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SMU 3-time losers

by Kevin Barrett

I was as excited as many SMU football fans when Chris Flynn began to paint an all too familiar picture for the SMU Huskies in the Vanier Cup Final in Toronto last Saturday. Flynn rallied the Huskies from an early deficit and was driving the team to the winning touchdown, putting the perfect cap on a wonderful career as the top player in C.I.A.U. football history. The only thing that stood in his way was 36 yards of Saskatchewan Husky territory.

The script was exactly the same one Flynn had written one week earlier in the Atlantic Bowl win over the Western Ontario Mustangs. Fall behind 14 - 0, come back to tie, watch the defense play outstanding in a number of goal line stances, and then rescue the team, the university, and the whole A.U.A.A. conference by driving to victory in heart stopping fashion.

However, in the Vanier there was one factor that Flynn hadn't counted on and could not control. Sport historians will tell you of the famed Curse of the Bambino that was placed on the Boston Red Sox after they sold Babe Ruth in 1918. There would be no more championships for the Sox because of this move. It may be only coincidence but the Red Sox have not captured a World Series title since that time. Flynn may have run into a curse of his own on Saturday that had more to do with the defeat than the Huskies from Saskatchewan did.

This curse may go down in history as **Skydome 4 - 3**. With the exception of the football fans in Atlantic Canada, most "experts" felt the SMU Huskies were an overrated team and that they have benefited from weak opponents to rack up extraordinary statistics. None of these so called experts gave SMU much of a chance to win it all and were very quick to jump all over Flynn when the Vanier was over. What a relief for them when the Western Huskies took home the crown.

Before the big win over Western, these high authority figures of Canadian football were worried and were praying for something to stop the force of Flynn. Skydome 4 - 3 was a last ditch effort on behalf of the gods of football in Upper and Western Canada to keep universities most cherished football prize out of the Maritimes.

Flynn appeared to have conquered any foreshadowing signs of the curse in the Atlantic Bowl but could not beat its power in the confines of the Skydome.

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