

Player Profile

Kris Thorsteinson
Position: Runningback
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 187
Year of eligibility: 1
by Ajay Bhardwaj

Freshmen. The Golden Bear football squad is loaded with them, especially with freshmen runningbacks. There's Robin Mead, Jason Duxbury, and Kris Thorsteinson. Of the three, Thorsteinson is the one with breakaway speed. The others are big, powerful runners.

"They (the offence and the coaches) count on my speed," Thorsteinson said. "I'm more of a slashing back. I use my speed to get into a hole and out to where there is only a defensive back. The offensive line does a great job."

Thorsteinson was the Bears' leading rusher going into Saturday's game against Calgary, despite missing a game. He rushed for 124 yards and three touchdowns on Saturday in the Bears' 40-20 win.

"He's the kind of fullback we needed," linebacker Mark Singer

said. "A hole opens up and then closes quickly, and he's got to get through."

Thorsteinson missed last week's game against the Dinosaurs because of a sore hip. "They didn't see the U of A's running attack at its optimum last week," Thorsteinson said, adding that fellow runningback Kent Kern was out last week, too. "I watched from the sidelines."

"He was anxious to get back," defensive back Terry Langley said. "He wanted us to knock out a runningback so he could play,"

Langley joked.

Thorsteinson is from Red Deer and he came close to going to Brigham Young. He made the team at spring camp, but when BYU didn't offer him a scholarship, he returned to Canada. "I was recruited by Calgary but I heard that (Bear coach Jim) Donlevy had a better program," Thorsteinson said, who will run the 100m and 200m in track to stay in shape for football.

Thorsteinson is from a close family and has four older brothers. "A lot of things I do, I do for my family," he said. "When I'm on the field and they're in the stands I feel stronger."

He was also voted the best dressed player on the team. Thorsteinson listens to different kinds of music, too. "I like classical and rap," he said. "I guess Chopin is my favorite," he said. That seems like a strange mix.

If the music is a strange mix, then consider that Thorsteinson was the first player to show up at the rookie initiation. The initiation includes making freshmen drink as much as they can. "They made me drink a lot," Thorsteinson said.

"He holds the record," a passing player said. If Thorsteinson keeps playing the way he has been, he'll hold a lot more.



Colin Northcott

Pandas claim big win from UBC Thunderbirds

by Ajay Bhardwaj

The Panda soccer team went to the west coast on the weekend and came home with two points. They defeated the UBC Thunderbirds 1-0 on Saturday.

"It was great," coach Tracy said. "They didn't get across centre-field in the first twenty minutes." Diana Kondrosky scored the only and winning goal in the twelfth minute.

"I don't know what it is about UBC but Diana Kondrosky always plays well against them," David said. "Last year she scored in the dying moments to win Canada West for us."

The win was important for the Pandas as it put them three points up on the Thunderbirds.

Going into the game, David was concerned about containing Thunderbird striker Mitch Ring and stopper Sara James. "We double-teamed Mitch and Diana Kondrosky ran with Sara," David said.

"Now we have to focus on beating Lethbridge," David said. "They become the team to beat." The Pandas play Lethbridge and Calgary back to back. David wants the Panda's playoff picture all clear by the time they play UBC again.

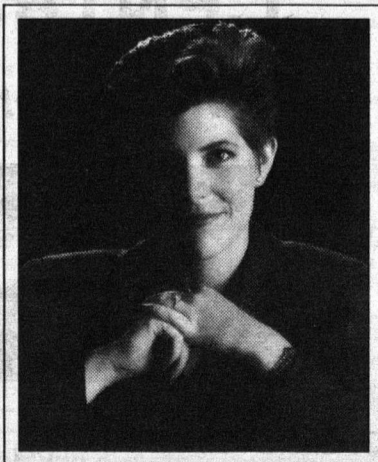
But the coach was still beaming about the weekend's win. "I'm proud of them," David said.

The weekend wasn't all good for the Pandas, however. They lost forward Niki Townsend for the remainder of the year with a torn-up knee. "That's two weeks and two injuries," David said. "She's (Townsend's) a starting player and we have an inexperienced bench."

The Pandas have nine players on the Ajax team which is going to nationals. "We hope that none will get hurt," David said.

The rebuilding Bears, meanwhile, dropped a pair of games on the weekend. They lost 3-1 to UBC and 2-1 to UVIC. Their record now falls to 1-2.

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