

# Alberta's Bears As Good As Gold

By Alex Hardy

University of Alberta Golden Bear head football coach Gino Fracas finds himself in the same predicament as last year:

With all those good ball players, how does he fit them all into the lineup?

Fracas has what amounts to a coach's pat hand, stocked with 24 returnees from the 1963 championship team.

He boasts of a tough, physically able squad. Several second-stringers could star in the starting dozen of most any intercollegiate team in the country.

Last year's Golden Bear defense gave up only 74 points in seven games to rival clubs. This year, with linemen as broad as an elephant's beam, they may put up even stiffer resistance.

The defensive anchor is Paul Brady, one of the best middle guards outside Canadian pro ranks. The five-foot nine-inch, 210-pounder won all-star intercollegiate honors in 1963. Versatile, he is capable of filling in at linebacker on defense, and at guard, centre or tackle on offense.

A contingent of 16 of the most promising newcomers ever to don Bear uniforms fills out a squad already thick with game-winners.

The new faces are Steve Egbert, Vern Simonsen, Don Green, Harry Fedun, Harry Cogill, Lou Liska, Larry Speers, Bob Allin, Jay Stevens, George Severin, Howie Green, Ed Molstad, George Santarossa, Dave Rowand, Bill Piggott and Jack Jenner. They may prove as impressive as this year's new cars.

Fracas has three of the nation's



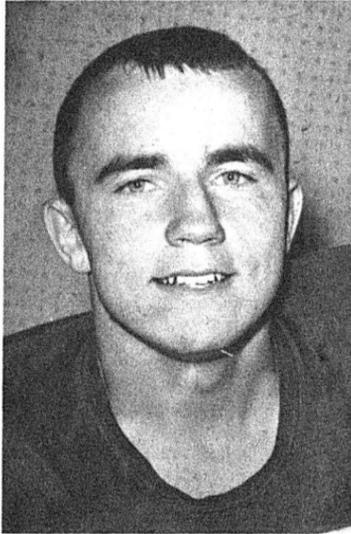
**IRWIN STRIFLER**  
... A Hard Runner

fastest and best backs in Ken Nielsen, Clarence Kachman and Irwin Strifler. Bert Carron would make it an even four, but he may miss the season with a dislocated elbow suffered last weekend.

The exciting Nielsen, with his formidable speed and pass-catching ability, is the keystone of what promises to be the Bruins' most wide open offense in years. And the perennial Western Intercollegiate all-star isn't the only Bear who can fly.

The quick, skittering Kachman more than makes up for any size deficiencies (5-foot-8, 155 pounds) with his shifty running and exceptional pass-snaring.

The 23-year-old physical education major is equally at home at offensive or defensive halfback, and



**RENNIE BRADLEY**  
... Can Go Two Ways

earned all-star rating at the former position in 1963.

Strifler is another member of the herd of fast backs. A 195-pound first-string fullback offensively, his agility puts him in good stead as a defensive back.

A slasher who can run through and around tacklers, Strifler narrowly missed all-star rating last fall.

Carron's loss is severe, but not devastating. In Dmetro Rosiewich, Fracas has a bruising fullback who would satisfy any coach in the conference.

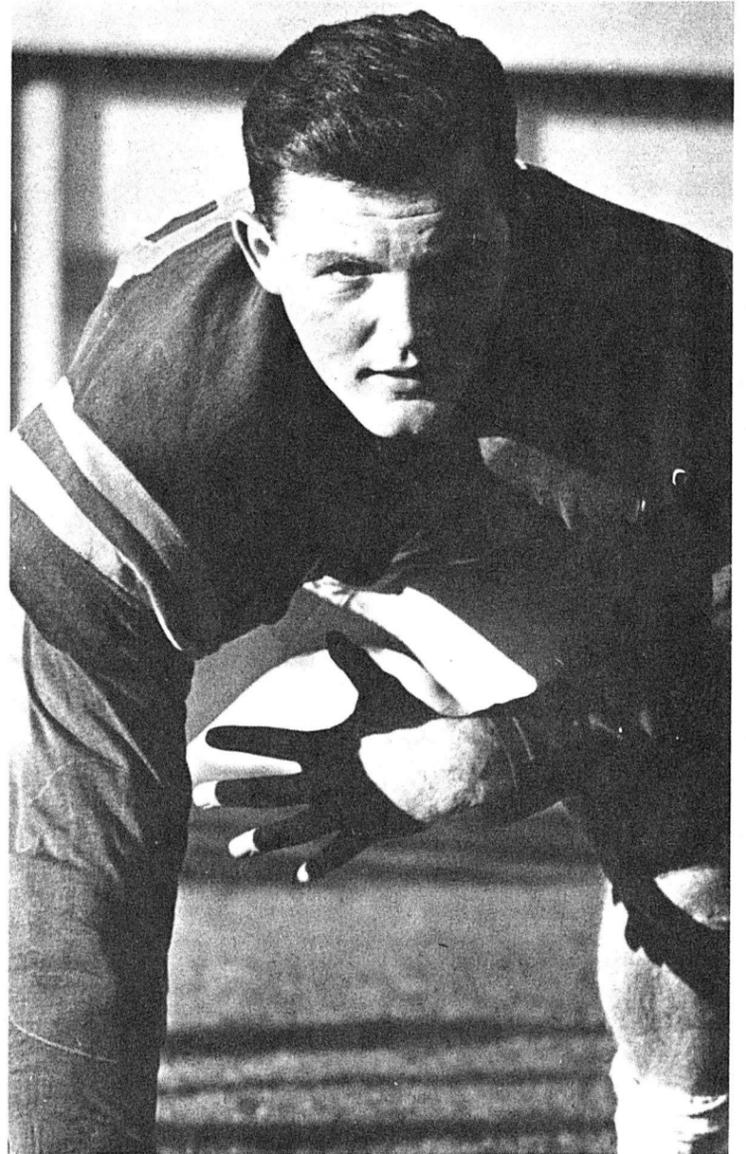
The six-foot-one, 205-pounder proved invaluable when Carron was hurt last year, and should go even better this time. An education major, he can handle linebacking chores defensively.

Two other sturdy back-up fullbacks are rookies Howie Green and Piggott.

Green, 25, a 5'9", 185-pounder, is a graduate student who starred on last winter's Golden Bear national championship hockey team. The Redlake, Ont. native played football and hockey at Queen's University before coming West. He will likely see most of his action at corner linebacker, but may get a shot at fullback.

Piggott, another Eastern Canadian (Toronto) boy, will see limited action this year. A 19-year-old freshman, he can look forward to a lengthy future in Golden Bear livery.

"The outstanding thing about this boy," says Fracas, "is his determination. And he likes to hit hard. He has fine potential and should develop



**RON FINCH**  
... Good Short Receiver

into a good one."

Five hard-to-shake defensive stalwarts—Rennie Bradley, Bill Woywitka, George Short, Severin and Allin, provide the best offensive backfield support in the country. Any or all would be starters in any other conference backfield, and can fit in nicely here without causing Fracas any loss of sleep.

Bradley is a corner linebacker and member of the punt return squad. Fracas' appraisal of the 5'8", 180-pounder: "A true hardrock. He loves to hit the opposition."

Severin, a whippet on offense and an alert defender, worked at safety in Bears' opener last weekend. A native of Glendon, Alta., he played for Alberta two years ago, but sat out last campaign.

Short is blessed with the prime requisite of a defensive back—speed. The 23-year-old senior has already been drafted by Calgary Stampeders.

A native of Saskatoon, the 6'2", 185-pounder has turned his back on an outstanding track career that took him to Rome in 1960 as a member of Canada's Olympic team.

Woywitka, originally from Vancouver, has the reputation as an alert defender. A safety man, 21-year-old Woywitka, in Fracas' words, "is quick and reacts well."

Allin, like Severin, sat out the '63 season after playing in '62. The 21-year-old senior has impressed in practice.

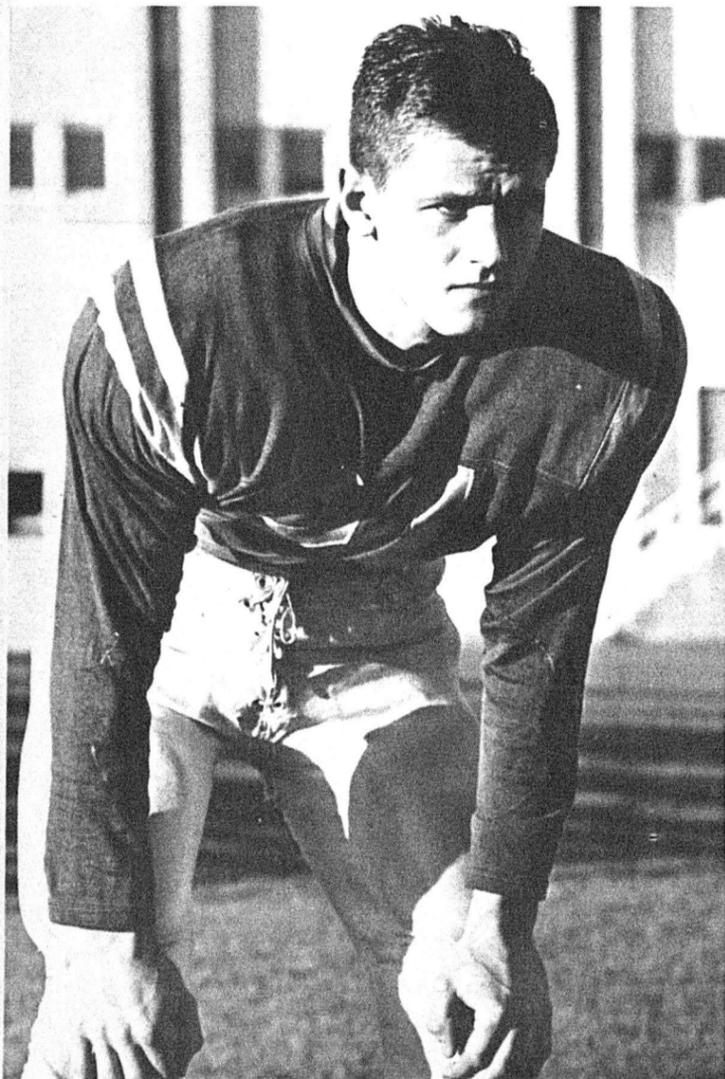
Ability is parceled out among two other backs, Stevens and Jenner. Both are young—Stevens is a sopho-

more, Jenner a freshman—and will likely fill in in spots to gain experience.

At quarterback the big man, Garry Smith, is gone. Fracas admits his loss will hurt, but Smith's departure may not be such a bad thing in the long run.

In Willie Algajer and Don Green, Fracas has two pivots with long varsity futures. Algajer, 21, is a junior; Green, 22, a freshman.

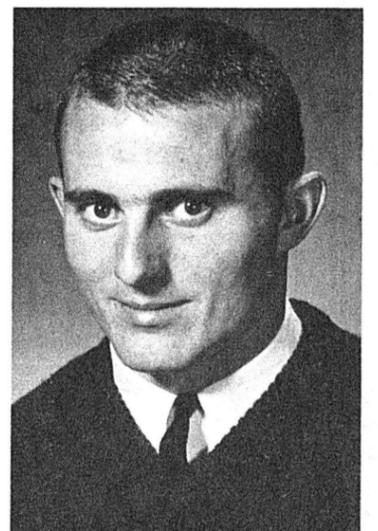
They may wind up sharing the position, especially since both are on excellent footing at defensive safety.



**KEN NIELSEN**  
... Best Pro Prospect



**GEORGE SHORT**  
... Speed on Defense



**BILL WOYWITKA**  
... Veteran Halfback