

Old Bear Banging Heads With Students

By Violet Vlcek and Davy Jenkins

One of the best stories ever to come out of Canadian college football is in the making on the University of Alberta campus—but it may never be written.

It's about a 37-year-old man. He's trying out for a lineman's spot on the Golden Bear football team. And it looked like he had made the grade until he was injured last week.

Jack Allen is the man. He played for the Golden Bears from 1945 to 1947, and is now back on campus on a Kellogg Foundation Fellowship to work towards a master's degree in education and administration. In addition, he teaches a class in first year education.

Jack Allen opposes the idea that the physical deterioration which usually sees players off the field before the age of 30 is inevitable.

He maintains that with mental alertness and proper conditioning, an athlete need not let age affect his performance.

So Jack started working out with the Bears. Coaching him were such men as Murray Smith and Steve Mendryk, both former Golden Bear team mates in the late '40's. Playing against Jack were men of 21 he had taught in high school and coached. Jack coached high school football for 13 years after graduating from

the U of A.

AGE A MINOR FACTOR

Then last Friday he received an internal injury in a hard scrimmage. At press time he was scheduled to go in for an x-ray. He had stopped attending practices feeling it best to find out if the injury was serious before continuing. Mr. Allen said he hoped it was nothing serious as he was "raring to get back in there."

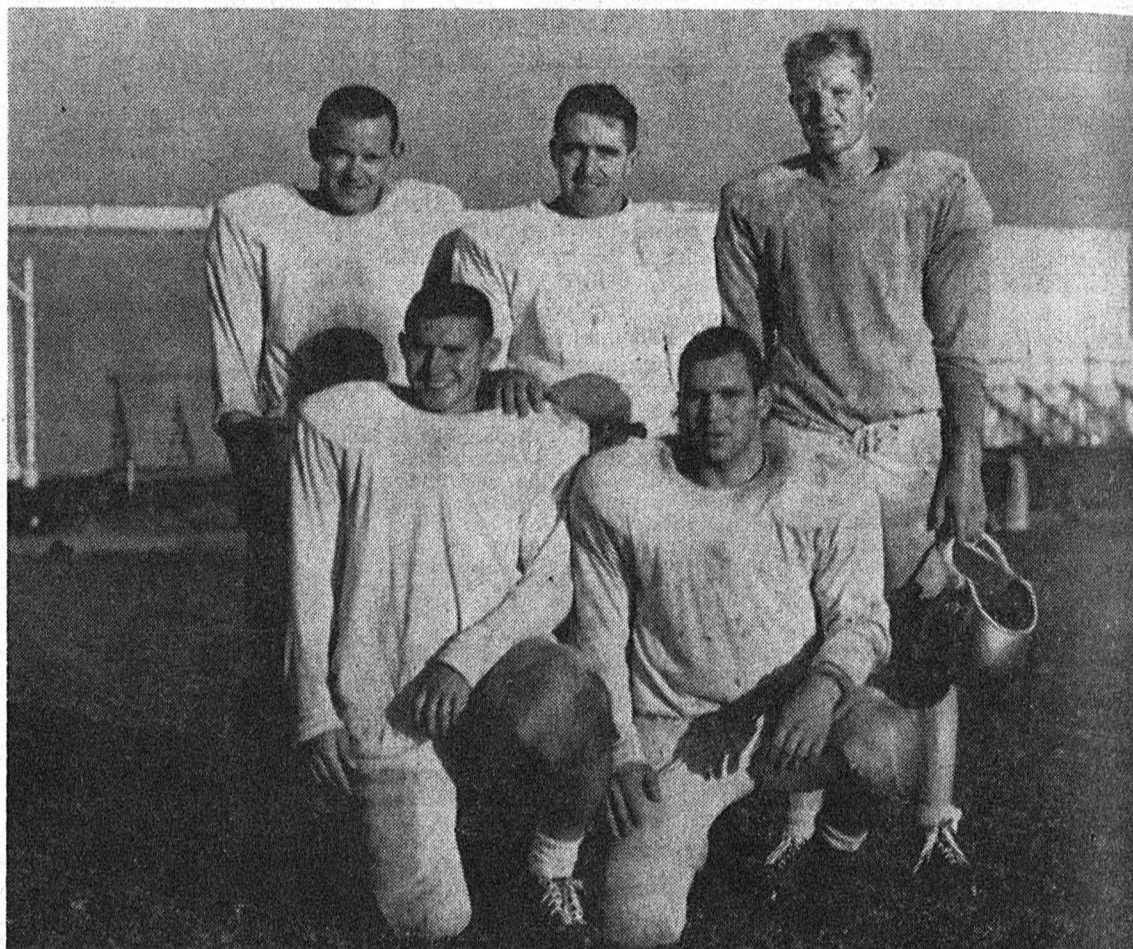
"I definitely want to be active," says Mr. Allen, "and I feel I can help the Bears by playing with them." He feels his careful physical conditioning will allow him to play as effectively as he ever did. His goal is to win a guard position on the starting team.

When asked what it felt like to be battling with much younger men, Jack said it was "quite a thrill. This has meant a good deal to me." He said he has learned a lot about the game by looking at it from the player's point of view again. "This will help me as a coach later," he said.

Jack said he noticed he cannot play with the same abandon now. "That's what makes the young player such an asset in this sport." He said stiffness and bruises "take longer to overcome. But when I get back in there the game is as exciting as it ever was."

LEAGUE FOUNDER

Leaving U of A in 1947, Mr. Allen taught at Lacombe where he was one of the founders of the Central Alberta High School Football League.



OLD BEAR WITH CUBS—Jack Allen, back row, centre, stands with four of the Bear players he coached as a high school teacher. Jack, a Bear player of 10 years ago, is back trying out for the team.

From 1950 to 1956 he taught at Victoria Composite High School in Edmonton. Among the students he coached there were his present teammates Ted Frechette, Bruce Bryson, Ernie Takaacs, and Ray Wilkinson.

During his career, Mr. Allen has coached 12 players who are now with the Bears.

Should Jack ever decide to leave the Golden Bears for good, he could be replaced by a potential "Bear" of his own. His son, Mike, 15, plays for the junior football team at Bonnie Doon High School in Edmonton. Mr. Allen has two other children, Patrick 13, and Judith 3.

Microfilm Turned Over To Library

A total of 1,213 microfilm reels of the New York Times covering the period 1851 to 1938, were recently turned over as a gift to the University of Alberta by its alumni. This is the most extensive collection of its kind on any University in Canada.

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