

# For The Bears: A Tough Year Ahead

By BRYAN CAMPBELL

History may be made this year. The University of Alberta Golden Bears may actually lose a game.

Nearly 20 players who made the Bears the most feared team in college ball won't be back this year. The deadly backfield combination of Kachman and Nielsen is gone. The formidable speed and pass-catching ability of this all-star duo is going to be missed, says head coach Gino Fracas.

The Rock of Gibraltar of college centers, Dick Wintermute, won't be back either. The 23-year-old, 195 pounder leaves a mighty big hole

to fill in the Bear line.

And the list goes on: Ron Marteniuk, Dmetro Rosiewich, Ron Finch, George Short, Howie Green—some big claw marks for any prospective Bear.

"The holes are there all right, but we've got the potential to fill them", said Fracas.

There's ex-Husky, Tony Rankel, at quarterback. Moving from the dogs to the Bears is a big step, but this is an awfully big dog.

Tony sports a strong arm and the ability to lead a team club like the Bears.

Rankel went 9 for 12 in passes in the Bears' 20-3 rout over the University of Western Ontario.

A big threat at offensive half is Gil Mathers. "He's really going to be a top pro prospect," said coach Fracas, a former pro star with Edmonton Eskimos.

Other new faces to watch in the Bear lineup are Bill Buxton and Al Zemrau at end, ex-Bonnie Doone guard Brian Game, Terry Lampert at quarterback, and Cal McDougal and Terry Patrick, both ex-East Glen halfbacks.

John Violini at defensive half and Fred James at tackle are "two impressive new faces in the lineup," according to Fracas.

"The ability is there, and I am extremely pleased with the way the offensive and defensive teams are starting to jell", said Fracas.

The Bear defensive line, traditionally as tough as a Lister Hall steak, should be up to standard this year. The average weight of this rugged bunch is 200 lbs. this year.

"We've got Val Schnieder back doing the kicking this year. He averaged 48.2 yards last year—the best in Canada", said Fracas.

About making the East-West finals in Toronto on Nov. 20 coach Fracas is non-committal.

"We've got a good chance, but it's a tough league this year", says the coach.

The Bisons are the club to beat. They only lost three players over the summer and are fielding virtually the same team we beat 16-6 in

the last game of the season last year, says Fracas.

This is a tough team, he says glumly.

The Saskatchewan Huskies are tougher this year too, the Manitoba Bisons only beat them 14-13 in a pre-season scrap in Saskatoon.

The UAC Dinosaurs are reportedly back off the extinction trail.

"This is a tough league this year and I'm going to take it step by step, game by game", said Fracas.

I'll worry about the championship when the time comes—right now it is one game at a time, he says.

"The Bears have won the championship three years running and beaten three of the four eastern teams during that time. They can do it again", he concluded.



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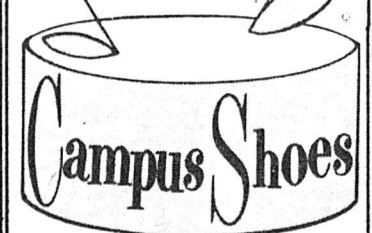
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