



MILT HOHOL—One of the returnees to the Bears from last season. The Bears look solid again this year and are out to retain their national hockey title won in Montreal last March. The Bruin veterans are playing up to par and the rookies are impressive too so it should be another great season.

Bears ready to defend title

Plenty of experience on the club

By **BOB ANDERSON**

When you're No. 1 there's no place to go but down.

This is precisely the situation facing the hockey Golden Bears as they prepare to defend their Canadian collegiate championship won last year in Montreal.

Whereas last year the Bears were accomplishing the near impossible with a rookie-laden squad, this time around the club is loaded with experience. Only San Belcourt, Ron Cebryk, Dan Zarowny, Barry Robinson, Dave Couves, and Merose Stelmaschuk are gone. The rest of the lineup remains virtually intact.

Replacing players like Belcourt and Cebryk will not be an easy task for coaches Brian McDonald and Clare Drake. However, some fine replacements have been brought in by the management, and they should prove more than capable of doing the job.

CAPABLE ROOKIES

Don Darling, last year with the Edmonton Maple Leafs of the Alberta Junior Hockey League, has fitted right in at centre and left wing, as has Gerry Hornby, who toiled with the Ponoka Stampeders last year.

Then there is Oliver Morris, a left winger also from Ponoka as is towering Bod Reddick. Bill Clarke who played the last four years with Brown University in Rhode Island, and Harv Poon last

year with the Junior Bearcats, look as though they can get the job done at centre ice.

Returning forwards include Jack Gibson who scored seven goals and added 13 assists from his left wing spot, Wayne Wiste who was good for 8 goals and the same number of helpers in only 11 games, Milt Hohol who had 8 goals and three assists, Tom Devaney and Don Falkenberg, both right wingers.

On the blueline brigade the Bears have talent galore. Gerry Braunberger, last year's team captain, anchors the forces with Mike Ballash, Jim Seutter and Don Manning providing strong supporting roles. The latter two were with the Bears last season while Balash was with the club three years ago.

A couple of newcomers, Mel Baird last year with the University of Waterloo, and Danny Boumeester, a graduate of the Edmonton Juvenile "A" league, round out the defensive corps.

IN GOAL

In goal coaches McDonald and Drake have three candidates any of whom could end up playing first string. The incumbent is Dale Halterman who in his first full season with the Bears last year had the lowest goals against average and was chosen a WCIAA all-star. But Halterman is getting strong competition from Bob Wolfe, an all-star two years ago, and Zane Jakubec, who last year was with

the Junior Bearcats. It's hard to say who has the inside track on the job right now as any one of the three could emerge as the starting goaltender before the season starts.

About the only problem in the Bears camp at the moment is the schedule which lies ahead of them. The Bears play their first six league games away from the friendly confines of Varsity Arena. The apparent reason for this is to avoid conflict with the football Bears who will probably still be in action when the hockey season opens.

This move could leave the Bears with egg all over their faces if they should happen to do poorly in those first few games, but on the other hand the Golden Ones would be in great shape if they come home sporting a 5-1 or 6-0 record.

Exhibition games have been scarce for the Bears so far and those they have managed to get have ended up in such ridiculous scores that a practice would have better served the purpose.

The Bears start playing for real when they open the WCIAA schedule in Calgary Nov. 15 and 16. The following weekend finds the Bears in Winnipeg against the Manitoba Bisons while the University of Saskatchewan Huskies provide the opposition November 29-30 in Saskatoon. The home schedule commences Dec. 6-7 with Manitoba Bisons being the visitors..

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