



Hundreds of University of Alberta grads will be returning to the U of A campus this weekend for the annual Homecoming Weekend football game and for other festivities which will bring back many rich memories. Also returning to the Alberta campus will be the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds; a football team which makes one recall only bad memories.

Last year the T-Birds walloped Alberta's favorite sons in BC and then came here to leave the bitterest memory of all, as they literally stole one from the Bears 21-19. Even when we were cheering for them the Birds left only bad memories as they were soundly thrashed in the Churchill Cup game.

Perhaps this is the year the Golden Bears will send the folks home smiling and the Thunderbirds with their bags full of sorrowful memories. Tomorrow afternoon on the Varsity Grid they get their long-awaited opportunity to avenge that heartbreaking loss of 1959 and perhaps end UBC's glittering unbeaten record.

#### FIRST PLACE

Coming into town in their familiar first place, after their narrow 8-0 win over Saskatchewan's surprising Huskies, the Thunderbirds are still the team to beat in the west. They have the nucleus of last year's great club to build around and in pre-season games the 'Birds were impressive. Last Saturday in Saskatoon, they showed a tough hardhitting team, although the Huskies defended them well.

Frank Gnup, T-Bird coach, has moulded his veterans and his green newcomers into a strong club which should be similar to last year's crew. From that squad Franklin has veteran tackle George Turpin, guard Harry Prout and centre Ray Towers to anchor the line.

In the backfield he has fullback Roy Bianco, a dandy last time around, and the brother duet, the Olafsons. Returning at end are Wayne Osborne and Bruce McCallum, an all-star in the Evergreen conference two years ago. Stan Knight has stepped up to the number one quarterbacking post and from reports looks good.

A good crop of rookies has come up from the Vancouver junior Big Four but the most impressive find of the year is an ex-McMaster end, Doug Pitou. As Gnup smilingly stated, "He has the finest set of hands I have ever seen on any ballplayer". When one thinks of the players cigar-chomping Frank has seen come and go in his 25 years of football this is quite a statement.

Therefore, despite the moaning from the west of great player losses, the big, bad Birds are going to be just that for another season. They will be weaker, particularly along the line, but not that much.

#### BRIGHT OUTLOOK

As for the Green and Gold of Alberta, the picture was never brighter. They have the best pair of fullbacks in the conference in Ted Frechette, who appears headed for his best season yet, and Ernie Takacs, who was a great leader against BC last season. Their halves Messier, Neilson, Christensen and staff are all good runners, even if their blocking is spotty.

At quarterback, head coach is so well stocked he doesn't know who to start. Who should it be, the proven Bruce Bryson with all his experience and polish or the promising rookie Gary Smith with all his potential and the rough edges. This is a problem Murray Smith will lose sleep over until zero hour, two o'clock Saturday, October the eighth.

Along the line the Bears should be as solid as the proverbial rock. Their Kadatz's, Dallison's, Elock's, Braithwaite's, and Volland's look like they can do the job nicely and the ends, the Van Vliet's, the Dunnigan's, and the Ramanuk's will fit into the picture well.

This Alberta team is in the best position of their recent years to knock off the favored Thunderbirds and grab all the marbles for the first

time since 1948. They will be meeting a weaker band of Birds with the best shock troops Alberta has had since the revival of the conference. If the spirit and drive is there they should win. Frank Gnup, without a doubt, will have his gang "up" for this critical contest. The Bears

should be "up" and must be "up".

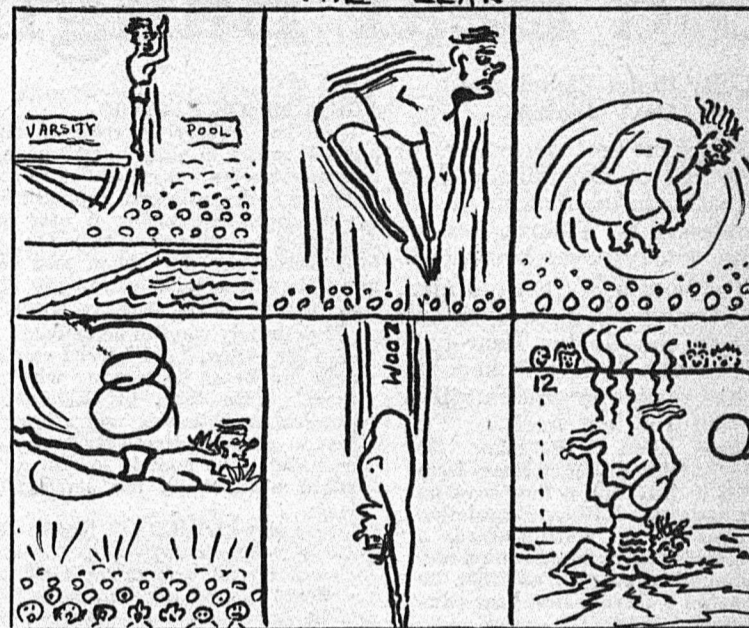
This is THE game of THE year and no one realizes this more than Murray Smith, Clare Drake, Frankie Morris, the Bears coaching staff, and the Golden Bear players themselves. They are all spending their free time going over the films of last year's bitter defeat; this is the one they have been determinedly awaiting since last October 9, almost a year to the day. Whoever wins this one will have taken a huge step towards the Churchill Cup game in November.

#### OUT ON A LIMB

Alberta's line coach strolled way out on the thin ice to give us the juiciest prediction in many a moon when he said, "If both teams play up to their peaks we will win by two converted majors, 14 big points".

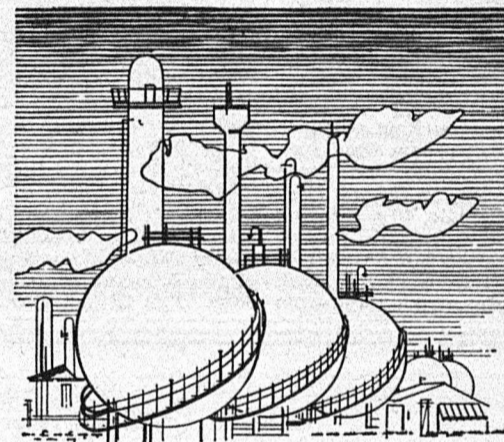
Ed Zemrau, the new Physical Education Building's business manager and late of the pro hockey wars, was more conservative but still a natural homer also when he called the Green and Bold by six. Drake called back before he disappeared down the hall, "Ed is obviously a 'rookie' here".

#### THE LEAK



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