

Full Bears and Pandas
basketball wrapup —
p. 13 & 14

Canada West standings
& scoreboard — p. 14

Sports

Bears de-horn Lethbridge

Alberta tunes up for NAIT with pair of victories



Mark Spector

CIAU trips and falters

So the Golden Bears are finally going to go to Czechoslovakia to play in the World Student Games. I say bravo for them.

So does the CIAU. But under their breath they have to be shaking their heads.

Here is a governing body that stands by while one of their leagues votes internally to screw them. How bush league will it look if the Golden Bears, fresh from three weeks off after telling the Canada West University Athletic Association to stuff their playoffs, skate away with their second consecutive Canadian championship?

Probably no less second-rate than it did last year when, if you'll remember, the Bears lost out in the opening round of the playoffs to a fourth place Saskatchewan team, then rested up for another three weeks for the CIAU's — which they won.

Meanwhile the Calgary Dinosaurs, beaten and bruised after two three-game series against Manitoba and the Huskies (probably the two biggest and most physical clubs in the country), went out east for yet another qualifying series against the University de Quebec a Trois Rivieres.

Minus several key players due to injury, the Dinos lost two straight to les Patriotes, a fast skating, finesse orientated team.

With an extra day's rest courtesy of a home-made draw, Alberta handled UQTR to take the trophy and call themselves champs.

This year will be no different. And you can't blame Clare Drake and his boys. If someone came up and offered me the columnist's spot at the *Edmonton Journal*, I'd take it too.

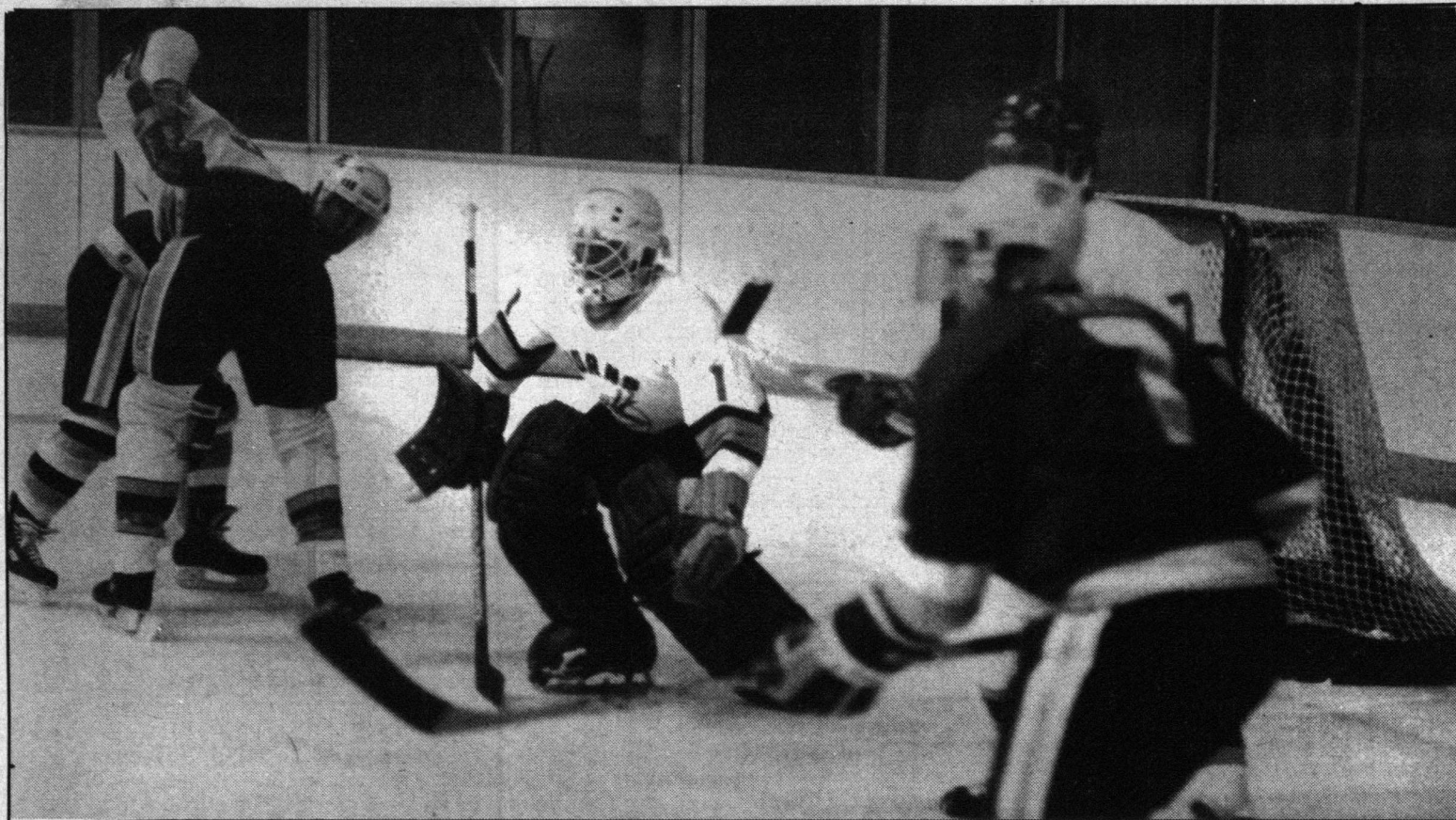
Why work for something when you can have it handed to you on a platter? But still the CIAU insists that their final tourneys won't fly unless the host city has a team.

It's not too difficult to figure out why Canada West voted the way they did. Why should any of the top three teams vote to delay the playoffs that they are already assured of being in? And if you were UBC (15 points) or Brandon (14 points) a no vote would mean a darn good shot at a playoff berth when the Bears inevitably pulled out. Regina is going to vote no because they don't need their Reading Week disturbed by a road trip to Edmonton (which will now happen due to the scheduling change).

That leaves Lethbridge, and by the sounds of things they don't even know what's going on in their own offices, let alone anywhere else.

"I'm pretty sure that we'll see the Bears in Czechoslovakia," said Pronghorns coach Dave McDowell Friday, the day of the vote. His comment Saturday — "My Athletic Director voted against it. I didn't even talk to him."

And they wonder why no one in Canada gives a damn about CIAU sports.



The Golden Bears swept a pair in Lethbridge in preparation for Face Off '87 tonight.

photo Mark Spector

by Mark Spector
Bears 5 Pronghorns 4
Bears 7 Pronghorns 3

LETHBRIDGE — From a writer's perspective, there's something especially interesting about covering a team in the Canada West University Athletic Association hockey league.

It's that they play these two game series' every weekend, so whatever doesn't get settled the first night almost always carries over into game two. Sometimes it's of a physical nature, sometimes it's just finding out who in fact is the better hockey club.

For the Golden Bears last weekend it was both, as the tied-for-last-place Lethbridge Pronghorns gave them all that they could handle in more ways than one Friday, coming just short of an upset in a 5-4 loss.

Saturday Alberta earned a win and a draw, however, clobbering the 'Horns on the scoresheet 7-3, but settling for a split decision in a contest that featured two scraps and five players getting ejected.

"That's what it's all about," said Lethbridge coach Dave McDowell, who's seen his team lose more than their share of close ones this year. He's not complaining too loudly though — the last two years they

have seldom been able to say that they were at least close.

"There's no gimmes in this league," he says. "I played in the Ontario league and we used to beat teams 12-2 and 15-1 consistently. Nobody's blowin' anybody out here."

Not very often, anyways.

Friday it was Curt Brandolini and Bill Ansell (Bears MVP) with two goals apiece along with Stacey Wakabayashi's single that quelled a stubborn Lethbridge club. Brandolini's second was the winner with only 2:36 left to play after Scott Orban had just tied it up.

So they all went home, the Bears all agreeing that they didn't play very well, and the Pronghorns feeling a bit sorry for themselves after a couple of last minute flurries bore no fruit.

And like we said before, game two would provide some answers — ones that left no doubt in any body's mind.

"We wanted to open it up, set the tempo right away," said Bears assistant captain Parie Proft, who would collect two goals and a pair of helpers from his spot on the blueline. "We didn't want to let them slow things down like they did (the night before)."

"Our goaltending and defense

turned out to be better than theirs."

"We lack talent compared to the Bears," agreed Lethbridge 'A' Mark Kabayama.

Alberta led 1-0 after one period, and potted two more by the 2:05 mark of the second in handing the 'Horns their 16th loss of the year while improving their own record to 12-7-1. Along with Proft's 12th and 13th of the year (Alberta's opening and closing goals on the night), Denis Leclair had two (7th and 8th), while Ansell (8th), Dennis Cranston (8th), and Wakabayashi (16th) each had singles.

But what the southerners couldn't settle on the scoresheet they would try to make for with their fists, as first Brandolini and John Johnson, then Bears' Jack Patrick and Pronghorns' Dan Matheson dropped their gloves in the third period in a couple of ineffective (and even less injurious) scraps that would net them all early showers.

Ansell also got the boot, receiving a match penalty for spitting at Darcy Kaminski while the big Pronghorn defenseman was in the penalty box late in the lopsided affair. Kaminski was a marked man after he opened a 12 stitch gash on Craig Dill's brow with a high hit Friday. It was a bit scary as Dill left

the ice bleeding profusely, but ended up with just a nasty gash and a seat in the stands Saturday.

McDowell was none too pleased with the officiating after the game, stating matter-of-factly that "our refereeing down here is (bleeping) terrible. It's the same ones every weekend and they've grown up ref'ing the same guys every year. They know everyone in the stands so they get on him right away every game. Then he says 'I'm going to show these guys' . . ."

"Edmonton has the best refereeing in the league," he spat, but then reconsidering somewhat said: "At least our refereeing is consistent — it's (bleep) all of the time."

He had a case in Saturday's game though, as the head zebra lost control of things early, then tried too late to regain control, calling a total of 83 minutes in penalties (47 to Alberta). With the Golden Bear powerplay operating at a machine-like 80 per cent (4/5), that spelled the margin of difference for Alberta.

Penalty Shots — Leclair was the Bears' MVP Saturday . . . The line of Dennis Cranston, Ansell, and Wakabayashi had 11 points Friday, 6 Saturday . . . After tonight's **Face Off** vs. NAIT, Alberta hosts **Brandon** for a pair this weekend.

Bears miss hockey play offs for trip

by Mark Spector

It's finally final.

The Golden Bears hockey team will go to Czechoslovakia next month to take part in the World Universiade Games. For sure.

The decision was reached yesterday (Monday) to forgo the Canada West league playoffs in order that the team can take part in the internationally renowned tournament.

Last Friday, the CWUAA voted 6-1 against altering their playoff schedule to accommodate Alberta, forcing the club to make a choice between the overseas tournament

and their own league playdowns. The fact that the U of A automatically is entered into the CIAU nationals as the host team made the decision to go much easier.

"We will be answering the CIAU's call to represent Canada at the World Universiade Games," reiterated coach Clare Drake of the decision made early Monday. "Because we weren't able to interest our league in making the necessary (schedule) adjustments, we will have to absent ourselves from the playoffs."

"The World Universiade Games will be our playoffs," he said. The

one schedule change that will have to be made is moving Alberta's final two regular season contests forward ten days to February 10th and 11th. Regina will travel to Edmonton during what will be their Reading Week to play the pair of regular season games.

The whole ordeal was caused by the trouble that the Golden Bears encountered in funding the proposed trip over the last month. Finally, last Tuesday, when almost all hope had dwindled, the University of Alberta Students' Union contributed the final \$20,000 needed to send the club.

"We are most appreciative and grateful," said Bob Pugh, Executive Vice President of the Canadian University Athletic Association. "And I mean it most sincerely. There is a great vote of appreciation to the Students' Union for their support."

The Golden Bears will be away during Reading Week at the U of A, the second weekend of which the first round of the Canada West playoffs are scheduled.

With the CIAU's scheduled for Edmonton March 19-22, the team will have three and a half weeks to prepare.