

Huskies ruin Bear myth

By ANDY RODGER

SASKATOON—Last Saturday was cool and blustery in Saskatoon—so blustery in fact the U of S Huskies had a win blown their way.

For the first time in almost three years the Golden Bears lost a game, by a score of 27-21.

A combination of good breaks for the Huskies, and anaemic playing by the Bears put the dogs in front by 21 points before the Bears got to the scoreboard.

With the wind to their backs, the Huskies assumed control of the ball, and ran up a fourteen point lead. Towards the end of the first quarter Husky Dave Thomas intercepted a Bear pass and ran 35 yards for a major, putting the Saskatchewan team ahead 21-0.

It wasn't until the second quarter that the Bears took matters into their own hands. Vern Simonson went over on a pass play to put the first U of A points on the board.

Then quarterback Algajer got a knee injury. Rankel took over for the rest of the game.

The first half was marred by poor tackling and fairly lackadaisical playing. Husky punt returners went almost unmolested, generally gaining good yardage. The "Toon team seemed to have a blood feud with the Bears and acted as if they wanted to win.

The Bears caught hold in the second half. Their blocking improved, and they started actually running downfield to tackle punt returners. The team seemed to have gained a certain esprit.

There was more cohesive action and snappier playing. The Huskies seemed to feel the pressure being put on. Even so, the Bears were hard pressed themselves, and at one point were forced back to their own six.

Several times in the latter half of the third the Bear squad had a touchdown in reach, only to lose it in a bad break or an interception.

Forced back almost to their own goal line by a punt, the Huskies managed to fight forward to comparative safety.

Early in the fourth quarter, capitalizing on a Saskatchewan fumble, Simonson made his third major of the game. With the score 27-21 and most of the quarter to play, it looked as though the Bears could still win.

However, the nearest the Bears got to touchdown position was the Husky 36. A pass to Simonson went just a bit too far, ending the Bear's hopes. The final score stayed 27-21.

Although the loss is not devastating, it means that the Bears will have to work hard to win the rest of their games.

But if they play like they did in Saturday's last half, they should have few troubles.

They can consider themselves out of contention for the league title if they play the way they started in the last game.

Individual performers: Jim Hale, Vern Simonson, Tony Rankel, and John Violini all played very good games.

A 17-year-old lad on the Huskies deserves some credit for their victory; Lyle Dunkley will be a player to watch.

Coach Fracas thought the Saskatchewan club put on a good performance. Alberta made quite a few mistakes, but he thought the team made a fine effort.

Defensively the Bears were good, but offensively they did not measure up.

"It will be a long uphill battle against the Bisons," Fracas said.

The Bisons, reputedly a tough team, will host the Bears in Winnipeg on Saturday.



—Moser photo
OUTA MY WAY—says an angry Bear as Husky tacklers close in for another kill in Saturday's 27-21 defeat.

Saturday's Stats

	Bears	Huskies	Completed passes	19	7
Penalties-yds.	8-80	5-50	Fumbles	1	5
First downs	16	15	Fumbles rec'd	0	2
Yards passing	237	125	Interceptions	0	4
Yards rushing	48	188	Kicks-offs-yds.	4-48.7	5-47.2
Total offensive	282	313	Punts-yds.	10-35.7	12-37.4

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So the Bears lost.

The defeat will do them good. The way they talk you'd think they discovered the Titanic.

But now the unsinkable has sunk and the boys will have to man the lifeboats and row hard if they expect to come out of this one alive.

Toronto is a long way off if you are hitchhiking and the Bears will have to smarten up if they expect to get there any other way.

But the writing on the wall will not be ignored.

Gino Fracas has probably added a few words to the team's vocabulary after last Saturday's game. Words they won't forget for a while.

It is a sad thing to lose when you've forgotten what the word means. But is better to lose early and correct the mistakes than to lose later when it is too late.

The Bears may have lost one round, but they haven't lost their shirts. The only people with no shirts are the campus bookies.

If the Bears don't improve it is rumoured they will put their money into something safe—like Atlantic Acceptance.

But the panic isn't on yet. The season is only a third gone.

At least the home games will look like football instead of the slaughtering floor at Swift.

The trouble with the Bear team is lack of preparation.

In every game it is the same, the players are never quite sure what they are supposed to be doing.

The quarterback trips over the halfback and then throws the ball to the end who wasn't there.

Just about as smooth as the girl with the sandpaper complexion.

You just don't win football games playing that kind of ball.

Rankel has developed some good plays—the pass play to Simonson in particular.

This one scored three touchdowns against the Huskies last Saturday. We need more like that.

The punt returns need work, Bradley in particular will have to learn that the only way to the goal line is straight down the field.

Thirty yards backward and forward is not thirty yards forward as any engineer will tell you.

But it all takes time. The Bears will be a new team by Saturday when they meet the Bisons if Fracas has his way.

And they had better be new ... and improved too.

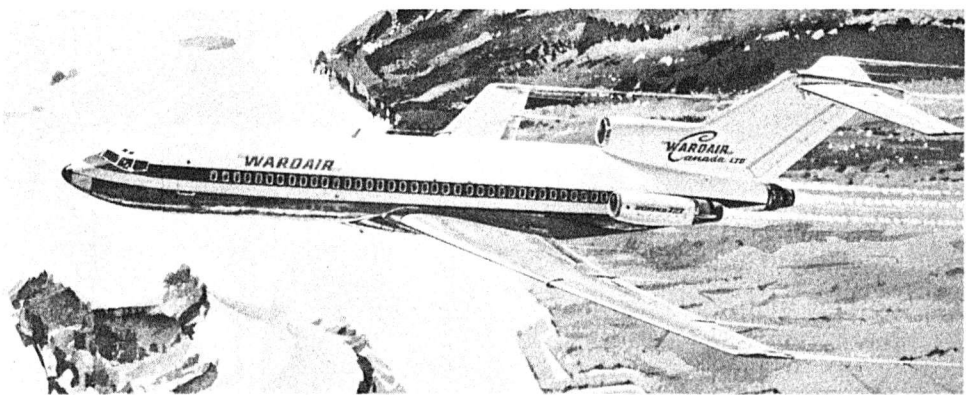
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