

Sid is back as Hockey Bears kick

by Mark Spector

The University of Alberta Golden Bear hockey squad performed this past weekend like the champions that they are, coming from behind in two of their three wins as they opened up defense of their national crown by winning the Golden Bear Invitational for the third straight year.

The University of Saskatchewan Huskies (the only other club to ever win this tourney four years ago) placed second with a 2-1 record, while Calgary (1-2) was third and Lethbridge (0-3) finished in fourth place.

Alberta went into the final game on Sunday needing only to end the game within two goals of the Dinosaurs to be named tournament champions on the basis of points for and against. After beating Lethbridge 7-6 in an exciting overtime contest earlier in the day, Saskatchewan had already assured their spot in the possible logjam at 2-1.

but it was never to be, as the Golden Bears rode the triumphant return of center, 23 year old Sid Cranston to come back from a two goal deficit late in the second period and remain undefeated for the weekend with a 4-3 win. The

victory marked the first time that the Bears have defeated coach George Kingston's Dinos since last year's Invitational, an 8-7 overtime win that was followed by four regular season losses. Cranston had two goals, while Parie Proft and Rob Glasgow also scored for Alberta.

"Our line was really buzzing the net on Friday (a 4-0 win over Saskatchewan)," said Denis Leclair of the Sid Cranston, Dill, Leclair line, "but we just couldn't put the puck in the net. Sid started to roll on Saturday and just carried right through into today (the final)."

"We were a bit worried about Sid, whether or not his knee would hold up through three games in a row," said coach Clare Drake. "This was his first serious action since his knee injury last season." The elder Cranston played only 19 games for the Bears after coming over from NAIT in '85, before he incurred what could be termed as the most serious knee injury that a player can still recover from. He skated rather gingerly over the weekend but still scored three goals and three assists to claim tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

"Every game I'm feeling better

and better," said Cranston. "The confidence level was pretty low before the first game."

"The coaches just stressed to me to not stay out there too long, to take short shifts. Especially when the third period came along." The former NAIT Oopik MVP had a long road to recovery last year after tearing ligaments in his right knee in a November 15th game against the Manitoba Bisons. He saw a couple of token appearances late in the season, but played sparingly and was relatively ineffective.

"Sid gives us some finesse and poise around the net that we might not otherwise have," says Drake.

"I'm just dying to play," admits Cranston. "I hope I'm through with injuries so that I can finish off my career, probably, here with my brother."

"I'm looking forward to a long career here at the U of A with the Golden Bears." He stills has two years of eligibility remaining after this season.

"It's always nice to have my brother around," said 22 year old Dennis, Alberta's leading scorer last season. "He was so worried about coming back in one big shot, he's been trying to do everything at

once. I just told him to shorten up his shifts and that it would take some time."

Alberta started on Friday night with an impressive 4-0 victory over Saskatchewan, the team that upset the Golden Bears in the CWUAA semifinals of last year. John Krill stopped 17 shots in that game and coupled with two more periods of flawless goaltending in the Calgary game was named to the tournament All Star team. Scoring for the Bears were Stacey Wakabayashi, Craig Dill, Todd Stokowski, and Ted Welsby.

The Lethbridge Pronghorns, playing a much improved brand of hockey over last season, played the Bears tough throughout a defensive contest on Saturday night. The Pronghorns held a 2-0 lead late in the second frame before Craig Dill brought the Bears to within one with just 1:15 left. Third period goals by rookie pointman Brent Severyn, Jack Patrick and Sid Cranston effectively subdued Lethbridge.

"This doesn't really clear up the picture that much," admits Drake, "because everybody played so well on our team." The coach will probably settle with an expanded

roster of about 24 players, mainly due to this year's good crop of rookie talent. The roster stood at 34 after the weekend.

Severyn and Darwin Bozek look as if they'll stick with the defensive corps, while Rob Glasgow and Todd Stokowski looked impressive as forwards.

Bear Facts: Billy Ansell will miss a few weeks with a separated shoulder that he received in the Camrose exhibition game last Wednesday... after Dill was ejected for fighting on Sunday, Drake pulled Leclair out of the stands in mid-first period. Leclair garnered two assists but went down heavily in the third and may miss some action with a bad back... the rest of the All Star Team was as follows: on defense was Golden Bear Parie Proft and Gilles Gervais (Lethbridge); the forwards were Barry Bracko (Calgary), Gary Skoye (Lethbridge), and Adrian Sekundiak (Saskatchewan)... the Huskies will be getting former WHL 80 goal scorer Ken Morrison soon... the Bears' next action is tonight at 7:30 vs. the Red Deer College Kings at the Varsity Rink.

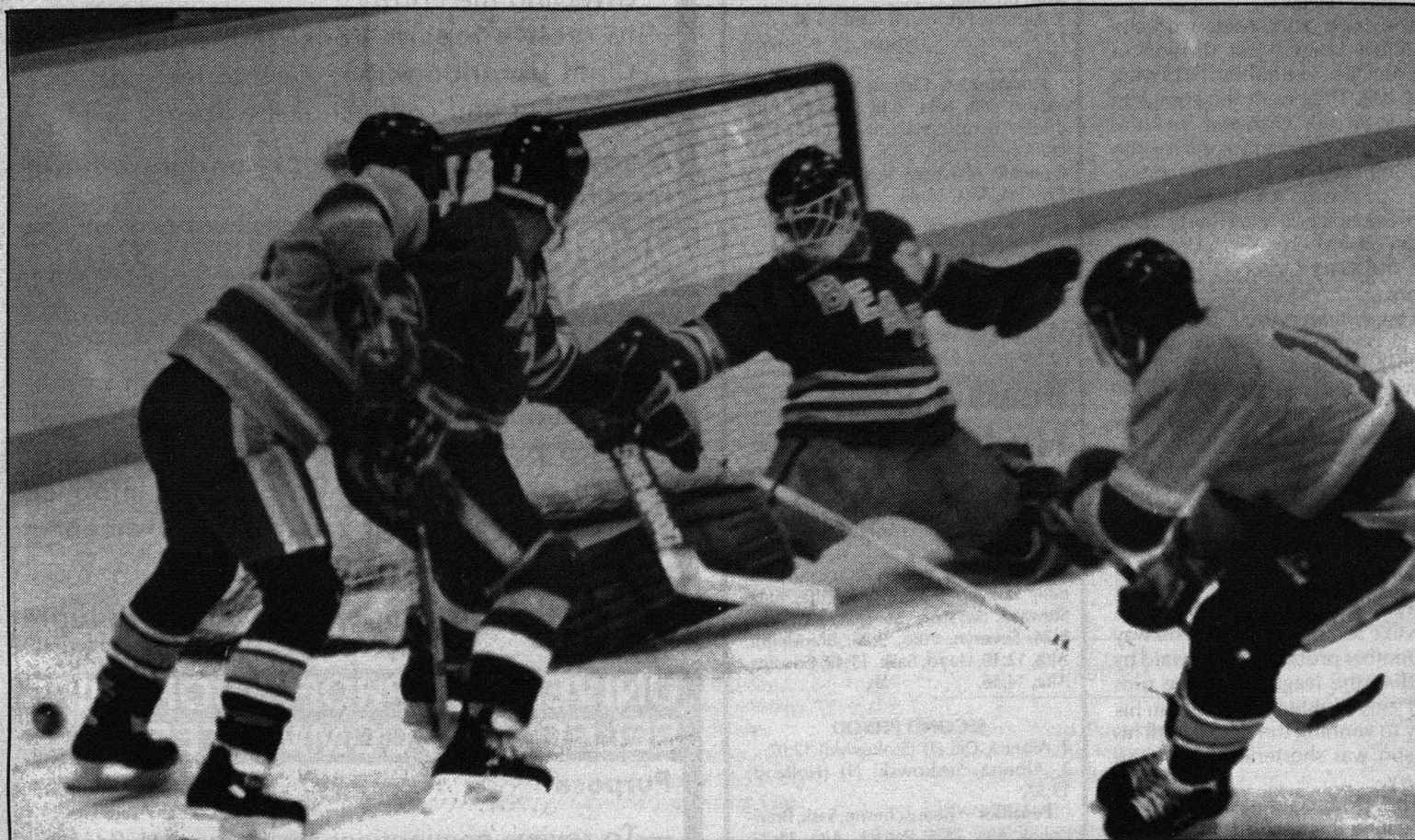


photo Rob Schmidt

Bears' rookie goaltender Brian Haley kicks one out vs. the University of Lethbridge. He was named the Bears' game star, stopping 33 pucks.

Student Members Wanted!

Housing & Transport Commissioner Andrew Fredericks is looking for **3 students** who are interested in contributing their talents to this portfolio.

It is an interesting and often exciting commission which deals with solving student concerns and making recommendations for improvement in a variety of areas.

Interested persons should contact:

**Andrew Fredericks
(H&T Commissioner)
Room 274 SUB
432-5329**

WRITING COMPETENCE PETITIONS

Notice to students who have not met the University's writing competence requirements and whose deadline for meeting those requirements occurs on or before November 1986 or January 1987: **If you plan to enroll in the second term of Winter Session 1986-1987 or any subsequent term and you have not yet passed the writing competence test, you may petition the GFC Writing Competence Petition Committee for permission to continue your registration.**

Registrations of students who do not successfully petition or pass the writing competence test will be cancelled prior to the start of classes.

Advice on preparing and submitting petitions can be sought from the Student Ombudsmen, Room 272 Students' Union Building, or the Student Advisors in the Office of the Dean of Student Services, Room 300 Athabasca Hall. The regulations and procedures used by the GFC Writing Competence Petition Committee are available in either of these offices.

Hearing will be held from November 25-28. The deadline for submitting petitions is Thursday, November 13, 1986.