

Team falls back on rookie pivot

by Ajay Bhardwaj

A big question hangs over the heads of the football Bears. As they prepare for this weekend's contest against the University of Manitoba Bisons, quarterback Jeff Steinberg's status is up in the air.

The fourth year pivot has a protruding disc and is having a difficult time moving around. "It acts up once a year," Steinberg said. "It happened in the first play of the first game against Calgary. I rolled out and went out of bounce and my whole back stiffened up. It was an accumulation of all the shots I took."

Last week Steinberg wasn't able to walk and spent a lot of time laying in bed. He spent Thanksgiving alone. "That's just what I needed," Steinberg said, whose family lives in Winnipeg. "I wanted to stay positive. (Eskimo quarterback) Rick Worman helped. He called me and told me about his last of college when he was hurt all year. He told me to stay motivated and to set a date to come back."

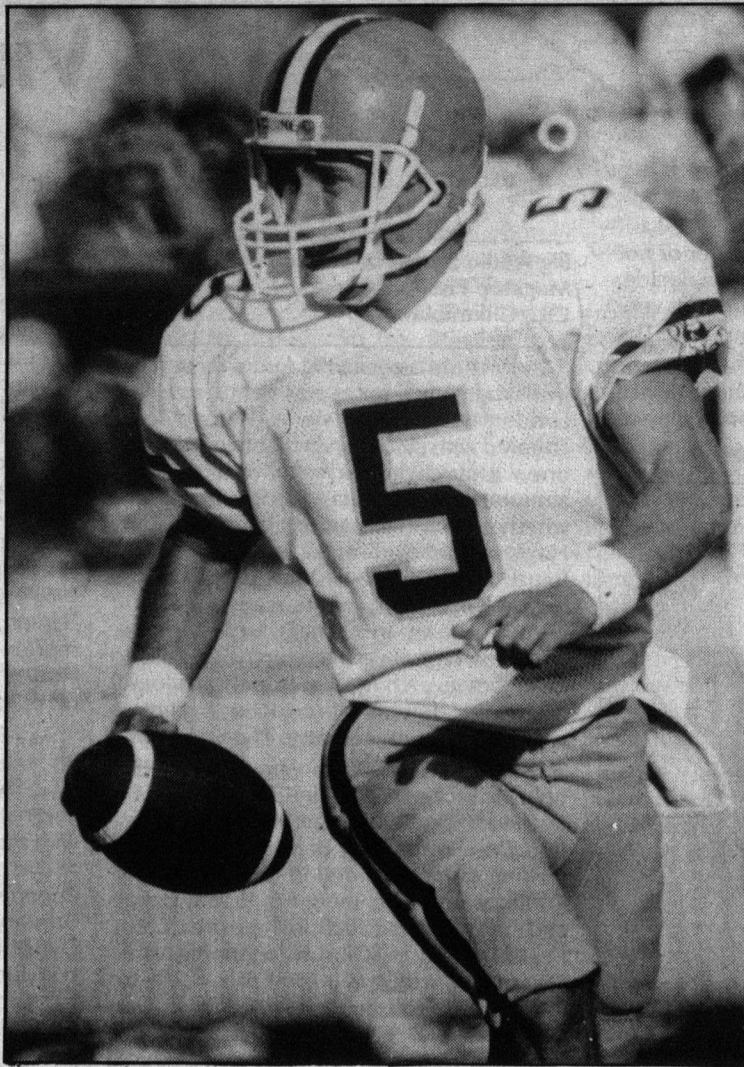
Steinberg's first goal was to be walking by Monday (Thanksgiving). He achieved that goal. Now he wants to play against the Bisons. "It depends who you ask (on whether he'll be ready)," Steinberg said. "If you ask (the training staff) they'll say no. But if you ask me, I'll be ready. They'll have to tie me down to stop me from playing."

However, Steinberg also realizes that if he isn't 100%, he won't be helping the team. "I'm not going to jeopardize our team's chances," Steinberg said. "But I haven't missed a game in my life due to injury." Winnipeg is Steinberg's hometown and he wants to play in front of his family.

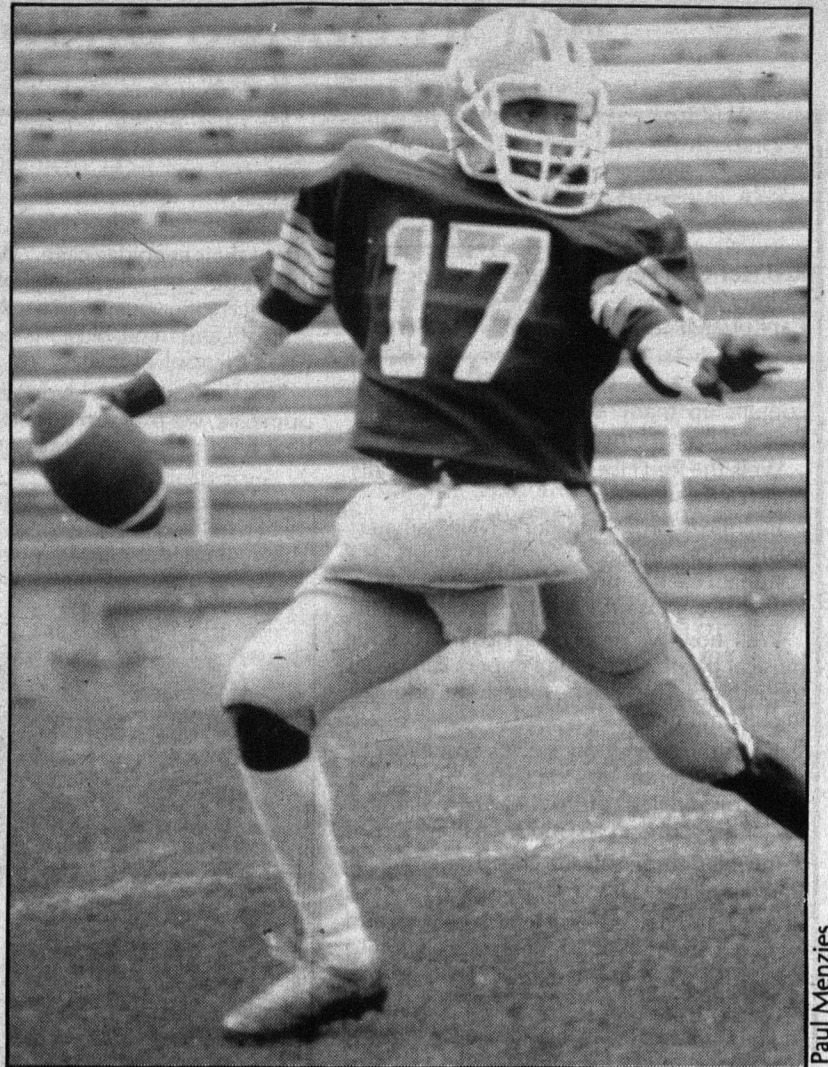
If Steinberg isn't able to play, the offence will be in the hands of freshman quarterback Rob Taylor. Mike Kolodnicki will be his backup. "Rob Taylor is a hell of a quarterback. I have a lot of confidence in him and so does the team. And Mike (Kolodnicki) has a gun (for an arm)."

Taylor has played a little in almost all of the Bears' five games this year. "Rob's worked the ball around," Steinberg said. "This is just a great situation for Rob Taylor to establish himself."

Taylor is comfortable starting, and in particular starting against Manitoba. "The first game I got a little time," Taylor said. "It felt pretty good. We had the running game



Timothy Glowa — The Gauntlet



Paul Menzies

Quarterback shuffle

Golden Bear starter Jeff Steinberg, left, will miss at least one week due to a protruding disc in his back. That leaves the quarterbacking duties to first year

man Rob Taylor. Taylor has seen duty in all five Bears' games this season, but Saturday's game in Manitoba will be his first start for the University of Alberta.

going." The Bears beat Manitoba 38-0.

The only problem Taylor may have is that he hasn't established a good rapport with his receivers. But Taylor is confident he can overcome the problem. "I feel more comfortable with the starting receivers," Taylor said. "They were the ones I worked with over summer. As backup quarterback I get lots of work with the receivers."

Manitoba is coming off a 59-43 loss to the University of Calgary Dinosaurs. "Their defence is unpredictable," Taylor said. "They did a lot of screwy things."

Head coach Jim Donlevy is concerned about the Bisons and isn't taking them lightly. "They are loose like a goose and they want to win," Donlevy said. "I've been playing them for a thousand years. What concerns me is their tenacity. You give them a chance and they'll win. You'd think Calgary would have stoned them."

Go Bears go! Go Bears go!

by Ben Kosman

The University of Alberta Cheer and Stunt Squad is in need of people to join their team. The team has thus far missed the football season due to its small numbers, and is in danger of missing the basketball season.

The Cheer and Stunt Squad currently numbers eight, six women and two men. At least two more men are required for the team to participate. Any number of women may join and participate so long as there are four men, although ideally there would be a 1:1 ratio.

"We will definitely miss the football playoffs (if a game is played

here) because of the time it takes to train new squad members," said Dana Hardy, the team's assistant coach. Hardy is the only remaining member from the U of A's last Cheer and Stunt Squad, in 1987-88. There was no team last year.

"We've had to start from scratch because there weren't as many people around who knew what was going on," said Hardy.

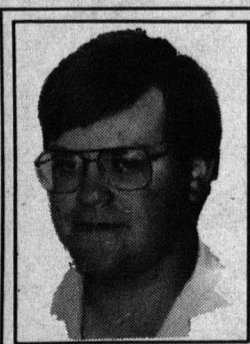
Cheer and Stunt is a collegiate style of cheerleading which is "not your average cheering squad." Cheer and Stunt involves various flips and stunts, as well as deep hollers and sharp movements. Cheer and Stunt has become highly

competitive in the United States; some schools offer scholarships for Cheer and Stunt participation.

Hardy adds that anyone can become involved in Cheer and Stunt, even though the techniques used are somewhat technical. "The two guys we currently have started at zero, and they're ready to do a game now. Training only took four short weeks."

The first basketball game of the season is in three weeks. "If we don't find anyone soon," says Hardy, "we may have to give the whole thing up."

Anyone interested in joining the U of A Cheer and Stunt Squad is asked to call 469-0603 or 454-9261.



Alan Small

by Alan Small

I was darned confident who would win the 1989 World Series until yesterday morning when pal Phil Preville said that the combination of Giants second baseman Robby Thompson and ALCS MVP Will Clark was too much of a historical coincidence to ignore.

Hark back to 1951, if you can. That 2-1 pitch that Bobby Thompson swatted into the left field seats at the Polo Grounds with Willie Mays, perhaps the best hitter of his day, on deck. It gave the New York Giants the NL pennant, and that three run shot finished the biggest comeback in baseball history.

Let's imagine, game seven of the World Series. Pinch hitter Ernie Riles is on second, Brett Butler on first, with the unheralded Robby Thompson at the plate against A's stopper Dennis Eckersley. Will Clark is on deck, perhaps the best hitter of his day, Thompson swats Eckersley's slider into the left field seats and the Giants win the World Series, the Giants win the World Series...

God Forbid.

I've had it pretty bad in the last ten Fall Classics and many of them have had the classic storybook finishes. 1979 had Willie Stargell's eighth inning homer off of Scott McGregor in game seven to win the series after being down 3-1.

Jay Johnstone's homer off of Ron Davis in the pivotal fifth game led the way for the hated Dodgers to a 4-2 win over my beloved Yankees, after the Bronx Bombers led 2-0.

Kirk Gibson cranked a Goose Gossage fastball into the upper deck in Tiger Stadium to crush the Padres. In '85, ump Don Denkinger blew what would have been the final out of the series as Todd Worrell beat Jorge Orta to first base. Denkinger's safe call gave Dane long a chance to drive in the tying and winning runs and force a seventh game. The Royals won 10-0 and the original Loco Dominicano Joaquin Andujar got thrown out

after telling Denkinger where to go for me. I should thank Andujar one of these days.

Vin Scully described the '86 Series the best. "A little roller up along first. BEHIND THE BAG, IT GETS THROUGH BUCKNER! HERE COMES KNIGHT AND THE METS WIN IT!"

I went with Whitey and the Cards again in '87, but if they only knew how to play in the Metrodome for one game, I might have put the Decade of Despair behind me. I look back and wonder how I could pick the Jack Clark-less Cardinals over Kirby and the boys in Minneapolis. Still "we" were up 3-2 and blew it.

1988 was by far the most heartbreaking series in the Decade of Despair. Not only did it make my losing streak go into double digits, but it was those villainous Dodgers once more, beating my Oakland A's. The A's had more power than the James Bay Hydro project, the best stopper in baseball, Eckersley, and Jose Canseco, the charter member of the 40-40 club. But they didn't have Orel, they didn't have the flaky Mickey Hatcher, and of course, they didn't have Roy Hobbs, er, Kirk Gibson. If you can't figure out that allegory, go rent *The Natural* before Saturday.

To see my A's, who I've cheered for since '72, go down so easily to such a lacklustre

team like last year's Dodgers was devastating.

"My" A's are back again for another kick at the can and are better than ever. Arguably, this is the best team put together since the '78 Yankees or the '73 A's. Rickey Henderson is the best leadoff hitter in history (I knew that before he smoked the Jays), the two most prodigious home run hitters of the '80s Mark McGwire and Canseco, a strong batch of starters, and a stopper, Eckersley, that walked only three batters all year.

The Giants, on the other hand don't have the best leadoff hitter in history, they don't have a strong batch of starters and their stopper, Steve Bedrosian, gave up four times as many homers as Eckersley walked. Their two big sluggers, Kevin Mitchell and Will Clark, are better than anything Oakland saw against Toronto, however.

I'm picking Oakland to win it in five games, but I worry about Clark. He looks like a loudmouth braggart on the field, but he has an "aura" of winning that precious few ball players possess. Reggie had it, Gehrig had it, Mick had it, and Hershiser had it last year. Finally, Clark is also a lot better than Kirk Gibson. The Giants also have the planets on their side.

I hope once, just once that logic wins out over destiny.