

Bears humble Thunderbirds

Saturday was a typical fall day for Golden Bear football fans.

Over 6,300 of them sat in a chilling wind that sent leaves swirling on the Varsity stadium turf and watched the Bears trample the hapless University of British Columbia Thunderbirds.

But the final score, 35-8, was hardly indicative of the manner in which the Bears handled the Thunderbirds. It would have been much worse if the Bears' offence hadn't stalled inside the 'Bird 30 yard line five times and settled for four field goals and a single point by Jack Schwartzberg. Schwartzberg, an ex-basketball player in his second year as a Bear, booted field goals from 16, 22, 31 and 22 yards out.

The win moved the Golden Bears into a second place tie with the University of Calgary Dinosaurs, both with two points, but the Dinnies have a game in hand. In Winnipeg, meanwhile, the Manitoba Bisons defeated University of Saskatchewan Huskies 18-14 to vault into sole position of first place with a 2-0 mark. Thunderbirds dropped into the Western Intercollegiate Conference cellar with the Huskies, who have only played one game.

Coached by Frank Gnuip, the Thunderbirds made it easy for the Bears as they coughed up the ball on seven occasions, four of those being interceptions.

A tumble, recovered by Al Shemanchuk, set up the Bears' first score, a five-yard pass from Larry Tibble to tight end Don Savich ten minutes into the opening period.

Shemanchuk and middle linebacker Andy McLeod were standouts on the Bear defensive unit, which held their opponents to under 100 yards on offence and allowed only two passes to be completed for 14 yards. Retirements and an injury had forced four changes in the unit since the league opener last week in Calgary.

Starters John Taylor and Brent MacLean had called it quits earlier this week and tackle Mike Ewachuik couldn't play on a swollen knee. Taylor, a bruising defensive end, decided he preferred juggling books to belting quarterbacks.

Newcomers Ken Luchkow, Jerry Saik (he is actually a three-year Bear veteran but sat out last season) and Brian Jones filled in capably.

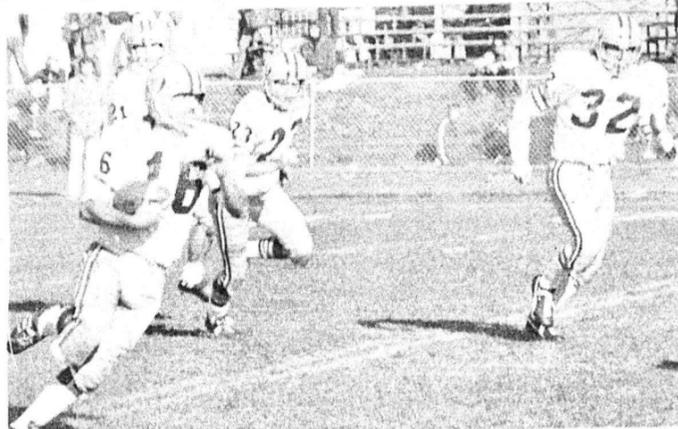
But the most familiar of the new faces was Dave Wray a former pro with the British Columbia Lions, who replaced MacLean at linebacker. Wray blocked a punt in the second period to set up a field goal which increased the Bears' lead to 14-0.

In the dressing room after the game, Coach Jim Donlevy said he wasn't happy with his club's offensive performance. Donlevy used the match as a practice for his running game, which by Saturday's showing needs work. Bear runners totaled only 147 yards against the weak Thunderbird defence.

Quarterbacks Tibble, Mike Hill and Gerald Kunyk all had to accept some good along with some bad. Among them, they completed only 13 of 29



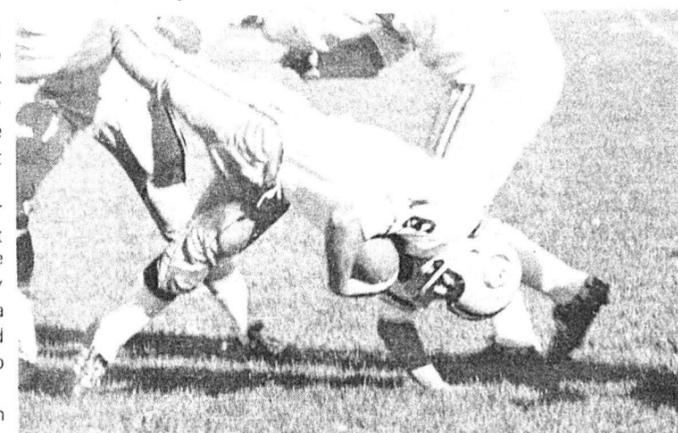
Gary Wilson picks off pass



cuts up the field



into heavy traffic



to one point landing

Chuck Lyall photos

passes for 185 yards.

Hill however put together a highly professional drive in the closing moments of the first half and finally hit Mark Baldasaro coming out of the backfield unmolested from six yards out to raise the score to 20-0.

Kunyk came into the game in the fourth quarter with a 28-8 lead and piloted his teammates on a 90-yard drive to paydirt. Kunyk had to scramble for his life to complete a 35-yard toss to Kim Ziola and then found Brian Fryer open in the flat. Fryer dropped it and thus earned the Golden Bears' hands award, presented by his mates after the ballgame.

Kunyk immediately came back with the same play and this time Fryer hauled the

pass in and faked a couple of 'Birds out of their boots en route to a 36-yard score. Gary Wilson, as he had done after two previous touchdowns, added a convert. Wilson tallied another point on a 90-yard kick-off late in the second quarter.

A 50-yard single by Henry Thiessen and a one-yard run by Gordon Penn, converted by Bruce Kiloh, accounted for the Thunderbirds' scoring. Penn's score resulted from a poor snap on a Bear punt that sent Kunyk scurrying to the four yard line to recover the ball. From there the Birds scored in two plays.

Baldasaro led runners with 53 yards on ten carries while hard-running Dalton Smarsh carried the ball four times for 34 yards. Gordon Penn led UBC with 40 yards on 12.

Gary Weisbrot led receivers with four grabs for 36 yards and Savich caught three passes for 33 yards.

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