

WIFL Championship

The battle of

by Eva Pendzich

The Bears could top a sensational 7-1 regular season by defeating the current Vanier Cup Champion Calgary Dinosaurs this Saturday. A victory will give the Bears the Western Intercollegiate Football League Championship and a berth in the Vanier Cup semi-final.

If the Bears want to win against the Dinosaurs, they have to come up with their best performance of the year. It is not going to be an easy victory as the Dinosaurs will surely play up to their championship potential.

Jim Donlevy, Golden Bears' head coach, feels intensity and perfection are going to be major factors in the game.

"We have to play with intensity, because Calgary definitely will. It will literally have to be a flawless game," he said.

The first time the Bears faced the Dinosaurs this season, the Dinosaurs narrowly escaped defeat as the Bears rallied from behind. By scoring 35 consecutive points in the final 18 minutes of the game, the Bears narrowed Calgary's lead from

43-2 to 43-37.

In their second clash, the Bears conquered the then No. 1 ranked Dinosaurs 31-22; handing them their first loss of the season. Winning by nine points, the Bears captured first place in the WIFL and home field advantage for the league playoff game.

A seven point margin was necessary because the Bears and Dinosaurs finished the regular season with identical records. By compiling the most points in head to head competition, the Bears will host the final.

The Bears, on the other hand, are pleased to have home field advantage. They feel it will be an asset as long as some fans show up.

In the Dinosaurs 31-22 loss to the Bears, they had the opportunity to secure home field advantage with a field goal, but opted instead for the touchdown and the win. That strategy failed, though, as the Bears defense came up big on third and goal and stopped Calgary's scoring drive.

Peter Connellan, Calgary Dinosaurs head coach is not dwelling on



Bear facts on

The bottom

In the Bears last game against the Dinosaurs the Bears won 31-22. With Mark Denesiuk at the helm, the Bears compiled 449 yards total offense; 218 yards rushing and 231 yards passing. Rookie running back Jeff Funtasz destroyed the Dinosaurs defense, rushing for 146 yards on 28 carries and two touchdowns.

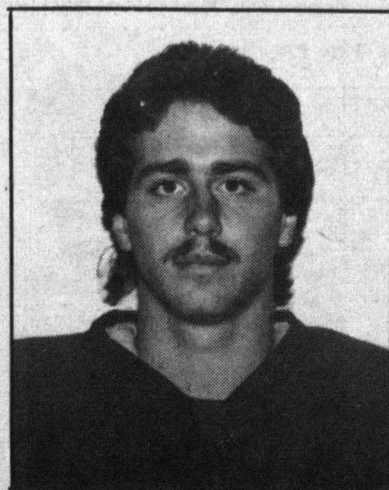
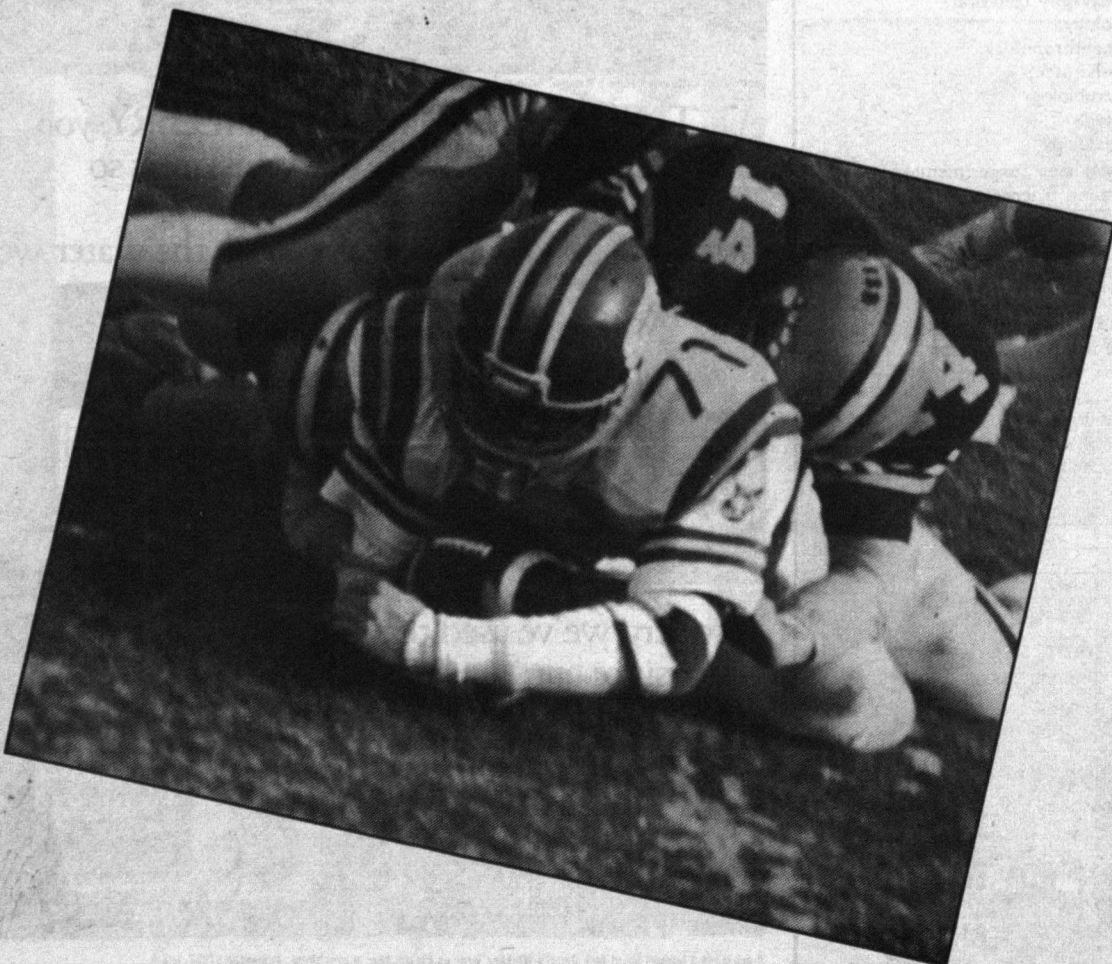
Alberta's defense held Calgary's offense to 341 total yards, allowing only 93 yards on the ground. They came up with the big play that stopped the Dinosaurs on third and goal; thus preventing a Calgary victory and ensuring home field advantage in the Western final. The defense also came up with three interceptions and one sack.

Peter Connellan, Calgary Dinosaurs head coach: "Defensively, we have to control Funtasz and Dene-

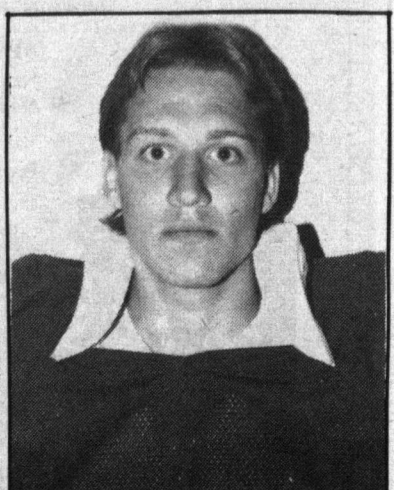
siuk, who are the keys to the Alberta offense."

Here are how the Golden Bear Football players see the upcoming Western Intercollegiate Football League championship against the Calgary Dinosaurs. Reference is made to the previous Calgary game and to coach Connellan's comment.

Rookie Quarterback Mark Denesiuk: "What it is going to take to win against Calgary is 60 minutes of good sound football, with no freebies (senseless penalties) to give them momentum. If we come up with the exact same game as last time, we can do it. As for me being a key player, our team has too many good players to just concentrate on me. I mean any one of our players can come up with the big



Mark Denesiuk



Jeff Funtasz