

Rugger Bears impress in UBC invitational Tourney

Alberta teams surprise all as Calgary takes first, Golden Bears are consolation finalists

The calibre of Alberta rugger is improving.

Anyone who attended the combined UBC Invitational-Meraloma Club International Rugby Tournament in Vancouver on October 11-12 can attest to that.

Alberta university teams came up with strong performances, with the University of Calgary the overall winner. U of A Golden Bears lost the consolation final in overtime.

The results surprised the most knowledgeable rugger fans.

The biggest upset came when U of C edged the highly-rated UBC team 11-9. This game was followed by another underdog victory as U of A defeated another UBC team 3-0.

The wins have led to the realization by the Vancouver Rugby Union and the president of the Canadian Rugby Union, Mr. Bob Spray, that the time for varsity rugby competition in an organized league has arrived.

BEARS 3, TROJANS 5

U of A dropped their first game to the Vancouver Trojans in what

was a very exciting contest. The loss was undeserving, as the Bears outplayed the Trojans but were handicapped by a wet and sloppy field and a slippery ball.

Trojans scored first on a good play from the back of a line out, and converted the try to take a 5-0 lead. Bill Patrick kicked a penalty goal late in the first half to narrow the margin to 5-3. The Bears dominated play in the second half but were unable to score. The contest ended without further scoring.

UBC 27, BEARS 0

The Golden Bears dropped their second game to a very strong UBC team, 27-0. UBC has one of the most powerful teams in B.C., and proved their superiority very well.

The UBC team utilized their blind side wing and fullback in launching a devastating offensive attack. U of A lacked the real experience at offence, but defensively their backs did a good job of keeping the UBC backs in check. Andy Nikiforuk had the unenviable job of covering a UBC

player who is potential All-Canada material.

This loss dropped U of A into the consolation event.

BEARS 5, UBC 3

The third game for the Bears was undoubtedly their finest. The UBC team played in a division I league in Vancouver, and was expected to have no trouble in disposing of the upstart Albertans.

From the outset, though, it was Alberta's game. Bob Charter, Grant Burson and Andy Nikiforuk kept the UBC offence immobilized with their fierce and accurate tackling. The U of A scrum won most of the balls, with Bruce Switzer performing very well.

Alberta scored their try on a classic play. Grant Burson made a determined run toward the goal line after breaking from wing forward position. He took a fine pass from stand-off Mack Drum, only to be stopped at the goal line. A loose ruck formed from the line-out, the ball came loose and Reven McQueen passed back to Drum. Drum kicked the ball into the UBC end zone, and Andy Nik-

iforuk fell on it for the try.

Bill Patrick's all-important convert was good, and the Bears led 5-0.

TROJANS 6, BEARS 6

UBC narrowed the gap to 5-3 on a penalty kick, but were unable to produce more points. The game ended 5-3.

The win moved the Bears into the consolation final against the same Trojans whom they had lost to earlier.

By this time, the play and desire of the Bears had captured the imagination of the crowd, and they were wholly behind the team in the last game.

The loose play of the Golden Bears was unbeatable. On a long pass by the Trojans, a Golden Bear side winger intercepted and ran it back 30 yards. The ball was kicked into the end zone, but the Bears were unable to fall on it for the score.

The consistent kicking of forward Jack Morvan kept the Trojans bottled up in their own end.

Patrick put the Bruins ahead with a penalty kick during the first

half. Trojans came back with an unconverted try on an Alberta miscue, and the score was 3-3. Vancouver scored another try, and led 6-3 early in the second half.

"Mother" Bill Bethel set up the tying try as he caught the ball and with support from his forwards ran in to the 10 yard line. Nikiforuk collected the ball from a set scrum and went over for the score.

Grant Burson was injured just at the end of regulation time, but remained in the game for the overtime session.

The game ended suddenly for the Golden Bears in overtime as the Trojans scored from a loose ruck. The crowd remained strangely silent as the Bears trudged from the field.

Bob Spray, in awarding the Trojans the win, added that, "It was one of the saddest things to see the Golden Bears lose. Their play has thrilled everyone here."

Athletic director Ed Zemrau was pleased with the Bears' performance, and indicated there will be some serious thought on a varsity conference.

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A Freshman's Guide to the U of A.

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