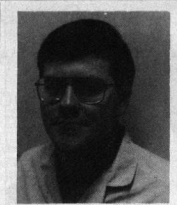


T-Birds show Bears the way it's done



Alan Small

Just wait 'till next season

Now that the football Bears, and the soccer Bears and Pandas go into hibernation for another season, let's take a look at their performances in the season past.

Len Vicker's soccer Bears came back after a disappointing season last fall to come only one win from a playoff berth. After losing western stars like Hanjoo Kim and Burke Kaiser, the job they did was surprising, to say the least.

They also showed this year that the British Columbian clubs will have to take them seriously in the future, as they are making that huge step from the basement of the Canada West conference to the upper echelon university clubs in Canada.

With a hint of luck, the Bears could have taken three of four games from UBC and Victoria, and be rollicking in the nationals in Montreal this weekend.

The Pandas, on the other hand, will have to find a way to get the T-Bird off their backs. Ever since the formation of women's soccer in Canada West play, they have been second to UBC.

But, a commendation must be given to them for their play in the second tourney this year. They went there knowing they had to win all four games to have a chance at first place. They did that, but all it accomplished was getting Tracy David coach of the year and another second place finish in Canada West to put on the mantelpiece.

Finally, the football Bears came up with an outstanding performance throughout the season. That is a tremendous turnaround from the 1-7 debacle of one year ago.

Because of the poor performance, the media all over town were looking for the Bear head coaching job advertisement in the want ads. To the credit of the Athletics administration, it wasn't to be found.

Credit for this season must go to Donlevy. His team, and thus his coaching, silenced his critics. He took his Golden Cubs to the WIFL final and grabbed the west's coach of the year honors.

The heat was on both the Bears and Donlevy. They both delivered.

Sure, they lost the big game last weekend. But the Bears football squad, along with the soccer cousins, can hold their heads high, for they all gave it their best shot.

They all deserve some congratulations.

But not too much. They'll be hungry for more next fall.

by Alan Small
UBC 26 Alberta 8
VANCOUVER — The Alberta Golden Bears football squad ran into a hot Jordan Gagner Saturday. What resulted was UBC winning the WIFL final for the second consecutive time.

Gagner passed for 305 yards, completing two of every three passes he threw. The one that sunk the Bears was a 15-yard touchdown strike to receiver Mike Bellefontaine, who made a circus catch in the Bear end zone early in the third quarter.

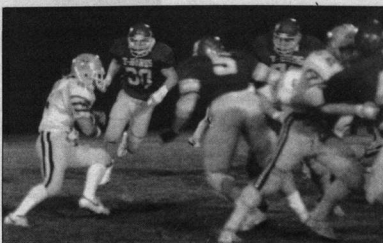
"It took the wind right out of us," said Bear linebacker Jim Toomey.

The T-Bird offence was on the field the majority of the game, as the Bear defence couldn't pressure Gagner, who picked apart the Bear secondary.

"We had to keep their offence off the field," Bear head coach Jim Donlevy said. "Gagner is the best quarterback in Canada."

When the offence did get on the field, the UBC defence stopped them cold. The west's leading rusher, Mark Brus, was held to only 88 yards rushing on the day, and never was a factor. QB Darren Brezden completed only five of sixteen attempts for 67 yards, and could not get the Bears back on the comeback trail.

"We just didn't execute," Brezden said.



Tom Houg is surrounded by T-Birds defensive line.

"We had two weeks to prepare for them. We just came up short," Donlevy said.

After a 52-yard single by Bellefontaine, the Birds started another drive that got to the Bear 31 until it stalled. From the 38, Bellefontaine

Gagner pass and took it down to the Bear two-yard line, where running back Matt Pearce ran it into the end zone for six. With Bellefontaine's convert, the score was 15-1, with less than two minutes remaining.

The T-Birds got the ball back soon afterwards, and started to drive the ball down the field again. They got to the Bear 35, when defensive back Neil Ferguson picked off a Gagner pass and ran it 54 yards down to the Thunderbird 21-yard

line. The next play, Brezden threw for the touchdown. Wide out Dave Bolstad made the catch after it was tipped by the T-Bird defensive back.

Bears Football

hit the field goal. He then missed one from 35 yards out on the last play of the first quarter to put the Birds up 5-0.

After a single by Bear kicker Steve Kasowski and a field goal by Bellefontaine, the Birds got a long drive going. Bellefontaine caught a

Puck Bears ice Bobcats Friday

by Randal Smathers
Bears 8 Bobcats 6

The hockey Bears put two points in the standings the ugly way on Friday night against the Brandon Bobcats. The home team prevailed 8-6 in a sloppy game, on a night when the big names shone only sporadically.

None of the Bears top half dozen scoring leaders dominated. Instead, grinders Jack Patrick and Rob Glasgow led the Bears with tough forechecking and hustle.

Bernie Martine and captain Bruce Thomson were the best Bobcats on a night that saw them lose their scoring leader Darren Durdle for a month with damage to both knees.

Durdle underwent surgery Friday night. He was hurt in a heavy collision with Alberta's Wes Craig early in the first. Those in attendance saw a tough man go down, as shown by his crawl halfway across the ice so his team could get another skater going.

The entire Brandon team showed similar drive, coming from behind to tie the game three times in the second period. The Bears went ahead to stay on a goal by Patrick, who tipped in a point shot by Gord Thibodeau with 54 seconds left in the middle period. Only 13 seconds later, the same two players teamed



Brandon's Bernie Martine puts one past Bears goalie Blair McGregor in weekend hockey action.

up on an instant replay. Bears assistant coach Bill Moores felt this was the turning point of the game.

"They came back," said Moores. "They scored on a couple oppor-

ties for Glasgow as well. He tipped a Grant Couture shot in late in the second frame for a goal, and should have been credited with two scores. The Bears last goal came on another Couture shot which bounced off Glasgow, who was getting a facial courtesy of a Bobcat defenceman at the time.

"It's usually about like that in front of the net," said Glasgow. "You just try and act like a log out there."

The defence was paying the toll for getting involved in the offence, as is usually the case. "We gave up some two-on-ones because of the system, with the defenceman pinching in, which we hadn't used (earlier) this year," said blueliner Parie Profit.

Profit also mentioned "a couple silly little bounces" and some "sloppy things" as reasons for allowing six goals. Alberta's average going in to the weekend was a

With the convert, the score was 15-8, and it looked as if the Bears were back in business.

They weren't for long, however. After Bellefontaine's fantastic grab on the first drive of the half, he kicked the convert, a single, and a 21-yard field goal to end the scoring.

"It's a frustrating end to the season for the young Bears, whose offence sputtered all game and whose defence played well but was overwhelmed by the Gagner to Bellefontaine aerial display. Bellefontaine caught eleven passes for 186 yards.

"The team that won this game will win the Vanier Cup," Donlevy stated after the game. "They have a good football team with a lot of weapons."

A team with weapons they were as they tallied 479 yards of net offence. They also kept the Bear rushing attack to less than 200 yards, the first time anyone has been able to all season.

"We had to play errorless football," Donlevy said, "because they're a poised veteran team and we're a young rookie team. They just wait for you to make a mistake."

LATE HITS: UBC goes on to play the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks in the Western Bowl, while the other semi-final pits McGill and St. Mary's, in the Atlantic Bowl. All-west guard Robin Steward went down early in the first half with a burner in his arm.

Those in attendance saw a tough man go down.

ties and it made them close, before the two goals at the end of the second period."

Standing tough in front of 'Cat goalie John Ziemanski payed off

miserly 3.08 goals against.

Moores noted that the forwards were to blame in their own end as well. "We weren't on the puck as quick as we should be," he said.

Bear netminder Blair McGregor was also to blame, as he let in two soft goals. In fairness, it should be noted that he doesn't get much work as the third man in the Bear goaltending rotation.

The powerplay was good to Alberta, as they were two for four on the night. Both Profit and Moores noted that the Bears were moving the puck well. "We work hard on special teams, it's not ad lib," said Profit.

RED LINES — Profit and Stacey Wakabayashi each had three point nights. Curtis Brandolini ain't pretty no more...he took 15 stitches in the face, after being run into the boards by Bobcat Troy Sambrook. The stars were Patrick, Martine and Couture.