

Football Bears eulogy, p. 17

Sports

Table Hockey wars begin soon, p. 18



Mark Spector

Hoop Bears show promise

The members of the Edmonton media sat in the **Varsity Gym** last week listening to Bears' basketball coach **Don Horwood** explain his team's offensive structure.

The verdict is still out on whether or not most of this audience cared, but I'll grant Horwood one thing, his offensive scheme looked like it could definitely work.

It had promise

And deep down in every sports fan's heart, that's all that is really required.

The **Seattle Mariners** have no promise. The **Ottawa Rough Riders** have no promise. The **Azzurra**, Italy's entry in the America's Cup, has little or no promise.

The **Golden Bears football team** has no promise.

I have always believed that sports fans (except for the ones in Montreal) are really just looking for a team or athlete that has a decent chance to be a winner. And by having that chance at the beginning, a worthy entry will become, theoretically, a favorite.

Or, perhaps, a champion.

That is what the basketball Bears may some day be. Theoretically.

In Horwood's three years as head coach, they have finished the regular season in fourth once and in fifth place twice.

But one of those years the young and spry Golden Bears became the champions that it was possible they could be. They finished fifth in the regular season, but entered the playoffs as hosts. It was there that they defeated the eventual CIAU champion **Victoria Vikings** to miraculously claim the CWUAA championship.

Alberta went down to defeat in the next playoff round, unable to maintain their ten-feet-off-the-ground level of play any longer. But the fact remains that this club, too inexperienced to deserve a shot at the national title, not skilled enough to be called a legitimate contender, took their fans on a joyride that won't soon be forgotten.

And, with this team, it could happen again at any time.

But this time it wouldn't be such an upset.

Because in the off-season Horwood, along with able-bodied assistant coach **Steve Roth**, went out and recruited a couple of the kind of players that will not just fill gaps, but improve their team.

There's a difference there.

They got **Ray Bergstra**, a 6'6" post who is a former MVP at **McMaster University**. Entering his fourth year, this big man is no mere stopgap.

Another transfer student, **Kevin Ottewell**, spent two years in the camp of UVic before coming to the Golden Bears.

Then there is a guy like the lanky **Scott McIntyre**. A project of Horwood's out of **Jasper Place High**, McIntyre has worked hard to gain a place in the starting line-up.

Players like this typify the quality teams that they so often play for.

Let's hope that this case is no different.

Alberta opens up on T-Birds

by Mark Spector
Bears 9 UBC 4
Bears 7 UBC 2

It was business as usual for the hockey Golden Bears this past weekend as, for the second time in as many seasons, they vaulted into the regular season schedule with back to back thumpings of the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds.

In a methodical effort Friday, Alberta scored three goals in each period, receiving goals from nine different players en route to a 9-4 dumping of a lethargic UBC squad.

On Saturday, it was a case of the vintage being slightly different, but the wine tasting much the same, as the Golden Bears waited until the third period to open things up.

After a scoreless opening frame, Alberta received goals from Denis Leclair, Craig Dill, and Wes Craig to stake them to a 3-0 lead heading into the final period. But the improved T-Birds, under new head coach Terry O'Malley, who coached last year at Notre Dame College in Saskatchewan, came out fighting in the third with two goals by Kevin Griffin and Mark Trotsuk.

After that, however, UBC's lack of experience began to show as they yielded four powerplay opportunities to the Golden Bears, and it would cost them. The game's first star, Parie Proft, scored his second goal of the weekend at the 10:51 mark, as the offensive-defenseman moved in from the point on the powerplay to bang home a Craig Dill pass. Then, not five minutes later, courtesy of a Fred Ledlin hooking penalty, Stacey Wakabayashi tipped in a feed from Dennis Cranston to count Alberta's second straight powerplay goal and effectually clip the T-Birds' wings for good.

Wes Craig, with his second of the game, and Jack Patrick completed the scoring for Alberta.

"I felt that we played a tenacious game, but we'll have to get more mentally tough," stated O'Malley. "Our guys were still hooking and getting called for it. They should be able to read the ref better.

"Look at all those powerplays that they (Alberta) had in the third period. We can't give the national champions opportunities like that and expect to win."

But the Bears' Sid Cranston gave credit to the team's extensive training program that they have been undergoing since the beginning of camp for Alberta's ability to win going away.

"I think we hydrogymmed them in the third," said the elder (23) Cranston brother. "Look at yesterday. How many goals did we score in the third?"

"We just keep coming at them all game. Coach Drake has stressed that we try to sustain constant pressure, and that's pretty hard to take for 60 minutes."

UBC captain, defenseman Steve Lapointe, blamed the pair of losses on his club's level of experience. "It's just a matter of our guys getting the feeling of playing games," said Lapointe. "We're all in the same boat."

"One of the problems of playing out on the coast is the cost of travel. The travel dollars are such that we could only get in two exhibitions against university competition. We played a few games against Tier II (Junior) teams, but it's just not the same."

On Friday night it was the line of Dave Otto between Craig Dill and Jack Patrick that wasn't the same for the Bears, as last season's premier checking line became this season's



Craig Dill chases a puck in front of the T-Bird net. Alberta dominated UBC, scoring 9-4 and 7-2 victories.

top scoring trio. At least for this weekend. The line was in on three goals on the night, dividing six of 22 Alberta points between them, as the Doctor in the house, Med. student Otto, copped first star honors.

"We had a really good playoff series against Saskatchewan last year," admitted Otto, even though the rest of the Bears were abysmal. "Craig is the best goal scorer of all of us, and he drives for the net well, and Jack just works his --- off all of the time. He does the basics so well that, often, no one really notices."

"Dill is really sharp with the puck," concurred coach Clare Drake. "He's probably the sharpest on our team. He's got such a good sense of timing, hitting the holes just at the right moment."

Patrick and Dill put Alberta in front to stay with a goal in their first two shifts on Friday before Proft scored later in the opening frame to complete a perfect 6-0 margin in first period scoring, in favor of Alberta, for the two game series.

Scott Fearn and Jeff Delgarno

brought the T-Birds back to within one early in the second before Stacey Wakabayashi, Otto, and defensive standout Steve Cousins restored the Golden Bears' control.

Todd Stowkowski and the Brothers Cranston rounded out the scoring for Alberta, while Mark Hentze and Lapointe each collected singles for UBC.

John Krill minded the nets for Alberta for the whole weekend, minus the third period of Friday's game when Drake yanked him in favor of rookie Brian Harley.

"We felt that Krill lost his concentration on the goals that he let in. He didn't look too certain," surmised Drake. "One of the things that we're trying to do is to make the players earn their ice time this year."

And even the only returning goalie is not exempt. Veteran winger Denis Leclair sat out the Friday game along with rookie pointmen Brent Severyn and Jeff Lawson, while Dean Clark (bruised tibia), Dave Otto (sore shoulder), and

Howie Draper were designated sitters on Saturday. Bill Ansell will remain out of the lineup for another couple of weeks with a separated shoulder.

Bear Facts — Alberta outshot UBC 45-27 Friday and 37-24 Saturday...

Dean Clark sat out game two after taking a heavy slash to the side of the calf courtesy of UBC's **Mark Trotsuk**. "I was just going to dump the puck in," said Clark of the play which occurred in the centre ice zone... the penalty situation was telling, as the T-Birds racked up 15 for 46 minutes and 20/48, while Alberta had 12/32 and 14/28. The Bears scored five powerplay goals to UBC's one... the winner of the \$950 **Free Tuition Giveaway** was second year Phys Ed student **Gary Witw...** Alberta plays this weekend in Saskatoon against the **University of Saskatchewan Huskies**, with games on Saturday and Sunday nights. The Sunday game will be broadcast on **CJSR-88.5 FM** at 5:45 p.m.

Chewed up, spit out Basement Bears — nowhere to go but up

by Dean Bennett

BEARS 12 at HUSKIES 40

SASKATOON — It's official. The Bears are now the worst team in the WIFL.

Going into the weekend they were tied with the Saskatchewan Huskies with identical 1-4 records, but Alberta fixed that with a vengeance as they were clobbered 40-12 before a crowd of just over four hundred people at Griffiths Stadium last Saturday afternoon.

"They (the Saskatchewan players) felt they had something to prove," said Huskie head Coach Brian Towriss, referring to the 34-7 pasting his team received at Varsity Stadium on September 13.

On this day the Bears' offense felt it had something to prove also. Knocked this year as being ineffective at times, the offense went out and proved that when it wanted to it could be downright brutal. Awesomely brutal.

Check out these stats: Alberta had a total offense of a mere 136 yards (compared to 460 for Saskatchewan); they made eight first downs (Huskies had 24) and quarterbacks Brant Villettard and Kevin Molcak went a collective 8 for 24

with 3 interceptions. Steve Kasowski punted 14 times. ("I can't remember ever punting that many times in a game," he said.)

The twelve points the Bears did score came with the help of the defense or on special teams. Linebacker Mark Singer picked off a Darren Frederick pass on the second play from scrimmage in the ballgame and returned it 18 yards to the Huskie 17, setting up a 29 yard Steve Kasowski field goal. The other points came off a Kasowski 70 yard punt single and a 100 yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Tony Pierson (Villettard hooked up with Steve Camp for the two point conversion).

The difference between this loss and other losses suffered by the Bears this year is that this time the defense stunk too. With the exception of safety Sheldon Weinkauff, the Alberta defense seemed to forget some fundamentals of defense. Huskie runners and receivers alike gained extra yards on seemingly every play due to shoddy tackling.

The Huskies' points came from a number of sources. John Hoffman ran back a Kasowski punt for a

touchdown early in the second quarter. Quarterback Tony Gagnon hooked up with tight end Paul Beitel for a 27 yard TD with less than three minutes left in the half. Running back Rob Symchyck bounced in from the Alberta 12 for the major to cap Saskatchewan's opening second half drive, then third string quarterback Greg Galan completed a 104 yard pass and run play to wide receiver Paul Rogal in the fourth.

In his post game analysis Bears Head Coach Jim Donlevy was not sure his team was mentally prepared for the game. "We didn't have team intensity," he said. "We had pockets of intensity only." They (Saskatchewan) took everything away from us. We didn't execute very well."

Quarterback Villettard, starting his first WIFL game, concurred. "I don't know if we just weren't up for the game or what," he said.

Brutal. Just brutal.

Bear Facts: Running back **Jeff Funtasz** suffered a second degree sprain on his left knee midway through the second quarter in Saskatoon and is gone for the remainder of the season... this continued on p. 18

photo Leif Stout