

Season all but over for hapless football Bears



28



5

by Tim Enger

Tsk, Tsk, Tsk. Just when the Bears finally show the firepower that made them the number one ranked team in preseason, they turn around and go back to their old tricks.

Led by an anemic offense and an overworked defense, the Bears dropped a crucial game to the Manitoba Bisons 28-5 in front of, oh... let's say 50 fans at Pan-Am stadium in Winnipeg.

Defensively, the Bears were not that bad. They forced six turnovers and registered one sack. Their problem was that they were on the field too long and Manitoba started most of their drives inside Bear territory.

Offensively, there was only one major problem. The absence of Jeff

Funtasz and Corrado Filice in the backfield.

Funtasz's ability to gain large chunks of yardage was missed. His replacement Tom Houg, did not look out of place, but it just wasn't the same.

Corrado Filice's absence, however, was more noticeable.

Ask QB Mark Denesiuk. Without his best blocking he was wearing the Manitoba defence for most of the game (he was sacked five times while Darren Brezden was sacked once). This resulted in 67 yards in the wrong direction. "It's hard to lose a guy who is like another offensive lineman in the backfield," said left offensive tackle Murray McKay. "It really hurts your execution when you're without a guy who's that important" added right offensive tackle Harold Riemer.

Filice is a doubtful starter in next Saturday's game against UBC, but it being possibly the last game of his University career, it will be rather hard to keep him off the field. His replacement Randy Shantz did a fine job considering he came over from the defence last week but he was no Filice.

Another problem that nagged the Bears throughout the game was their frustrating tendency to take penalties in important situations. Several Alberta drives were stalled by illegal procedure calls, and some

Manitoba drives were extended when a few Bears decided to take justice into their own hands; or as the referees like to call it, "Objectional Conduct... 15 yards."

Manitoba opened the scoring at 5:17 of the first quarter when Denesiuk was intercepted by Manitoba defensive back Mark Langstaff who then ran it back to Alberta's 24 yard-line. Three plays later halfback Larry Santin dove over from the one yardline for the first major score of the game.

Manitoba continued to enjoy good field position because the Bears seemed content to march backwards via a sack or penalties, then let Derek Waterman punt, which didn't help much (Waterman had a punting average of 12.3 yds in the first quarter). The Bisons finally capitalized on their field position with a field goal by Darrel Batt from 41 yards out at 13:47 of the first quarter. The quarter ended Bisons 10, Bears 0.

The Bears had a chance to put some points on the board early in the second quarter after defensive end Peter Onofrechuk recovered a fumble by Manitoba QB Kevin Eikerman who had been separated from the ball by linebacker Gerald Teledetski. Unfortunately, Nigel Scott intercepted Tim Hamblin's pass on a fake field goal attempt.

The next time the Bears had the

ball they drove to Manitoba's 19 yard line but had to settle for a 26 yard Waterman field goal at 7:34 of the second quarter. Waterman added a single minutes later on a wide 22 yard field goal attempt set up by a 42 yard pass from slotback Tom Richards to wide receiver Tony Pierson a flea-flicker play.

The Bears had two more chances to add to their point total but both drives were ended by sacks and penalties. The scored at halftime was U of M 10, U of A 4.

Both teams opened the second half with punts, but on Manitoba's second possession, the Bears secondary blew a coverage and Eikerman connected with slotback Nigel Scott on a 43 yard pass and run touchdown four minutes into the third quarter.

The next time the Bisons had the ball they were in good field position (courtesy of a 20 yard Waterman punt), but could only manage three points off the toe of Batt from 31 yards out.

Manitoba's last major came at 12:54 of the fourth quarter. Fullback Gerry Urbanovich scored on a one yard dive set up by Mark Langstaff's second interception of the game. Batt added a single on the kickoff because two objectionable conducts by the Bears had him kicking off from the Bears 45 yard line. Waterman had added another single earlier on a missed 42 yard field goal to make the final score U of M 28 — U of A 5.

This sets up next week's game against the UBC Thunderbirds as not only a must win but a must win big. In order for the Bears to make the playoffs they have to beat the T'Birds by 22 points or more and hope that the Saskatchewan Huskies beat the Bisons in Saskatoon.

It is unfortunate that it has to come down to this. If the Bears had beaten the Bisons then all they would have to do is beat UBC by any score and they would be in. Now they are the star attraction at the Mathematics Bowl on Saturday

at 2:00 at Varsity Stadium. Oh well, if you're into exciting regular season finales then that's the place to be on Saturday, and remember to bundle up because its going to be cold. Just the way Frank Smith and his B.C. beach boys hate it.

Bear Facts: Offensive tackle **Murray McKay** is gone for the season becoming the Bears fifth surgical knee injury of the year... The only other injury of the game was **Danny Rousseau** who showed some variety by spraining his ankle... **Jeff Funtasz** will be in the line up on Saturday... QB **Mark Denesiuk** was the Bears leading rusher with 41 yards... The Bears defensive stand-out for the second week in a row was linebacker **Gerald Teledetski** who got the Bears only sack, and an interception.

YARDSTICKS

	Alberta	Manitoba
First downs	15	19
Yards rushing	98	172
Yards passing	169	155
Team losses	67	9
Net offense	201	318
Passes made/tried	12/28	10/21
Interceptions by	3	4
Fumbles/lost	2/1	3/3
Punts/avg.	10/31.6	7/39.3
Penalties/yards	14/85	15/125

Individual Stats

Rushing 1) Alberta: Houg (9 for 22), Shantz (3 for 17), Denesiuk (7 for 41) Richards (3 for 18)

2) Manitoba: Santin (16 for 75), Urbanovich (19 for 97) Eikerman (2 for 3).

Receiving 1) Alberta: Hamblin (2 for 22), Richards (5 for 68), Pierson (2 for 51)

2) Manitoba: Scott (4 for 112), Santin (4 for 36)

Passing 1) Alberta: Denesiuk (1 for 26, 127 yards, 3 interceptions), Hamblin (0 for 1, 0 yards, 1 interception), Richards (1 for 1, 42 yards, 0 interceptions)

2) Manitoba: Eikerman (10 for 21, 155 yards, 3 interceptions)



1. THE "WESTERN CONFERENCE" IS:

- ☐ the five CFL teams in western Canada
- ☐ a wild guess on a European history test
- ☐ a California-style telephone conversation

2. "FORWARD" IS:

- ☐ a position in hockey or basketball
- ☐ all you need to know to drive an automatic
- ☐ any guy who speaks to your girlfriend

3. AN ALL-STAR "NON-IMPORT" REFERS TO:

- ☐ an excellent CFL player who played high school football outside the U.S.
- ☐ a car made in Oshawa or Windsor with decent gas mileage
- ☐ a nice cold bottle of OV

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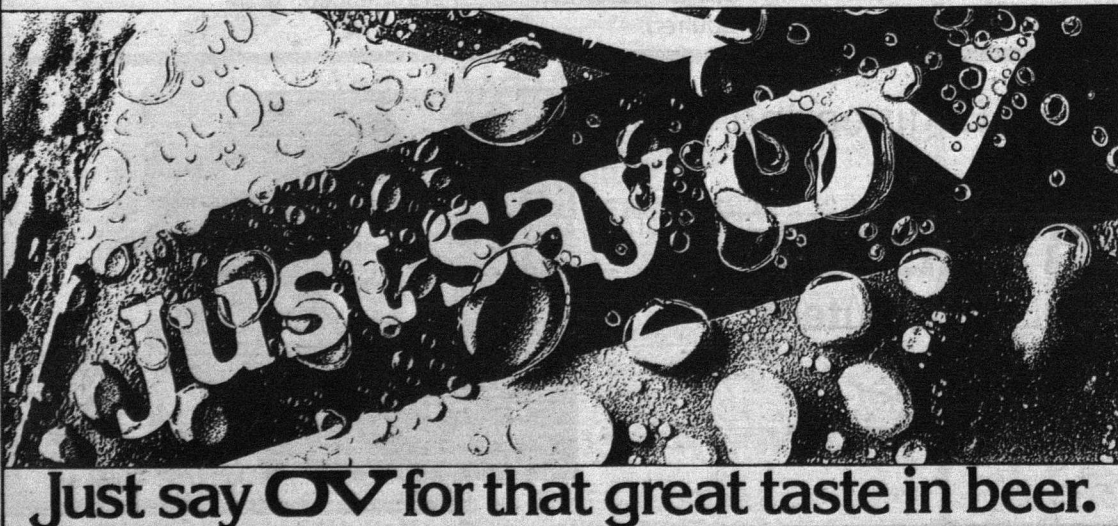
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