

Seven Bears will say goodbye

by Tim Enger

UBC didn't want to be there. The referees didn't want to be there. The fans didn't want to be there. I didn't want to be there.

It seemed that the only people who looked forward to being exposed to -17°C temperatures for three hours were the University of Alberta Golden Bears.

For the players, the game had several meanings. To some, it meant a chance to make the playoffs. Others saw it as a chance to salvage some respectability out of what had been a disappointing season. But to a few players, the game had a more meaningful significance.

For these few players Saturday's game would be the last they would ever play as a Golden Bear. Fittingly, it was these players who stood out the most on Saturday.

Linebacker Mike McLean played what perhaps was his finest game in five years of wearing Green and Gold. Not only did he play his position to perfection, but he caused three fumbles (one he recovered, and one DB Neil Ferguson returned for a touchdown), and had one interception which he returned for his first TD of his university career.

On the other side of the ball, fullback Corrado Filice played like a man possessed in his final game. The emotion filled fifth year man dragged UBC defenders all over the frozen field on Saturday. Filice, who had been beaten and bruised was almost reduced to tears after UBC returned an interception for a

TD with 2:08 left in the game. With that he saw his final chance to go to the Vanier Cup slip away as UBC reduced the point differential to 18 (the Bears needed to win by 23 points for any chance of a playoff birth).

Seconds later when Ferguson sprinted into the end zone to give the Bears a 25 point lead, Filice was the first one off the bench to congratulate him. Filice carried the ball all three times on the Bears final possession and for his efforts received the game ball.

Unfortunately there is another side to this story. Both wide receiver Danny Rousseau and offensive tackle Murray McKay were also involved in their final intercollegiate game. Sadly, their role was reduced to that of spectators, due to ankle and knee injuries respectively.

For Rousseau the game meant more to him than any of the games he had played in this year, for if the Bears won by 22 and Manitoba lost he would be able to play in the W.I.F.L. championship because his ankle would have healed sufficiently by then.

The Bears did their part, but Manitoba beat up Saskatchewan 49-8, a fact Rousseau found out with five minutes remaining in the game. Even though this information caused him great emotional pain, he chose to keep it to himself and not ruin his teammates party.

If nothing else remembered from this season, the picture of Danny Rousseau standing stoically on the



The Bears will miss powerback Corrado Filice.

sideline for those final five minutes forcing a smile on his face but all the while knowing that his teammates were involved in an exercise in futility, and that his career was over, will remain etched in my mind forever.

by Mark Spector

For six Golden Bear football players and their manager, last Saturday's game marked the final game of their university careers.

Here's just a few of the memories that one accumulates over five years of strapping on pads as a Golden Bear:

Dan Rousseau — "The finest memory for myself personally, has to be a game last season against Winnipeg (Manitoba) when I caught seven passes for 150 yards in the first half. Darren Brezden was the quarterback on that day.

"When I first came to the Bears, they weren't using me enough, I felt. So that game when I caught all those passes was very exciting for me, and it let the coaches believe in me more."

Corrado Filice — "My best game ever had to be three weeks ago against Saskatchewan. Everything went just perfect for me. Every block, every run went the way it was supposed to.

"But for me, losing like this hurts even more. You've got to think back to those games that you've lost and say 'Why couldn't we have played like that then?'"

Harold Riemer — "The best team that I played on was in 1983. We got off to a 1-4 start and we had just finished losing to Calgary by a couple of late points. Then we turned it around. We won our last three games and beat BC on the final game of the season in the very last minute. That team had character."

Neil Gerritsen — "For me, the most disappointing loss was last year (in the WIFL final) against Calgary. After we beat them on the last day of the season to lose that game hurt even more."

Neil Gerritsen retires from the position of team manager this year and hardly a player didn't request that it be mentioned. As any person who has been part of a 50 player entourage will tell you, without an organized manager like Neil, the wheels would never even get off the ground.

For most of the Bears, there will be other games, other chances for the playoffs, and other victories. But for players like Mike McLean, Corrado Filice and Danny Rousseau it was the last time they would ever be involved with the Golden Bear football program as players. For McLean and Filice it was their finest hour, but for Rousseau it was a time to remember past glories and dreams unfulfilled.

WIFL Final Standings

	G	W	L	F	A	P
Calgary	8	6	2	224	267	12
Manitoba	8	4	4	221	151	8
Alberta	8	4	4	153	173	8
UBC	8	4	4	157	154	8
Sask.	8	2	6	117	227	4

Events Box

Basketball PANDAS VS. U OF GULEPH
Saturday, 16th. 2:00 pm, Main Gym

Gymnastics PANDAS GREEN/GOLD INTERSQUAD MEET
Friday, 15th, Phys. Ed. W-98

Hockey BEARS VS. MANITOBA
Friday, 15th. 7:30 pm
— Tribute to Clare Drake
— Alumni Banner Night
— Cheer for Beer
— FREE TUITION NIGHT
Saturday, 16th. 4:30 pm

Volleyball BEARS & PANDAS VS. U. VIC
Friday, 15th. 6:30 — Pandas
8:30 — Bears

Saturday, 16th. 6:30 — Pandas
8:30 — Bears

All games at Main Gym

Wrestling BEARS VS. U OF CALGARY
Friday, 15th. 7:30 pm
BEARS INVITE TOURNEY
Saturday, 16th. 10:00 am
All meets at Pavillion

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