



Philip Preville

Why I love Al Small

Baseball's playoffs have begun, and everybody has their favorites, but I'm not picking a World Series winner until I talk to Al.

Al Small is a truly wonderful pear of a man. Al first came to the University of Alberta some years ago now, from the family farm in Radway, Alberta, to study agriculture. During that time, he managed to serve two terms as Gateway sports editor, from September '87 to April '89.

Al has become a type of legend around the Gateway offices, at least in my mind. So many other staff members come and go, but I am convinced that, decades from this day, Al's spirit will continue to roam the back corner of the second floor of SUB, talking about how the hockey pool is shaping up or something like that.

Al still comes by lots. The other day a group of us went up to RATT for beers, and Al told a story that solidified the not-your-average-legendary-guy image that I have come to associate with him.

"My brother and I always bet on the World Series," he told us.

"I've lost ten straight years in a row.

"When we were little, we used to just bet a couple of bucks, but the past couple of years we bet a cap. So at the end of October I have to go down to Jersey City and spend twelve shekels on a Dodgers cap, or whatever his team is.

"We wait until there are only two teams left to choose from, so I have a 50-50 chance of winning. My brother just says, 'What team do you want?' and he takes the other team."

"Last year I thought for sure I had a winner," he explained from under his moustache. "The A's had one of the best rotations in the majors, they had the best reliever in the majors, and a whole bunch of big hitters, dependable RBI men. They were facing a team whose best hitter couldn't walk (Kirk Gibson had injured his ankle) and whose second-best hitter was Mickey Hatcher. This was a sure bet."

The A's lost.

"So this past Christmas," Al continued, "my brother went and got me a plaque that had all the World Series results for the past ten years, starting with Pittsburgh over the Orioles, four games to three, in 1979."

Al is special. These sorts of things don't happen to just anybody. You have to have a special karma. You have to be blessed.

Still, Al's legacy isn't the legacy of some chump who always loses. Al has a distinct charm all his own, and he has the respect of his friends and colleagues. Al's is the legacy of a real pal, someone who's always willing to bet a couple of bucks just to make things interesting, and who talks a real good game.

Mum's the word on the Series until Al speaks.

Football Bears sweep Shrine Bowl

by Jay O'Neill

The University of Alberta Golden Bears proved to the Calgary Dinosaurs that they belonged in the upper echelon of the CWUAA by trouncing the Dinos 40-20 in part two of the North-South Shrine Bowl.

Golden Bear Head Coach Jim Donlevy knew how important this victory was to the Bears. The Shrine Bowl "was going to be the mid-season playoff because it was going to be Calgary or us," Donlevy said jubilantly after the game.

Alberta played with a playoff-like intensity by dominating both sides of the ball. The Bear defence proved once again why it is the best in the country. They held conference all-star quarterback Bob Torrance to 10 completions in 34 attempts for 173 yards and also limited runningback J.P. Izquierdo to 79 yards rushing. Golden Bear defensive coach Dave Morris felt the defence did a better job this

game then in last week's victory in part one of the Shrine Bowl. "Our defence is so good, I don't think anyone can stop them," Morris said.

The defence was lead by defensive back John Falconer who had two interceptions and two fumble recoveries, one of which went for a touchdown. His first interception came off a poorly thrown ball by Torrance who was under great pressure. Falconer picked off the pass and ran 18 yards to the Dino three yard line. This set up a three yard touchdown run by runningback Kris Thorsteinson for the Bears first touchdown of the game. His second interception set up the Bears second touchdown of the game.

Falconer scored his first touchdown of his football career in the last minute of the game. Dino Dave Brown caught the Bears to kickoff and tried a long lateral across the field to the other returner, but the ball died in the wind and Falconer

scooped it off the ground. He raced 15 yards, untouched, for the final touchdown of the day. "I've never scored a touchdown before. I couldn't believe it. I almost started to cry," a smiling Falconer said.

The game was relatively close in the third quarter when linebacker Mark Singer made what could have been the turning point of the game. "It was a really big play," said Morris.

With the score 19-14 for the Bears and the Dinos pinned on their own five yard line, Torrance threw a swing pass to Izquierdo who had nothing but daylight between him and the Bears' endzone. Singer gave chase and caught Izquierdo on the Bears' 35 yard line. "There isn't a runningback in this league that can outrun me," Singer said.

The Bears held the Dinos to a field goal to make the score 19-17. If Singer didn't catch Izquierdo, the score would have been 21-19 for

the Dinos, and, more importantly, they would have had the momentum.

On the other side of the ball, the Bear offence ran up 313 yards of total offence with 212 of those yards coming on the ground. Thorsteinson was the main offensive weapon.

Thorsteinson carried the ball 22 times for 124 yards, and three touchdowns. He was quick to point out that the offensive line made it easy for him to run the ball. "Today it was there all day," Thorsteinson said in reference to the huge holes the offensive line provided him with. He feels the offensive line is the best in the country.

Donlevy hopes this year's sweep of the Shrine Bowl will lead to a playoff appearance as it did in 1987. "In 1987, we won and we're in. In 1986 we lost and we're out," Donlevy said. With this year's sweep the Bears are headed in the right direction.



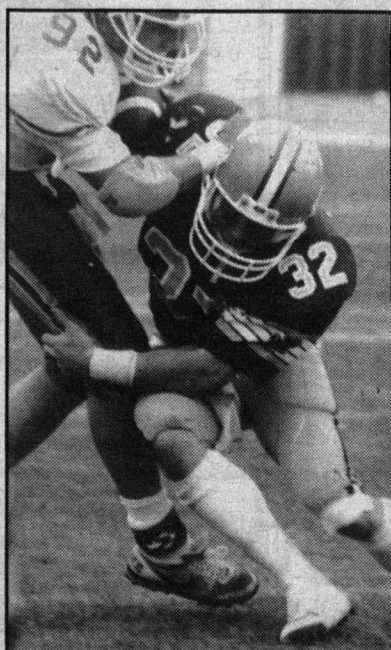
Paul Menzies

Defenders John Falconer and Kevin Hurrell search for a fumble in a pile of bodies. Falconer was named the game's defensive star.

Falconer flies high in Bear win

by Yvain Marc Bonvalet

For the third time in the 1980's, the University of Alberta Golden Bears football team swept their series with the University of Calgary Dinosaurs. With just under two thousand fans watching and cheering, the Bears trounced the Dinos 40-20 in Clarke Stadium on Saturday, in the second half of this year's Shrine Bowl.



Paul Menzies



A large part of the Bears victory was due to the efforts of #3, John Falconer. Falconer, a second year defensive back, intercepted two passes. He returned one for eighteen yards and was tackled as he caught the second interception. Last year, Falconer caught one interception, bringing his career total to three.

Falconer's second achievement of the game was the two fumbles he recovered. He took one fifteen yards for a touchdown, sealing the victory for the Bears.

"I couldn't believe Torrance threw the ball right to me. It bounced up and I caught it," Falconer said.

The Bear defence and Falconer played some well disguised zone defense, putting pressure on Dino QB Torrance. "Torrance is not good under pressure. Put a good hit on him and he loses some confidence,"

Falconer said following the contest.

The Bears had played man to man defense the previous game in Calgary, and the Dinos were expecting much of the same. The Bears defense was confident and dominated the game, leading the Bears in their march towards Toronto and the Sky Dome.

Falconer, defensive MVP in the Shrine Bowl for the Bears and CWUAA defensive player of the week, was all over the field and was one of the factors that gave the Bears their victory.

SIDELINES: The Bears improve their record to 3-2... The Bears get a bye this weekend and face the Bisons in Manitoba on the 14th of October. **Kris Thorsteinson** was the Bears Shrine Bowl Offensive MVP. **Stephen Kasowski** received the Shrine Bowl MVP for the Bears on special teams.