

Clarence Kachman--A Legend At 23

Name me the 10 stupidest things a man can do, beginning with fighting with his wife on down to playing cards on boats with strangers.

I'd still say trying to play professional football at five-feet-eight and 150 pounds has to make the first five.

Yet that's exactly what Clarence Kachman is going to do.

At 5'8" and 150 pounds, most people wouldn't attempt to play pro football even if they were allowed to use knives. Playing against some of those 250-pound brains is like trying to beat a train to a crossing or making a bet with a stranger in a bar. You can only lose.

But Clarence Kachman still insists he's going to give it a whirl. What can you do then, but wish him luck and give his blood type to the Red Cross.

People keep telling him he'll come away looking like an aircraft carrier that's taken a bomb in the funnel. They say you'll be able to follow his trail by the drops of blood.

But even on crutches, I wouldn't bet against his chances of cracking the Edmonton Eskimo's roster. After seven brilliant years with Bonnie Doon high school Lancers, Edmonton Huskies and University of Alberta Golden Bears, Clarence feels he owes it to himself to give pro ball a try. He expects to be on hand when the Eks open their training camp in June.

"It's a challenge," he says. "I want to see if I can make it. I don't really care about the money, but don't tell Ryan (general manager Joe) that."

He'll try to make the grade as a flanker. Although other Canadian Football League teams have expressed considerable interest, Clarence says he wants "to stay home, if I can."

With the Eskimos, making the team will be secondary to surviving. That thought doesn't faze Clarence either. He's one of that rare breed of athletes who would test pilot an electric chair.

Kachman plays the game with an unholy fervor that suggests he just found out the opposition has been painting moustaches on his mother's picture.

Kachman is so fast they should have let Calgary go after him on motorcycles. The moths did more damage to his uniform than Calgary did. He runs faster than some people drive. He's usually the fastest man off the ball, which helps account for his success. Clarence explains it thusly: "We backfielders are like husbands sneaking out at night. It's those first few steps that count."

Football isn't Kachman's only sport. He holds the provincial high school broad jump record. He's in his second year with the Golden Bear wrestling team. He currently plays volleyball for Edmonton Safeways, Calgary men's open champs. He was a member of the university's Golden Bear rugby team. And he's currently challenging Tom Connelly as world 69er champ.

The 23-year-old speedball first made a name for himself playing with the junior Huskies. He was a key member of Huskies' first Canadian championship team scoring the winning touchdown in the Little Grey Cup game at Hamilton.

Clarence isn't the type of sports hero most parents would wish their sons to idolize. He was the only Golden Bear football player to walk into the dressing room smoking a cigarette.

If he were the hero in a sports story, it would probably go like this:

Clarence, the campus football hero, was set down for betting on games he was in. He tearfully promises the league president, "If you reinstate me, you won't be sorry. Incidentally, neither will I." So the president reinstates

him and Clarence says, "Do you mind if I use your phone, president?" and the president says "Go ahead," and Clarence calls his bookie and says, "It's okay, Watson. Same deal as before."

Or the story could read this way:

"Clarence came up the hard way and finally became a top professional football player. And one day he was preparing for the championship game when the Mafia came in the dressing room and said, "Kid, we've got big money riding on this game. We'll give you \$100,000 to throw it." Clarence stood up, a steely glint in his eye, and he said, "Big Tony, I was born on the other side of the tracks and I was a tough kid. A lot of people had faith in me, like the warden, and a lot of kids are looking up to me and I don't want to disappoint them. So, could you make it out to 'cash'?"

Kachman has become a kind of living legend on the campus. Even the secretaries know of him. He met one at a party a while ago, and asked her to dance. Half an hour later she said, "By the way, what's your name?"

When she heard it she nearly dropped. "We've been here half an hour," she sputtered. "I'd always heard that you were passed out by this time."

Clarence has had many a thrill at the university, some on the fields of sport, some not. What's been his biggest thrill?



"She's left the campus."

Does he consider himself the best athlete on campus?

"It depends what sport you're talking about."

Well, do you smoke?

"Not any more."

Do you drink?

"No comment."

Clarence is slated to leave the university in the spring, to go out into the world and become a teacher—maybe also a professional football player.

"I want to be a good teacher," he says.

He will be, too. But the university won't be the same without him.

How To Lose Friends Without Trying

If University of Alberta athletic director Ed Zemrau makes any more trips to Europe with Lacombe Rockets, he's soon liable to run out of friends at home.

Since returning 11 days ago, Zemrau has already lost two—his wife and Edmonton referee Cury Brault.

One of the first things Zemrau said after he departed from the plane at International Airport was, "My but those European girls are beautiful."

Last Sunday, while being interviewed on a radio show, he criticized European referees for "guessing" on their calls. "They're too inconsistent. They don't even compare with . . . well, with Cury Brault.

He apologized, but it was too late. His fate was already sealed. So don't let those scars on his face fool you. They didn't come from hockey.

Curling Playoff Dates Set

Playdowns to determine University of Alberta's representatives in the Western Canadian intercollegiate men's curling championship will be held Feb. 13-14.

The bonspiel, expected to attract nearly 30 rinks, is scheduled for the Sportex. Entry deadline is Feb. 8, according to U of A curling club president Phil Coatta.

Entries are to be turned into Physical Education Building main office. Fee is \$6 per rink, with only complete rinks accepted.

From the Sportex playoff will come U of A's representative to the WCIAA championships in Regina Feb. 26-27.

Jerry Wiebe, who skipped a dentistry team to the Alberta playoff championship last year, has gradu-

ated. His successor is likely to be either Wayne Saboe, former Canadian high school champion, or Wayne McElroy.

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

Tomorrow's Naval Officer is in University Today

Undergraduates are invited to enquire now about Officer Cadetships in the Royal Canadian Navy under the Tri-service Regular Officer Training Plan.

This is an excellent opportunity for undergraduate students to commence a career that is challenging and interesting.

Basic pay while a student is \$75.00 per month—subsistence allowance is \$63.00 per month—total pay per month \$138.00, plus completely subsidized tuition and book allowance until graduation.

After graduation the Cadet is promoted to the Commissioned rank of Sub Lieutenant (Queens Commission) and after four years service has the option of release or a continuing career in the Royal Canadian Navy.

Undergraduates in any of the applied Sciences, General Science, Honours Arts, Commerce, Business Administration, Education and Physical Education courses are invited for an interview on the Campus on Friday 12, February, 1965.

Appointments can be arranged through Mr. John Lemay, University of Alberta Placement Officer telephone 439-8721 Local 210 or by calling at his office in the Administration Building.

There is absolutely no obligation and all enquiries are welcome.

(W. E. Widdows)
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