

# Bear offence keeps playoffs in reach

by Darrell Semenuk



The Bears, led by the pass receiving of John Tietzen and the running of Dalton Smarsh, came up with a thrilling 45-38 win over the UBC T'Birds Sat. afternoon

In years gone by, a win over the UBC Thunderbirds wouldn't spark an unusual amount of joy into the hearts of too many people, players and coaches included. But Saturday's exciting win at Varsity stadium left the Bears and their faithful with the best feeling they've had all year.

The Bears hung on for a 45-38 thriller, to push themselves even closer to a playoff berth in the WIFL, with two games remaining.

The game, which was punctuated by sharp offence and lax defence, had to be one of the most exciting played at Varsity stadium in years. UBC, led by quarterback Dan Smith, marched for 7 points on their opening drive, Smith tossing a ten yarder to Digby Leigh in the Alberta endzone. Gary Metz added the convert to start the scoring derby rolling. Bears then tied things up with their first crack at the ball, coming via a 44 yard pass and run play between quarterback Brian Larsen and flanker Joe Pop-

lawski. Poplawski converted and the see-saw battle had begun.

UBC again got its hands on the ball and put more points on the board, this time going ahead by three on a 38 yard field goal by Metz.

The second quarter proved to be even more wild, with 31 points being scored. UBC garnered 14 points on touchdown runs of 43 and 4 yards from fullback Gordon Penn, both were converted by Metz. Alberta needed 17 points to knot the score, 24-24 at half time. The points came on a Larsen pass to Kerry O'Connor covering 4 yards, Larsen keeping himself from 2 yards out, and a 20 yard field goal by Marco Cyncar, who replaced Poplawski in the second quarter due to a knee injury which sidelined the flanker for the duration of the game.

UBC again scored in its first drive of the half, this time coming on a six yard pass from Smith to Chris Davies. Metz again added the point after. It took the Bears until the end of the 3rd quarter to tie it up, the seven points coming by way of a three yard run by Dalton Smarsh, and a convert by Cyncar.

That set up the wild fourth quarter, where sandlot rules looked to be in effect. Last team to get the football would win. But the Bears were not to be denied. In a game where many players had their best effort of the year when it counted most, Alberta struck for 14 points to take the lead only for the second time in the game. The Golden Bear offence, led by the sharp passing of Larsen, and the spectacular and sometimes brilliant receptions of Cyncar, Poplawski and John Tietzen, hurtled the Bears to what seemed like a sizeable 45-31 lead, with less than 7 minutes remaining in the game. The two majors came on a one yard plunge by Larsen and a typical

Smarsh run, going over from yards out on second and the effort. UBC, with its machine offence came right back with halfback Glen Wallace scoring on a five yard run. Their final drives were both snuffed out by key defensive plays on behalf of the Bears.

Despite the thrilling win, head coach Jim Donlevy has a retrospective look at the game and his team, which may finally have found itself, albeit a little late in the year.

"We're not as good as we thought we were at the beginning of the season," admitted Donlevy. But the head coach is aware of the team suddenly coming together. "We have confidence. We matured together as a unit. Our defence now believes in the offence reflected Donlevy. But has the offence lost faith in the defence after giving up 38 points and over 500 yards total offence?"

Not according to Donlevy. He cites three critical plays by the defence which helped extinguish the T'Bird offence led by Chris Smith, who Donlevy described as being "hotter than a firecracker."

The three plays which stood out in Donlevy's mind were:

1. Dave Zacharko's interception late in the fourth quarter.
2. Don Guy and Dennis Holowaychuk combining to break up a pass in Alberta territory.
3. Guy recovering a fumble at Penn was jarred loose from the ball after pulling in a Smith pass at the Alberta 30 yard line.

All three plays occurred in the final minutes of the game. Bears will now hope to recover from their injuries in time for next Saturday's game against the U of Saskatchewan Huskies in Saskatoon. A win in Saskatoon and the week after at home against Manitoba would clinch a playoff spot for the Bears.



Photo Brian Gavriloff.

## Victory proves costly

The U of A Golden Bears' victory Saturday afternoon may have proved to be a costly one for the club. Veteran linebacker Brian Towne was operated on Monday morning and will be sidelined for the remainder of the season. Towne suffered torn knee ligaments during last Saturday's 45-38 win over the UBC T'Birds.

The co-captain of the team was helped off the field in the third quarter and was replaced by rookie Dave Morris, who may fill in for Towne next week in Saskatoon against the Huskies. Morris has seen very little action at linebacker this year.

Along with Towne, the Bears have three other players on the limp. George Paleniuk, Bears' veteran defensive tackle, missed his first game in five years against the T'Birds due to a knee injury suffered in a Thursday practice session. He's listed as a possible starter for the Sask game.

Leon Lyszkiewicz, came up with a pulled leg muscle after the game but should start at his defensive end position next Saturday. Flanker Joe Poplawski, who banged his knee in the game, and could have played if necessary, will start against the Huskies.

The Bears are battling the Huskies and Calgary for the final playoff spot. Huskies are 4-3, Calgary 3-4, while Alberta is 3-3.

## The Yardsticks

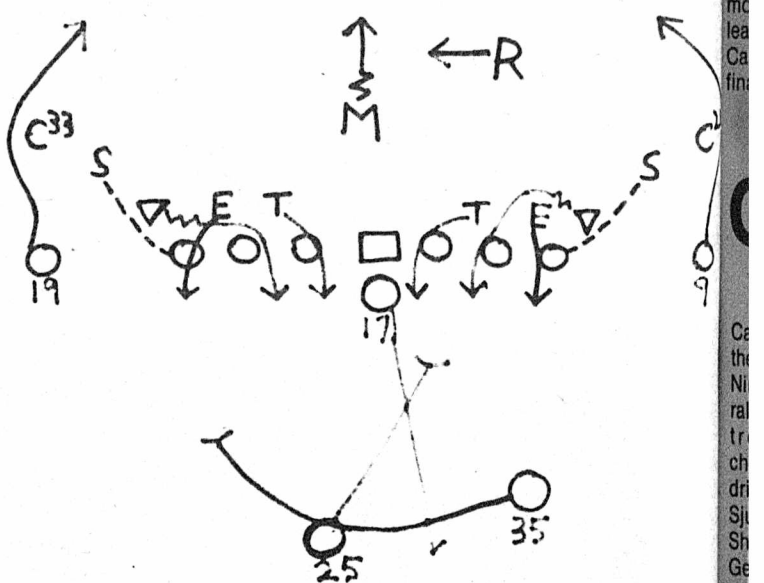
	Alberta	UBC
First downs	33	32
Yards rushing	223	238
Yards passing	303	314
Net offence	522	533
Passes made-ried	21-30	24-36
Interceptions	2	0
Punts-average	7-35.3	4-38.5
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-2
Penalties-yards	7-57	11-90
Individual Rushing: Alberta: Smarsh 24-103, Gullekson 9-68. UBC: Penn 20-14 20-149, Wallace 17-82.		
Individual Receiving: Alberta: Tietzen 8-120, Poplawski 2-60, Cyncar 3-32. UBC: Jones 7-71, Davies 4-53, Penn 4-67.		

## Sports Quiz

Answers page 2

1. Guy Lafleur broke the Chicago-Boston stranglehold on the Art Ross Trophy (NHL scoring leader) last season. How many years had players from the two teams monopolized the scoring championship until Lafleur in 75-76? a) 5 b) 9 c) 12 d) 15 (3pts)
2. Name the only two teams to win the World Series three consecutive times. (2pts)
3. In the 1976 CFL Canadian College Draft, who was the first player selected? (3pts)
4. Who was the runner-up to Bobby Orr in the Calder trophy (rookie of the year) in 1966-67? (5pts)
5. How many horses have won the fabled triple crown? a) 3 b) 6 c) 9 d) 11 (3pts)
6. Name the only pitcher to throw a no-hitter in World Series competition. (2pts)
7. Which NFL team led the league in quarterback sacks last year? a) Baltimore b) Pittsburgh c) Dallas d) Houston e) Minnesota (2pts)
8. The record for pitching the longest winning World Series game is held by: a) Babe Ruth b) Sandy Koufax c) Bob Gibson d) Bob Feller (3pts)
9. Which NHL goalie recorded the most shutouts (2) during the 75-76 playoffs? a) Ken Dryden b) Gerry Cheevers c) Rogie Vachon d) Gilles Gilbert (2pts)
10. Name the coaches of these NFL teams. a) Pittsburgh b) Houston c) Oakland d) Baltimore e) Green Bay (5pts)

## The key play



## Passing game key to win

by Allan Anderson

Alberta Golden Bears slipped by the UBC Thunderbirds in a high scoring game on Saturday. Unexpected in the cold weather conditions was the dominance of the passing game. The diagrammed play is a play action pass in which Brian Larsen (17) pivots to his right and fakes a hand off to Dalton Smarsh (25).

At the same time, the outside receivers John Tietzen (19) and Joe Poplawski run post patterns. Larsen then turns around and

trys to hit one of the wide receivers.

The outside receivers were able to break in the clear because UBC was caught in man-to-man coverage. The corners Chorney (21) and Bernie Crum (33) were caught in the dilemma. They don't want to let the wide receivers beat them deep short.

The accurate passes from Larsen and the ability of the outside receivers to break in the clear resulted in many gains.