

T-Birds defence stops Bears cold

UBC 17 Alberta 3
by Alan Small

For the third game in a row, the Bear offence has stunk in Vancouver.

The latest chapter in a history of poor offensive performances in Thunderbird Stadium ended Saturday night when the UBC defence spent little time on the sidelines. Against UBC quarterback Jordan Gagner, who was the Hec Crighton award winner last season, that usually means taking a loss with you on the plane back home.

Gagner tossed for 399 yards on the day even though the Bear defence played well, especially in the first half. A couple of second half drives put the game out of reach.

"We were all over the quarterback and receivers in the first half," said cornerback Todd Matheson, "they only had two good drives." Gagner showed his stuff during those two drives however as he tossed two touchdown passes to fullback Jason Walley, one of 12 yards, the other 20.

"We outhustled them physically," said Bear defensive halfback

Neil Ferguson. "They seemed to have the one big play that makes or breaks."

Despite the fact that the defence spent most of the game on the field, Ferguson did not blame the two second half touchdowns on fatigue.

"They got more time to find out what we were doing on the defence. They found some holes," said Ferguson.

The only points the offence could muster on this night would be three singles on missed field goals by kicker Steve Kasowski.

The Bear quarterbacking crew struggled for the second time in two starts, as Mark Denesiuk completed only six of eighteen passes.

At first glance it looked like Gagner tore up the Bears defence, but he also had his problems as the Bears picked off the star T-Bird QB four times — one more interception than he threw all last season.

"The defensive line was putting a lot of pressure on the quarterback," Matheson said. "We're (the defensive secondary) a lot more comfortable than last season. We



Bear running back Ken Farrus (34) charges past this Huskie tackler.

Photo by Randal Smathers

have a lot more confidence. Also having Trent (DB Trent Brown) back helps." Brown picked off one of Gagner's passes giving him two on the season.

PILE UPS: Rookie running back Ken Farrus missed the game due to a sprained ankle which occurred in practice that week . . . Aaron Smith made a brief ap-

pearance at QB for the Bears, and did not complete the one pass he threw . . . The previous two games in Vancouver, the Bears scored 5 and 8 points .

Bears expect hard hitting Herd

by Alan Small

Saturday's game against the University of Manitoba Bisons forces the Golden Bears to use the cliché that all athletes wish to avoid.

"It's a do or die game," says

defensive back Neil Ferguson, "if we lose here this weekend, we're in big trouble."

The Bears have lost their first two games, and another loss would knock them out of serious contention for one of the two playoff

spots in the West.

The U of A expects the classic Bison style of game. The Herd likes to run over their opposition.

"They're very physical," says Bear cornerback Todd Matheson, "they don't try to fool you."

"They're like the Broad Street Bullies," says Ferguson. "They play smash-mouth football. They beat the hell out of you."

"They run the ball and they don't make it a secret."

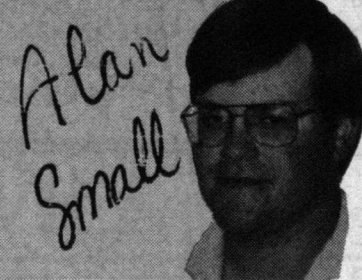
That might take some of the load off of the secondary this weekend as they ran into two hot hands in the first two games, namely the other team's quarterbacks.

The Bisons finished last with a 1-7 mark a year ago and are winless in their only start during this campaign. Only 45 players attended training camp, so depth



will be a problem this season for them. Will Woytowich, who was third in rushing in the West with 575 yards last year, is back and will share the ball with highly regarded rookie Mike Connor, who at 6'2" and 205 pounds, looks to fit right into the Bison mold for big, bruising running backs.

The Bison passing game will revolve around slotback Grant Nielsen, who was a second team CIAU all-star last season. His 38 receptions last year left him second in the conference in passes caught.



No one wins battles of egos.

Golden Bear football coach Jim Donlevy is still a little miffed — or at least he seems that way when he has been asked about the fiasco between himself and former Golden Bears Mark Brus and Russ Brown, who have enrolled at the University of Tulsa, and will play for the Golden Hurricanes in the 1989 NCAA football season. Due to transfer rules, both must sit out one year.

When asked on CJSR's *Press Box* about how much Mark Brus' loss to the Bears could hurt the team this year, Donlevy admitted that the loss of 38 percent of last year's offence would hurt, but that the running backs they have now would nearly fill the gap that Brus's loss causes in the U of A backfield.

When asked whether they would miss the services of offensive tackle Russ Brown, Donlevy emphatically and tersely replied "No."

Donlevy made this remark even though his offensive line is young, and for the most part, small. Brown's experience (he's 29) and his size (6'4" and 270 pounds) would rank him the biggest on the team if not in Canadian university football. This leads one to believe that a personality conflict between Brown and Donlevy may have taken place.

But the ego inflation is not just limited Donlevy. The third day of practice during Bear training camp had both Brus and Brown inspecting the troops from afar with a set of binoculars. Brus and Brown said their decision to stay or go would be made in two days, and that it would take some fast talking (apologizing?) for them to get back on Donlevy's good side again. Two days later, they weren't on the field, but possibly on the plane headed for Oklahoma.

Brus is 21; but after a phenomenal season last year for the U of A, anything close to that would have put him in the first or second round in the CFL draft next spring. He still may be drafted, but he may have hurt his marketability somewhat. If he chases a dream of making the NFL, he would have to be something special, or at least start, considering Tulsa is the third best football school in Oklahoma, after the Sooners and the Oklahoma State Cowboys. His chances of making the NFL is less than one percent. But he would make a tremendous CFL back, noting the fact that Canadian running backs are being relied on more and more in the CFL. Just look at the Eskimos.

The ones who lose this battle are the players left on the Bears and the fans who follow them. The Bears looked to make the playoffs with them both: their chances look not so certain anymore. The players get robbed at a chance for glory. The fans miss seeing a winner on the field and a pair of pretty good athletes. University football players like Brus and Brown aren't that easy to find.

No one wins.

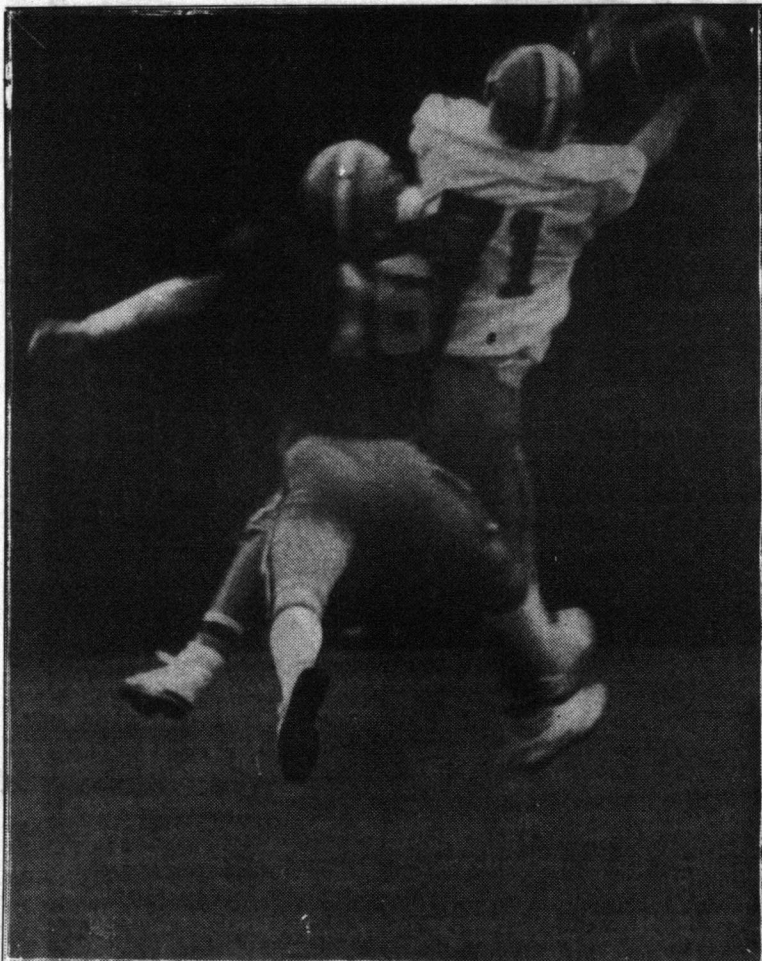


Photo by Randal Smathers

1st Quarterly Report

How are the receivers? How about the secondary? See *The Gateway's* look at the 88 Bears football squad on page 28.