

Gateway

Sports

Czajkowski
on
Sport

WINNIPEG — What happened? Why did the Bears lose? What did the Bears do wrong?

Here are the answers to these questions.

Number one. That's obvious for all to see. After 60 minutes of football the scoreboard read Manitoba 27, Alberta 17.

Numbers two and three. These are a little tougher. Scott's Alberta club had things pretty much their own way in the game except for the disastrous opening of the third quarter.

Bisons managed a grand total of three first downs in the first half and excluding the first few minutes of the second had only six in the whole game.

So why did they lose? It could be because they couldn't control wee little Denny Hrycaiko for the whole game but then other clubs have failed to control Denny and have beaten the Bisons.

It could be because Manitoba picked off four Bear passes. But then again Alberta quarterbacks have had their passes picked off by the opposition before and still won.

Or it could be because Bears have always been a heavily penalized team. Yes, they've won under these conditions before too.

And finally could it be because the Bears moved the ball very well in their own zone but bogged down in Manitoba's? This too they have done before and won.

So why did they lose?

Manitoba threw a new formation at them but this in itself didn't bring defeat. Bears had a few new wrinkles too.

Bears were beaten by the Bears

No, the Bears were beaten mainly by the Bears. They had to be because the Bears were the best football club out there, for 50 some minutes anyway.

The Bears killed themselves through infractions that kept cancelling first downs, that kept moving the ball back out of field goal range, that kept bringing Manitoba out of poor field position.

They also killed themselves by not being able to finish off their drives once they got in close. Bears were stopped once as close to touchdown territory as the four yard line.

Then when you add the Manitoba Bison defence to this and Hrycaiko on offence you have a lot to contend with.

Bears may be the best club in the West but they're not going to beat Manitoba by retaining their bad habit of giving up valuable yardage via the referee.

This may not hurt them against a weaker club but Manitoba is a strong club and no one can give them half the game and not expect them to be able to take the other half as well. Alberta fed the Bisons and the Bisons tramped on the hand that fed them.

Scott's club should have had at least 10 points and possibly 14 in the first quarter. Instead they settled for three. It could have made the difference in the game.

This is where the quarterback controversy comes in. Should Scott have replaced Don Tallas at the pivot spot earlier than he did? When Terry Lampert came in midway through that disastrous third quarter the club regained its poise and marched down the field for two touchdowns before the quarter ended.

What may have happened if Lampert had come in earlier one can only speculate. But one doesn't have to speculate to realize that Tallas was having his troubles after the first quarter ended. Tallas called a more imaginative game than Lampert but was having an off night in the passing department after the quarter way mark.

Three of the four interceptions were on passes Tallas threw and the fourth was a desperation pass late in the game by Lampert.

The Bears are a better team than the Bisons and it follows that they can beat the Bisons if only they can stop being generous to their opponents. They just have a few bad habits to mend, that's all. Then they'll be number one in fact and not only in my opinion.

Hrycaiko leads Bisons to big opening day win over Alberta

Bears must win remaining games

By JOE CZAJKOWSKI

BEARS 17, MANITOBA 27

WINNIPEG—"Beat the big bad Bears, Bisons" read the letters on the Pan-Am Stadium scoreboard.

And beat the Bears the Bisons did.

Or rather beat the Bears Hrycaiko did, along with a little help.

Diminutive halfback, Dennis Hrycaiko, scored two touchdowns, set up another and compiled 107 yards rushing in his own little anti-Bear protest Saturday. Unlike most protests at the U of M his was neither non-violent nor ineffective.

It was totally devastating.

LEAGUE OPENER A BIG ONE

The league opener was a big one for both clubs and Alberta's 27-17 defeat at the hands of the Manitoba Bisons leaves them in a precarious situation.

Bears must now win all five of their remaining games, one of which is against these same Bisons, in order to assure themselves of finishing in a tie for first place with the Manitoba club.

And should the WCIAA decide in favor of a points for and against system of determining the conference winner rather than a play-off game, then the Bears will have to beat Manitoba by 11 points in their rematch Nov. 1 in Edmonton.

Hrycaiko's running plus numerous, costly penalties plus four interceptions by the strong Bisons defence were what spelled defeat for the Bears.

FAILED TO CAPITALIZE

Ludwig Daubner, like Hrycaiko, had a great game. He scored all 17 points for the Bears and the 4,700 fans in attendance went home with two names on their lips, Hrycaiko—Daubner.

However, the Edmonton club failed to capitalize on many of its opportunities, especially in the first quarter when the bulk of the play was in Manitoba's end of the field.

Bears took an early lead in the first quarter on an 11 yard field goal by Daubner when a drive bogged down on the Bison four yard line.

Harvey Scott's club remained in the driver's seat throughout most of the half. Manitoba's running game was contained and their passing game was non-existent.

Then just minutes before the half Manitoba moved 80 yards to paydirt in four plays. The drive was high-lighted by a 67 yard Bob Kraemer to Graham Kinley pass and run play for the score. The convert was blocked and the half ended 6-3 in favor of the Bisons.

THREE QUICK TOUCHDOWNS

The Herd trampled the Bears in the first minutes of the second half. Bisons discarded the tight formation that got them nowhere in the first half and adopted a spread formation. It took the Bears seven long minutes and three touchdowns to make proper adjustments.

Bisons took the opening kickoff and marched 75 yards for the score in six plays with Hrycaiko carrying over from the Bears' 15. The convert was good.

Bears failed to move the ball in the next sequence of plays and



SUPER-MOUSE DENNIS HRYCAIKO

... just couldn't be stopped

were forced to kick. Hrycaiko received two good blocks and returned the punt 57 yards for another major. The extra point was again through there.

Hardly a minute elapsed before Clint Evans picked off a Don Tallas pass and ran it back to the Bear 19. Two plays later Mike Shylo carried over from the one to capitalize on the break. The convert was again good.

BEGAN TO PLAY FOOTBALL

All so suddenly the Bears found themselves down 27-3.

Scott's club settled down then and began to play football. Terry Lampert replaced Tallas at quarterback and the Bears drove in for two touchdowns, both by Daubner, both converted by Daubner, before the end of the third quarter.

The fourth stanza was scoreless.

Bears had two opportunities to get more points on the scoreboard but were thwarted by the Bison defence on both occasions. Clint Evans made a desperation play to knock away a touchdown pass from Mel Smith and Henry Lode-wyks intercepted a Lampert pass to cancel the Bears' final do or die effort.

NO QUESTION ABOUT IT

"They've got a football team," said Bison Coach Henry Janzen of

the Bears after the game. "No question about it. NO question about it."

"We had them (27-3) and they came right back," he said. "Another team would have given up."

WE LEARNED A LESSON

"We had it in the bag and then physically let up and they came back. I think we learned a lesson. But the kids have got pride; they hung in there. When we had to hold them, we did."

In other action over the weekend the University of Saskatchewan Huskies blasted the University of Calgary Dinosaurs 31-8 in Calgary.

Next action for the Bears is this weekend at Varsity Stadium when the Dinosaurs come to town in an attempt to break the record they have against the Bears. Dinnies have never beaten their northern rivals.

UNOFFICIAL YARDSTICKS

	Bears	Bisons
First downs	14	13
Yards rushing	237	121
Yards passing	151	134
Passes att./made	7/17	6/15
Interceptions	0	4
Fumbles/lost	1/1	0/0
Punts/average	10/38.9	13/32.1