more." Last weekend, the Vikings defeated the T-Birds in their season opener.

The Bears had a finishing problem last weekend against the Lethbridge Pronghorns. The Bears cannot repeat that performance this weekend and expect some good results.

"We can't concede any chances," Vickery stated. "We can still be better with our midfield

duo."

CORNER KICKS: Dave Phillips led the Bears this weekend with a pair of goals over the Calgary Dinos, whom they defeated 4-0. Vickery also singled out the play of forward Rob Biro... The Game time for Friday's match has been moved from 4 p.m. to 2 p.m., because of the CWUAA Women's soccer tournament, which runs all weekend. Saturday's game is also at 2 p.m. All soccer games are played at the Faculte St. Jean (8406 91 Street).

Hockey Bears host pre-season tourney

The Molson Invitational hockey tournament pits the Universities of Calgary, Lethbridge, and Saskatchewan against the U of A in their major pre-season test this weekend.

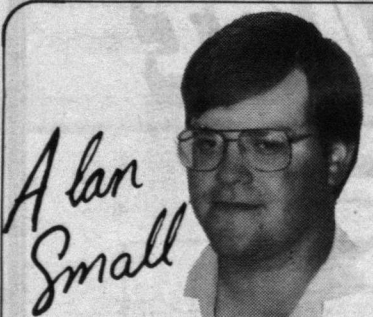
While most teams will be playing their rookies to see if they can handle university hockey, expect most of the veterans to play, helping them get into game shape. The Canada West hockey season starts on October 21.

The Bears play the Saskatchewan Huskies at 7:30 p.m. Friday, The Lethbridge Pronghorns Saturday at 7:30 and will face off with the defending Canada West champion Cal-

gary Dinosaurs, Sunday at 2 p.m. Other games are played at 4:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The U of A is looking to retain the tournament title which they lost to the Dinos last year, which was the first time the Bears relinquished their hold on the tournament.

The Panda soccer team hosts the Canada West soccer tournament at the Faculte St. Jean this weekend as well. They host UBC, Lethbridge, Saskatchewan, and Calgary in the first of two conference tourneys. The Pandas play Friday at 4 p.m., Saturday, at 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.



Ben Johnson is not the only track and field star that's taking steroids. The others don't get caught, but they still do it. There is no doubt.

Shedding some light into a very dark subject was Ted King, the new director for coaching and center coordination for the Northern Alberta Track and Field Developmental Center. With over twenty years of coaching experience in Europe and North America, King has seen most of what goes on between coach and athlete.

"I would wonder how many people in Canada not directly involved in track and field would have an inkling of how much of this sort of thing (steroids) goes on," questions King. "It's deplorable."

Steroids aren't confined to Olympic events. In Brian Bosworth's autobiography, he said that in the University of Oklahoma, steroids were passed out like Anacin. That's a frightening thought.

The story out now is that Johnson's coaches and doctors made a mistake with the world record holder steroids dose, thus having the steroids show up on the drug test. Johnson isn't the one to be blamed. He doesn't go to the local drug store and buy out the pharmacist of all his steroids. They must be taken