

Bears have strong backing

by Randal Smathers

The Golden Bears defense was over half the story in their win over the University of Saskatchewan Huskies on Saturday at Varsity Stadium. The defense allowed only 10 points and 84 ground yards, although they were burned deep a few times, resulting in 278 passing yards against. One of the big reasons for the success of the defense was the play of the linebacking corps.

Missing fifth-year man Andy Schinke, the Bears went with three sophomores — Mark Singer, Jeff Tobert and Peter White — and freshman Jim Toomey.

Toomey and Singer were especially impressive playing up the middle, Toomey getting a quarterback sack and Singer an interception which set up the Bears first points of the game. The Saskatchewan offence is geared to a roll-out/sideline passing game, which really gave the middle backers

room to shine by taking some pressure off of them.

It was the outside men, Tobert and White, who faced most of the heat, but they responded well. White got in the hit of the game late in the second half, when he stretched out big (6'2", 200 lb.) Paul Beitel of the Huskies after a short pass reception.

Both defensive co-ordinator Dan Syrotuik and head coach Jim Donlevy were pleased with the play of their backers.

"Most of the linebackers out there were freshmen last year," said Syrotuik, "They're really coming along. They're an impressive group of guys." He singled out the work of linebacker coach Dave Morris as well. "He's a really great addition to our coaching staff."

Donlevy stressed the fact that the linebackers will improve, saying "These guys are going to be playing together for a long time. Our linebacking crew is going to be solid

over the next few years. We've got depth there and we're solid."

Donlevy also mentioned the play of defensive end Brent Korte, who had the Bears other sack in Saturday's game, as well as hurrying some throws.

He pointed out that U.B.C. are traditionally strong pass blockers, and in the B.C. game, "Korte was the guy... they wound up double-teaming him, and if you can get B.C. double-teaming anybody, that means that you've got someone who can play."

Syrotuik pointed out that the Bears are happy to get pressures, because they are not a blitzing team, going mainly with a three or four-man rush. Also, U of S is a roll-out team, which gives their quarterback more time to look downfield.

"Our defense is young and they're just going to get better," said Donlevy.

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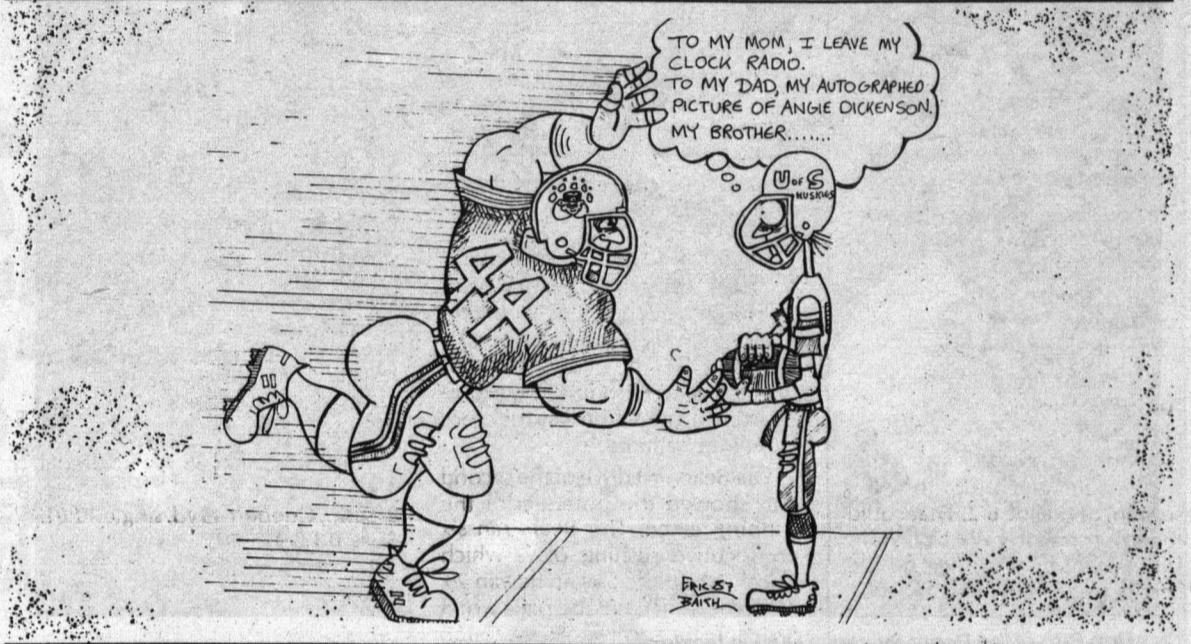
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