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UMD NEWS SERVICE
RA 4-8801 Ext 210
March 5, 1964

DULUTH -- The mantle of leadership has passed to the Bruin from Frenchman Butte among UMD Coach Ralph Romano's very young and very promising hockey hustlers.

In a close vote, wing Owen Rogers, a native of Saskatchewan and out of the Estevan Bruins junior organization, was elected 1964-65 captain by his teammates to succeed senior defenseman Bill McGann.

Mike Tok of Bovey and Terry Shercliffe of Regina, Sask. were named alternate captains.

Keith (Huffer) Christiansen, the amazing freshman from International Falls, won the unanimous nod as Most Valuable Player. He collected 36 points to lead the team scoring.

"It's been a very satisfying season for many reasons," said Romano. "Although we started with very few experienced players we enjoyed our finest success since undertaking a major independent schedule in 1961.

"Christiansen, (Pat) Francisco, (Bob) Bell and (Dick) Maertz turned in strong, unusually consistent performances for freshmen against the best college teams in the country week after week.

"That fact plus the absence of any serious injuries and a winning start with two victories over Minnesota instilled early confidence and had a stabilizing effect over the entire season."

When the 25-game schedule ended last weekend in a series sweep of the University of Manitoba, the Bulldogs could claim 11 victories against 14 defeats.

"This may not look too terrific on the surface," said Romano, "but

when you consider what those victories meant, who they were against and how they compare with the past two seasons the picture is different."

Eight of the season's triumphs came opposite Western Collegiate Hockey Association sixes compared with no wins in 1961-62 and just three in 1962-63. Also, the Bulldogs allowed less than 100 goals for the first time since turning independent.

Goalie Bill Halbrehder emerged with a respectable 3.6 goal average for 24 games. The Bulldogs allowed the same number of goals they scored (95) and were outshoot on the average of just four shots a game.

A truer indication of Christiansen's worth is reflected in the effectiveness of his wingmen. Francisco stood second in scoring with 27 points and Tok, just a sophomore, third with 23.

A strong final series let defenseman Bob Hill tie center Terry Shercliffe at 18 points. Also a sophomore, Hill slapped in two goals during his first turn on the ice in the second game.

Romano figures his Bulldogs stand no worse than fifth best in the country and No. 1 among schools using predominantly American-bred players.

"I rate North Dakota, Denver, Michigan and Michigan Tech ahead of us," said Romano. "In the East Army has become the power and we defeated them easily when we met.

"Then I rate us ahead of Colorado College, Minnesota and Michigan State. These clubs go mainly with American players as we do. Over the past season we showed eight wins and three loses against them."

With McGann the only graduating member of the squad, Romano has some reason to view the future optimistically. "Of course none of our opponents expect to stand still," cautioned Romano, "however we hope to improve a few things ourselves."

UMD HOCKEY STATISTICS. . .season completed

	Games	Goals	Assists	Points	Pen-Min
Keith Christiansen	24	16	20	36	22-58
Pat Francisco	23	14	13	27	4-8
Mike Tok	24	11	12	23	5-10
Terry Shercliffe	25	11	7	18	9-21
Bob Hill	25	5	13	18	5-10
Dave Stepnes	25	9	6	15	2-4
Owen Rogers	23	8	6	14	17-37
Bob Bell	25	4	10	14	12-24
Bob Lund	25	3	11	14	4-8
Bill McGiffert	25	6	4	10	2-7
Dick Maertz	25	6	2	8	5-10
Dick Fisher	25	2	3	5	26-55
Bill McGann	25	0	5	5	20-51
Ron Panger	13	1	2	3	1-2
Marvin Zilkie	17	0	2	2	0-0
Herb Lewis	6	0	0	0	0-0

<u>Goaltenders</u>	Games	GA	Ave	Stops	Ave
Bill Halbrehder	24	87	3.6	792	33.0
Ron Hill	1	8	8.0	42	42.0
Totals	25	95	3.8	834	33.3
Opponents	25	95	3.8	736	29.4