

## Speaking on Sports

By STEVE RYBAK

Observations at a hockey game . . . You know, Rich Vivone could be right about a few things, particularly the Golden Bear marching band.

The Band pulled another disappearing act for this past weekend's hockey action. On Friday night, no one was around and on Saturday four stalwart members led by Jim Humphries showed up to create a little noise and try to drum up some enthusiasm. But where was the rest of our glorious band?

I was assured two weekends ago that at least 10 members of the band would be in attendance at every hockey game for the rest of the season. Kathy Grovier assured Gateway readers of the same in a letter published in the Tuesday, Dec. 5 issue. I'm still waiting to see them at any sporting function that does not include the football team.

The only real enthusiastic fans at both games seem to be the boys from Lambda Chi. They bring along their girls and an old beat-up, torn, bashed and battered drum to the game and raise a bit of hell. They don't even have a proper drumstick. The drummer, Stu Ohlsen, uses a rubber scraper, kitchen variety.

If the Golden Bear band isn't going to make it out to the games, why not take some of the funds set aside for the band and Booster Club and present it to some group, like Lambda Chi or Second Floor Res., who will actually use it to drum up a little spirit at sporting events. UAB could at least buy Lambda Chi a drum stick.

### Even high schoolers tried to help

Oh yes, there were two other people who tried to cause some commotion at the hockey game in question—two high schoolers who wandered in from the CAPHER tournament held in the gym. They came equipped with tuba and another horn. They couldn't do much to stir up the crowd of university students, who for the most part, sat on their hands during the game.

I don't know what excuses will be offered by the band this time around. They can't use the one that they aren't organized yet, and that really isn't a valid one at that.

The band continually misses the first two home games of the football season, and in the last two years have put on only one half-time show at home. If the football players can start practices the first day of September why can't the band come out and start practices a week or so before classes start?

They represent the university as much as any team and have a lot of money spent on them. They should be prepared to give up enough time to be ready for the first game of the year.

The band is not living up to its obligations to the university public. Some individuals are coming out to the games. As for the rest of the band . . .

As I'm sitting typing this column out I can hear the band giving a concert in SUB theatre on Sunday night. Less than 100 people are listening. The band can't sit back on its "laurels" and wait for the people to come to it, they've got to go where the action is. On Friday night there were 1,400 at the hockey game. But no band.

### Cheerleaders had gone south

Speaking of groups missing the action, the cheerleaders can stand up and take a bow.

And where were they you ask? Why down in Calgary, of course. Leading U of C supporters at the basketball game. No U of A fans were there, all of them were at home for the two hockey games. Instead of staying home and trying to stir up some spirit they journeyed south to face a completely hostile audience.

Why? Your answer is a good as mine. Maybe some of them haven't been to Calgary yet this year. Or maybe there was some money left in their travel budget. But what is going to happen during the UBC hockey series in Vancouver Feb. 23 and 24? A hockey train is being planned. But will the cheerleaders be on it? Probably not, they won't have any money left by then.

Why hasn't there been any Golden Bear emblem painted at center ice yet this year? It's too hard to maintain is the answer. Well it sure doesn't look as if the ice has been maintained at all this year. Ice conditions are the poorest in years. Great sections of the blue and center lines are missing. But there are fervent assertions that all will be righted in the new year.

I hope so. Last year Lawrie Hignell was up until three a.m. painting the second century crest on the center ice for the hockey tournament. No one in the phys ed complex had the foresight to get it done.

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*Dwight graduated in math and physics from the University of New Brunswick in 1966. If you would like to know more about programming or other careers with London Life, see your placement officer. Or write to the Personnel Department, London Life Insurance Co., London, Ontario.*



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