

Bisons' penalties speed Bear win

by Bob Kilgannon

Led by another impressive offensive display and a stingy defense, the Golden Bear football team rolled to their second straight win of the young season on Saturday.

The Bears' victims this time were the Manitoba Bisons who, with the loss, dropped their record to 0-2 for the season.

Manitoba started in convincing fashion, taking the opening kickoff and going 63 yards in eight plays for a touchdown. The drive was mostly along the ground although the touchdown was a 10-yard pass to running back Barry Safiniuk. Fortunately, whatever the Golden Bear defense did wrong in the first drive was quickly resolved with some defensive adjustments. That first drive was the only one the Bisons could muster all afternoon.

Near the end of the first quarter, the Bears' offense clicked after a slow start and began to mount a drive of their own. The march was highlighted by a brilliant 30-yard catch by rookie wide receiver Peter Eshenko who came up with his second consecutive impressive game. The offense moved the ball to the Bison three-yard line before stalling when Rick Paulitsch made a diving grab on the goal line but couldn't hold on.

Early in the second quarter the Bears had great field position at the Manitoba 35 and quickly drove down with a 19 yard reception by flanker Dave Brown to the 7. The next play was a touchdown strike by quarterback Forrest Kennerd to Eshenko. Trevor Kennerd's convert tied the score at 7-7 with 13:05 left in the half.

On the kickoff Manitoba was forced to start at their 10 after a holding call. On first down the Bisons started outside but defensive back Barry Kokotilo knifed into the backfield to stop the play for a loss. On the next play defensive back Tim Weinkauff, made another great play, forcing the Bisons to kick from deep in their own end. Kerry O'Connor returned the punt to the Bison 40 showing good moves and speed.

It appeared the Bears were in a position to put more points on the board but it wasn't to be. Manitoba's defense came up big and the Golden Bears lost 21 yards in two plays. On third and a mile Brown's punt was almost blocked after a poor snap.



O'Connor provides an example of the Bears' improved running game.

Photo Russ Sampson.

At the eight minute mark of the second quarter Trevor Kennerd tried a 50 yard field goal that was short. Manitoba couldn't move the ball from there and on third down the snap sailed over the head of punter Les Oakes into the end zone. Linebacker Jan Tollovsen tackled Oakes in the endzone for a safety. Late in the quarter Manitoba put together a good drive to move into Alberta territory. The drive stalled and Oakes' 27 yard field goal attempt was wide and went for a single.

Holding on to a 1 point lead at the half, the Bears were far from running away with the contest. Starting from their own 5, the Bears moved the ball down the field, aided by Manitoba penalties. The Bisons gave the Bears three offside penalties in a row, a 25 yard pass interference call at midfield on Peter Eshenko, a rough play penalty and an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on the same play, and finally another pass interference call on Eshenko at the Manitoba 3 yard line. From there running back Frank Cunningham ran the

ball in and the Bears took the lead 16-8 with 7:05 left in the third quarter. The drive covered 105 yards, 84 of which were by way of Manitoba penalties.

That march took the wind out of the Bisons' sails. Bison head coach Dennis Hrycaiko put it best when he said, "we did it to ourselves."

Quarterback Forrest Kennerd also felt the drive was significant saying, "That was the turning point of the game. We never lost our poise but Manitoba did."

Trevor Kennerd shocked everyone including the Bisons by recovering his own kickoff on the very next play. The former Edmonton Huskie just squibbed the ball straight ahead and fell on it at the Bison 51. Trevor had noticed earlier the players on the front line for Manitoba were running back as he approached the ball rather than waiting until he kicked it. He suggested the short kickoff to the coaching staff and they told him to go ahead and do it.

After Trevor's alert play

brother Forrest began moving the offense down the field only to be intercepted on the Bisons goal line. Demetro Danyluk returned the ball all the way to the Alberta 47 yard line. Manitoba moved down to the 5 but the defense held there. Oakes tried a 10 yard field goal but the ball got the upright, keeping the score unchanged at 16-8 Bears.

With seconds left in the quarter, Kennerd threw the ball over the middle where Peter Eshenko made a brilliant catch for a 35 yard gain. Eshenko caught the ball as he was being drilled by the Manitoba safety and held on when he fell to his back.

In the fourth quarter the Bears, starting at midfield, moved the ball well with runs of 15 and 11 yards by Frank Cunningham and a 15 yard pass to Eshenko sandwiched around one of only two quarterback sacks. Kennerd then hit Kerry O'Connor with a short pass that the slotback turned into a 14 yard gain with an excellent run. With 9:11 left Trevor Kennerd booted a 17 yard field goal to make the

score 19-8.

Probably the single most exciting play of the game came about four minutes later as halfback Sean Kehoe scampered 102 yards on a counter play to score. Kehoe later explained the play. "There was an X block between the guard and tackle and they both made great blocks. The key to getting outside though, was Dave Brown's super down block on the defensive back."

With just under four minutes left, the Bears Nereo Bolzon picked off a Hysop pass at the Bison 40. A minute later Randy Stollery, who alternated with Jamie Crawford as quarterback in the dying minutes, was intercepted by Dave Kraemer who returned the ball 33 yards to the Bison 44. Hysop then went to work with a long pass to Les Oakes down to the 12. Hysop ran the ball in a few plays later to make the score a respectable 26-14. The Bisons tried a two point convert and a short kickoff but both failed and the Bears ran out the clock to preserve the win.



photo Jim Connell

Kehoe didn't run very far this play. Later he went for 102 yards.

YARDSTICKS

	ALBERTA	MANITOBA
First downs	27	21
Yards passing	279	176
Total offense	479	360
Passes att/comp	24/219	37/184
Penalties/yards	8/35	16/159
Punts/average	10/32.5	13/35
Interceptions	1	2
Fumbles/lost	0/0	0/0

INDIVIDUAL

Rushing: Alberta	Manitoba
Kehoe - 7/136	Hysop - 11/57
Paulitsch - 6/22	Futz - 15/84
Cunningham - 7/41	
Passing: Alberta -	Manitoba
Kennerd - 16/31	Hysop - 10/25
Receiving: Alberta -	Safiniuk - 5/60
Eshenko - 9/156	Kuldys - 3/45
Brown - 6/63	

BEAR FACTS

Safety Gord Syme didn't dress as his bruised calf is taking longer than expected to heal.

Running back Martin Pardell went down with a bad knee and was operated on Sunday. He will be lost to the team for the season.

Defensive captain and the team's only fifth year player, Lorne DeGroot, is still out recovering from off season knee surgery.

Last Friday night in Calgary the defending league champion UBC Thunderbirds beat the U of C Dinosaurs 38-14 in Calgary. That win leaves UBC with a record of 2 wins and a loss while the Dinosaurs drop to 0-2.

The Bears next game is this Saturday at 2:00 p.m. against the highly touted U of S Huskies, whom many consider the team to beat. BE THERE OR BE SQUARE.