

SPORTS

Huskies Kill Bears' Playoff Hopes

by Peter Best

There will be a new Western Intercollegiate Football League champion this season. Saturday in Saskatoon, University of Saskatchewan's Huskies eliminated the Golden Bears, last year's title-holders, from the playoff race with a 40-38 victory.

Saskatchewan, rated number one in Canada, now has a five-and zero record and can clinch first place with a win over Manitoba Bisons next weekend.

Alberta, now in third place in the WIFL, went into the game needing to win by more than four points to retain any hope of repeating as champions.

The margin of victory was necessary in case U of A tied Huskies for first place at season's end. In that instance the title would go to the team with a better points for-and-against record in their two meetings, Saskatchewan having won the first 22-18.

As it turned out, Huskies' quarterback Dave Pickett destroyed Bears' plans with a record-breaking passing display.

Pickett completed 30 of 44 pass attempts for 541 yards and five touchdowns. His completions and yardage figures gave him new school records in both categories with three games remaining on the schedule.

Prior to Saturday's game Alberta's coaches were concerned about Pickett's passing, especially to tight end Gerry Harris. Defensive co-ordinator Gary Smith devised a special defence using a combination man-to-man and zone coverage with veteran Dave Kates assigned one-on-one responsibility for Harris.

The new defence shut off Harris, who caught just three passes, but Pickett's other receivers consistently beat Alberta's defenders.

Split end John Konihowski caught ten passes for 213 yards and five touchdowns. Slotback Larry Giles caught ten more for 183 yards and another two majors.

Fullback Archie Thomson scored Huskies' fifth TD, placekicker Gord Wentworth added two converts and two field goals, and Pickett ran for a

two-point convert to complete Saskatchewan's scoring.

As the score indicates, Alberta also had a hot day on offense. Operating behind a superb front line of ends Don Savich and Vance Curtis, tackles Bob Pugh and Jim Drummond, guards Walt Kuzyk and Heinz Brademann and centre Jim Baker, Bears' quarterback Gerald Kunyk directed the green-and-gold to a total offense of 544 yards.

Most of those yards (371) were gained by a driving ground attack. Wingback Brian Adam swept around Huskies' ends eight times for 174 yards while fullback Tom Towns pounded Saskatchewan's tacklers for 146 yards on 20 carries.

Towns led Bears in scoring with two touchdowns. Adam and flanker Gary Weisbrot (replacing injured Roy Beechey) added majors, as did Kunyk, who also booted a 65-yard single. Jack Schwartzberg contributed a field goal and two converts and Dalton Smarsh finished off U of A's scoring with a two-point convert.

Both teams showed poise and courage as the lead swung back and forth between them. For the standing-room-only crowd at Griffity Stadium it was, as Lynn Watson of the Edmonton Journal commented, "Like watching a tennis match."

Bears took charge after the opening kickoff to drive 61 yards in eight plays for a TD on Kunyk's one-yard sneak and a

7-0 lead. Huskies replied with Pickett's six yard pass to Konihowski after recovering a fumble on their own 53. A missed convert left the score 7-6 at the end of the first quarter.

By 10:41 of the second quarter Saskatchewan had jumped ahead 16-7 on an 80-yard pass-and-run to Giles and Wentworth's 34 yard field goal. Adam's 62-yard scoring run made it 16-13, but Giles' 55-yard pass reception, Pickett's two-point convert and another Wentworth field goal, this time from U of A's 32, gave huskies a 27-13 halftime lead.

The third quarter was all



Bears' Tom Towns punches the ball over the goal line in third quarter

photo by Sandy Campbell

Alberta as Towns scored twice on runs of three and five yards. Schwartzberg's convert and 40-yard field goal plus Smarsh's two points put Bears in front 31-27 going into the final period.

With 19 seconds gone in the fourth quarter the green-and-gold upped the score to 37-27 when Kunyk faked to Adam, ran a bootleg to his right and hit Weisbrot for a 20-yard TD.

Less than a minute later Huskies struck back, Konihowski going 80 yards with another perfect Pickett pass to cut Bears' margin to 37-33.

Kunyk's single made it 38-33, but at 9:50 Pickett found Thomson all alone in the right

yard-line but an illegal procedure penalty and an incomplete pass flat for the game-winning score from Alberta's 26 yard-line.

In the final minutes Bears moved to Saskatchewan's 9 on third down killed their drive. They could have kicked a field and gone ahead 41-40 but head coach Jim Donlevy explained that they went for the TD in order to have a five point spread.

It was a frustrating afternoon for Alberta. The players gave a 100% effort but there was no stopping Pickett. As Donlevy put it "How do you defend against a perfect pass play?"

Despite having lost their championship, Bears are still a

proud football team.

They deserve better than a third place standing and in their four remaining games they'll show it.

It's no choke

A leading British surgeon has advised couples to remove their false teeth before making love.

Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, Dr. Harvey White of London's St. Bartholomew's Hospital says that violent exercise can cause people to swallow false teeth. They then become impacted in the larynx and to be removed require a delicate surgical operation, he said.

Cross Country Bears win another

The Cross Country Bears encountered little competition on the trail to their fourth team victory in as many starts at the Western Canadian Cross Country Championships in Red Deer last Saturday.

The 12,000 metre course, which was covered in a winning time of 36:10 by Mike Mawdsley of Calgary, is rated as one of the toughest in Western Canada.

Long uphill climbs punctuated by several hurdles were spread over the course which was highlighted by a steep 30 yard sand hill that made Waikiki look like a sandbox. Finishing for the winning U of A team were: Bob Baxendale—3rd—36:48; Jim Young—7th—37:40; Bill McBlain—8th—38:08; Dennis Proctor—12th—39:07; Rod

Constable—15th—39:50.

Running for the U of A in the juvenile men's 6000 metre race were Rick Kennedy (5th), Stu Beck (12th), and Cal Kullman (16th) who finished in respective times of 20:11, 21:27 and 23:07.

Chris Reinhardt grabbed third place for the U of A in the junior men's 8000 metre race covering the course in 26:37 and Sue Hoffart ran to a fifth place finish of 13:59 in the open womens 4000 metre event.

The team will spend this week preparing for the Golden Bear Invitational to be held Sunday October 21st in Mayfair Park beginning at 11 a.m. Alberta's team will meet the Saskatoon Huskies in what promises to be a sneak preview of the Western University Championships.

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