

Birds nip Bears: turnovers help



Photo Jim Connell

Kehoe gained 169 yards, but the defense kept Bears out of T-Bird claws until fourth quarter.

by Bob Kilgannon

Last Saturday at Varsity Stadium was a special day for the UBC Thunderbirds football team. Their 17-16 victory over the Golden Bears marked the first time in 20 years that UBC has beaten the Bears in Edmonton. The game was also UBC coach Frank Smith's 100th career win as head coach of the Thunderbirds. He stated, "It was a long time coming (beating Alberta at home) but it sure feels good. We needed this win to stay with Alberta and still have a shot at the playoffs." What Smith didn't say was that the win moved the Thunderbirds into a first place tie with the previously unbeaten Golden Bears, both with 3-1 records.

The win didn't come easily for UBC though. With just 3:15

gone in the first quarter Trevor Kennerd booted a 42-yard field goal to give the Bears a 3-0 lead. The score was set up by a brilliant interception by first year linebacker Nereo Bolzon. On their next possession the Green and Gold scored again, this time on an electrifying 67-yard touchdown romp by halfback Sean Kehoe. Kehoe had an exceptional game with 16 carries for 169 yards on the day. After a couple of singles by Kennerd from missed field goals, B.C. finally got on the board near the end of the first half. The score came on a 10-yard pass to tight end Evan Jones.

In the second half, UBC scored a single and a field goal. The Bears replied with a 37-yard field goal by Kennerd. That field goal made the score 16-11 for the

Bears and set the stage for one of the most exciting finishes at Varsity Stadium in recent memory.

The Thunderbirds, their backs to the wall, moved the football from deep in their own end down the field to the Golden Bear five, creating a first and touchdown to go situation. From there, quarterback Greg Clarkson tried three consecutive passes to the endzone and finally connected on third down to end Barry Muis. With just 1:31 left to play in the game, UBC tried a two-point convert which failed to leave the score at 17-16 for the T-birds. Starting deep in their own end, it would have been easy for the Golden Bear offense to quit, but they didn't. Exhibiting tremendous character, they pushed the ball downfield to the

UBC 49 where they failed to convert a third and nine situation as the clock ran out. As coach Jim Donlevy said after the game, "We just ran out of time."

Down by just one point and inside the Thunderbird 50, it might be argued that the Green and Gold should have tried a field goal or perhaps a punt for a single and a tie. Asked about that, coach Donlevy said that the Bears were simply too far away.

While the Bears lost, the defense played probably their best game of the year. UBC managed just 260 yards offensively. Their only real drive was the one which beat the Bears. Defensive back Barry Kokotilo, who had an excellent game, talked about that last drive saying, "They're the best passing club we'll see this year. We shut down the run and they hurt us with the short pass."

Offensively, the running game was impressive, garnering 194 yards, most of it on off-tackle plays. Sean Kehoe talked about those off-tackle plays saying, "The double team on the end was there and the pullend guard was getting around the corner to block for me."

The passing game, on the other hand, was less than impressive. Quarterbacks Forrest Kennerd and Jamie Crawford threw five interceptions, many of which halted good drives. Also, kicker Trevor Kennerd was not as sharp as he has been, missing on four field goal attempts.

All is not lost, though. The Bears are still in a tie for first place and their loss was only by one point. Had it not been for some bad breaks and the six turnovers the Bears suffered, the result could well have been different.

Yardsticks

	UBC	Alberta
First downs	14	21
Yards rushing	95	194
Yards passing	165	152
Total offense	260	346
Pass att/comp	31/11	33/18
Punts/average	14/41.7	11/41.3
Penalties/yards	8/65	4/60
Fumbles/lost	0/0	3/1
Interceptions by	5	2

Individual

	UBC	Alberta
Passing		
Clarkson 11/31		Kennerd 16/29 4 int.
Receiving		
Muis 4/100		Brown 7/39
Jones 3/22		O'Connor 2/15
Davies 3/44		
Rushing		
David Negrin 12/55		Waterhouse 2/27
		McLean 5/50
		Kehoe 16/169

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Bear Facts

Peter Eshenko, Martin Pardell, Tim Weinkauff, and Bruce McLean all sat out the game with injuries.

Murray McLean played well replacing Eshenko, with five catches for 50 yards.

The Bears' exhibition game against Ottawa's Carlton University, scheduled for next weekend, cancelled because of a lack of travelling funds.

Team captain Lorne DeGroot packed it in last Thursday after receiving a medical report saying his injured knee won't be ready this season. By not playing this year he saves his last year of eligibility. Linebacker Dean Kmech was named as the new team captain to replace DeGroot.

Next weekend the team has a bye. The following weekend, on October 6, the Green and Gold play their last home game against the U of C Dinosaurs.

In the other game played over the weekend, the Manitoba Bisons picked up their first win of the season by defeating the U of S Huskies 44-27.