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Bears stall on way to #500

By tying NAIT, the Bears failed to beat the Ooks for the first time after having recorded nine straight wins in non-conference games over the past few seasons. The draw also means that Coach Clare Drake will not have a chance to record his 500th career victory on home ice this weekend against the UBC Thunderbirds. Drake's total remains at 497, and number 500 will now likely come in Saskatoon against the Saskatchewan Huskies or in Vancouver in a rematch with UBC.

In Sunday night's game before a crowd of 172, the Bears once again had to contend with

NAIT's superb goalie Cleo Rowein. In the tournament's opening game Rowein had yielded just two goals on 52 shots as the Bears struggled to post a 2-1 overtime decision. On Sunday night he was equally brilliant, stopping 51 of 53 Bear drives during 60 minutes of regulation time and a scoreless 10 minute overtime session. In fact, Rowein came within 99 seconds of backstopping the Ooks to victory. But Perry Zapernick and Craig Dill combined to save the day for the Bears at 18:21 of the third period. Just seconds after he returned to the ice following a needless charging penalty, Zapernick controlled the puck inside the NAIT blueline and dropped a pass back to Dill. The little left winger took the pass in full flight, moved into the left slot and beat Rowein to his glove side. It was the second goal of the game for Dill and completed a Bears comeback from a 2-0 deficit

after twenty minutes. In the ensuing overtime period each team had several good chances to break the deadlock. But the best opportunities went to the Ooks, who took advantage of the fact that the Bears had played Team Alberta earlier that day and were no doubt feeling the strain as 120 minutes of hockey stretched to 130 minutes. In an ironic twist, the Bears were penalized for having too many men on the ice early in the overtime period. That same call had cost NAIT dearly in the first game of the tournament when Dill fired the game winner in overtime on the ensuing powerplay. However, Alberta successfully killed the penalty this time around. The best chance to put the game away came with about one minute to play in the extra session. Kevin Hayes of the Ooks had an open net staring him in the face after a scramble in front of the Bears' net, but he failed to

get a shot away as the puck rolled off his stick. NAIT outshot the Bears 9-6 in the overtime period but were outshot 53-32 overall. Pat Lawson and Rick Karst had given the Ooks their two goal cushion in the first period before Dill's first tally late in the middle session got the Bears on the board.

The Bears' two games versus Team Alberta were much less competitive. On Saturday afternoon they rolled to a 9-2 decision and, only hours before Sunday night's tie with NAIT, the Bears blasted Team Alberta 9-0. Ray Plamondon and Jim Clarke led the Bears with two goals apiece on Saturday with singles going to Bill Ansell, Scott McKenzie, Tim Krug, Terry Sydoryk and Zapernick. Doug McCarthy and Dwight Mackay replied for the losers. On Sunday, Terry Clark stopped 22 shots to pick up the shutout for the Bears, while Gerald Koebel keyed a six goal third period outburst

that turned a fairly close game into a rout. Ansell, Ron Parent, Plamondon and Rick Swan also had third period goals while Swan, Breen Neeser, and Zapernick had given the Bears a 3-0 lead after 40 minutes.

Team Alberta fared considerably better in their two games with NAIT. On Friday night they dropped a 9-5 decision and the following evening they led 7-5 at one point only to lose 8-7 in overtime. The 24-man squad is a Junior "B" all-star team representing six different leagues from across Alberta. The team was selected from a group of 48 of Alberta's top Junior "B" players who attended a five-day training camp at Devon, Alberta during the Christmas season. It will wear Alberta's colors at the 1983 Canada Winter Games which are to be hosted by the Saguenay and Lac St. Jean regions in Quebec from February 23 to March 3.

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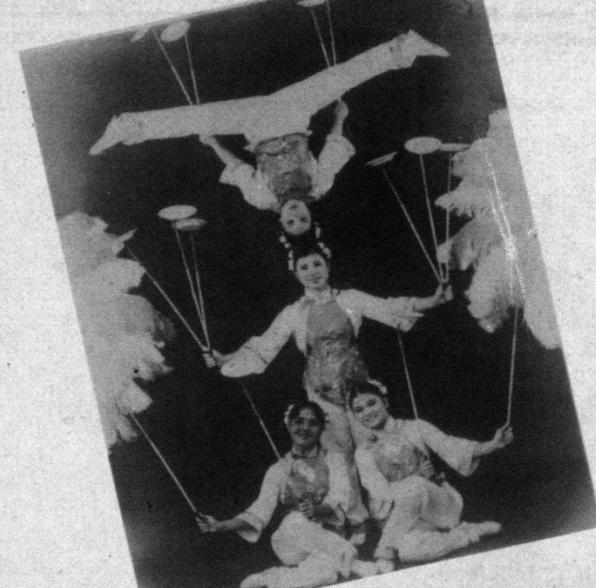
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