



Ron Ternoway

from my square

corner

Most sports editors are dissatisfied jocks, right?

They're the goalies that never quite made it with the bantam team, football players who held tackling dummies, and hockey players who sat on the bench. They're the soccer players who guarded the water bucket and baseball players who weren't even used as pinch hitters.

Well, any one of those describe me fairly well, but Jan Rzyzora of the Campus at Bishop's University is a little different. Not only is he sports editor of the Campus, but he's a cornerback and punt return specialist for the Gaiters, who tackle the Golden Bears in the Western College Bowl at Clarke Stadium on Sunday.

A week ago or so I wrote Jan for some information on the Gaiters, little realizing that he had such an inside track, as it were. His letter was chock-full of information, and here without any further delay is some of it.

"The Gaiter offence is not a very complicated one," begins Jan. "We use two wingbacks and a fullback sided with one halfback. This formation allows us to go regular or, if the need arises, we can double flank either side or even flank the halfback on either side. A sort of complex structure can result, but really it's quite simple."

"Our offence can't really be classified as either a complete running or passing one," he continued. "It's quite balanced. Game plans are usually built around the opposing defence's weaknesses."

In which case it's a pretty good guess that the Gaiters will try a lot of sweeps and quarterback keepers. The Gaiters received the game film of the Bears against the Dinosaurs in Calgary, a game in which Dinnie quarterback Les Horvath was extremely successful running against the Bears.

As for the Gaiter defence, Jan sums it up this way: "The defence is basically a sound one, especially along the line and in the linebacking. The Gaiters allowed only 50 points in six games."

"Any possible weakness in the defence lies in the secondary," he confessed. "While they are sure tacklers, they can be beaten at times by speed."

"Because of this we utilize numerous defensive formations," he said.

All of this means, of course, that if Don Tallas has a good passing day, Mel Smith, Gary Weisbrot, Roy Beechy, Don Hickey and Vance Curtis are going to have a field day. They're probably the best cast of receivers in Canada, and barring a snow storm, should get a lot of work.

Now down to specifics. Here are some of the key players to watch on the Gaiters, in Jan's words.

Larry Smith- 6', 215 lb. running back. What can be said? He's great. He's a punishing, hurting runner that kills defensive linemen and secondary. He has the size, speed, hands and lust for football that is difficult to find. Smith won the rushing title in the Quebec conference with 860 yards and a 11.1 average, and also captured the scoring title. Just watch him!

Bill Macdonald- 6', 185 lb. quarterback. Bill is a skilled and tactful craftsman. He's able to sense the defensive rushes and blitzes very well, and is extremely good at changing the play at the line of scrimmage. He's got a good passing arm, and isn't afraid to run. He's the team leader.

Sandy Baptist 6'2" 200lb. end and linebacker. In Jan's estimation, one of the best collegiate football players in Canada. He's very versatile, playing tight end, linebacker, and punting for the Gaiters. Very strong, blocks and tackles with vicious fury.

Charlie Maclean- 5'11", 180 lb. end and placekicker. A very hard worker and dedicated. Not spectacular but a clutch performer. On field goals he's good inside the 45 yard line, his longest being 43 yards this year. Very consistent, and could be a key man if the game is close.

Jan closes with some wary word about the weather. "We are hoping for good weather," he said, "not two feet of snow as has been reported in Lennoxville about the Edmonton area. We don't want to sound too bush, but we're bringing our long johns, caps and mitts just in case."

I've never seen a game played in caps and mitts. It should be just another interesting sidelight to a most exciting Sunday afternoon, so come on out and cheer the Bears on their way to a national championship. (Good Luck, Jim)

MEMO TO THE GOLDEN BEARS:

REMEMBER, WHEN YOU'RE UP TO YOUR ASSES IN GAITERS, THAT THE REASON YOU'RE THERE IS TO DRAIN THE SWAMP AND WIN THE NATIONAL TITLE.

U.S. Nats here Saturday

by Stu Layfield

Edmonton puck fans may be treated to the hockey highlight of the season this Saturday night when our University of Alberta Golden Bears host the touring United States National Team at Varsity Arena.

The visiting squad is composed of the finest American amateur hockey players in the republic and is currently training for the World Cup, to be held Dec. 26 - Jan. 3 in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the 1972 Winter Olympics Feb. 3 - 13 in Sapporo, Japan. The team is based at the Metropolitan Arena, Bloomington, Minnesota, better known as the home of the Minnesota North Stars of the National Hockey League, and is playing an exhibition schedule of over forty games against the best possible competition. The University of Calgary Dinosaurs, who the Americans play Friday night in Calgary, and the Golden Bears are the only Canadian teams the Nats will meet. So far the American team has been decimating a variety of American junior, senior, and university teams and has also enjoyed considerable success against the minor league pros. They twice defeated the Cleveland Barons of the American Hockey League, the top farm team of the Minnesota North Stars, won and tied games with the Omaha Knights, the New York Ranger farm team in the Central Pro League, and lost twice to the high-flying Denver Spurs, current league-leaders in the Western Hockey League and the number one farm team for the St. Louis Blues.

The U.S. Nationals are a young team, consisting primarily of recent graduates of American college hockey. The oldest players are 28 year old Bob Naslund and 27 year old Keith Christiansen, both seasoned veterans of international hockey competition, having played on three and five American National teams respectively. The youngest player is speedy centre Robbie Ftorek, 19 years old and a product of Canadian junior hockey. Almost all the players on the club hail from either Minnesota or Massachusetts, two hockey hotbeds where interest in the puck game parallels that of anywhere in Canada.

Several of the players have been drafted by and are presently on player lists of National Hockey League teams, including: forwards Kevin Ahearne (Montreal Canadiens); Phil Wittliff (Philadelphia Flyers); and

Henry Boucha (Detroit Red Wings); and defencemen Tom Mellor and Wally Olds (Both Detroit Red Wings).

Boucha, a big full-blooded Indian from Warroad, Minnesota, is no stranger to Edmonton, having played two seasons ago as a highly-publicized rookie with the Winnipeg Jets of the Western Canada Hockey League, after a legendary high school career which found him being recruited by every American college hockey power and a number of Canadian junior teams. Last year he returned to the United States to fulfill his military obligations and play for the Nationals; in fact, a number of the players on the team are taking advantage of the opportunity to complete their service commitments and play top calibre hockey at the same time.

There is no doubt that the Nats are a talented hockey team, although it would be foolish to contend that the Americans are in the same class as the Russians and the Czechs. Still they have enjoyed their moments of glory, particularly in 1960 when they captured the Gold Medal in a stunning upset at the Olympics at Squaw Valley. And while their fortunes deteriorated markedly in succeeding years, the last couple of years have seen the Americans pumping considerable new blood in the form of money, players, and organization into an effort to eventually repeat their 1960 triumph. (It might be worth noting at this juncture what Canada and Canadians are doing with regards to hockey at the international level these days). The American team continues to improve every year despite suffering from the effects of a problem that anyone who

followed the plight of Canada's now defunct National Team will be familiar with, namely the loss of many top-flight prospects to the professionals. In fact, two members of last year's U.S. Nats, Gary Gambucci and Craig Patrick, have made the big jump this season directly into the N. H. L., with the Minnesota North Stars and the California Golden Seals respectively.

In looking at their players and their team performances and trying to evaluate their strength, it would seem that the Americans - might best be described as roughly equivalent to a good young minor professional team. Coach Clare Drake's Golden Bears will be highly pressed to keep their undefeated exhibition record intact on Saturday night. In fact, perhaps more realistically speaking, the Green and Gold will probably have to play a superb game while at the same time catching the Americans on an off-night, in order to pull off a victory. The major factor in the game will likely be whether or not the Golden Bear defence, led by All Canadian blueliner Steve Carlyle and outstanding rookie goaltender Barry Richardson, can keep such high scoring Nats forwards as Boucha, Ftorek, Tim Sheehy, and Craig Sarnier in check, thus giving Golden Bear offensive leaders like Dave Couves, Jack Gibson, Billy Moores, and Harvey Poon an opportunity to click for a few goals.

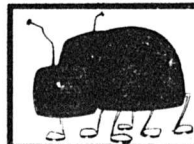
Whatever the outcome, the game promises to be a fast skating, cleanly played, exciting affair which should be well worth taking in. Game time at Varsity Arena Saturday night is 8:00 p.m.



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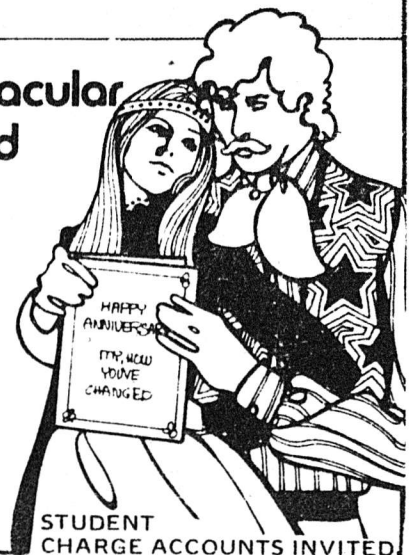
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