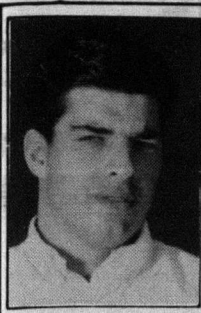


"The Shrine Bowl is always nuts"



Bob Stauffer

I never really was a Wayne Gretzky fan. Don't get me wrong I liked him, but not as much as Mark Messier, or Curt Brackenberry, or Dave Semenko. (As you see I have have a penchant for more aggressive players.) The other day I dropped by the Oiler office to pick up my press kit for the upcoming season. On my way to the office I passed by the Gretzky statue at which time I began to recall the great memories Gretzky left behind. I thought of the EMPTY NETTER HE SCORED AGAINST Philadelphia to score 50 goals in 39 games, or the night in Buffalo when he broke Phil Esposito's single season goal scoring record. I'm sure most of us can remember the night Gretzky held the Stanley Cup aloft after the Oilers had beaten the New York Islanders to win their first Cup. My personal favorite memory was the short-handed goal the Great One scored against the Calgary Flames in the '88 Smythe Division final.

When I think about it, I sort of do have a lot of Gretzky memories. (I can't remember four Semenko goals, but do you recall Game Six of the Smythe Division Finals 1986, when Sammy tagged Timmy Hunter and made him bleed big time?) I guess I sort of took him for granted. You knew the Oilers were never out of a game if Gretzky was playing. I also overlooked what Gretzky meant to this city. If it wasn't for Wayne there wouldn't have been an N.H.L.-W.H.A. merger. Essentially he did put Edmonton on the sporting map. Gretzky was something special. But I never understood how much he affected peoples' live until I left the Oiler office that day. As I walked past the statue a man was getting his picture taken with his arm around it. Right before the picture was to be taken the man, who must have been in his sixties, began to cry. The man looked at me and then held his head up, tears running down his cheeks, his face beaming with pride. I'll cherish the look on that man's face for the rest of my life.

Bob Stauffer is the Sports Director for FM88.5

by Todd Saelhof

If last weekend's U of C/U of A confrontation at McMahon Stadium was any indication of the type of game to expect here in Edmonton half of the Shrine Bowl this Saturday, then be prepared for an all out football clash.

"Calgary is going to be fired up. It's going to be war out there," Alberta cornerback Trent Brown said.

Of course, Brown's heroics as an offensive weapon were instrumental in the University of Alberta Golden Bears' dumping of the number two ranked University of Calgary Dinosaurs 29-26.

That, and an effective Bear defensive halt of a high powered Dinosaur offense under quarterback Bob Torrance and ground game artist J.P. Izquierdo made the Bears' victory possible.

Once again, the Bears will look to strong defense again this Saturday as the U of A football squad tangle

with their southern rivals for the second time in as many weeks. The second half of the provincial Shrine Bowl classic begins at 1:00 over at Clark Park.

This contest, however, the Bears will strive for sixty minutes of intensity. The first game saw Torrance and company rack up 15 points before the Bear defense could sharpen up their claws.

"We can beat the Dinos if we play up to our potential Saturday, especially in the first quarter of the game," third year defensive back Darryl Draudson, said.

Draudson, along with many of the other Bear players, displayed battle scars from last weekend's physical thriller in Cowtown. However, he plans to be ready and intense for the second half of the Shrine Bowl.

All-Canadian linebacker Mark Singer was one of many Bears to recount the onfield antics in the

McMahon half of the Shrine Bowl.

"If there would have been a cop on the sidelines, many molesting charges would have occurred," Singer said, recalling the plethora of homeless helmets bouncing around the gridiron on both sides of the line of scrimmage.

With the Dinos looking for revenge, Jim Donlevy's Bears need to show consistency. If accomplished, then completion of a two game sweep of the defending Vanier Cup champions would be possible.

Hopefully, we can play four quarters with consistency, and put up points in each quarter, Brown said.

Defensively, Brown looks forward to another matchup on the corner with Dino snag artist Dave Brown.

The green and gold Brown, C.I.A.U. Player of the Week, put his assignment all in perspective saying that "it will be two All-Canadians, one on one. Brown versus Brown."

On the offensive side of the football, the Golden Bear front five plans to overpower the Dinosaurs along the line.

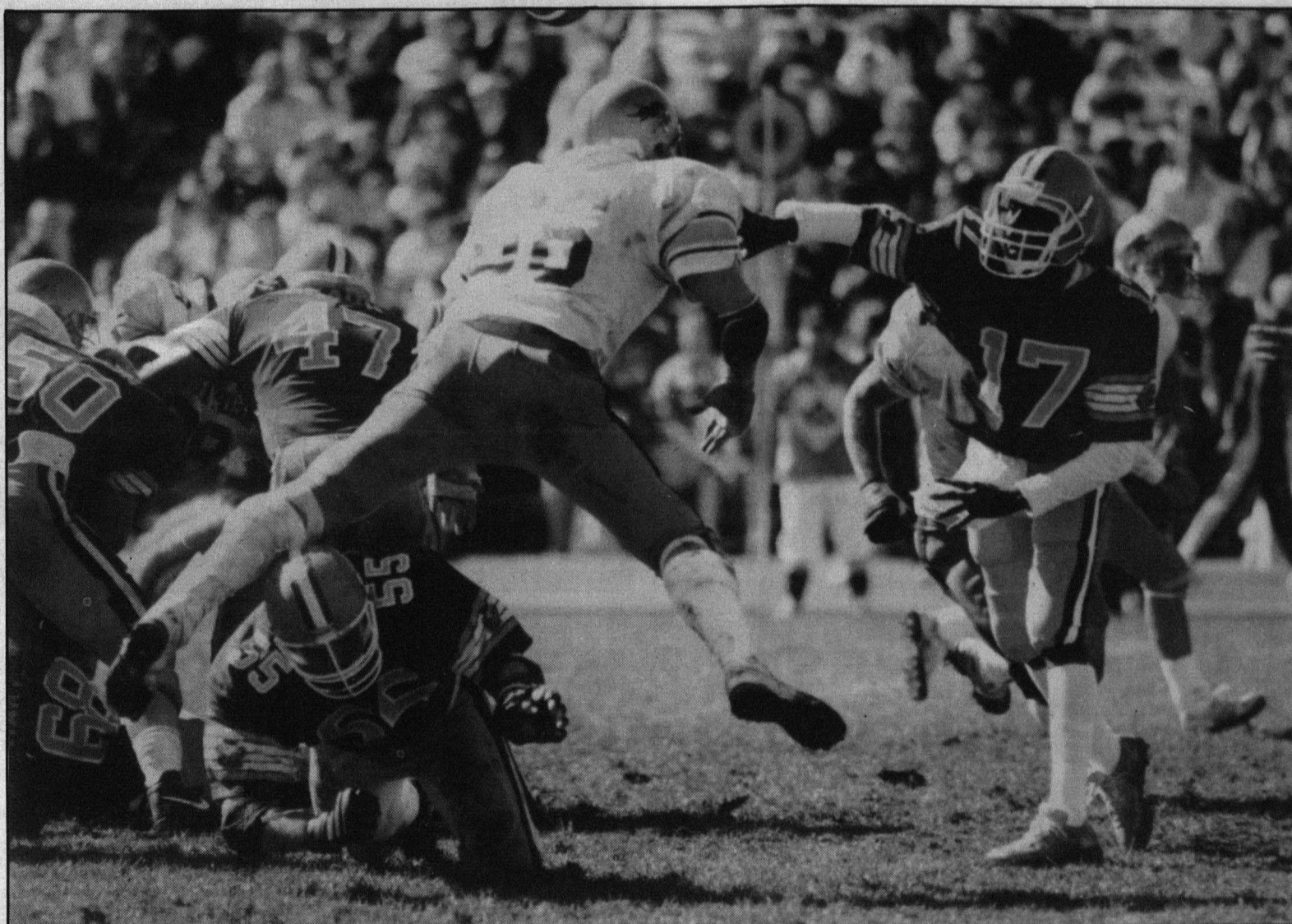
"They are not any stronger than any other defensive line. Now that we've gone against them, we should be able to control the line," Bear right tackle Jeff Martens said.

As a result, Martens, the Ebony Hornet, anticipates a more effective running game for the Bears backfield.

"Most likely we will be seeing more players along the ground, especially up the middle," Martens said.

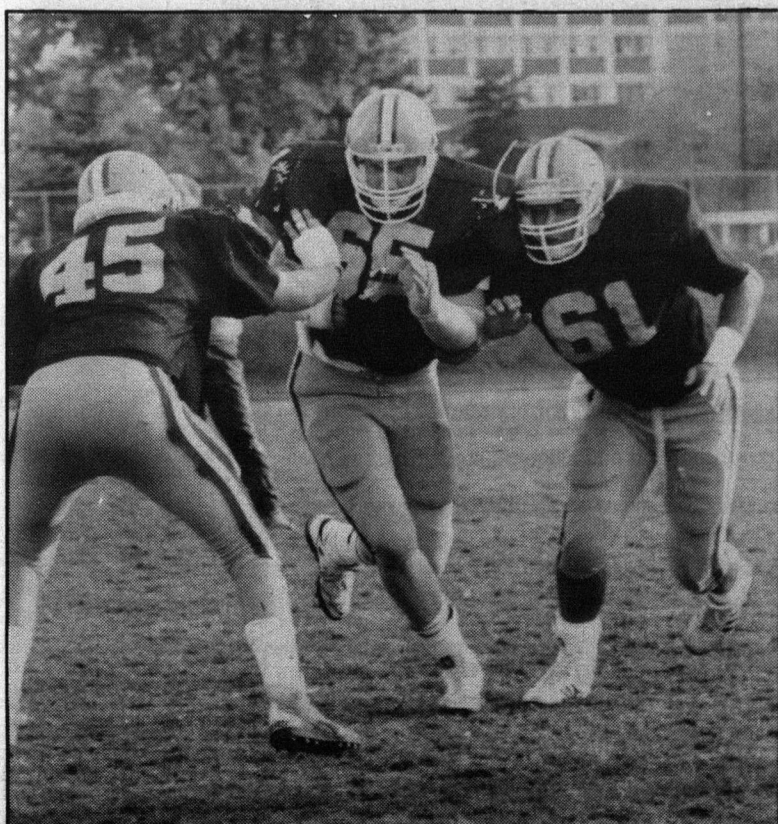
In any event, Saturday's war-on-grass possesses all the elements for an unforgettable battle. The Bears are looking for a sweep and the Dinosaurs searching for revenge.

As Bear inside receiver Brian Forrest said, "the Shrine Bowl game is always nuts." Look for a bitter battle.



Dragos Ruiu

Bear quarterback Rob Taylor stands in the pocket and delivers a pass. Bear quarterbacks must come through again this weekend.



Paul Menzies

Player Profile

Mike Buhler
Position: Defensive End
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 240
Year of eligibility: 3
by Ajay Bhardwaj

Mike Buhler sits on the sidelines with an ice pack on his knotted hamstring. Unlike his peers, Buhler is exceptionally introverted and quiet.

"Mike is totally different off the field," cornerback Trent Brown says. "Away from the field he's really laid back and quiet but on the field he has a real mean streak."

Every player around him thinks Buhler gets too little credit for his ability. "Play in play out, he plays tough," Brown says. "He's the most underrated and least recognized

player around." Adds a passing lineman, "he's one of the best defensive ends in the league."

Just how does one become a defensive end? Almost every kid growing up wants to be the next John Elway or Tony Dorsett or Lynn Swan. "All my life I was playing quarterback-receiver with my father," Buhler says. "In high school I was going to play either defensive line or tight end. I accidentally chose defensive line," Buhler says, with a grin.

Being a part of the best defence in the CWUAA (or maybe even the CIAU) is something Buhler enjoys. "It's a feeling of invincibility," Buhler says. "Since camp started we've been so aggressive. Our attitude is that the offence has to stop

us and if they don't like something we're doing, that's their problem."

Buhler grew up in Cochrane, Alberta, just down the road from Calgary. When he completed high school he tried out for the Dinosaurs. "I got beaten up at camp so I went back for a fourth year (of high school)," Buhler says. His principal happened to be a University of Alberta alumnus. Buhler met football coach Jim Donlevy and decided to come to Edmonton. "I just liked coach Donlevy's personality better than (Calgary coach Peter) Connelan's."

Buhler has been nick-named "Ferris" by his teammates, for obvious reasons. Last year Buhler sported a Rastafarian hairdo and drove a van. "He's from the Woodstock era," linebacker Brent Korte says. Indeed, Buhler enjoys listening to blues and folk music. He also reads Stephen King thrillers.

So far this season, Buhler and the defence have provided a lot of thrills for Golden Bear fans... and *Shining* nightmares for opposing offences.