

Speaking on Sports

with RICHARD VIVONE

Most people these days worry too much.

If it's not grades, it's money. Or your girlfriend or your car or the snow or Viet Nam or your mother.

But some guys worried about the football team. 11,700 didn't worry but I'm one who did. And they gave me lots to worry about.

It all started when I saw the first edition of the National Football ratings. The people who are supposed to know rated the Golden Bears number three in Canada.

Boy, that's something to worry about. Can they really be that good? If they are, will they prove it?

Along come the Waterloo-Lutheran Golden Hawks. They bomb the Bears 23-6. When something like that happens, I worry. The Hawks weren't even in the top ten teams and yet they beat us handily. Were we overrated or are we that bad? My fingernails become noticeably shorter.

Next is the 21-0 win over the Huskies in Saskatoon. Breathing was a little easier after that. The loss to the Hawks was just a bad game—we're okay now.

One week later, the Bears invade Calgary and demolish the Dinnies 44-7. That was good for the heart. The Bears played supremely well. Now, I figured, we can start to worry about the Canadian College Bowl invitation—me and some of those other 300 who follow the football team.

The Dinnies return. The Bears have trouble grinding out a 17-14 victory. What's going on here anyway? Maybe we're not so good after all. And we go to Winnipeg to play the Bisons next week. Add one cigar a day to relieve tension. Are we even the best in the west? Many more games like that and the Bears chances go up in smoke.

Manitoba comes up big defensively and beats the Bears 4-2. All thinking has to be realigned. Don't worry about the Bowl game. Have to worry instead about whether or not the Bears are the number one club in the west? Add small doses of sleeping pills plus frequent trips to the refreshment bar at the Corona.

Vancouver comes next. The Birds from UBC rip the Bears 17-0. Are we even the third top team west of the Ontario border? That's something to worry about. Add double rations of everything. The Bears offense hasn't scored a touchdown in over two games. Nervous tension sets in—Oliver looks closer than ever.

Then, the unpredictable Bears play the poor host and trample the Bisons 33-9 at Varsity Grid. Suddenly the sun comes out again. We are undoubtedly near the top in the west but now I worry about whether or not the Bears will get to Toronto. Scratch the sleeping pills but not the daily jaunt to the Corona. I am addicted to the cigars by now.

Everybody here would like to forget last Saturday. But it did solve my worrying problem. Huskies stormed through the Bear ranks for a fantastic 40-7 clobbering. Now I don't have to worry anymore. We're not the best in the west and we're sure as hell not going to Toronto. Maybe too many here were concerned about it anyway.

That's one thing about our ball club. When they do things, they go all out. My problem was solved—no need to ponder anymore. But I can't stop smoking and the Corona is becoming a second home.

But hockey season is almost underway so there's no point in breaking the habit anyway.

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Golden Bears hockey team defeats Rustlers, ties Nuggets

By DON MOREN

After a shaky start in their exhibition schedule, the hockey Bears are starting to show a little polish. They beat Red Deer 3-1 Saturday and tied the Nuggets 4-4 Friday.

The Bears' victory over the Red Deer Rustlers at Red Deer was evidence of the continual improvement the club has been displaying in its last few outings.

Last year's big guns Darrel LeBlanc and Brian Harper are starting to click again. LeBlanc opened the scoring midway through the first period. Hugh Twa set him up perfectly in front of the Rustler net.

Brian Harper finally scored in the third period after being robbed three times by Rustler goalie Dale Gaume. Terry Cutler fired the third Golden Bear goal, assisted by LeBlanc and Sam Belcourt.

George Goodacre scored the lone Rustler goal with playing coach Bill McCulley helping out. The Red Deer team was outclassed for most of the game except for a spurt in the early part of the third period. Then it was Bear goalie Hugh Waddle's job to rob.

WOLFE, WADDLE STAR

It was a good night for both Waddle and Bob Wolfe. Wolfe shut out the Rustlers in the first thirty minutes of play. The pair are splitting goalkeeping chores, each playing 30 minutes of the game.

The Red Deer boys played a rather chippy brand of hockey. They couldn't skate with Clare Drake's well-conditioned squad, and what they couldn't do with their skates they did with their sticks.

On Friday night, the Nuggets came to Varsity Arena and tied the Golden Bears 4-4. The senior club didn't run out of steam this time. They were behind for most of the game and were trailing by

two goals until markers at 2:17 and 10:14 of the third frame deadlocked the game.

After an opening goal by the Nugget's Dale Conrad, the new offensive fire in the Bears roared. At 9:03 Del Billings flicked one into the upper right hand corner unassisted.



—Perry Afaganis photo

DEL BILLINGS

... 4 point weekend

Captain Brian Harper then scored twice in the second period with LeBlanc and Billings helping out in both instances.

NUGGETS COME FROM BEHIND

The Nuggets got right back in the game with a goal by Ed Johnson at 18:36.

In the third period, Sam Belcourt

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tipped Garry Link's shot from the blueline to put the Bears ahead 4-2. Then came those two Nugget goals. Gary Davidge scored, then Johnny Utendale slapped in a rebound for the tying goal.

Both clubs skated very well. Younger legs such as those of former Oil King stars Red Simpson, Brian Bennett, and Brian Hague are a welcome addition to the Nugget club.

Performances from players such as Del Billings are proof that Clare Drake is at least partially filling the gap left by the departure of players like Martin, Fox and Kozicki. Billings was a standout over the weekend, nabbing one goal and three assists.

The Bears suffered two injuries. Defenceman George Kingston is out with a suspected shoulder separation and Dale Rippel has twisted knee ligaments.

STICK SPLINTERS

... 394 fans at Friday's game saw the referee accidentally dumped in a squabble between the Bears' Merose Stelmaschuk and Nuggets' Johnny Utendale. Rich Healy's protests in the third period won him a free ticket to the showers. . . . the green monster was out again between periods. . . .

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