

SPORTS

No. 1 ranking not respected

Bears mauled in Dino attack

The young men filed through the darkened hallway into the Golden Bear locker room. With bowed heads and somber expressions, they were dealing with the disappointment and frustration of defeat.

Actually, more than defeat, as they were routed by the Dinosaurs 33-18 in the Western Intercollegiate Football League Final and are out of the playoff contention. Not the way you hope to end the year after a successful 7-1 season and a No. 1 ranking.

Linebacker Garret Doll's interception in the first minute of play was really the only shining moment of the Bears' performance. It was downhill from then on as the Dinosaurs dominated the day.

Peter Connellan, Calgary Dinosaurs' head coach was not kidding when he said "in our last game against Alberta we did not play as well as we could have (referring to the Dino's 31-22 loss to the Bears on Oct. 20)." Saturday, the Dinosaurs obviously played to their optimum, setting the tone of the game by controlling the ball from end zone to end zone. They played like a bunch of rabid dogs that had just been set loose.

The showdown between the No.1 ranked Bears and the No.2 ranked Dinosaurs became a one-sided affair after the first quarter. After Doll's interception, all the Bears' offence could manage was a

single. At the end of the half they had mustered only two first downs, (one by ground and one by air) from the stingy Calgary defense. The rest of the Bears' 17 points came too late in the game to make any difference.

The Dinosaurs' defense proved to be merciless, allowing the Bears no success with either the run or the pass. Rookie running back Jeff 'The Franchise' Funtasz, the WIFL nominee for Canada's outstanding Freshman-of-the-Year honors, was held to a paltry 24 yards on nine carries and only one touchdown. Needless to say, this was one of his worst outings of the year. Due to a pulled gluteus maximus Funtasz was a questionable starter from the outset of the game.

Bears' leader and quarterback Mark Denesiuk, who played for the majority of the game, was unable to generate much offence as he threw four interceptions and met with the frozen field five times. (The Bears gave new meaning to the phrase 'offensive line')

Offensively, the Bears were soundly beat, with their passing game being held to 185 yards and their running game being held to 65 yards.

Denesiuk did manage to engineer two TDs in the final three minutes of the game. One was on a four-yard run by Funtasz and the other was a 29-yard TD pass to inside receiver Brad Clark. Dene-

Eva
Bears All



comings were their inability to get to Calgary's quarterback Lew Lawrick and their inefficiency in covering the cream of Lawrick's supporting cast, mainly wide receiver Josh Borger who caught 11 passes for 183 yards. In the end the Dinosaurs' offence gained 259 yards passing and 156 yards rushing.

In Golden Bears' head coach Jim Donlevy's terms, "You cannot prepare for the enthusiastic aggressiveness that Calgary played with. There is a difference between what we (coaching staff) see on paper and what occurs in reality. In reality, the Dinosaurs played with reckless abandon, and that does not reproduce onto paper."

"We could not get any aspect of our offence to work. We were in a continuous one-two-punt situation. It is a compliment to Calgary's defensive corps; they played an attacking, blitzing style of defense," he continued.

"It was just not our day, but we have to look at the season in perspective. Our team really came together after our loss to Calgary (43-37 loss on Sept.15) and that is one heck of an accomplishment (7-1 season record)," said Donlevy.

Although the Bears looked woefully green in the WIFL final, their season was not a total loss. They improved their 1983 season record of 4-4 to this year's record of 7-1. The Bears' 7-1 record is also their best since 1972.

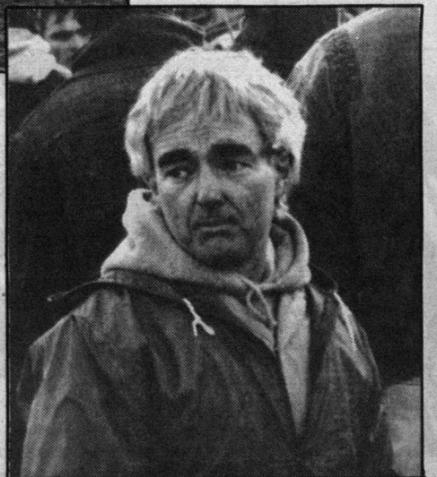
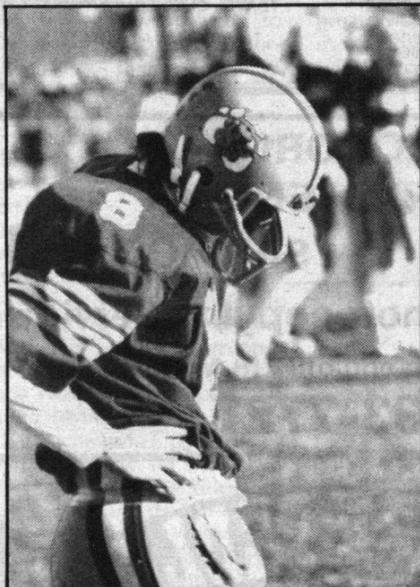
For eight Golden Bear players Saturday's game was their last as they ended their intercollegiate football careers. The Bears will be losing eight valuable players, six defensive players who formed the nucleus of the Big D and two offensive players.

Playing in their final college game were: defensive ends Ron Lammers and Leo Cuiciz, defensive backs Bernie Taylor and Gio Chisotti, safeties Frank Salverda and Rick Magee, and offensive guards Terry Koch and Ben Der.

It was not the best way for these players to end their careers but hopefully some of them will go on to the pros.

With their win over the Bears, the Dinosaurs are now on their way to meet the Guelph Gryphons in the national semi-final next weekend. The Gryphons defeated the Western Ontario Mustangs for the Ontario University Athletic Association Championship. It will likely turn out to be another Dinosaur year as they should cruise to their second consecutive Vanier Cup Championship with no major problems.

Sidelines: Donlevy was presented with a big stuffed Golden Bear from U of A President Myer Horowitz...Perry Pawliuk had a blocked punt in the third quarter...The Dinosaurs brought their own cheerleaders with them and what sounded like half of Calgary.



Photos Tim Kubash