

Gateway

Sports

Second-class status for Canucks

By ROD MICKLEBURGH
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Yaas, yaas. Bein' a maple-syrup Canuck is jes' fine these days. Jes' fine. That plucky young 'un, Nancy Green, no sooner grabs off a gold in that there gignatic salami than our shinny lads, god love 'em, go out and also do some pretty fine prospectin' in that direction. Mother of Pearl, next thing you know Varsity Blues'll tie the Russian 515. And my late aunt (long since laid to rest, amen) might almost come to the conclusion that, despite their citizenship, Canadian athletes could actually win at somethin'. No need to scoff and treat 'em second-class, dear lady. Yaas, yaas, no reason 'tall.

Then we come to the Canadian Football League (hallowed ever by thy name, O great one!). Bluntly, to be a Canadian in the CFL is to be second-class. They bend the rules to flood their rosters with Canadians, but pay them second-class salaries, give them second-class bonuses and guarantees, and generally treat them as if the biggest break of their lives was to be invited to try out for the team. You've heard of "student as nigger." How about "Canadian football player as nigger?"

Varsity Blues' quarterback last year, Bob Amer, went through the "nigger" routine before he reported to Blues, and he's justifiably bitter about it.

"It's a pretty wierd set-up all right," said Amer the other night, "I was at the Montreal camp from June 15 to August 20. I didn't get any sort of shot from the coaches. Just before I got cut, my activity was down to calling defensive line signals."

Ignored, cut, and nothing to show

So Bob Amer was kept at training camp for more than two month, practically ignored, and then cut. Well, that's tough, you say, but at least the club gave him something to show for all the time he put in. Prepare to be disillusioned, naive reader. Bob Amer got nothing.

"I got a small advance (that's what they called it) for signing in February, but that was way gone by June. At the camp I was put up and fed, and given five dollars a week spending money. My summer earning was blown and I got nothing out of training camp but a dislike for pro football. So I'm living on student loans for a year."

The attitude of the Als, and the other CFL clubs too, is that Canadians deserve nothing and just to allow them on the field is sufficient remuneration until they actually make the team.

Americans, on the other hand, are all treated as if they're second Jackie Parkers. Says Amer: "They get \$2,000 just for coming across the border." And an articulate athlete named Mike Eben adds some wise words: "Any unqualified nut from the States can come up here and be assured of a two or three thousand dollar bonus. If he doesn't make it, at least he has some remuneration to show for the whole thing." Bob Amer didn't make it and blew more than a thousand bucks.

Which brings us to Mr. Eben, the finest pass-catcher ever to do a Varsity uniform, and, this year, the first college draft choice of the B.C. Lions.

But Eben knows what he's worth

Mike Eben knows what he's worth and knows what he wants. One thing he doesn't want is to play football in British Columbia. He plans to continue his education next year and "Why should I go from the best to the second-best graduate school in Canada?" Instead of grasping hungrily at the barest thread of a chance to play pro football (and Eben does want to turn pro), he is dictating his terms to the clubs—a courageous, revolutionary thing for a Canadian collegian to do.

Right now Lions are trying to swing a trade with the Argos for Eben. However, even if it materializes, there's still no guarantee Mike Eben will suit up for the Argonauts. Eben is making a stand which may well be a vital trail-blazer for Canadians trying to get a fair deal in their own league.

He wants money—not just a pittance but a substantial bonus.

"Yes, I'll definitely want a bonus to sign. I'm getting married this spring, and I'd be crazy to throw away a whole summer with the added expense of marriage for a shot at pro football when there's no guarantee I'll make the squad. Clubs don't pay bonuses because they like to but because it's necessary to get good football players. There's no reason why I should be treated any differently just because I'm a Canadian."

I'm for Mike, Eben, eh booby!

Ed. Note. Mike Eben was chosen as Canada's outstanding college football player of 1967.



—Bob Povaschuk photo

NOT TODAY MICKEY

... Halterman stops Mickey McDowell, league's top scorer

Bears split with UBC Thunderbirds to keep WCIAA title hopes alive

By BILL KANKEWITT

You can sum up the weekend's hockey action between the UBC Thunderbirds and Alberta Golden Bears in one sentence.

Friday night the Bears were for the birds while Saturday the Birds got "beared."

Friday the Bears played badly and were thumped 5-2 by the T-Birds. Saturday, the Bears rebounded to pluck the birds clean by the identical 5-2 score.

To say the least, the Bears were terrible Friday. Rather than to single out individuals, it is safe to say the loss was a team effort.

Alberta could do nothing right; UBC could do no wrong.

Aided by the erratic passing and poor positional play of the Bears, the Thunderbirds built up a 2-0 first period lead and stretched the margin to 4-0 by the end of the second.

The Bears ignited a brief comeback by scoring twice in the opening minutes of the third period. This fleeting glory provided the 1,550 fans with their lone excitement of the evening.

A final UBC marker minutes

later put the Bears back into hibernation.

Diminutive Wayne Hunter led the T-Bird attack by scoring two unassisted goals.

Miles Desharnais, Mike Darnbrough and Jack James did the rest of the blood-letting for UBC.

Rookies Don Falkenberg and Milt Hohol were the only Bears able to beat T-Bird net-minder Rick Bardal.

The West-coast team out-shot the Bears 27-23 and took seven of the 13 penalties issued by referee Bill Bucyk.

Saturday it was a different Bear team that took the ice.

Fired-up by the thought of the previous night's embarrassment,

the youthful Bears wasted little time in de-feathering the Birds.

By the time the game was a minute old, Wayne Wiste and Milt Hohol had given the Bears a 2-0 lead. Five minutes later captain Jerry Braunberger blasted home the third Bear marker.

That was all the Bears needed as the teams traded goals in the final two stanzas.

Wiste and Hohol counted again for Alberta with James and Blaine Pollock breaking the ice for UBC.

Although the Bears were in control through-out, the T-Birds out-shot them 37-22. Dale Halterman rebounded from a shaky Friday performance to be superlative again in the nets for Alberta.

Bison, Huskie split tightens hockey race — Bears second

With just three games remaining to be played in the WCIAA hockey schedule no champion has yet been decided.

In last weekend's action, splits

between UBC and Alberta and between Manitoba and Saskatchewan served to complicate the picture.

Manitoba has completed their schedule and are in first place with 20 points. Saskatchewan with one game remaining and Alberta with two left are tied in second spot with 18 points.

UBC and Calgary are not in contention for the top spot but figure importantly in the final standings as they play Alberta and Saskatchewan this week.

The Huskies host the last place Dinosaurs while the Bears close out their schedule in Vancouver on the weekend.

A variety of possibilities as to the final standings exist.

If Alberta wins both games this weekend they are guaranteed of the championship. If Saskatchewan beats Calgary and the Bears split in Vancouver then a three way tie will exist.

The league constitution states that in the event of a two-way tie, a sudden death game will be played. A league meeting Tuesday will decide what will happen in the case of a three-way tie.

WCIAA STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	P
MAN.	16	10	6	20
ALTA.	14	9	5	18
SASK.	15	9	6	18
UBC	14	7	7	14
CAL.	15	2	13	4



—Hiroto Saka photo

ROGUE'S GALLERY—Yes, the football train to Vancouver did offer a variety of ways to let yourself go and relax tensions. But to find out exactly what the young lady in the picture did offer find one of the people in the picture. If you'd like to get in on some of the action remember the hockey train to UBC this weekend. It should be as good or as better. Contact Bob Baldwin, U of A Radio for further details.