

Alberta rivals fight over Shrine Bowl

by Alan Small

Not only is the North/South Shrine Bowl on the line Saturday, but the chance for a playoff spot in the WFL final will also be fought over.

The Golden Bears have four wins and two losses while their foes from, the south have split their six games.

In their previous game in Calgary, the Bears pulled the upset of the season as they defeated the Dinosaurs in the warm confines of McMahon Stadium 32-20.

Mark Brus ran for 193 yards while Calgary's Elio Geremia ran for 127 yards on the day.

What made the difference on the day however, was a blocked punt by Neil Ferguson which started the Bears off on a 22-point fourth quarter. The defence was also on top of their game in the fourth quarter as they stuffed Geremia in the backfield three times in the final frame.

But this, as Bears head coach Jim Donlevy has told this reporter many times this year, "doesn't mean a thing."

Alan Small

Eight years of despair

1978. Edmonton hosted the Commonwealth Games. It was the last year of the WHA. The Yankees won the World Series. It was also the last time the guy who's pictured here made a correct World Series prediction.

As I look over some of the picks I have made, I wonder what got into me in some cases. In others, I wonder how I lost. Let's take a look at some of them.

Baltimore and Pittsburgh faced each other in 1979. When one looks back, he can see that this is one of the most even of World Series. Baltimore looked to win as they had a 3-1 series lead, with two games in Baltimore remaining. However, Pops Stargell hit one out in the seventh game to win it. As the ball flew over the fence, on the replay, I swore I could see my bet money flying with it.

The next year had Philly playing Kansas City. I hated the Phillies but Quisenberry stunk out of the bullpen and lost the series. Loss number two.

The strike season had the Yanks and the Dodgers. I love the Yankees but hate Los Angeles. What happens? After two games, it was 2-0 Yanks. After six it was 4-2 Dodgers. How depressing.

Another close series in 1982 had the Cards facing Harvey's Wallbangers from Milwaukee. Unfortunately, in the seventh game, the only walls the Brewers hit were brick ones.

In '83 the up-and coming Orioles faced the Phillies, who were growing ancient. Why I picked them I don't know. I hate Philadelphia. This one was a cakewalk for the O's.

Detroit then faced the Padres in 1984. I hated Detroit because they beat the Jays. The Padres really stupid pick in a row. It was living proof that I should never pick with my heart.

The series in 1985 and 1986 really had me steamed. In 1985 the Cardinals were by far the better team over the Royals. In the series they proved it. Two events made an indelible blip during that series though: Don Denkinger's terrible call which cost the Cards Game Six and Joaquin Andujar's terrible pitching and behavioural performance in Game Seven. Thanks to both of them for lengthening my losing streak.

In 1986, all the responsibility lies with Bill Buckner, and the Red Sox bullpen. They both had series no one will ever forget. Especially this fellow.

The tally: Eight losses in a row. It should have been five wins and three losses.

Who will win this year? Whoever wins the NL series will end up winning the whole thing. I hope it's the Giants. Who knows? The law of averages has to catch up with me.



It may not mean a thing, but if the coaching staff's scouting reports are right, not much will change."

"If we don't stop Elio, it will be a long afternoon, defensive coordinator Dan Stryotuk said.

"Don't expect too many things different from the Bears offense either, as quarterback Darren Brodzien will be doing that backstep-handoff to Mark Brus routine as if he's done it all his life.

"Nothing's going to change," said offensive tackle Russ Brown, "we'll be running north and south."

Brus is ready to handle the workload that is expected of him this



Bears offence lines up in last year's Shrine Bowl. The offensive line will be relied on again.

weekend. He has had to put up with it for the past two weeks since running mate Jeff Funtasz went down with a knee injury.

"It doesn't intimidate me," Brus said, "But I see why running backs' careers have such short lifespans."

Although Brus relishes the extra playing time, he does miss the likes of Funtasz in the backfield.

"The competitive edge was good for me," Brus said, "if Jeff kept getting the ball, I would feel like Rodney Dangerfield on the sidelines."

The philosophy has worked for Brus, as he leads the west and the

nation in rushing with over 800 yards on the season. If he keeps up at that rate, he may break the 1000 yard barrier and also the Bear rushing record, held by Funtasz, at 939 yards.

LOST SHRINES: Another Bear who had a shot at team records this year has come through. Kicker Steve Kasowski broke Joe Poplawski's career field goal mark of fifteen earlier in the year. He now has 18... Kasowski also broke Marco Cyncar's career singles mark of 19. Kasowski now has 21... The Shrine Bowl organizing committee has big things planned before, during and after the game on Saturday... A

tailgate party is planned at the Clarke Stadium parking lot at 10 a.m., a parade of dignitaries at 1:40, and then the U of A Skydivers plan to drop in with the game ball just before game time... The Cerebral kick-off will be done by former Eskimo legends Jackie Parker and Bob Dean, who was the place kicker for the 54-56 Grey Cup squads... Halftime has the Shriners... and two draws: one for an Air Canada trip for two to the Caribbean the other being 1000 litres of gas from Husky and our colleagues at the Edmonton Journal... There is also a high school cheerleading competition.

Golden Bears blow opportunities in Lotusland

UBC 10 Alberta 5
by Alan Small

Although the Golden Bears football club outplayed their Lotusland rivals, they had little to show for it but an addition to their loss column

in the conference standings.

Outplayed is an understatement. The Bears dominated the T-Birds on both sides of the ball, gaining 395 yards on offense compared to only 176 for the T-Birds.

But, a fourth quarter interception by Jordan Leith set up a touchdown by T-Bird running back Matt Pearce. A 36-yard field goal by Mike Bellefontaine rounded out the UBC scoring, all done in the fourth quarter.

"The guys in front are doing a great job," Brus said, "the first four yards are gimmes."

The defence was able to stop the much vaunted passing attack of the T-Birds as well. The players who were at Tuesday's press conference complimented the Bears defensive line, with Dale Mounzer, Jim Cleland, and Brent Korte.

LATE HITS: The T-Bird win wraps up first place for them in the conference, and gives them the enviable privilege of hosting the WFL final, held on November 7th.



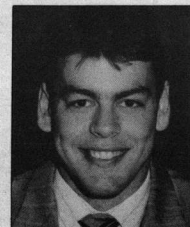
Unlike Manitoba, UBC couldn't move the ball against the Bear defence.



"We drove the ball well between the twenty yard lines," left offensive tackle Russ Brown said, "Then we'd take a silly penalty and then we couldn't put it in."

Brown also remarked about how the Bear offence had the T-Bird defence talking to themselves.

The Bear offensive line earned their keep again against UBC as they led the way for the Bear running backs to another 200 yard plus rushing game. Mark Brus also led the Bears in rushing as he ran for 166 yards on the ground, the fourth time this season he has accomplished that feat.



Defensive end Brent Korte