

# Pt. Arthur Bearcats again vying for Allan Cup honors

By BILL GUY

PORT ARTHUR (CP) — Port Arthur Bearcats carry a good balance of youth and experience into the opener of their best-of-five Western Canada Allan Cup final against Calgary Stampeders Friday at Fort William Gardens.

The Bearcats, ranging in age from 21 to 41, have encountered little difficulty to date in either Thunder Bay Senior Hockey League play or elsewhere on the playoff trail.

This lack of competition may hurt against the Stamps, a team the Bearcats expect to provide their sternest test to date.

The Bearcats are 10-1 in the playoffs, losing that one game to Regina Caps of the Saskatchewan Senior League. The loss snapped a 17-game winning streak.

On their way to the final, the Bearcats have disposed of Fort William in their branch final, Warroad Lakers of the Manitoba Senior League, and the Caps. In playoff competition, they've outscored their opposition by a resounding 92-72 margin.

Veteran coach Joe Nigro said: "That loss to Regina on Saturday may be the best thing that ever happened to us; the wins were coming too easy. It could do us a world of good. . . . The extra game gave us a little more competition."

## REGARDED AS CHARM

Big Benny Voit, 41, a former Detroit Red Wing and Chicago Black Hawk, anchors a defence which likes to hit. Benny, one of five former professionals in the lineup, is also a good luck charm. The Bearcats haven't dropped a home game in two seasons when he's been dressed.

Team up with Voit is another ex-Red Wing, Lou Marcon, who was with Fort Worth of the Central League last season.

Henry Alkervall, captain of Canada's Olympic team in 1960, combines with young Bill McCracken to form a second defensive duo.

Other defencemen include veterans Steve Ochrymovics and Dave Vibert, and junior Brad Owchar.

The Bearcats have three

well-balanced lines, exemplified by the fact that two lines each have 50 scoring points and the other 49 in playoffs.

Max Mekilok, the Western Hockey League's scoring king in 1961-62 when he played for Spokane, centres on line. On his right is Nils (Red) Johansen, a long-time AHL and WHL performer, and Gary Mork, back from several seasons—in the International Hockey League—is on the other wing.

Rick Yeo, who captained Michigan Tech Huskies to a WCHA title, is a perpetual motion centre on another line. He has the "flying Finn", Teuvo Aapro, on his right and Gary Lindquist on the left. Lindquist has taken over for Ken Harris, the Bearcats' leading scorer over the regular season who lost sight of his left eye a few weeks ago.

## MARCINO ON LEFT WING

Bob Darcist makes plays on the third line. On left wing is Murray Marcino, the club's leading playoff-point man with 26 points in 11 games, and Barry Hogan patrols the right wing.

Marcino is tied with Yeo for most playoff goals—14.

Mike (Tinker) Mithrush is a spare forward and teams up with Owchar to kill penalties. Wingers Cliff Stewart and Bob Milan have been bench-warmers to date.

Slender Dennis Gibson, who was last season with Oklahoma of the WHL, has played all games in goal in the playoffs so far.

Bob Kilgour is a capable backup goalie.

Mekilok, Marcon and Johansen are pickups from Fort William and all the teams' players are products of Lakehead Junior and minor hockey ranks.

Despite carrying age, the Bearcats are a good skating club. They've easily outskated opposition to date. They like to forcheck, move the puck well, have a defence which can throw the puck up to fast-moving forwards and have plenty of goal scorers.

