

Football Bears have their backs to the wall



Korte, Kasowski ready to move on

by Jay O'Neill

This past Saturday was not only the last regular season home game of the season for the Golden Bear football team, but also for two players who won't be back in a Bears uniform next year.

Fifth year players, Steve Kasowski and Brent Korte, walked off the field at Varsity Stadium for the last time as Golden Bears. Both have had outstanding careers during their tenure for the University of Alberta.

This year Kasowski left his mark with the Golden Bears by etching his name into their record book. He broke Brian Fryer's career record for total points of 211. Kasowski broke the record during the second game of the year and should finish his career with close to 250 points.

Kasowski is not afraid to say what is in store for him next year. "I'm pretty confident that I can make it with one of these (CFL) clubs as a punter."

Helping him on his journey to the professional ranks will be the CFL's all time point leader, Dave Cutler. Cutler will help him with the administration aspect of the football business. This will involve contacting people for possible openings for a punter/placekicker and setting up tryouts with teams.

"He knows all the people and they know him (and) when Dave speaks people listen," Kasowski said.

Kasowski wished he would have seen more team success for the Bears. "It's frustrating. I've been a lucky on in that I'm the only one in this club that's made the playoffs and had a winning season (1984)." (The Bears were 5-3 in 1987 and lost 26-8 to UBC in the playoffs.)

It's hard playing five-six years and seeing the same thing over and over — just not finishing," said a dejected Kasowski referring to the fact the Bears could have wrapped up a playoff spot with a win over the UBC Thunderbirds.

Linebacker Brent Korte has been a mainstay on the Bear defence over the past five years. Defensive Coach Dave Morris says Korte has been a great player and leader on and off the field.

Korte has received many accolades during his career. He has been voted a second team all-Canadian and Western Intercollegiate all-star in 1987 and 1988; been voted the Shrine Bowl MVP in 1987 and 1988 and was named to represent the West in the American East-West Shrine Bowl.

Korte, who had a tryout with the Edmonton Eskimos this past spring, would like to give the CFL another

by Ajay Bhardwaj

The football season is on the line. You can use all the cliches in the world when describing the situation the football Bears face this weekend. But plain and simple, they are in a must win situation.

Going into Sunday's game in Saskatoon, the 4-3 Bears must beat the Huskies and then get some help from Calgary. The Dinosaurs have to beat UBC in order for the Bears to qualify for the playoffs. If the Bears lose and Calgary wins, the Dinosaurs will make the playoffs. UBC can make it easy on themselves by winning. That would mean a trip

to the playoffs for the Thunderbirds. Only the top two teams qualify for the playoffs.

The Bears could have avoided this scenario by defeating UBC last week. But they dropped a 37-9 decision to the T-Birds. "It was our mid-term exam and we choked," defensive back John Falconer said.

"It was demoralizing," linebacker Jeff Tobert said. "All year long we were talking about controlling our own destiny, and when it came down to it, we didn't do it." Now their destiny is in the hands of the Dinosaurs. "We can't worry about the other game."

"We're in a circle," said defensive linemen Rick Medcke. "UBC's got our number, we've got Calgary's number, and Calgary's got UBC's number. That's why we're in the position we're in."

The Bears dropped an 8-7 game here against Saskatchewan on September 16. It was a tight game in which the Bear offence couldn't put the ball in the endzone.

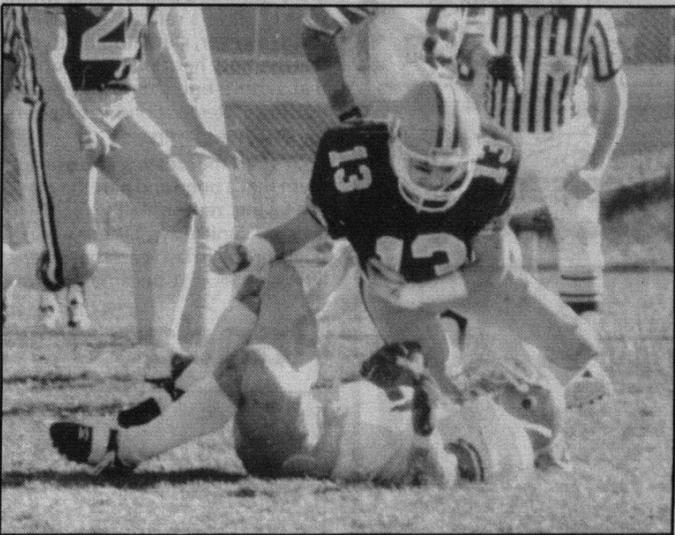
The rematch is something the Bears are waiting for anxiously. "Anytime you play Saskatchewan it's good clean fun," said Falconer. "We're looking forward to it."

Saskatchewan is a well-balanced team. They possess two of the top four runningbacks in Canada West, two of the top four receivers, and their quarterback, David Earl, is second in passing. Finally, all-Canadian slotback Dan Farthing will play this weekend. He missed the first meeting between the two clubs.

"They're going to pass a lot," Tobert said. "Their running game is more diverse than UBC's. Their big run play is the pitch. We just have to shut them down."

Falconer and the defensive backs know what they have to do. "They run quick patterns. They're big inside. We have to get a bump on them and jam them."

The season hangs in the balance. The Bears have to be ready. "If you can't get up for this one, you're a corpse," Tobert said.

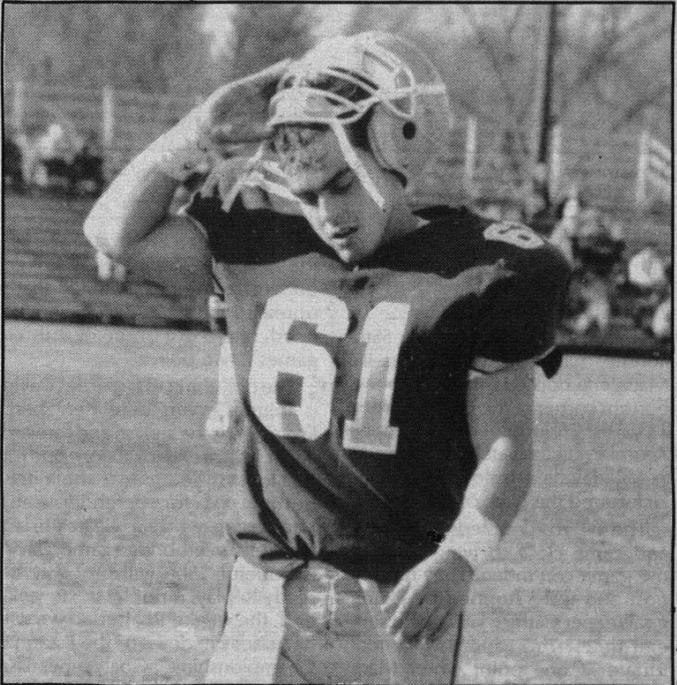


Photos by Paul Menzies

shot. If he doesn't make it as a pro, he won't be too disappointed because to him, "football is fun and it is good to do and if you can make a career out of it great, but..."

The "but" involves his life outside of football. He almost didn't return to the Bears this year because of a job opportunity with the Special Olympics. Head Coach Jim Donlevy feels Korte will be a valuable asset to an organization like Special Olympics, because of the mixture of his education and personality.

Korte's and Kasowski's careers as collegiate football players are winding down and they will soon be embarking on their future careers. They have succeeded as Golden Bears and no doubt, will succeed in the future.



This is it

Linebacker Brent Korte and Kicker Steve Kasowski played their final regular season home game on Saturday against UBC. They didn't go out in style, as the Bears fell by the wayside 37-9.

Mismatch on the coast

by Ajay Bhardwaj

This weekend's confrontation on the coast between the UBC Thunderbirds and the University of Alberta Golden Bear hockey teams looks like a mismatch. The T-Birds have an anemic attack (just nine goals in four games, including being shutout back to back last week by Regina), while the Bears have averaged nearly six goals a game in their first four games.

"Hopefully they'll keep their (shutout) streak alive," Golden Bear forward Doug McCarthy said. "They still have a strong team. They've got a couple of quality hockey players."

However, the Bears don't expect to go into UBC and shutout the T-Birds like Regina did at home. "I don't think we can expect to," captain Howie Draper said. "We'll look for offensive chances and hopefully we can get a sweep."

Coming off a weekend series against the Brandon Bobcats in which the Bears surrendered ten goals, goalie John Krill is looking for a better performance. "It starts with practice," Krill said, who gave up six goals on Friday. "I'll just have to come out early." Krill is looking forward to playing against the T-

shots. They have something to prove. They'll come out flying."

If the Bears are to continue to set a torrid scoring pace, they'll need to get more production from winger Todd Gordon. Playing on a line with Marty Yewchuk and Rob Glasgow, Gordon has failed to put the puck in the net this season. "I'm just struggling," Gordon said. "I'm a bit of a grinder type. I'll get my goals and lots of hits too."

The Bears enter the contest at

4-0, while the Thunderbirds are 1-3. With a war of attrition amongst the seven teams behind them, the Bears may be able to put some distance between themselves and the rest of the pack with two wins in UBC.

ON THE BENCH: Defenceman Grant Couture, who sat out last week's series against the Bobcats with a groin injury, is healthy.

Friday's game will be broadcast on FM88 at 8:30 p.m.



U of A forward Doug McCarthy makes Brandon goalie Doug Roach beg for mercy.

Paul Menzies

Ron Sears