

Starting from the end

FOOTBALL, from Page 8

But the Bears again came back. With Gerald Kunyk at quarterback they moved 48 yards in five plays for a touchdown, with Dalton Smarsh running four yards for the score. On the convert Kunyk threw to Fryer who dove for the ball and caught it lying on his back for the two-point conversion. Fryer, incidentally, played a great game, making eight catches for 156 yards.

The Bears broke the 18-18 tie a few minutes later when Kunyk ran a bootleg and found Fryer all alone in the endzone for a touchdown pass. Barry kicked the convert to give Alberta a 25-18 lead with 3:24 left in the game.

At that point it seemed that U of A had the game won. They had come back to strongly and they needed the game so badly that it was incomprehensible that they would lose.

But it took the Huskies just four plays to make the incomprehensible a reality. The killer was another long Fraser-to-Giles pass, this one going 54 yards for a touchdown. Fraser threw to Robin Adair for a two-point conversion and the Huskies had their 26-25 lead. Saskatchewan's defense stopped the Bears' last try on offense and the game was over.

Although I can tell you how the Bears lost, I can't figure out why. They have so much talent and they played so well for the first half of the season that they were by far the best team in Western Canada.

But in the last half of the season they haven't been the same. In recent games the Bears have made all their mistakes at the wrong time. Against the Huskies they had three passes intercepted and had two touchdowns, an interception return by Tom Towns and a punt return by Fryer, wiped out by penalties.

Probably the forfeiture of those two games affected the Bears psychologically more than anyone can guess.

Anyway the WIFL championship is now up for grabs with Calgary and Saskatchewan both having a shot at it. The Dinos could win the title by beating Saskatchewan in their last league game on November 9 in Saskatoon. The Huskies would win if they beat Manitoba next week and then defeated Calgary by more than six points, which was the Dinos' margin when they won the first Calgary-Saskatchewan game.

Story & Photo
by Rhys Davies

It was all a conspiracy to prove me wrong, and it worked. Although the Bears relinquished their Western soccer championship to UBC last week, they didn't collapse, or ~~throw~~ it away by childishness or a lack of team spirit. As you pay your \$15 UAB fee, reflect on the fact that that portion of it that was spent on the soccer team was well spent; players and coaches were a credit to the U of A. The Bears came third behind two teams that were better on their day, UBC Thunderbirds and U of Victoria Vikings. It was close, though, as the results indicate, and the Bears were good value for their win over UBC in the last game of the tournament.

The sort of tournament that it was for the Bears is summed

up by the first goal they scored, after 357 minutes without one; Terry Whitney flicked a loose ball to John Devlin, who hit a long, searching pass through the U.Vic defence to Roland Leaute, who calmly took it forward and then hit a firm, low shot past the advancing keeper... It hit the post, rolled along the goal line towards the other post, hit that, and then came out again. Coach Gerry Redmond slowly turned away, and resignedly started walking off into the sunset. And Leaute netted the rebound. Zut, alors!

After that, there was no looking back, no holding them. Next morning, in a flat encounter against the Huskies, some pride was restored by a 1-0 win. After 31 minutes, sweeper Glen Murphy, "the Bears' man of the tournament, future captain's material" in

Redmond's words, hit one in after a corner. In the earlier games, the Bears' chronic lack of punch up front, combined with a lot of atrocious luck, had seen them lose 1-0 and 3-1 to the Vikings, draw 0-0 with the Huskies, and lose 4-0 to UBC. In the game with the Huskies, they had 38 shots, and then, in the dying seconds, Phil Craig suffered a gash on his right eye and forehead which needed stitches, after a really clumsy challenge by a Husky. If you think that the Bears were badly beaten by UBC, that result is not a fair reflection. UBC were outplayed for the first half, but still got a goal after a couple of deflections; although they came into it more in the second half, they still needed deflections for the second and third goals, and their fourth was when the Bears had most of their men on the

attack.

In the first game against the Vikings, it could have gone either way, but they got a soft goal, and in the second game, after a few panicky changes in the line-up, the Bears again let in three poor goals, and lost goalie Ed Staszuk with an injured thumb.

But the Bears reminded everyone that Alberta is still a soccer power when they beat UBC in their final game, 2-1. Although UBC had clinched the title in the morning when U.Vic blew a 3-1 lead against them to lose 4-3, they didn't take this one easy. Just as in the first game between the teams, the Bears opened strongly, although some poor refereeing hampered them. For once, the Bears were rewarded for their early pressure. Bobby Hrsak took the ball up the right wing, beat the full back, held the ball well until Geoff Bird got up in support to take a short pass and centre to the far post, where Matteo Piscopo scored with a spectacular diving header. I doubt whether there were any better than this twelfth minute goal in the entire tournament. Ten minutes later an excellent move involving the same three players resulted in a Piscopo cannonball thudding against the crossbar, and eight minutes after that, a nice pass from Frank Tassone to Hrsak, followed by the tricky centre forward's hard shot, brought a fine save from Tbirds' keeper Greg Weber. The Bears had their first bit of luck when Darryl Sampson missed a penalty shot just before half-time. The second half began with a lot of UBC pressure, and the Bears seemed to falter a little. Eventually, UBC scored, but excellent defensive work by the Bears, with Rick Korol having an outstanding tournament, and John Baretta making several spectacular saves, held them, and then the attack came back. With ten minutes left, Frank Tassone, another superb performer throughout the tournament, split the UBC defence with a long pass which Bobby Hrsak ran onto and pushed around the goalie just as Weber creamed him with what looked like a cross-check. Hersh's aim was good as the ball crept in by the post. And that was it.

It's difficult to single anyone out from this performance, Baretta, Clayton, Schmidt, Korol, Murphy, Whitney, Tassone, Devlin, Kindrat, Leaute, Hrsak, Piscopo, and Bird were all great. But one or two players deserve special mention, notably Geoff Bird, who, for my money, was the man of the match. Suffering from a serious thigh injury which was heavily strapped up, in pain every time he ran, Bird was brilliant in this game, and there's no doubt that, had he been 100%, Bird would have been the outstanding player of the tournament. Also, John Devlin, another invalid, played his heart out throughout, and it was fitting reward for him and Terry Whitney, playing their last games for the Bears, that it should be a victory.

So that's it. As T.S. Eliot said,

"to make an end is to make a beginning."

The end is where we start from."

Redmond and Salmon have learned a lot from this tournament, and know that with players like Piscopo, Baretta, Bird, and Kindrat around for a while, there has to be hope for the future. But more about that on Thursday.



Netminders star in opener

by Cam Cole

Bears 6 UBC 0
Bears 1 UBC 3

The Golden Bears stormed into Vancouver Friday and lashed a startled UBC Thunderbird club 6-0 in the season opener. Sensational netminding and a sharp passing game were key factors in the win, but the Bears seemed to do everything right - they checked and skated well, were tough along the blueline, and continued to fill the opponents' net, a trend they established the previous week in a 3-game, 20-goal outburst against Winnipeg Wesmen and Manitoba Bisons.

Leading the assault on the T-Birds were Kevin Primeau and defenceman Brian Middleton,

who notched two goals each, with singles to Bruce Crawford and John Horcoff. Primeau, a rookie, also forechecked tirelessly and might well have been the star of the game but for the spectacular play of goalie Dale Henwood. In the third period, with the Bears collapsing from boredom, T-Birds had 22 shots at the Alberta net, but Henwood was stopping everything in - and often out of - sight. (In fairness to the goalposts, it must be pointed out that they made at least 4 excellent saves to help preserve the shutout.)

The Bears skated and carried the puck with authority while the Thunderbirds displayed little interest until the third period barrage. Bears outshot the Birds 42-40 in the contest.

Saturday night, with the crowd shrunk to about 300, the T-Birds shed their lackadaisical attitude, and proceeded to continue what they started in the third period of Friday's match. The Bears' attack was effectively neutralized by tenacious checking and the sparkling play of netminder Ron Lefebvre. Bear defenders seemed able to carry the puck out of their own end, but once inside the T-Birds zone, the forwards were badgered by good backchecking and a much improved BC defence.

The T-Birds opened scoring in the first period on a long, soft wedge shot from the point by Brian Penrose that went in off the glove of defenceman John Simkin. Early in the second period, the Bears' Jim Ofrim tied it up when he was sent in all alone on a perfect pass from Ross Barros. Jim Lawrence then put the Birds ahead to stay on a screened shot from the faceoff

circle - and that was the game, until a last-minute empty net goal by Sam Boyd salted away the victory.

Despite Henwood's strong goaltending on Friday, Coach Clare Drake elected to go with Craig Gunther on Saturday, and Gunther did not disappoint him. He frequently baffled BC shooters on deflections and screened shots, and was largely responsible for keeping the score respectable, turning aside 31 shots. Less than half of the Bears' total of 46 could be called dangerous, although the Bears were guilty of blowing good scoring chances on several occasions by shooting wide of the target.

In spite of the split in BC, the Bears moved the puck around well in both games. Clare Drake appears to have another of his patented well-drilled squads and the forward lines are remarkably cohesive for so early in the schedule. At present John Horcoff centres Rick Wyrozub and Steve McKnight; Bruce Crawford is between Craig Styles and Kevin Primeau; and Jim Ofrim pivots Rick Peterson and Clark Jantzie. Defence pairings are Ross Barros - Brian Middleton and John Simkin - Abby Hebert.

Barros, who played both games despite a painful back injury and a sore knee, turned in two excellent performances.

Howard Crosley and Randy Lemay also made the trip and saw sporadic action, primarily as penalty-killers.

The Golden Bears have upcoming exhibition matches with U of Toronto Blues on Sunday and Monday, November 4th and 5th. The Blues are a perennial powerhouse and should provide excellent entertainment.

Statistics

Bears		Huskies
17	first downs	18
151	yards rushing	197
203	yards passing	232
354	total offense	429
12/28	passes comp/passes att.	13/27
1	interceptions	3
1/0	fumbles/lost	1/0
8/34	punts/average	9/35
8/80	penalties/yards	10/120

INDIVIDUALS

Rushers

Smarsh - 17 carries for 77 yards.	Larry Remmen - 13 for 83 yards.
Adam - 11 carries for 48 yards.	Tom Chad - 8 for 51 yards.
Bryant - 4 carries for 40 yards.	Fraser - 3 for 52 yards.

Receivers

Fryer - 8 catches for 156 yards.	Giles - 4 catches for 125 yards.
	Adair - 4 catches for 55 yards.