

# Turner puts it all together in final

by Tim Enger

As the final seconds ticked off the clock, Alberta goaltender Darren Turner struggled with his mask, trying to get it off before he was mobbed by his teammates.

Finally, he could breathe a sign of relief knowing that he had finished his year at the highest point of the rollercoaster ride that he had suffered through this season.

Turner, you see had become the CIAU's answer to a light bulb. On sometimes. Off sometimes.

At the start of the season he wasn't even with the team. John Krill and Nadr Jomha were the Bears' goalies. But neither one had any university experience. When Turner decided to give the Bears a shot, the starting spot soon followed.

Having some previous experience at the university level (two years with the McGill Redmen), Turner was spectacular during the first half of the season, combining with Krill to backstop the Bears to a 23-1-0 record by Christmas.

Then, all of a sudden, his game did an about-face. And it could be seen in both him and his team as they crawled to the playoffs, playing only .500 hockey in the second

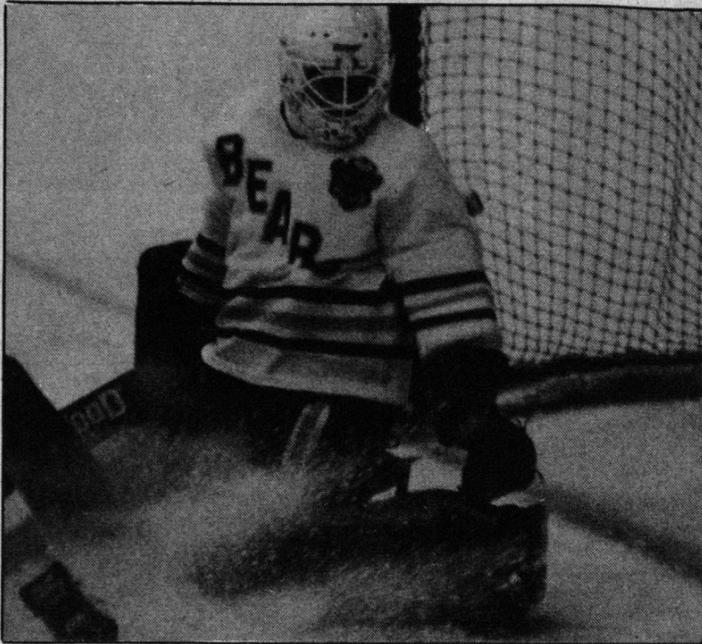


Photo: Bruce Cardave

**Darren Turner in action Sunday. He allowed four goals versus Moncton, and only two in the final game Sunday versus the Trois Rivières Patriotes.**

half. The lowest point of the season for him was a game in Manitoba where he let in seven goals in one

period.

This saw his goals against average soar to 4.68. He incurred further

misery when he was beaten for eight goals in his only playoff game against Saskatchewan.

If you looked at his recent record Turner would be a surprise starter in the semi-final game against Moncton. Nevertheless, he turned on the light bulb and held the Bears in a tight 5-4 victory.

"I can't say enough about the way our defence played," Turner. "It makes it so much easier to play goal when your guys are keeping the front of the net clear."

After that solid performance, it was obvious that the Bears would go with Turner in the final.

"Whoever has the best goalie will win," commented Moncton coach Claude Noel, whose own goalie, David Quigley, made the all-star team.

The goalie Alberta was going to face was QUAA first team all-star Claude Guerard, whose resume of winning big games was quite impressive.

In 1982 Guerard was an all-Canadian at the collegiate level with St. Hyacinthe college. What this meant was that if the Bears hoped to win they would need solid goaltending, for they weren't expecting to score many goals.

It was no surprise when Turner skated into the nets to start the game. This proved to be an excellent choice as the tiny goaltender played the game of his life, only letting in two goals. Meanwhile at the other end Guerard was doing his best Billy Smith impression, spearing and hacking at every Bear insight on his way to allowing five goals.

Once again, Turner gave most of the credit to his teammates. "The way they kept blocking shots and clearing rebounds was incredible." That wasn't the only thing that was incredible. With the Bears clinging to a slim 2-1 lead near the end of the second period, Turner put on a clinic kept the Patriotes from evening the score before the period ended.

Does this make up for all the ups and downs during the season? "You better believe it does. What's passed is past," said Turner. "I'm just going to sit back and enjoy today and not even worry about the past or the future."

This was easy to see when he finally got his mask off, revealing huge grin that broke into laughter as he was buried by his teammates.

In fact I'll bet he's still grinning.

## Clement Jodoin: "We'll be back"

by Tim Enger

All weekend long, Clement Jodoin, head coach of the UQTR Patriotes, kept saying that he was just happy to be here. Unfortunately for him, he didn't look like it; even before his team lost to the Bears in the final 5-2.

Perhaps he was happy, but he didn't have time to show it because he was too busy thinking. This guy is so analytical it's scary. With an incomplete mastery of the English language, he managed to answer

all questions asked of him in a highly intelligent manner.

All of this adds to the mystique of the man who is quickly emerging as the best amateur coach in Quebec.

Two years ago the Patriotes were the joke of the QUAA, having the worst record. Last year they fared a little better but still finished below .500.

This year was slated to be another rebuilding year but something happened to change it all: Clement

Jodoin was hired.

With him behind the bench the Patriotes streaked to a 15-5-0 record and qualified for a berth in the national finals for the second time (they hosted the 1983-84 finals and were given a berth in the finals despite their horrendous record). This surprising performing by his team earned coach Jodoin CIAU coach of the year honors at the CIAU banquet on Saturday night.

"In nice to earn your way into the finals," said coach Jodoin. "In-

stead of coming on through the back of the back door. I hope we can prove that we belong here."

When asked whether he thought that his team could win he said, "Of course. There is no no question. If you don't think that then it means you have weakness and I don't think we have any weakness."

True to his word, the Patriotes went out and clubbed the defending champions, the York Yeomen 5-2, making them the odds-on favourite for the championship.

That is where the Cinderella story ended. The Patriotes, despite all the efforts, were run over by the emotional freight train from the U of A, and were forced to go home second best.

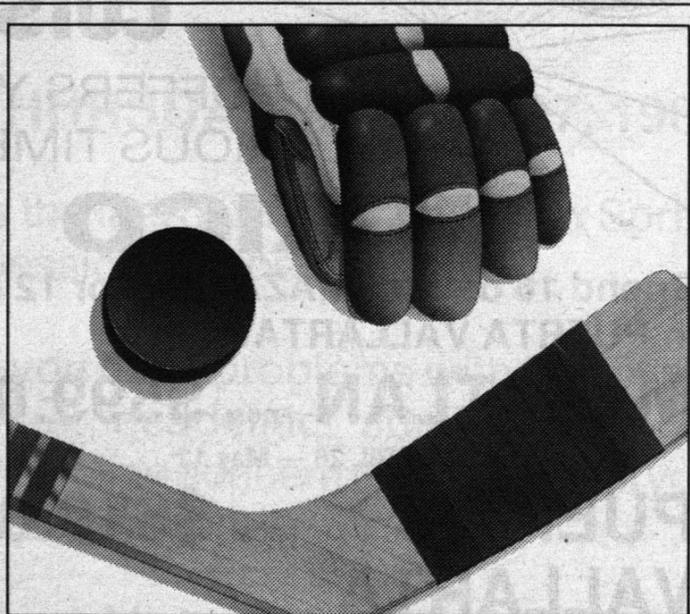
"It was too bad," reflected coach Jodoin, "but we have to remember that we are playing a dynasty and if anything, we learned a lot. Hopefully we can turn the page and



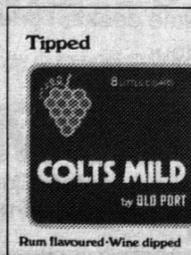
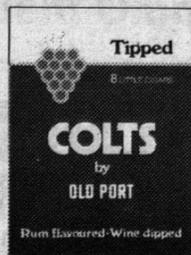
Photo: Bruce Cardave

**UQTR head coach Clement Jodoin** write something different next year."

"The scary thing is that they just might do that. But for now they'll just have to be content with second place. Although gracious in defeat, you could tell that this did not sit well with coach Jodoin, whose final words were: "We'll be back."



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