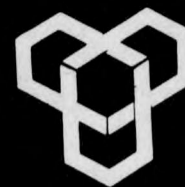




SPORTS



A. Clive Cohen

COMIN' THROUGH: St. Mary's cornerback David Houston looks on as Saskatchewan's Duane Dymytrshyn takes an unidentified Atlantic Husky for a ride. The AUAA champions had a rough time all afternoon, and even Chris Flynn, their much-vaunted

quarterback couldn't pull off a victory. But the game was a moral victory for Saskatchewan, who were the losers last year.

Flynn fumbles Vanier Cup with gamble

by Josh Rubin

Depending upon who you listened to, it was either supposed to be the crowning achievement in a star quarterback's career or redemption for last year's losers.

Throughout last Saturday's Vanier Cup, it became more apparent that it was the latter, and the Western champs from Saskatchewan dumped the AUAA's St. Mary's 24-21.

St. Mary's stellar QB Chris Flynn was given no protection the entire day.

As a result, the maritimers just couldn't keep up, and were down 14-0 by early in the second quarter.

Both of Saskatchewan's first half TDs were set up by a strong backfield, including veteran Rob Symchuk and second year back Duane Dymytrshyn.

St. Mary's was able to get seven points back when Flynn lobbed one of three TD passes on the day to Matt Nealon ten minutes before the half.

The third quarter was a different

story.

After Nealon caught his second TD pass of the day, St. Mary's held the Western champs scoreless until Phil Guebert's field goal put Saskatchewan up to stay with a few minutes left in the quarter.

But Saskatchewan QB David Earle (named game MVP), drove what was seemingly the final nail in the St. Mary's coffin, taking it into the end zone himself early in the final quarter.

However, the beleaguered Flynn wasn't quite finished.

With the game seemingly out of reach, he connected with WR Ian MacDonald for a 20 yard TD play that closed the gap to 24-21 with four minutes to play.

After the ball traded sides three times, St. Mary's took over from their own 52 with just two minutes left on the clock.

In one last kick of the cat, Flynn marched them all the way down to the Saskatchewan 36. After an incomplete pass, St. Mary's was facing 2 and 10 with less than a minute to go.

But seemingly within reach of a game-tying fieldgoal, Flynn decided to gamble.

Scrambling out of the pocket, he looked downfield for Nealon. But a blindside from the Saskatchewan linebackers made Flynn drop the ball, and finally, Earle and co. could celebrate.

Afterwards, a dejected Flynn told reporters he may not even be

back to play next year.

For Earle, meanwhile, it was a shot at redemption: "There were some people that were doubting [Earle's ability] after last year. Today they saw the real David Earle."

Earle, who has two seasons left to go in the CIAU, says he also hopes to play in the CFL someday.

"Anyone who plays college football has those aspirations," Earle said.

But Earle's coach Brian Towriss feels otherwise.

"There are only two or three players on this team who are going to the CFL. David Earle is satisfied with being the best college quarterback he can be," Towriss said.

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