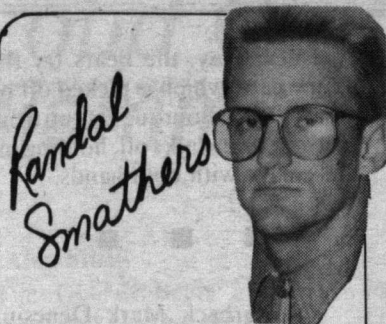


## Opportunistic Herd slips past Bears



*Randal Smathers*

"Fire Donlevy!"

It took almost a game before the first call came for a coaching change for the U of A football team. In the fourth quarter of the season opener, with the Bears down by 17, they lined up for a field goal. An irate fan sitting immediately below the pressbox could take it no more: "Why are they kicking the ball?" he moaned, then, in full bellow, "Fire Donlevy!"

It's nothing J.D. hasn't heard before. Two years ago, as the Bears lurched to a 1-7 mark, Mark Spector (then *The Gateway* sports editor, now with the *Edmonton Journal*) called for Donlevy's elimination in this very space.

Last year, when the Bears made the playoffs with a 5-3 mark, Donlevy was talking about being vindicated.

Then, this summer, disaster struck the program. The absolute rock of the offensive line, Russ Brown, and Mr. 38% of the Bears offence despite missing a full game — Mark Brus — went south, to Tulsa, to be exact.

Finally, center Kelvin Ostapowich (nicknamed "Wally" because that's more or less his shape) quit football, reportedly demoralized by his treatment in the Eskies camp, to take a banking job in Regina, just days before camp.

I ran across Brus and Brown during the Bears camp, and we skirted the reasons for their leaving, but they were obviously unhappy with Donlevy, amongst other things. This is a bad sign in the college game, when recruiting is so important.

The Bears this year, especially the decimated offence, have looked frequently awful. By the admission of Donlevy and several veterans, this year's team has lacked intensity, even in their home opener.

With the Bears struggling, the fans, media, and Athletics gurus will start looking for a scapegoat. Given the Tulsa mess, and the team's uninspired play, the first target will be Donlevy.

I happen to like Jim Donlevy; he has always treated everyone around him with courtesy after games, including losses. He is undoubtedly a knowledgeable football man, who is working hard to make the team succeed.

During my talk with Brown and Brus, Brus asked me what I thought of the team's chances this year.

"One and seven," I said. "And J.D. gets fired."

"I dunno," someone said. "Donlevy's got a lot of friends in Athletics and the alumni."

"That's good," I replied. "Because coaches that go one and seven two years out of three need all the help they can get."

Unless Donlevy gets some help from his offence, soon, there'll be more than one fan yelling for Donlevy's head.

by Alan Small  
Manitoba 21 Alberta 17

When the winning touchdown is scored against your team on a fake punt, it's hard to be philosophical.

"We rolled the dice and they came up snake eyes," said an exasperated Bear Head Coach Jim Donlevy after the game. In the third quarter, he sent 11 of his 12 players after punter Scott Nowicki, who coolly tossed a 42 yard pass and run play to safety Kevin McNutt for the third Bison touchdown. McNutt wasn't the only player open for the stand-in quarterback. After McNutt caught the ball, the Herd had no less than five blockers to fend off Todd Matheson, who was the lone Bear back on the play.

"We worked on that in practice all week," said McNutt, "because they like to send 11 guys on punts. We just waited to get over the 40-yard line to use it."

"(The play) was just good coaching on their part," said Donlevy. "It was a kamikaze play and we lost."

The loss could hardly be blamed on the special teams; the Bear offence turned the ball over seven

### Bear Football

times, twice in the second quarter while deep in their own end. Chris Olson recovered a Tom Houg fumble on the Bear 37, but the Bisons got no points from it after an illegal procedure call knocked them out of touchdown range, and when Nowicki's field goal attempt rang off the goal post.

Two plays later saw backup Jeff Steinberg throw his only pass of the day (in his only series) to Bison defensive back Brad Freund, who returned the ball to the Bear four yard line. Three plays later, Bison quarterback Chad McKay scored on a great second effort: after being soundly throttled by linebacker Lenard Sawatzky, he fell into the end zone to give the Bisons a 14-1 lead.

The Bisons scored their first

## 0 - 3 Bears need to work harder

by Brian Crowley

Take two interceptions, stir in four fumbles, sprinkle with an assortment of dumb, drive-ending penalties, and what do you get? You get a loss, as the Bear offence found out on Saturday afternoon at Varsity Stadium, bowing 21-17 to the University of Manitoba Bisons.

Despite an aggressive, emotional display by the Bear defence, the offence just made too many mistakes against the opportunistic Bisons. Coach Jim Donlevy summed up his team's offensive woes as he took aim at his foot. "Bang!" he exclaimed. As the midway point of the season approaches, the young Bear offence is still



Bear tight end Steve Camp (76) clears path for back Kent Kern (25).

major on an impressive 10 play-100 yard drive early in the second quarter. It was a great aerial display by McKay and his corps of receivers as it took only six passes to move the ball from their 10 to the Bear 15 yard line. They ran the ball in from there, ending with a one yard plunge by linebacker Mark Erickson.

"They had a good drive," said Bear linebacker Jim Toomey. "They certainly earned a touchdown."

A Steve Kasowski field goal on the half's last play made the score 14-4 at the half for Manitoba.

In the second half, Bear starting quarterback Mark Denesiuk began to take control. Shortly after the fake punt, Denesiuk took them down the field and rookie Kent Kern rambled in from the four to put the Bears back in the game. Things were looking good for the Bears, but little did they know it was to be their only touchdown of the day, against a tough Bison defence.

The outlook was even better for Donlevy's gang on the ensuing kickoff when Bison returner Jayson Jeppesen pitched the ball to his shadow and Bear Brent Korte

recovered at the Manitoba 28. The Bears elected to give the ball to Kern twice and he only got five yards on two plays, forcing Kasowski to kick his second field goal of the contest.

Later in the quarter, the Bears came up short again after starting on their own 28. Denesiuk was throwing strikes, as his main target was wide receiver Pierre Bourque, who caught passes of 16 and 37 yards on the drive. The latter pass came after Bourque had burned Bison cornerback Roy Brown on an identical pattern, one which Brown had to haul down the speedy wide-out and give the Bears a much needed first down on the interference call. A look-in pass to Houg put the Bears inside the 10, but the Bison defence held and Kasowski was again sent out to kick a field goal which eventually would finish the scoring on the day.

Two desperation plays late in the fourth quarter killed the Bears. After a huge goal line interception and 33 yard return by Neil Ferguson, the Bears went for it third and two, and came up short, with six minutes left to go.

The Bear defence, which laid some punishing hits on all day,

stuffed the Bisons on two more series, giving the offence more chances.

Denesiuk started to drive the Bears once more in the hurry-up offence, completing three big passes. A fourth, on an out to Darryl Szafranski, was called back because Denesiuk stepped over the line of scrimmage. That play took the momentum away from the offence, especially Denesiuk, who threw an interception to McNutt on the next play, and the game was virtually over.

"It's very frustrating," said a morose Denesiuk. "We should be doing better than this. We've got no one to blame but ourselves."

"We just need everything to click at once," said nose tackle Rick Medcke. "We need to play a lot more physically defensively. Singer and Sawatzky kill a guy and everybody acts like they expect it."

What won't help the Bears is stewing over this loss for two weeks. They start the home-and-home Shrine Bowl on September 23 at Commonwealth Stadium.

"It'll be a long two weeks," said Toomey. "It'll be a lot of hard work. We certainly didn't plan on it this way."

"We dug ourselves as deep as we can go," said linebacker Jim Toomey. "We have to win five in a row. It won't be easy."

"This isn't near the 1-7 team we had two years ago," said nose tackle Rick Medcke. "That team was a lot younger. This team has a lot of potential."

Bisons 21		Bears 17	
<b>4th Quarter</b>			
ALTA FG Kasowski 14 2:02			
MAN	0	14	7 0 -21
ALTA	1	3	10 3 -17
<b>1st Quarter</b>			
ALTA Single, Kasowski 30 9:21			
<b>2nd Quarter</b>			
MAN TD, Erickson 4 yd run (Nowicki convert) 9:08			
MAN TD, McKay 1 yd run (Nowicki convert) 12:55			
ALTA FG, Kasowski 24 15:00			
<b>3rd Quarter</b>			
MAN TD, McNutt 42 yd pass from Nowicki (Nowicki convert) 4:57			
ALTA TD, Kern 4 yd run (Kasowski convert) 10:09			
ALTA FG, Kasowski 30 11:53			
<b>YARDSTICKS</b>			
	Man.	Alta.	
First Downs	12	13	
Rushing	48	109	
Net Offence	268	281	
Passing	220	196	
Passing C-A	18-29	13-28	
Punts-Avg.	12-33.2	8-35.6	
Pen. No.-Yds	10-100	6-61	
Fumbles-lost	1-1	5-4	
Interceptions	3	3	