

Two football Bears drafted by Eks

by Alan Small

Much to Bear fans' chagrin, only two U of A footballers were picked in the annual CFL draft of Canadian university players.

Neil Ferguson, the Bears big play man and defensive back, was picked in the seventh round by the Edmonton Eskimos. Ferguson, 23, is also one of the Bears starting defensive backs.

The other Bear picked was punter-placekicker Steve Kasowski, who led the Western Intercollegiate Football League in scoring this season, was a western all-star at the placekicking position. Kasowski, 21, also filled in at wide receiver this season. He was picked in the eighth round, also by the Eskimos.

"He (Ferguson) improved quite a bit over the season," Bear head coach Jim Donlevy said, "after he



brought back that interception against UBC. I felt that the Eskimos would draft him late."

Donlevy was just as glowing about Kasowski.

"I would say that Steve has improved every year he's been here," Donlevy said, "kickers are like quarterbacks, in that they mature slowly. Trevor Kennerd played here for two years after he was drafted by the CFL."



Kicker Steve Kasowski is one of two Bear football players drafted by the Eskimos.

file photo

Kennerd, who owns a host of Golden Bear team records for kicking, is now with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and is one of the top kickers in the land.

To be eligible for the draft, the university players must be chosen four years after their first year of university. Also, if a player is over 25 years of age, that would make him

draftable as well.

Donlevy feels that being drafted is good for any football player, whenever he is picked, be it the first round or the eighth.

"There's nothing wrong with being drafted with little chance of making the team in their first pro camp," Donlevy said, "the experience of going to the Eskimo camp is really helpful."

"No one's going to beat out a guy like Jerry Kauric (Eskimo place-kicker) unless he breaks down totally."

Donlevy said however that the Eskimos are willing to give their drafts a lot of time to develop as football players before they make the big club.

"The Eskimos are noted for that," Donlevy said, "you don't see a guy for three years, then he shows up and is a pretty good player, like Tom Richards for example."

Of the eight first round picks however, only two of them were from CIAU football programs. The top pick, Orville Lee, came from Simon Fraser University, which plays in the NAIA, in the United States.

"It's a cyclical thing," Donlevy said, "it's just that everyone is raising their eyebrows now. This hasn't been the case in umpteen drafts."

"It's strictly an anomaly."

Although the Bears had two players picked in this year's draft, Donlevy's not too worried.

"It wasn't a great year for us at the draft," Donlevy said, "we're a young team now. We've had lots of guys before in the first round, like Brian Fryer, Blake Dermott, and Joe Poplawski."

Next year should be a better year for the Bears at the draft table, barring injury, as CIAU first team all-star Mark Brus and CIAU second team all-star Brent Korte are both eligible for the draft.

"Next year, Korte will be close to a first or second round choice," Donlevy said, "and the CFL version of the Canadian running back is a big, smash-em-up type like Brus."

ENTREPRENEURS FOR SUMMER JOBS/WEEKEND PROFITS WHY NOT START YOUR OWN BUSINESS!



We have the perfect retailing venue. If you've got a great idea or innovation, we can provide:

- * an attractive storefront with virtually no overhead
- * low, low rents by the day/week/month/year
- * excellent traffic flow to play from
- * great downtown location in a building known for its award winning design
- * free PARKING for vendors

For PROFITS phone 424-6297

T-shirts, fashion accessories, arts & crafts, fresh cut flowers, stationery, leather goods, sculptures, pottery... the possibilities are endless!!