

1986 U of Alberta Golden

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If ever the cliché "Year of Transition" held true, it would be to describe the 1986 edition of the University of Alberta Golden Bears. Of the 60 players on the roster (expanded by ten over last season), the average years of Golden Bear experience are 1.9.

Alberta finished in a three-way tie for second place in the Western Intercollegiate Football League in 1985 with a record of 4-4. The Manitoba Bisons emerged from the log jam over the Bears and UBC, but went down to defeat at the hands of the University of Calgary Dinosaurs in the WIFL Final. The Dinos would go on to win the Vanier Cup as Canada's top university football club.

Already slightly hindered by a 23-5 loss at the hands of the UBC T-Birds last Saturday, the Golden Bears continue in their hunt of a Vanier Cup this Saturday at 1:00 p.m. against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

Here is a breakdown of what they'll look like as they head into their home opener:

Running Backs

Last season the roles of the backfield players were pretty much set: fullback Corrado Filice handled the bulk of the blocking and short yardage running, while halfback Jeff Funtasz took care of the rest.

This season the situation will not be that clear cut. Filice finished his eligibility and left to play in the fledgling Italian Football League. Funtasz, now in his third year, will start at halfback. A rigorous off-season conditioning program should allow him to regain the form that led him to the CIAU rushing title in 1984. (See article p. 17.) Backing up Funtasz will be second year man Tom Houg. Houg started for the injured Funtasz in last Saturday's game at UBC and did well, garnering 60 yards on 11 carries.

Newcomer Mark Brus appears to have won the starting fullback job. Coaches were impressed with his play in training camp, and he too had a good game against UBC. Second year man George Pinder will back him up.

Overall the blocking and rushing assignments will not be as rigid as last year. This is to prevent the opposition from keying on one runner in a given situation.

Quarterbacks

When you speak with third year QB coach Forrest Kennerd, you get the idea that he isn't exactly satisfied with what he has to work with this season.

"Mark Denesiuk is the best quarterback that we have in the program at this time," says Kennerd. And there's no doubt that he's on the level. The third year pivot will carry the load for the Bears at quarterback this season, possibly the weakest area on this young club.

At this point last year it was Denesiuk and Darren Brezden fighting it out for the starting job. Denesiuk went on to win that battle, but that was probably the

high point of his season. The St. Joe's product completed 83 of 171 passes for a percentage of 48.5 and 1244 yards, the latter two stats ranking last among the WIFL's starting QB's. "We weren't at all happy with our offensive production last year," admits Kennerd, "nobody was. And after last Saturday's game, (it appears) we still have some work to do."

According to the brother of Winnipeg Blue Bomber kicker Trevor Kennerd, Denesiuk can improve on his defensive reads, and will have to as the Bears "would like to run a passing offense." But to his credit, Denesiuk has better than average mobility in (and out) of the pocket, an attribute that will come in handy behind an inexperienced offensive line.

Behind Denesiuk is the unproven Kevin Molcak, who came to the Golden Bears last year after some time on the bench with the prestigious Michigan Wolverines. He, too, is in his second year of eligibility. Right now Molcak is of little use to the Bears, having incurred a rib injury in training camp that just won't heal. "What he needs is some rest. That's the only way it will heal for good," says Kennerd.

Molcak has very little experience (he threw eight passes last year, completing three of them), but will get some work at any time this year should Denesiuk fail to move the offense.

Recently brought into camp is rookie Brant Villiard, out of Salisbury High.

No offense in any league will

move the ball effectively without a good quarterback. According to Kennerd, "You've got to have a passing game in this league to be successful. (Without a passing game) there's simply no playoffs, let alone a championship." If that prediction holds true, it's more than just possible that Alberta will be looking at an eight game season.

The Offensive Line

The offensive line is a question mark this year, as a lack of depth could cause problems if the starters succumb to lengthy injuries.

This line has been decimated by retirement and academic ineligibility, with the end result seeing not a single starter left over from 1985's opening day lineup. Gone are five year veterans Harold Reimer and Murray McKay, while Dan Denesiuk and Jay Wood have also departed. Because of the line's depth last season, tackle Dan Aloisio was switched over to the defensive side of the ball. Consequently, Saturday's five starters have a combined seven years of Golden Bear experience.

Veteran centre Blair Wood anchors the line. His play, combined with his signal calling, brings much needed on-field leadership. A healthy Blair Wood is a necessity if the line is to function well as a cohesive unit.

The starting guards are Andrew Stephen and Dave McKinnon. Stephen's ability is without question (he was drafted by the Edmonton Eskimos last year). McKinnon, a second-year man, is at home at guard or centre and he can also provide the long snap.

At tackle, however, a few unanswered questions remain. Starter Peter Onofrechuk is not yet at the level offensive line coach Brian Dickinson would like him to be. "He is making a few mental mistakes right now, but there's no question he's got lots of ability," said Dickinson. The other starter is Russ Brown, a newcomer to the team.

Backing these players up are: John Begg, Kevin Chambers, Jeff Potkins, Trevor Martin, and Jeff Martens. All are rookies.

Dickinson would like to see the size of his players be a little bigger, but the blocking scheme he will be employing this year should do away with this disadvantage.

"In this system, we're blocking angles, not taking the man head on," he said. "This will better utilize the quickness of the line."



photo Pernell Tarnowski

Linebackers

Two of the biggest defensive losses from '85 are both 'backers; Gerald Telidetzki couldn't make the grade scholastically, while CIAU All-Star Mike McLean has graduated and can be seen in an Edmonton Eskimo uniform these days.

The linebacking corps should provide some excitement for their

coaching staff this season, some good and some bad. Their two most experienced men, Andy Schinke and Grant Clearwater, will both move inside this season from their familiar outside spots. Both are excellent defensive players and shouldn't take more than three games to adjust adequately. Moving to a starting outside position will be third year man Russell Schoeppe, a backup there for the past two seasons. After that, how-

ever, there should be a real battle for the other outside spot: the candidates are Dave Komick, Bryan Lang, Lenard Sawatzky, Spenser Sekyer, Mark Singer, Jeff Tobert, and Bill Warren.

"We'll be trying to keep other teams guessing," says coach Dan Syrotuik, on whether or not these 'backers will be doing a lot of blitzing. "It's kind of like a chess game. Last year I think we blitzed about 50/50."



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Chief Returning Officer

Responsibilities:

- Performs the duties normally required by a Chief Returning Officer (Staff recruitment and hiring, organization of polls, oversees counting procedures, etc.)
- Conducts elections in accordance with Bylaw 300 and 350 for such election or referenda as designated by Students' Council.
- Act as arbitrator in any dispute arising during the course of an election/referendum.

Qualifications:

- Must possess excellent organizational and administrative skills.
- Familiarity with previous Students' Union elections a definite asset.

Remuneration: As per Schedule Established October 1984.

Term of Office: Immediately to 30 April 1987

Deadline for Applications: Monday, 15 September 1986, 4 p.m.

For applications and/or information, please contact the Students' Union Executive Offices, 259 Students' Union Building (SUB) — 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



STUDENT ASSISTANT —CAMPUS PROMOTIONS

Responsibilities:

- Assist with SUB Theatre and cabaret promotions, with emphasis on on-campus promotions
- Provide input for Students' Union lecture presentations, including planning organization, and event promotion
- Assist with special Students' Union entertainment projects and presentations (e.g. Freshman Introduction Week)
- General office duties, including typing, handling general telephone inquiries

Qualifications:

- Must be a University of Alberta student
- Typing and clerical skills
- Ability to deal effectively with staff, students, and the general public
- Interest in the promotion of the arts on campus
- Public relations experience an asset

Remuneration:

—\$300.00 per month

NOTE: This is a term position, effective immediately to April 30 1986. Minimum of 10-15 hours per week, although hours may be flexible.

For Information and/or Applications, contact Barb Higgin, Vice-President Internal, 259-A Students' Union Building, 432-4236.

Deadline for Applications: Monday, 15 September 1986, 4:00 p.m.



FEES D By September

The last day for payment of fees is September 30th. If you are paying by instalments (terms), the amount of the First Term assessment and the Second Term assessment plus a \$5.00 penalty is **September 30th**; the amount of the Second Term assessment plus a \$5.00 penalty is **January 16th**.

A penalty of \$15.00 per month will be assessed after the last day for regular payment if fees remain outstanding. Students are not responsible for the amount of the penalty if payments are not received by a deadline. If a student is dishonored and not replaced by the next student, the penalty will apply.

If fees are to be paid from some form of scholarship, refer to Section 15.2.3 of the 1986/87 AND FEE INFORMATION booklet. Her Fees Division, Office of the Comptroller is uncertain.

Students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies are reminded that their fees are also to be paid by the last day forgoing.