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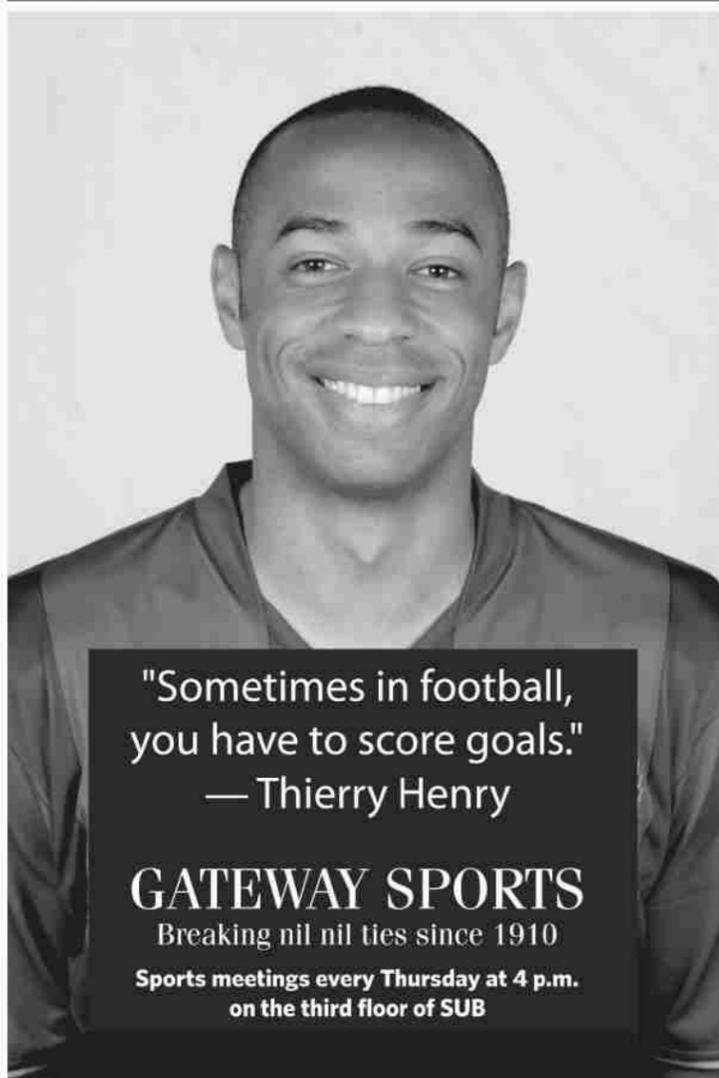
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"Sometimes in football,
you have to score goals."
— Thierry Henry

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Suicide.

A personal and often difficult subject to broach, a subject that still carries a significant stigma that can prevent people from getting the help they need. But with 3,600 suicides in Canada every year, it's a topic that deserves to be discussed.

Pick up The Gateway Thursday for the final installment in our series on mental health.

THE GATEWAY

Bears sputter out at nationals

hockey roundup

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

The Alberta Golden Bears' high hopes of claiming their 14th national championship in team history were dashed this weekend after a losing skid at the University Cup tournament in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Two straight losses to the St. Francis Xavier X-Men and the McGill Martlets quickly put an end to the Bears' momentum and sent the team home without a medal for the first time in four years.

The losses were a tough swallow for the Golden Bears, especially team captain and graduating player Eric Hunter.

"It's difficult," a disappointed Hunter said after McGill eliminated his squad from the tournament in a 6-3 loss on Saturday afternoon. "My time here has been amazing and this year was especially good having a chance to be a leader. Our core group has been together for four years and I've developed some special bonds."

The Bears were unable to find their stride this weekend. Despite heading into the weekend as the third-ranked team in the tournament, the Bears came out flat in their first game against the X-Men. From the outset, the Bears were forced to their heels by the offensively minded Antigonish, N.S. squad.

"It's difficult. My time here has been amazing [...] Our core group has been together for four years and I've developed some special bonds."

ERIC HUNTER
GRADUATING SENIOR, BEARS HOCKEY

Unable to capitalize on their limited chances with the puck, the Bears conceded a quick goal in the first period — a goal that evaporated any confidence the Green and Gold had and set the tone for a 3-1 X-Men upset.

Their second game against the McGill Martlets didn't prove to be any better. Needing to beat the Red and White by at least four goals to qualify for the national championship final, the young Bears couldn't muster the energy needed against such a formidable opponent. As Bears head coach Eric Thurston admits, facing such a daunting team with so much on the line may have eaten away at his squad's on-ice poise throughout the game against the Martlets.

"Obviously it's not easy to go into a game knowing you have to beat the second-best team in the country by



FILEPHOTO: MATT HIRJI

four goals," said Thurston after losing to McGill 6-3 on Saturday. "I thought overall, we didn't play bad, but credit to McGill — they're a very skilled team."

Due to the circumstances, Thurston implemented a strategy to allow his team increased scoring opportunities against the Martlets. Unmitigated offensive aggression was the only way that the Bears could create the goal advantage needed to qualify to the next stage of the tournament. In the end, however, Thurston's strategy backfired and created gaping holes in the defence for the Martlets to capitalize on.

Martlets forward Max Langeller-Parent netted two goals in the game, including an unassisted goal in the final frame that put the game out of reach for the Golden Bears. However, the McGill victory can't only be

credited to the Martlets alone. Alberta contributed to their own downfall, ceding three goals on the McGill powerplay and going scoreless with the man-advantage.

The Bears will now hang up their skates and regroup for next year. With 17 players returning to the lineup, the Green and Gold will be ready for the future challenges ahead of them. Derek Ryan, who led the Canada West division with 17 goals will certainly be poised to make an even greater impact in the future. And while there is certainly a large dose of disappointment inside their locker room this week, the Bears' prospects of raising a CIS national championship banner to the rafters of Clare Drake Arena next season are promising.

— With files from Colin McPhail, *The Brunswickan* (University of New Brunswick)

FIVE YEARS OF GLORY

- Between February 4, 2005 and October 13, 2006, the Bears had a home conference undefeated streak of 18 games.
- Over the past five seasons, the Bears have claimed four Canada West titles

- In the same five seasons, the Green and Gold have claimed two national championship titles.
- During the last five years, the Bears have claimed top spot in the Canada West division four times. The only year

they missed this mark was during the 2006-2007 season. The Bears still qualified for the national tournament, but finished off the podium.

- The Bears have amassed a regular season record of 105-23-12 in that span.