

# Soccer sweep too little and too late

by Rod Campbell

On a weekend that provided ideal weather for playing soccer, the Golden Bears regained their winning touch to keep alive the faint hope of securing first place in their C.W.U.A.A. divisional race. The Bears defeated Calgary 2-0 Friday and Lethbridge 3-0 Saturday earning goalkeeper Dave Hughes back to back shutouts.

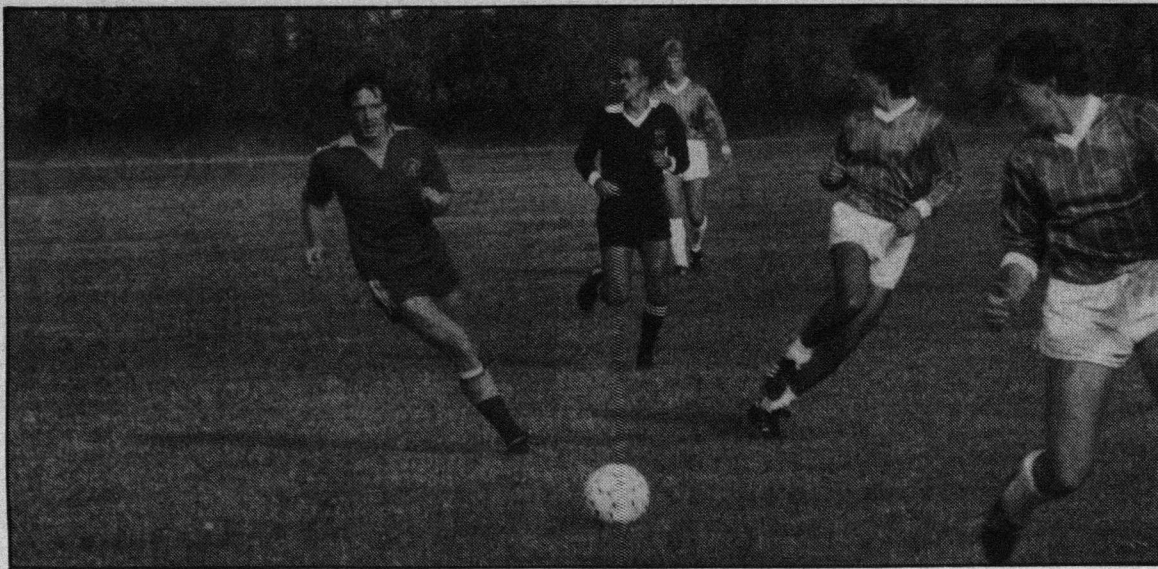
Against the Dinosaurs, the Bears put in a solid hard working performance with no thrills attached.

In the early going, they were clearly showing signs of frustration, a hangover perhaps from the previous disappointing weekend in B.C. Although, dominating in possession of the ball, the Bears could not break down a stingy Calgary defense.

On the half-hour, disaster almost struck.

A quick Calgary counter-attack caught the Bears defense flat footed. Dino's striker, Derek Balendine, broke through forcing goalkeeper Dave Hughes to pull him down. Fortunately, Balendine's penalty kick struck the post and was cleared out of the danger zone. This was the last chance Calgary created, as the Bears began to find their feet.

Within minutes, striker Hanjoo Kim missed a glorious opportunity, blasting the ball over the bar with just the goalkeeper to beat. Sal Cammarata also came close with a shot he volleyed over his head,



The Soccer Bears swept Calgary and Lethbridge for the second time this year.

photo Greg McHarg

only a brilliant save by Calgary's goalkeeper kept the score sheet blank.

The Bears started the second half as they had left off, pounding the Calgary defense. Within minutes, they got their just reward.

From a scramble in front of the goal, midfielder Kevin Murtagh nipped in-between the Calgary defense to head the ball past a stranded goalkeeper.

Five minutes later Hanjoo Kim found his range, and blasted a Cammarata pass that gave the goalkeeper no chance.

With a two goal cushion and

Calgary never threatening, coach Len Vickery made some questionable changes, substituting Murtagh, who was obviously finding his confidence after scoring the opening goal, and Vince Reda. With two rookies on the bench, Mike Thome and Craig McKenney, who have both been used sparingly throughout the season and would have undoubtedly benefitted from playing without pressure, Vickery instead elected to go with two veterans Alan Mason and Terry Wolgren.

In the end, the Bears won easily, completely dominating in all the critical areas, especially midfield, in which Danny McIntyre continues to impress with his tireless running and all-round commitment to winning the ball. McIntyre must surely be a candidate for rookie of the year if not M.V.P. overall.

Saturday's game was a rather scrappy affair, dominated by a first half full of niggly fouls.

From the beginning, Lethbridge adopted a siege mentality, doing anything to survive and literally

kicking anything that moved.

In what seems to be a regular occurrence, the Bears almost sold themselves short by allowing Sheldon Hoyt to break through. Fortunately for goalkeeper Hughes, Hoyt struck the ball past his right-hand post when it seemed easier to score.

Playing a defensive 4-4-2 system, the Bears continually got bogged down in midfield.

It was not until the second half when they started moving the ball down the flanks that dividends were collected.

Wendell Zerb finally got the Bears on the score-sheet rising above the Lethbridge defense to flick home with his head an Alan Mason free kick.

Five minutes later Zerb grabbed his second, again, heading home after Terry Wolgren nodded the ball across goal to him.

The Bears were completely dominant in the late stages of the game and it was no surprise to see Hanjoo Kim get his mandatory goal. Kim's tally had a familiar flavour to it as he dived fully stretched to head home a Zerb flick from a Mason cross.

The Bear's finish regular season play next Sunday with a visit to Saskatchewan.

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  - a California-style telephone conversation
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