

SPORTS



Northwest goaler makes the save

Too many good men troubles Soccer coach

by Peter Best

U of A's Golden Bears soccer team saw its first action last weekend against two local Division II teams at the South Pool Field, winning both matches by 6-1 scores.

Neither Northwest United on Saturday nor Bristol Newts on Sunday could handle the depth and talent of the defending national intercollegiate champions.

But the dual wins did not solve the major problem facing coaches Stu Robbins and Clive Padfield. They still have too many good players.

When practices began there were 60 men trying out for the team. By last weekend Robbins and Padfield had cut down to 30 players but, according to Robbins, they must drop more to reach the limit of 16 team-members.

The coaches are delighted with not only the number of aspirants (in previous years it was a struggle to find 16 soccer players on campus), but also with the abundance of talented athletes.

Coach Robbins feels those who have survived to this point are all first-class intercollegiate players.

As a result, the competition is intense for nearly every position. The squad veterans are being hard-pressed to retain their status by some talented newcomers.

Among the new faces are a good many graduates from Alberta high schools. Five of the eight remaining fullbacks have come directly from schools in Edmonton and Calgary. This evidence of the improvement in Canadian soccer talent has especially pleased the coaches as it ensures a good future for the game.

Bears have nine men returning from last year: Geoff Salmon, Ike MacKay, Doug Weisbeck, Spyke Kaoma, Frank Tassone, Neil Fuge, Peter Chiu, John Devlin and Rick Korol.

In addition, they have Tom Varughese, who played two seasons ago but sat out last year with an injury. Also back are Terry Whitney and Al Bolstad, who did not attend U of A last year, but played the year before. Obviously the Bears are not lacking in experience.

Nevertheless, graduation has hurt them in a few key

positions. Gone are several of last year's top goal-scorers, including Steve Odremak and Peter Gray.

Robbins and Padfield expressed concern over the fact that they need new strength at the striker positions. These are the two inside forwards in Bears' system. The line-up calls for four forwards, two midfield men, three fullbacks and a lone defender or sweeper in front of the goalkeeper.

Defensively the Bears are very sound, despite the loss of Neil Johnston in goal. All of the five goalies still on the roster were given chances to play in the weekend games and handled themselves well.

The fullbacks played tight defence and were especially strong at preventing the opposing outside wingers from getting free.

U of A midfielders patrolled their territory with competence, sweeping up most loose balls and sending accurate passes upfield to the forwards.

The outside wings ranged freely down the sidelines, sending beautiful crossing passes into the middle.

The strikers took advantage of the high passes coming into the scoring area to head in several goals.

On Saturday striker Phil Craig scored five goals for Bears against Northwest, who contributed the sixth when they deflected a corner kick into their own goal.

Sunday, Craig rested while Tony Msemakiveli counted three, Kindratt one and Ike MacKay another on a booming shot the Bristol goalie couldn't handle. Newts scored once on their goal.

Robbins and Padfield were extremely pleased with the way their players worked together as a team despite the fact that they're competing for positions and are not yet familiar with each other's moves and abilities.

Physical condition will be a major factor to be considered in making final cuts because of the format of intercollegiate soccer play.

Standings are determined by tough round-robin tournaments which often force a team to play five games in three days. With their wealth of talent, Bears figure to head those standings at season's end.

Football made easy

by Terry Valeriote

Many fans go to a Golden Bear football game but do not understand all that happens on the field. What follows is a basic outline of how the offensive aspect of the game is conducted.

The offensive team is composed of 12 players. These players are generally positioned in this manner:

in the huddle but simply uses numbers. If the QB was to call, "I-formation 34 on 2" what would he mean? Simply that out of the I-formation, the 3 back would run the ball through the 4 hole on the count of 2.

Instead of numbers, Bears use a "series" system to indicate the movements of their men in

signals of the QB. If the QB feels that the defense is stacked against his play, through colour and number signals, he wipes out the play previously called in the huddle and designs a new one at the line.

The key to a play change is in the colour called. Prior to each game, the coach designates

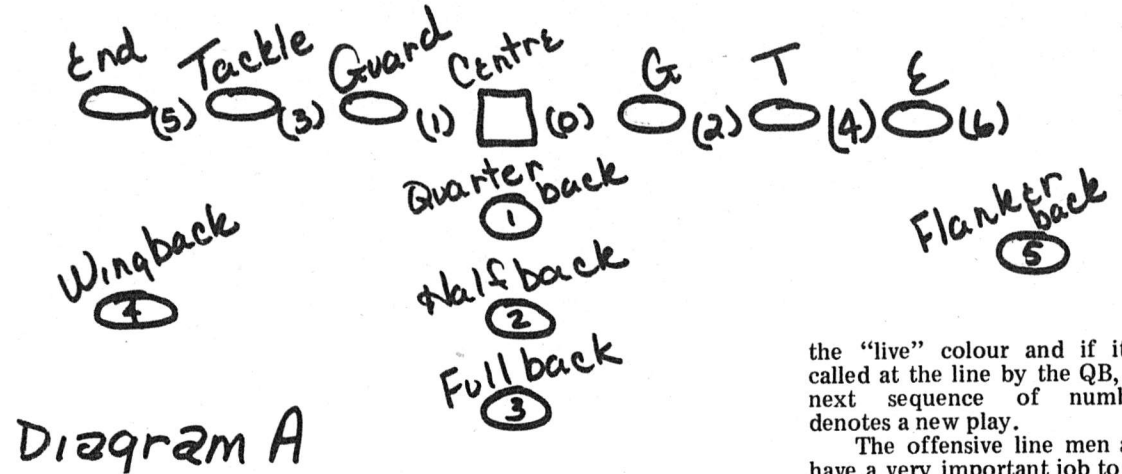


Diagram A

At the U of A, the coaches vary this alignment to give variety to their attack. They accomplish this by moving the ends and the men in the backfield to various spots. Thus, during a game the fan can see the Bears in different formations such as the Eye of the Split.

You will notice in Diagram A that the area between each offensive lineman is designated with a number and this number serves as a direction for the running-back to go through. Generally, though, the Golden Bears don't do this.

The men in the backfield are also given a number. (Diagram A) Thus the quarterback does not have to call anyone's name

the backfield. This series allows for more continuity and gives a "thematic" aspect to the plays.

Once a play series is called in the huddle, every player on the team knows his role. This is true not only for the running attack but also the passing. For example, either quarterbacks Tibble, Kunyk, or Bryant could call a simple pass play such as, "Pro Right, 150 X curl".

This means that in the 50 pass series X, the flanker back is the prime receiver and must do a curl pattern while all other receivers do their assigned patterns. This is hypothetically diagrammed:

Once the players break the huddle, their job only begins. On the line they must listen to the

the "live" colour and if it is called at the line by the QB, the next sequence of numbers denotes a new play.

The offensive line men also have a very important job to do. On all running plays, they must open up holes for the running backs. On passing plays, they must block out the rushing defensive men to stop them from getting at the QB.

Two of the most important offensive linemen are the guards. They must not only be big men but they must be fast for in most wide running plays, they break from their positions to lead the blocking.

This then is the basic working of an offensive unit. Each man has his role to play. He must memorize countless plays and execute them to perfection. This can only be accomplished through dedicated practice and effort.

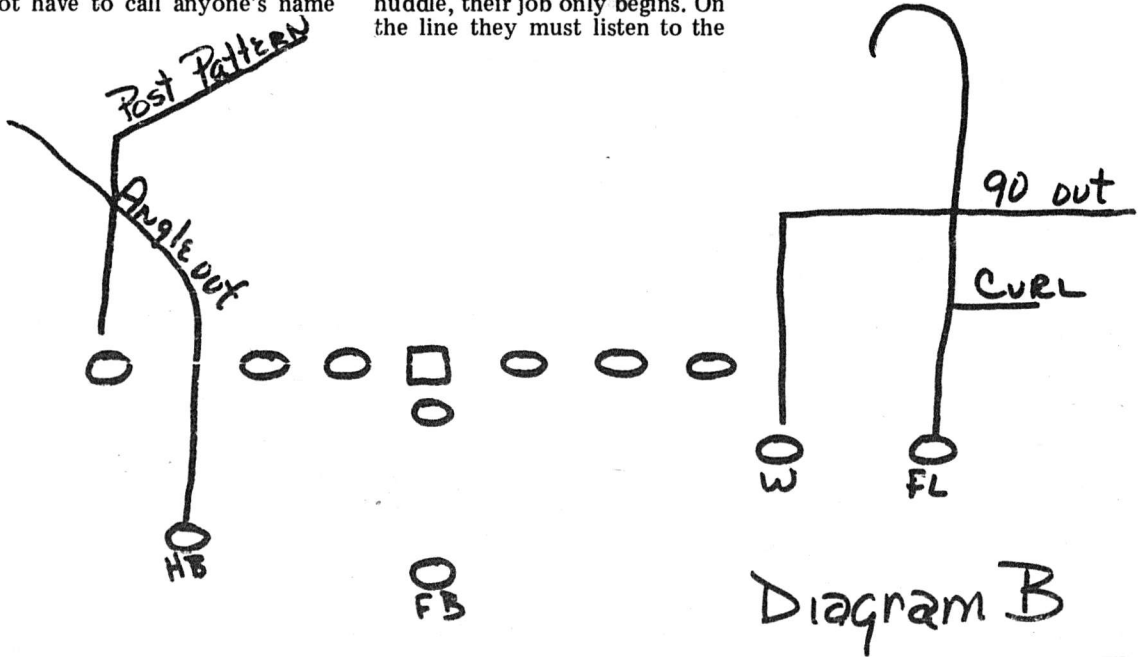


Diagram B

Robbins seeks action

Plenty of action. That's what Stu Robbins and Clive Padfield have lined up for their Golden Bear soccer team. U of A will play three exhibition games in the next four days, giving their players every opportunity to prove themselves under game conditions.

The first game goes tonight at 7 p.m. at the Confederation Park field near Harry Ainlay high school. Opposition will be supplied by the Alberta Youth Team, a group of combined Edmonton-and-Calgary all-stars aged 18 and under.

Saturday at 2 p.m. Bears take on a team from Ft. McMurray at Clarke Stadium.

Sunday at 11 a.m. Robbins' charges face their stiffest test to date when they meet Victoria. The local Division I squad, rated one of the best three teams in Edmonton by Padfield, is expected to be a good test of Bears' physical condition. The game will be played at Victoria's home field located about one half mile east of St. Albert trail on 137 Avenue.



Photos by Sandy Campbell