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Huskies welcome sight for Alberta

by Tim Enger

Although Saturday's 1:00 p.m. home opener against Saskatchewan will be the first time that the 13th man will take the field, the Golden Bear Football team has more on its mind than just unveiling Athletic's newest promotion.

The Bears (0-1) went into last weekend's game thinking that a win would be nice, but a respectable showing would be more important. Unfortunately, they got neither. The defense performed adequately, giving up only one long touchdown drive, but the offense, hopelessly cursed by poor field position, was less than stellar in producing only five points. Alberta can find some solace in the fact that the T-Birds' defense is probably one of the strongest that they will face. But still, five points was well short of their expectations.

"A lot of things affected our play against UBC," said running-back Tom Houg, "but the poor field position in the second half forced us to do a lot of things we didn't want to do."

Nevertheless, Alberta's foe this weekend is another team mired in problems. The Saskatchewan Huskies haven't had a decent season since . . . well, the Saskatchewan Roughriders made the playoffs. Their biggest hindrance are the two junior teams in the province (Saskatoon and Regina) which are two of the best in Canada, thus drawing all the local talent away from the university program.

"We have had great success against the Huskies in the past few years," said outside linebacker Russell Schoeppe, "but that doesn't mean this will be an automatic win. Hopefully we'll have worked out all of the kinks from last weekend and can open our home season with a win."

Hopefully, that is, if the Bears

can field a full team. The injury bug that has afflicted Alberta continues to baffle both coach and athletic therapist alike. No less than seven players will miss Saturday's match-up, and two players remain questionable for the game. Last year, injuries also ravaged the team, but those were mainly centered around the knee. This year, the shoulder seems to be the biggest problem.

Two starters, linebacker Andy Shinke and defensive back Andrew Ostashower, both have damaged rotator cuffs and will probably miss the game. The other shoulder injury belongs to rookie linebacker Spencer Seyker whose shoulders are so swollen he looks as though he's wearing shoulder pads all the time.

While the mystery of the Bears injury situation continues (which is quickly earning them the tag of the "Most Fragile Team in the W.I.F.L."), the mystery of what is going to happen on Saturday with the 13th man remains a bigger question. On Wednesday fourteen university students suited up to try to earn the honor of being the first representative from the non-athletic student body to play for the Bears. Of that fourteen, two were selected to reappear on Friday for the final selection process for Saturday's game. The man (or woman as two females were among the applicants) who will be selected will remain a mystery until the first Golden Bear kickoff on Saturday.

So although the 13th man promotion will certainly be a drawing card (and the deal with the Bear Country promoters of giving one free drink to all those with ticket stubs from the game), the game itself should be more than enough reason to attend; for as QB Mark Denesiuk says, "I've never



Denesiuk goes to Funtasz vs. the Huskies in '85. With both teams at 0-1, this game will set the tone for both clubs.

lost to the U of S and I don't intend to start now!"

BEAR FACTS: Others who will miss Saturday's game will be defensive end **Dale Mounzer** (ankle), wide receiver **Dave Bolstad** (knee), defensive lineman **Mark Gibbon** (shin splints), and defensive lineman **Connor McCoy** (ribs). Defensive back **Derek Waterman** (knee) is questionable, and runningback **Jeff Funtasz** will play, being given the green light as his hamstring tear has sufficiently repaired itself . . . Last year's home opener was also against the Huskies, with Alberta prevailing 23-13 to even their record at 1-1 . . . **CJSR FM, 88.5** will be broadcasting the game live with the pregame beginning at 12:45 p.m.

photo Bill St. John

Funtasz will try to regain his rookie form

by Dean Bennett

Golden Bear running back Jeff Funtasz hopes his third year will be as sweet as his first.

Two years ago the future looked bright for the speedster out of O'Leary High School. He had just won the Haliburton Trophy - the North Division award for outstanding achievement in High School football. He was heading for his first spring camp with the U of A Golden Bears.

In 1984, his rookie season, Funtasz led the nation in rushing. He was named CIAU Rookie-of-

the-Year. He had 168 carries for 939 yards, a 5.6 yard average and 13 touchdowns.

In the second year, however, the balloon burst. The sophomore jinx caught up with Funtasz. He finished fifth in rushing in the WIFL with 113 carries for 566 yards and a 5.0 average, but he scored only three touchdowns.

"My attitude was different the second year," he said. "I kept thinking about my first year. I wasn't happy with how the team was and I didn't prepare myself as well men-

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