

Bears drop tight defensive struggle

by Todd Saelhof

"The gods were against us," claimed frustrated University of Alberta Golden Bear linebacker Jeff Tobert following Saturday afternoon's defensive struggle against the 1-1 University of Saskatchewan Huskies. The struggle at Varsity Stadium saw the Huskies escape town with a narrow 8-7 victory over the hometown green and gold.

"We'll take the two points, get on the bus and get out of here," stated a relieved Husky head coach Brian Towriss, who is happy to be heading home victorious after giving up the preseason Rose City Bowl to the Golden Bears by a score of 30-27.

Actually the only force seemingly against the 1-1 Bears Saturday afternoon was the inability of the offense to convert points on any drive. Poor field goal kicking and a lacklustre offense resulted in a six point Bear first half, followed by a second half production of only one point.

"We just couldn't finish off a drive," remarked fourth year Bear quarterback Jeff Steinberg.

The Golden Bears did manage to amass 315 yards net offense, including a game total ground assault of 146 yards. Half of this running yardage was gained during the opening fifteen minutes of action, but the only first quarter point generated by the Bears came after Steve Kasowski was wide on a 39 yard field goal attempt.

Kasowski, who was Bear of the day last Sunday after surpassing Brian Fryer's record for most points in a career by a Golden Bear, also missed field goals of 27 and 40, the last attempt falling short with just forty seconds remaining in the match. Kicking partner John Cutler was also unsuccessful from 45, 37, and 40 yards out. The freshman kicker, however, did provide U of A with points hitting a 31 yard field goal with 1:54 remaining in the second quarter, allowing the Bears to take a 6-1 lead into the dressing room at half time.

The final thirty minutes saw the Bear offense stick to a pro-conservative style with overwhelmingly less success than in the first half. Head coach Jim Donlevy charged that "there wasn't anything conservative about [the offense]. We

were trying to take advantage of things Saskatchewan was doing." Unfortunately the Husky defense, pumped up for the final two quarters, appeared to stymie the Bears' rushing attack, limiting the Robin Mead-Red backfield to less than 50 yards in the second half.

With the Bears failing to move the yardsticks in the second half, the defense was called upon to thwart any possible Husky threat. Time after time, defensive coordinator Dave Morris' troops fulfilled all responsibilities restricting the U of S ball control offense to 276 yards and only 8 points.

Upon completion of the game, Husky coach Towriss aptly labelled "Alberta as the best defense in the league and Saskatchewan as the second best defense."

Golden Bear linebacker Len Sawatzky didn't hesitate to agree with the opposition coach, adding "I think we are number one in Canada. There's no doubt in my mind." The fourth year education student himself had a fantastic day, attacking the Huskies offense for a number of crucial tackles, including a critical third down stop of Husky runningback Terry Eisler on the Bears 17 yard line.

In fact, Sawatzky and the entire U of A defense shut down the running attack of the Huskies allowing only 45 net yards.

When Saskatchewan turned to the aerial game, the Bear secondary provided effective coverage, while fifth year man Brent Korte and the defensive line pressured Husky pivot David Earl. While Earl did post impressive 17 of 32 for 257 yards statistics, the highly touted U of S offense only dented the virtually unbreakable defense of the Bears.

"I have never been looking up at the sky so much in my life," claimed the Huskies' Earl, whose one touchdown pass in the third quarter to wide receiver Jordan Gaertner covering 81 yards proved to be the only major, and eventual deciding factor.

"They came up with the big play when they needed it," Earl added.

Indeed, All-Canadian linebacker Mark Singer hawked two Earl passes at critical points in the football game returning both interceptions



Dragos Ruiu

Bear runningback Jason Duxbury drags this Husky along during Saturday's action at Varsity stadium.

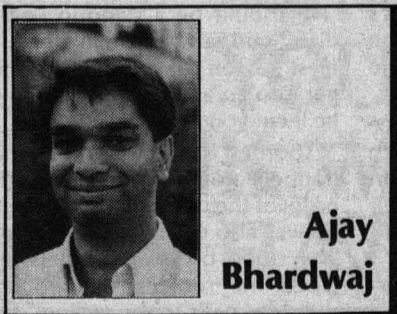
into scoring position. Once again, though, the bottom line of no finish plagued the green and gold offense.

"You get a couple of picks, get down to the 30 yard line and come away without points," a dejected Singer charged.

Coach Donlevy added that "the defense consistently gave us field position and we didn't finish. We had the opportunities and we didn't do it."

THROUGH THE AIR: Wide receiver Darryl Szafranski managed to haul in 105 yards on 5 receptions, in-

cluding a 45 yard beauty to set up the second quarter Cutler field goal. Quarterback Steinberg threw for 185 yards, going 14 of 23 with 3 interceptions and 0 touchdowns.



Ajay Bhardwaj

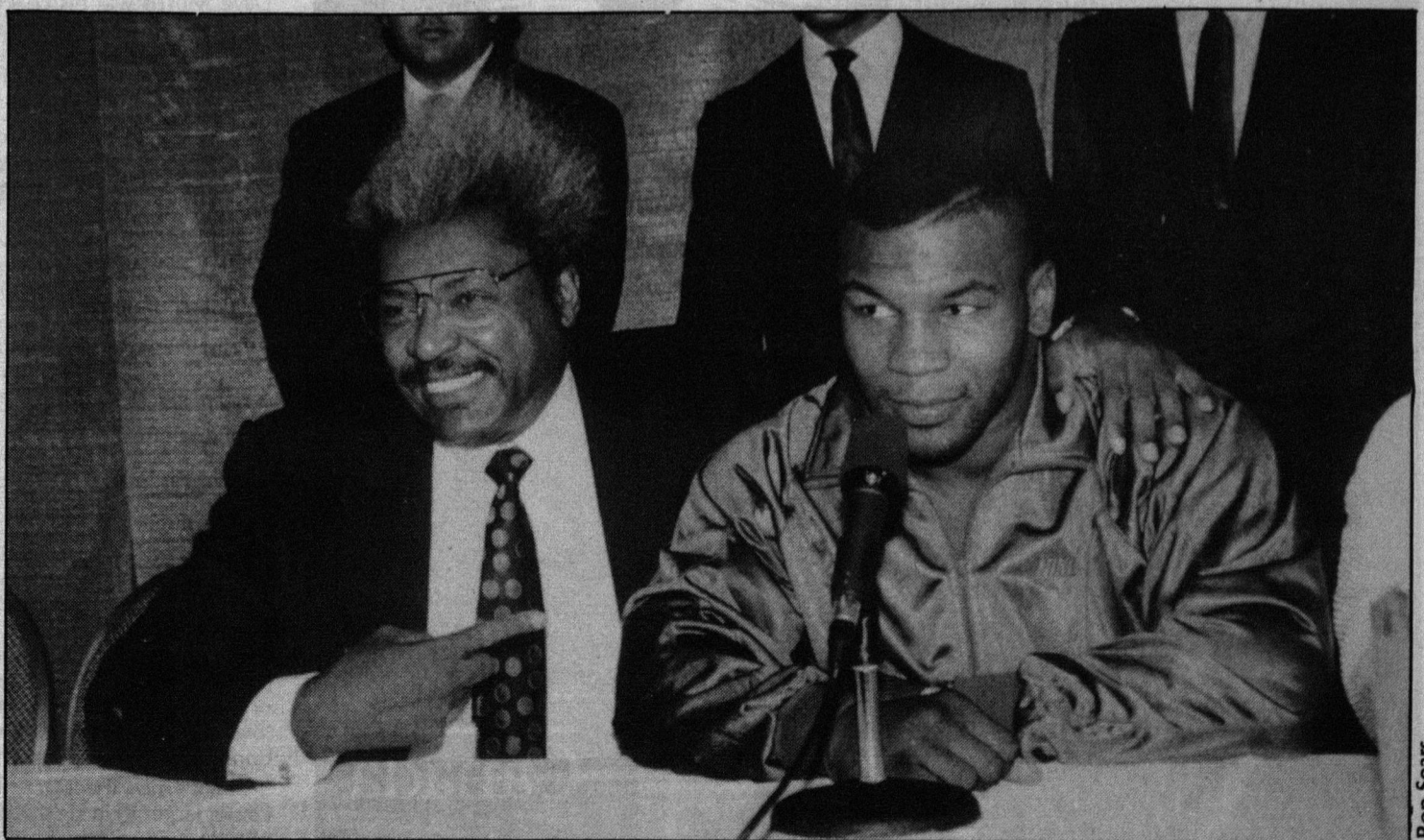
Last Thursday almost everybody in the city was excited; excited because the 'big time' was coming to Edmonton. Mike Tyson and Don King were coming to Edmonton to increase the profile of the city. The greatest heavyweight champion and the greatest promoter ever coming to Edmonton.

Well, they came, they saw, Don King talked and talked and talked some more, while Tyson mumbled, and they left. It was quick.

In between the coming and the going Edmonton was 'big time'. Edmonton was 'big time' for all of one hour and fifteen minutes (the length of the press conference).

And even though King is a great promoter and long-winded speaker, he wasn't able to make it seem 'big time'. I don't know if it was because he called himself an 'Edminite' or because he referred to Northlands Coliseum as 'Norfield Coliseum' or what. Or it could have been the fact King made Edmonton sound like a small town which will become a big town after 'the cold war'.

"We're coming to Edmonton," exuded King. He said that shortly after coming out



Ron Sears

Don King calls Mike Tyson the greatest heavyweight champion in history.

when he said "this is a f&#@\$ joke!" So just how 'big time' is it, anyway?

Tyson is treating it like just another fight. "I'll educate him," he said. When asked how

Ruddock compared to the rest of his challengers, Tyson said, "he'll be in good shape, he'll be confident, but when the fight's over I'll still be the champ."

King tried to dub Tyson the people's champion. As 'the people's champion' Tyson would fight anyone, anywhere. Is that 'big