

Bears off to the rising sun

by Bob Kilgannon

How sweet it is! The Golden Bear football team earned a trip to Halifax last Saturday with their 28-17 victory over the UBC Thunderbirds. That gives the Bears the Western Intercollegiate Football League (WIFL) championship and the right to meet Acadia this Sunday in the Atlantic Bowl.

The Bears won the game with solid defense and a big-play offense. Winning was anything but easy, though. UBC played well and forced the Bears to work hard for everything they got. There was never more than an eight point difference on the scoreboard until Trevor Kennerd kicked a 16-yard field goal with just 2:18 left in the game.

In the first quarter, both defenses played well and Trevor Kennerd's 42-yard field goal was the only scoring. UBC opened the second quarter with their own field goal, this one a 41-yarder by Ken Munro. Then the Golden Bear offense started to cook. Starting from their own 35 after the field goal, the Bears drove down-field, using up 5:10 on the clock in 13 plays. The march culminated with an explosive 26-yard touchdown run by Sean Kehoe. The drive was almost stopped three times, once on a UBC interception that was called back and twice on third-down gambles. Backup quarterback Jamie Crawford came in on those third-downs to keep the drive going.

The Thunderbirds replied with some offensive punch of their own as David Thistle, subbing for the injured Greg Clarkson, tossed a 43-yard touchdown pass to slotback Chris Davies. A couple of minutes later, the Bears got a break when a 70-yard Thistle-to-Davies touchdown pass was called back for holding. The defending league champs still managed to go into the dressing room at their half with the lead. At 14:55, Ken Munro's 18-yard field goal try went wide for a single, to give UBC an 11-10 half-time lead.

UBC had the momentum going for them at that point. The Bears collected themselves at the half though, and regrouped. They came storming out of the dressing room and changed the flow of momentum on their first offensive play. Forrest Kennerd hit Kerry O'Connor for 50 yards, down to the UBC one, on that first play. From there, fullback Rick Paulitsch punched the ball over to give the Bears a lead they never relinquished.

Asked about his big reception, O'Connor explained, "All it was was a play-action pass. I was on the backside and Forrest put the ball on the money."

Paulitsch also made a big play with his touchdown plunge. Although Paulitsch hurt his shoulder in the first quarter, he made a super effort just to finish the game.

The Thunderbirds weren't dead yet. They came back with their own touchdown on a two-yard run by Dave Thistle that capped an eight-play, 93-yard march. The convert that would have given UBC the lead was blocked by Pat Toth.

Finally, with just under nine minutes left in the game, the Bears' Sean Kehoe broke down the Thunderbirds' backs with an electrifying 77-yard touchdown run. From there, the Golden Bear defense took over, not allowing UBC to get any offense together. With two minutes left,

Trevor Kennerd added a field goal for some insurance and Gord Syme put the last nail into the T-Bird coffin with his interception in the last minute of play.

Headcoach Jim Donlevy was pleased with the attitude his players showed in the game. "We have 24 new players on this team and I have never seen a group of guys like them with such a cool, business-like attitude and such quiet confidence. The entire team displayed a lot when they gathered themselves up at half-time (after a little bit of a lapse into the second quarter) and then came out in the second half and did it."

Donlevy also had praise for the play of the Thunderbirds, saying, "To get out of this league, you really get your mettle tested, and today Frank Smith (UBC head coach) tested our mettle to the nth degree."

The Bears played well on Saturday and a lot of things could be said about the game. The best comments are probably those of a couple of players. Chris Davies, of the T-Birds: "They deserved to win. There's no doubt about it."

Or Forrest Kennerd, the Golden Bear quarterback: "It was a team effort. That's all you can say."



Photo Jim Connell

Rick Paulitsch (28) picked up 52 yards in Saturday's Western final. It will be the T-Birds turn to laugh when the snow falls.

Bear Facts

Three Golden Bears were chosen to the WIFL all-star team last week. They are kicker Trevor Kennerd, linebacker Dean Kmech, and safety Gord Syme.

Guard Ben Dur was also

selected as the league rookie of the year. Strange he wasn't an all-star, isn't it?

Running back Frank Cunningham, out for the last two weeks with bronchitis, should be ready to play against Acadia.

The game from Halifax will be seen this coming Sunday, on the full CBC network. It should start at 11:00 a.m. local time.

In the other playoff games on the weekend, Acadia won the Atlantic conference title with an 18-0 victory over the St. Francis X-men. Meanwhile the University of Western Ontario Mustangs upset the No. 1 ranked Sir Wilfred Laurier Golden Hawks 28-12. The final game saw the defending national champion Queens Golden Gaels smother McGill by a 22-5 count.

Terry Jonestown



IT REALLY GETS MY GOAT, what happened to the amateur sport Loto bucks. They've been signed over to Alberta Recreation and Culture. You know about Culture minister Messurier's purchase of pornographic art slides, but I've got the straight dope on what happened to the rest of the loot: Item: Premier Lougheed's collection of Mexican black velvet paintings. Day-glo mountains and female knife fighters figure prominently in the collection. Premier Pete gathered the objects d'art at a "Paintings by the Yard" exhibition in Barrhead. Item: Customized bikes with bells and training wheels for the MLA's exercise. Rumor is Bert Hohol was dropped as education minister because he piled a CCM Mustang into the Socred's bicycle built for six. Premier Pete, that little devil, is said to do wheelies and ride through puddles to splash small kids.

THEY'RE SO TACKY, I just about cry. Coach Brian Heaney is reeling at the basketball Bear's seedy uniforms. Brian says, "jersey cloth-polyester blends are out, out, out! When you look good, you play good!" Rumor is the Bears commissioned Christian Dior and are waiting for a sophisticated set of garments. It's hoped the U of A's small time image will be dispelled by the Parisian togs.

THERE IS NO JUSTICE. Since the Tories axed the travel subsidy to intercollegiate teams, the Bears have had travel problems. "It was okay" said one football team member, "If we went to Calgary we could steal a school bus, throw out the kids and wheel down south." Games to Saskatoon were tougher though: "It got pretty cold at night in the box-cars," said one soccer team member. Coach Donlevy is really concerned about the Vanier Cup game in Toronto. It's rumored the football Bears will dress up in drag to make thumbing to Toronto easier. I heard shipping the team by rail in ventilated cardboard boxes was out because of increased costs.

	Alberta	Yardsticks	UBC
First downs	21		20
Yards rushing	244		130
Yards passing	188		238
Passes att./comp	27/16		33/15
Fumbles/lost	2/2		0/0
Interceptions	1		1
Penalties/yards	5/35		9/95
Punts/average	7/37.7		15/36.8

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