

# Sports

## Miracle Bears left in the cold

by Mark Spector

The University of Alberta Golden Bears showed more heart on Saturday afternoon than an entire Molson house full of light beer.

They went into the final game of the regular season knowing that they not only had to beat the UBC Thunderbirds by a whopping 23 points, but they had to hope for the lowly Saskatchewan Huskies to knock off the Manitoba Bisons in order for the Bears to make the playoffs.

In a miraculous 38-13 victory, the Bears held up their end of the bargain. But in the end it was all for naught as the Bisons hammered the Huskies by a 49-8 count, and we'll hope for their good fortune to continue in the WIFL final next week in Calgary against the Dinos.

The story of this football game was Bear linebacker, Mike McLean. McLean was playing in the final game of his last year as a Golden Bear. And if an entire career could be evaluated in one contest, then the UofA would retire his number 35.

McLean caused three fumbles and ran an interception back 65 yards for a touchdown, in playing the finest game of his university career.

"No, I can't ever remember having this much success in one game," said the second year Education student. "We were practising for the strip all week because we knew that turnovers would play an important part in this game."

And did they ever. There were no less than 12 turnovers in the game; six were fumbles (two for the Bears), and each team had three interceptions.

But it was the timing of the turnovers that made them so prevalent in the outcome of the game.

At the 12:52 mark of the fourth quarter, Alberta seemed to have everything in control until UBC's Mark Nykolaichuk picked off a Mark Denesiuk pass and returned it 85 yards for what looked like the back-breaking TD.

UBC then pulled a short kickoff (which the referee somehow decided that Alberta interfered on, so it was given to the T-Birds), and they were in possession of the ball with less than two minutes on the clock.

But once again it was Mike McLean rising to the occasion and hammering the UBC receiver, causing a fumble which Neil Ferguson returned for a 79 yard TD to ice the 25-point victory.

"At the time we didn't know about the other game so at that point I thought that I had put us in the playoffs," recalled Ferguson. When asked if he had ever run that far with a football in his hands, he replied: "Never in a game, that's for sure. But it wasn't too hard. Once I saw that there wasn't anybody between me and the goal line, I just ran as fast as I could."

But it was the minus 16 degree temperatures that partially did in the T-Birds.

"Early in the fourth quarter, one of their guys told me the score in the Manitoba game," said retiring offensive tackle Harold Riemer. "At that point they were down by about 25 points and they knew that they would have to beat us to make the playoffs."

But they certainly didn't come up with the sort of effort that is resembling of a championship calibre team. In fact, they flat gave up.

"You could just see the steam coming out of them as they learned about the other score," said Riemer.

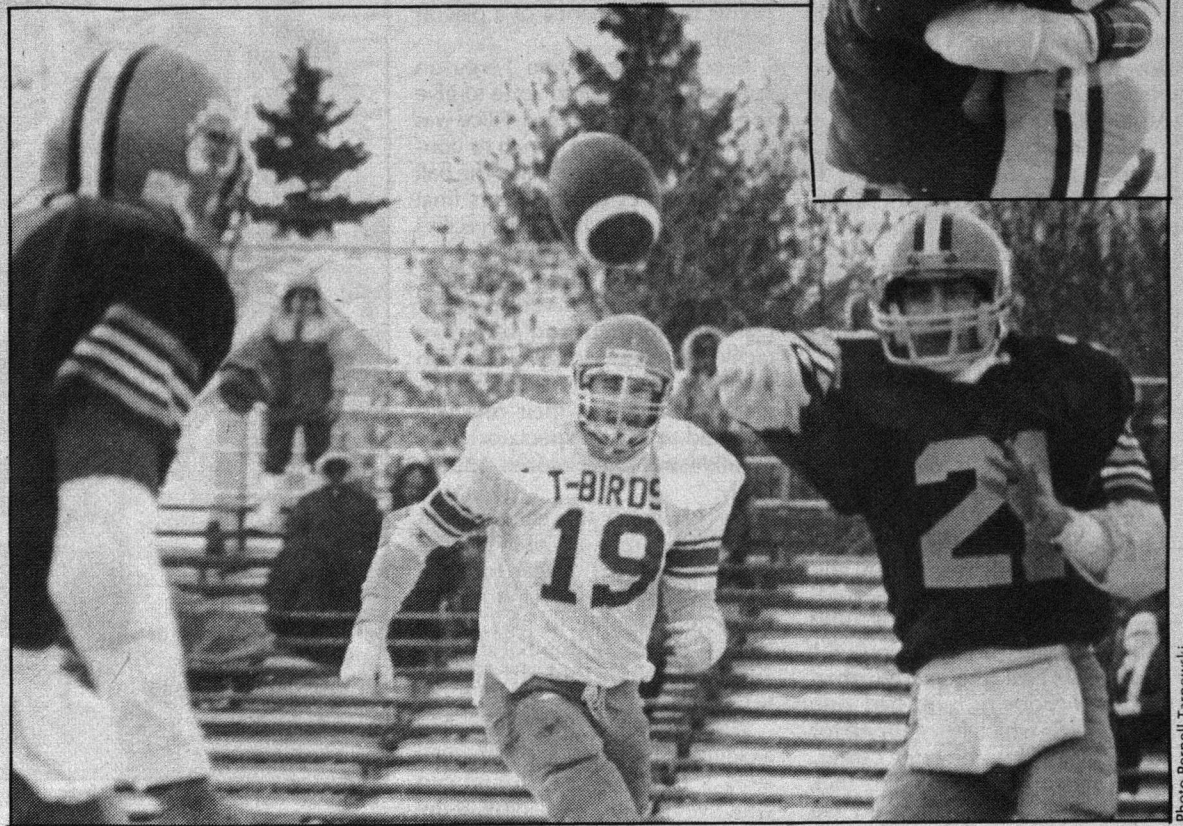
And if the ship went down, it was the Captain who was first to bail out.

At the beginning of the last quarter when UBC head coach Frank Smith learned about the Manitoba win, he walked over towards the Alberta bench and yelled at Bear coach Jim Donlevy, "We're playing for fun, Jim, we're only playing for fun."

It is no wonder that a team that is led by a quitter played like quitters on this afternoon.

Touchdowns by Tom Richards (28 yards flag pattern), Mark Denesiuk (one yard plunge), Tim Hamblin (38 yard pass), and the two defensive TD's by McLean and Ferguson killed UBC on the scoreboard.

But it was a team that couldn't handle the cold weather that lost by 25 points on the icy tundra called Varsity Field. A halftime score of 22-0 for Alberta was just too big a deficit for this team that seemed more than content to settle for



QB Mark Denesiuk swings one out to Jeff Funtasz (inset). Neil Ferguson receives scoring congratulations after last minute touchdown run of 79 yards.

fourth place behind Alberta if they couldn't have second place.

In an effort to fend off the cold, the UBC club went to West Edmonton Mall and spent around \$2000 on winter wear.

"We sent them home with a big bill and a loss," said the game star McLean, "and it sure feels good."

**Bear Tracks** - The Golden Bears have announced the signing of **Brian Dickinson** to the position of Coordinator of Recruiting. This job

starts immediately and should pay dividends in the future.

Individual	
<b>Rushing</b> — U of A Funtasz 16-88, Fillice 13-62, Pierson 2-22; UBC — Pearce 13-54, Cochrane 8-15;	
<b>Receiving</b> : U of A — Hamblin 3-58, Richards 3-49; UBC — Gatensbury 3-14	
<b>Passing</b> : U of A — Denesiuk 10-18 for 159 yards; UBC — Gagne 2-11 for 19 yards, Putoto 2-6 for 7 yards.	

Yardsticks		
	Bears	T-Birds
First downs	16	5
Yards rushing	180	106
Yards passing	159	26
Team losses	2	0
Net offense	318	132
Passes made/tried	10/18	4/17
Interceptions by	3	3
Fumbles/lost	2/2	4/4
Punts/avg.	8/39.6	13/34.7
Penalties/yards	17/150	11/53

Photo: Pernell Tarnowski

## Free fees Friday

The UofA Athletics department has finally come through with the long awaited Tuition Night promotion that has been in the works since the beginning of the year.

After a maximum amount of red tape was cleared with the Alberta Gaming Commission, on Friday night at the University of Alberta versus the University of Manitoba hockey game at Varsity Arena, one current UofA student will get a chance at winning a free year's tuition (to a maximum of \$950) courtesy of the Athletics department.

The game begins at 7:30pm and a large crowd is expected to attend.

The contest will work like this: During the second period several tickets will be drawn. The first person whose ticket is drawn, providing that they are a current UofA student, will get a chance to shoot a puck into an empty net from the near blue line to earn the prize. If that person misses the net the next person whose name was drawn will get a shot. They will keep shooting until somebody wins.

This is the first time that such a promotion has ever been done in

Canada.

And for an admission fee of two dollars, it's not such a bad deal.

As well, if the winner has already paid this year's tuition, they will be reimbursed to the tune of \$950.

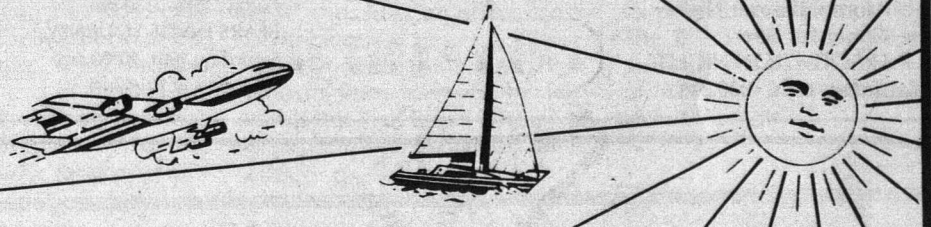
Also for that Friday night hockey game, Athletics will sponsor a Cheer for Beer contest where the traditional 15 or so cases will be given to the group of people that have probably already had more to drink than anyone else in the building.

And in the recent trend of piling it on thick, Athletics has chosen this game for their Tribute to Clare Drake ceremony.

So it's gonna be a great weekend for hockey at the Varsity Arena with the Free Fees, the Bellow for Barley, and the tribute to Coach Drake. So if you're a student and you've been belly-aching about the lack of promo for Bear and Panda games, it's time to put up or shut up.

Because for the first time that I can remember, the UofA Athletics department is spicing things up a bit.

## HAWAII THURSDAY



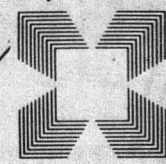
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- 8:00 — LP from SU Records
  - 9:00 — 2 tickets for Dinwoodie Cabaret
  - 10:00 — 2 tickets to SUB Concerts
  - 11:00 — \$25.00 cash prize
- (winners must be present to accept their prize)

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All winners will be eligible for the **Grand Prize Draw on March 27, 1986, of a trip for 2 to Hawaii.**

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