

sports

Oldtimers prepare for final game

by Darrell Semenuk

They're not quite ready for old age security, but they're still referred to as the old men on the team. The trio of Brian Towne, George Paleniuk, and Ray Manz are the three senior members of the Golden Bears football squad, but neither of the three will own up to being the oldest.

Manz, a defensive halfback, is 26 years old, and oddly enough is a rookie with the Bears. After playing three years with the Regina Rams, including two championships, he joined the Bears this year for his first taste of Canadian College football.

The Regina native went to the University of Colorado in 1972 to get his Masters degree in Physical Education, after graduating from the University of Regina. While at Colorado he was a graduate assistant coach with the football team which competes in the Big Eight conference.

"I had a couple of reasons for playing with the Bears. I wanted to compare College football in Canada to football in the U.S. I also wanted to see what the coaching is like."

To no one's surprise the differences are enormous, particularly the monetary ones. "They spend more money on telephone calls than our whole budget for football," related Manz. "They spent \$65,000 on telephone calls. They had 12 full time coaches and a squad of 130 players. Manz, who is presently in the doctoral program at the U of A, was in a position as one of the coaches at Colorado, where he could examine the athletic budget. The budget for the football team alone came to two million dollars. The budget for the football team at the U of A is around \$30,000.

The defensive halfback says that he doesn't feel like a rookie, and you can hardly blame him. One of his fellow colleagues in the Phys. Ed. faculty is his head coach. Besides that, how many college rookies do you know that have been married for 6 years. As Towne says, "He's got some salvation in the fact that he's a rookie. But he's a very old rookie."

The real battle for the old age



Old age hasn't caught up with Ray Manz, George Paleniuk and Brian Towne to the extent that their games are spent snoozing in wheelchairs at

the sidelines. But the three do represent the senior citizens on the Golden Bears Football squad, who play their final home game Sat. at 2 p.m.

photo Don Tru

home on the team is between Towne and Paleniuk. Neither will admit to being the eldest, each trying to pass the distinction onto the other guy.

Towne relates the friction between the two players. "George won't admit to being the oldest. There's some bad feelings between us," smiled Towne. "All you have to do is look at him to realize that." A blatant reference to Paleniuk's receding hairline. A certain sign of old age if ever there was one. "He's always coming up with phony ID cards saying that he's younger than he really is."

Towne, one of the co-captains, is presently hobbling around on crutches, his right leg in a cast after suffering torn knee ligaments against UBC in the Bear's last home game. The linebacker has indications of his old age too. He's had as much coaching experience as he has playing experience. Entering his third year as a Golden Bear, he's coached 3 years at Harry Ainley High School, including a number

of his teammates on the present Bear roster.

"It's really interesting playing with guys I've had a coaching relationship with," says Towne. The three year veteran has announced that this will be his final year, but like Manz and Paleniuk, would like to continue coaching.

When Towne joined the Bears in 1974, at the age of 24, he was tabbed "the old man" and admits that he enjoys the old man image, but not to the extent that he would accept undeserved credit for being the senior citizen on the squad. That honour, he says, should be reserved for Mr. Paleniuk.

Not so, says the five-year veteran of the WIFL. Paleniuk, when asked about his age, responded, "You can put down 26. I'm somewhere between 26 and 36." Actually Paleniuk did admit to his real age, but only on the promise that it didn't appear in print. Mr. Paleniuk is 6' and weighs 200 lbs. His age will remain a secret with me. As to the phony ID, he admits to having a pair. "Actually I've got two sets. I had a phony Social Insurance card made up when I was 15 so I could get a job."

Paleniuk graduated from the Edmonton Wildcats in 1970, after playing 3 years with the junior club, which he joined after leaving Victoria Composite High School. He then played for the Manitoba Bisons for 3 years before joining Alberta 2 seasons ago, sitting out last year. He's been around so long that there is no one left in the league who played during his first season.

In terms of playing experience Paleniuk is leading everyone on the team. "I've been playing football for 15 years, that includes from Bantam up to College, and in that time I've only missed about 5 games."

Two of those five games occurred in Bears' last two games which Paleniuk missed because of stretched knee ligaments.

In those 15 years he's played nearly every position imaginable. He's played every line position on defence and offence save for centre, and even logged some time as fullback and linebacker.

He attended the camp of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in 1974, the year of the CFL players strike, but was shifted from position to position, and in the defensive tackle's words, "was lost in the shuffle." Paleniuk no longer has aspirations to play pro - "Not now, because my age is against me." Are you listening Messrs. Towne and Manz?

If Paleniuk feels old it's no wonder, especially when he starts to think back on his career. "In my first year of College some of these guys weren't even in high school. When I was in high school some of them would be in grade 2 or 3."

Towne will have to be content with watching the game from the sidelines, a bottle of glasses clasped in his shaking hand, urging on his two aging mates as they prepare for what could be the final game of their careers.

Bears take on the Manitoba Bisons Saturday afternoon 2:00 pm at Varsity stadium. Bears need a win, coupled with a loss by UBC, who play the Calgary Dinosaurs at Vancouver, to win the playoffs.

For the three aging veterans the flesh may be weak but the spirit is willing. The old men still play with the youngsters.

Bears to get stung?

by Darrell Semenuk

The U of A Golden Bears hockey team will take on the Concordia Stingers in two exhibition games Saturday and Sunday evening at 8:00 p.m. in Varsity arena.

The Stingers are rated as the top College team in Canada. They compiled a record of 19-0-1 during conference play and an overall log of 43-3-1 during the 75-76 season. They were upset in the CIAU finals 3-2 in overtime by the U of Toronto Blues last spring.

The Bears met the Loyola Warriors on their way to the National title two years ago under head coach Clare Drake. Bears beat the Warriors two games straight, but Drake concedes that they may have been the best club they faced on their way to the national title.

"I think they were the

strongest. They were the most balanced team offensively. I think they have 9 or 10 players left on the team we faced 2 years ago. The head coach feels that the competition this early in the season is good for the team. I'm pleased that they're ranked number one. They will offer a good contest for us from Eastern Canada," said Drake.

The Stingers lost just one game from last year's powerhouse squad, and have on paper the strongest College team in Canada. They are led by winger Mark Shewchuk, who totalled 39 goals during the season. He has a total of 100 goals during his college career. He was joined by left winger Ron Hart who netted 42 goals last season.

This will be the Bears' first exhibition games before opening the season, Nov. 5, 6 and 7 in Calgary.

Cagers try tournaments

Both the Bears and Pandas basketball teams will be travelling to tournaments this weekend. The Bears will be competing in the annual Tri-U Classic, with Calgary being this year's hosts. The teams competing in this year's events will be the host Dinosaurs, Lethbridge Pronghorns and the Golden Bears.

coming off two Alumni basketball tournaments which they won 85-69 and 80-68. This will be the first real test for the squad, which is healthy for the tournament.

The Pandas travel to Winnipeg for a tournament involving six other teams. They include Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Regina, Lethbridge, and Winnipeg. The Pandas will be competing in the tournament from Winnipeg.

Sports Quiz

Answers page 2

- Who holds the NHL record for most assists in one year by a centre? (3pts)
- Name the three cities where Wilt Chamberlain played during his NBA career. (3pts)
- Who holds the CFL record for most field goals? a) Dave Cutler b) Larry Robinson c) Don Sutherland d) Jack Abendschan (1pt)
- Name the two heavyweight boxers who defeated Floyd Patterson for the world championship. (2pts)
- Match these NHL players with their junior clubs. (5pts)

1. Yvan Courtyer	a) Ottawa 67's
2. Michel Larocque	b) London Nationals
3. Juha Widing	c) Brandon Wheat Kings
4. Eric Vail	d) Montreal Junior Canadiens
5. Gary Unger	e) Sudbury Wolves
- According to the 1976 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records, Art Wall holds the world record for the most holes in one. How many? a) 11 b) 17 c) 33 d) 40 (5pts)
- Who holds the CFL record for the longest punt return? a) Mack Herron b) Bobby Thompson c) Larry Highbaugh d) Vic Washington e) Dave Raimey (2pts)
- Billy Reay has been coach of the Chicago Black Hawks for 12 years, which NHL team did he coach before moving to Chicago? (3pts)
- Phil Esposito holds the NHL record for most 20 goal seasons. True or False. (3pts)
- This horse was the last triple crown winner since Secretariat. a) Assault b) Northern Dancer c) Citation d) Tim Tam (3pts)