

Football Bears play for pride vs. Manitoba. p. 17

Sports

Drake should collect 600th win this weekend. below

Drake sets his sights on 600

by Mark Spector

Things have changed a wee bit since Clare Drake stood behind the Alberta Golden Bears' bench for the first time in 1955. Nothing major, mind you, just little things like curving sticks, plexi-glass replacing chicken wire around Varsity Rink, and the team picture has become a more organized project.

Besides being in colour, they now do it at center ice rather than on the dressing room floor or the tarmac at the International Airport. Check the wall of Varsity some time and you'll understand.

But one thing has remained exactly the same as it was. The Golden Bears hockey team still wins. Often.

And, of course, Clare Drake still calls the shots.

And if things go as expected this weekend, he will watch his club skate to victory for the 600th time. In 25 and 1/2 seasons, Drake now has 598 career victories, the most of any college hockey coach in North America (and probably the world), and with the last place Lethbridge Pronghorns coming to town for a pair of games, the celebrations are set for Saturday night.

You have to look long and far to find any detractors regarding this man, as stands true with all of the genuine greats.

"There's no way that any of this would be happening if it weren't for the high quality players that I have had over the years," says Drake. "It's the excellent academics at the U of A that make players want to come here, and the program has been so strong also."

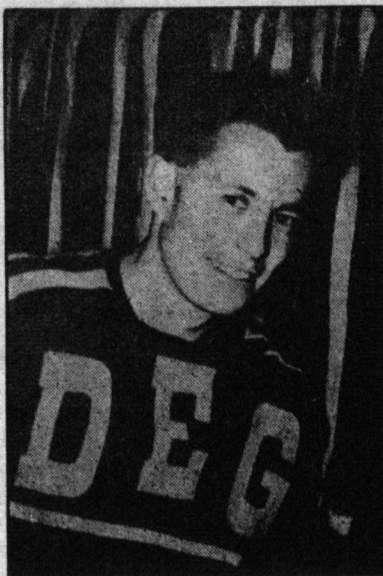
As you can see, one gets "Me" quotes from Clare Drake about as easily as one gets his dog to the vet.

Drake came to the U of A in 1954, transferring from UBC to finish the final year of his Education degree. He played for the Bears that year, serving as assistant captain under coach Don Smith. Before that, he played two years at UBC, a season for the Medicine Hat Tigers, and two for the Regina Pats, the latter two clubs being in the WHL.

Drake and his wife Dolly, both from Yorkton, Saskatchewan, followed a friend's advice in coming to the U of A. "He said that this was a good place to finish your Ed. degree, and I was looking for exactly that, so we came here."

The Golden Bears are thankful for that, and the Drakes are thankful too — for all of the memories.

Like in '67, the year Drake coached both the football Bears and the



Clare Drake with 0 wins to his credit from the 1955 Gateway article announcing his hiring (above). Drake today (right) looking for number 600.

hockey Bears to CIAU crowns, an unprecedented feat: "It was a special year, in a way," admits Drake. "We had won the Vanier Cup at Varsity Stadium in Toronto in dramatic fashion, 10-9 over McMaster. We had to make an interception very late in the game to preserve the win, and then the following spring we played the hockey finals before the largest crowd that had ever watched a Golden Bear game. "There were 12,000 people in the Forum in Montreal, and I'd say there were 15 or 20 people there from Edmonton. We were down 4-2 in the third period, but were able to come back. We scored the winning goal with 17 seconds left in the game to beat Loyola (now McGill)."

He doesn't dwell, however, on a career low point. A championship game loss to Toronto in a game that he says, "We outplayed them tremendously, but they outscored us."

Drake doesn't live in the past (in fact, some people will tell you that it is just because he can't remember much of it), and it shows in his coaching style. He is a derivation of his UBC coach Murray Armstrong and, more so I think, of an old coach named Frank Frederickson.

"He was the first thinking man's coach," said Drake. "He developed different nuances, he didn't just teach the same standards of the day. He always had new ideas and thoughts."

And if you know anything about the Golden Bear hockey team, you'll know that the same statement describes their head coach.



photo Rob Schmidt

It's no fluke that Alberta led the league in penalty killing last season, and perennially excels on special teams.

It's also no fluke that they've won six national titles under Drake's reign.

Drake is not only a teacher, but a learner. It is a big factor in sports, he says, to have as much input as possible in the running of a team.

"(Assistant coach) Bill Moores is a proven coach. With his input, along with Don Spring's, it keeps pushing you," he says. "When you work with good assistant coaches, there is lots of interchange of ideas, lots of good thoughts suggested by

everyone."

There he goes again. And you know that he really feels that way.

If you want to see history being made, you want to see Drake get his 600th win. If all goes the way it should, it will happen this Saturday night at Varsity.

Bear Facts — Darwin Bozek has recovered from his groin pull and should see action this weekend... The rest of the injury report reads like this: **Jeff Lawson** (2nd degree shoulder sprain — out at least three weeks), **Bill Ansell** (same as Lawson, but should play next week)... The Friday game will be broadcast live on **CJSR-FM 88.5** at 7:15.



Mark Spector

Time to 'Levy the boom?

Something is wrong with the football program here in the land of the Golden Bear.

Some strange things are happening that, on their own, don't constitute cause for much concern. But heaped together, they are beginning to raise eyebrows.

First and foremost, the team has stumbled this year. They head into their final game of the season on Saturday with a record of 1-6. They must beat the hapless **Bisons** from **Manitoba** by at least six points to possibly avoid the basement in the **WIFL**.

Now, a losing season is not an unpardonable crime. Every program must undergo what sports people refer to as a "rebuilding year."

But after a 4-4 year last season?

In '84, coach **Jim Donlevy** took Alberta to a 7-1 record and first place after the regular season only to lose at home in the final to the **Calgary Dinosaurs**.

The two seasons before that, under head coach **Jim Lazaruk**, the Bears finished fourth and fifth.

In the last five seasons, this team has gone a collective 18 wins and 26 losses. That's a winning percentage of .409 folks.

Next point. What kind of football team has to replace over fifty percent of their roster in the same year?

The Bears carry 60 players. Last year, their media guide listed only 48 men on the roster. This compared to about 75 in Calgary.

There are five guys with four years of tenure on the '86 Bears (one of them, **Darwin Schweitzer**, has five).

There are 33 rookies. 33! Where did all the guys from last year's squad go? Or the years before, for that matter?

Two of Alberta's best defensive players from '85 flunked out of school. Football ends in early November and these guys don't even care enough about the program to beef up their grades over the last five months so that they may return.

Why?

But instead of doing something about winning some football games, Donlevy concerns himself with haircuts and his other job as **Coordinator of Men's Athletics**. A small task, it only takes a large part of his day I'm sure.

Like the part of the day where he should be seeing about some academic counsellors for his players. Or the part when that high school prospect could use a tour of the campus and lunch maybe.

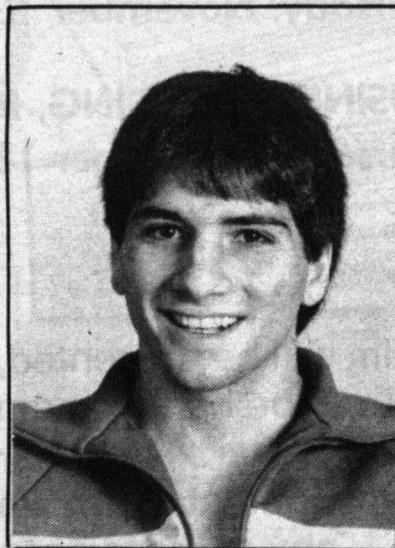
Perhaps the part when he could be setting up an exhibition game, or teaching his club about team intensity, two things that Donlevy said his team was wanting after a couple of lacklustre performances.

George Steinbrenner once said, "You can't fire 20 players," as he routinely disregarded another manager.

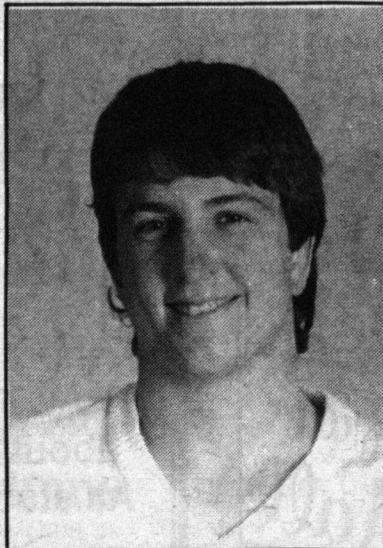
Maybe **Bob Steadward** could take a page from the Yankees media guide.

Maybe I should stop dreaming.

Japanese wrestlers invade Alberta



Wrestler Vang Ioannides



Coach Mike Payette

by Alan Small

A group of freestyle wrestlers from Japan will be taking on the U of A Wrestling Club in a dual meet in the dance studio in the Van Vliet Recreational Complex at 7:00 p.m. on November 3.

The Japanese wrestlers, who are based in Hokkaido, are on a tour of Alberta which includes dual meets against the U of A, U of C, the Salisbury Wrestling Club and a group of All-Stars from Alberta. They will also compete in the U of C Intenational tournament which also includes the U of A, Salisbury, from Northern Montana, on November 8.

"We don't really know that much about them," confessed Vang Ioannides, the U of A wrestler in the 48 kg class, "but they look mean in

their pictures." Ioannides could be in tough since the Japanese wrestlers tend to be stronger in the lower weight classes.

"I think we'll do well, we have an excellent lineup. If we wrestle up to our potential, we can win the dual meet," Ioannides added.

Also wrestling in the U of A lineup are Tony Bacon, who had a third place finish in the CIAU championships in '85, and Phil Spate, the CIAU champion in the 62 kilo class in the same year.

The new head coach of the U of A team is former standout Mike Payette, a five time Canada West University champion and three time CIAU champion. He was also the 1985 winner of the Wilson award as the U of A's most outstanding athlete.