

Bear quarterly report

Must improve on winless mark

by Alan Small

The pressure is on now for the Golden Bear football club to make the playoffs in the WIFL. Last season was a breakthrough, as they had a 5-3 record and made the playoffs after having their worst season ever. Duplicating their winning record and playoff appearance will be a difficult task this season after their 0-2 start. We will now see what the Bears' outlook is going into the final three quarters of the season.

Offence

The Bears offence has been revamped out of need rather than of choice this season. Last year they had lots of depth at running back and that was their strength. Although they have some depth at running back this season, their quarterbacking looks to be in fine shape, as two of the top three on the depth chart have university experience.

Quarterbacks

Mark Denesiuk has started at QB for the first two games but has struggled. Denesiuk took a year off last season after spending three years in the number one QB spot for the Bears. Before that he led the Edmonton Wildcats to the national junior football championship.

Two other quarterbacks come from the junior ranks to share the signal calling with Denesiuk. Aaron Smith, a LaZerte grad, returns to Edmonton from two years quarterbacking in Victoria, while Jeff Steinberg, formerly with the Manitoba Bisons and the St. Vital Mustangs, brings impressive credentials with him to the U of A. The Winnipeg native led the Mustangs to two conference championships. Lefty freshman Ashley O'Kurley rounds out the quarterbacking situation for the Bears this season.

Running backs

Even with the loss of Mark Brus, Jeff Funtasz, and Allan Bleiken, the Bear running backs are solid. Rookie Ken Farrus starts at fullback and is already fourth in rushing yards in the conference after two games. Moving over from slotback is Brian Forrest who is in his third

year of eligibility. Backing them up will be slotback Tom Houg, and rookies T.J. Kennerd and Kent Kern.

Receivers

The receiving corps of the Bears have been a sore spot for the last couple of seasons now, but the coaching staff is starting to see signs of improvement.

injuries: Kelm has a shoulder injury while Chomchuk tore up his right knee against UBC. Rookie Christian Perron took over at centre against UBC while another freshman, Steve Maertens-Poole is at left tackle. Sophomores Jeff Martens and Rick Shinkaruk hold down the right side of the line, while third year man Trevor Martin will help, coming back from a back problem. Backups are sophomore David Yoshida

last year, with WIFL all-star Lenard Sawatzky, and veterans Jeff Tobert, Jim Toomey, and Spencer Sekyer holding down the starting spots. Glenn Jankowiak and Mark Singer both return to back up the inside spots while rookies Grant Jongejan and Christian Perron back up on the outside.

Secondary

The secondary has already shown it will give opposing quarterbacks trouble as they have picked off five passes in two games. Todd Matheson moves

from left to right corner, making room for Trent Brown, who returns after a year off.

Sophomore Kevin Hurrell and rookie Terry Langley should get their share of playing time as well.

At defensive halfback, seniors Quinn Weninger and Neil Ferguson are solid and will get some help from rookie John Falconer and second year man Darryl Draudson. At safety, Terry Korte will start. Korte led the Bears with interceptions last year with four and already has one this season.

Return Teams

The return teams look good for the Bears this season. Trent Brown has run back a punt for a touchdown this season while Matheson returned one 43 yards against UBC last weekend. Tom Houg and Ken Farrus will handle the kickoff returns.

Kicking

Fourth year kicker Steve Kasowski handles the kicking chores again this season. While he has punted well so far, he has struggled with his field goals early. An Eskimo draft pick last season, Kasowski was also the WIFL all-star placekicker last season. When Kasowski kicks the ball, expect Brian Forrest to be the main tackler for the Bears cover teams.



Bear QB Jeff Steinberg (5) fumbled his chance at quarterback against the Dogs.

Converted defensive back Darryl Szafranski and sophomore Pierre Bourque provide good speed at the wide outs while Tom Houg and Steve Camp return as the inside men. The Bears are not especially deep in this area, so injuries could be costly at receiving positions. Steve Kasowski, John Wakulich, Graeme Feltham, and Kevin Oczkowski are the only backups with university experience.

Offensive line

The Bears offensive line was a force last season, placing three players on the WIFL all-star team. What makes that line weak is that four out of the five players on that line will not return for the '88 campaign. After the loss of centre Kelvin Ostapowich, guard Robin Steward, and tackles Dan Aloisio and Russ Brown, the Bears line looks inexperienced and small.

The O-line is not helped that both sophomore Karsten Kelm and starting guard Ted Chomchuk have sustained season-ending

and rookies Craig Southwick, Lyndon Wrobel, Joe Horvat, and Rick Braun.

Defence

The defence will be the strength of the Golden Bears this season. Experienced at every position, the only problem is that the offence can't control the ball enough to give them a breather.

Defensive line

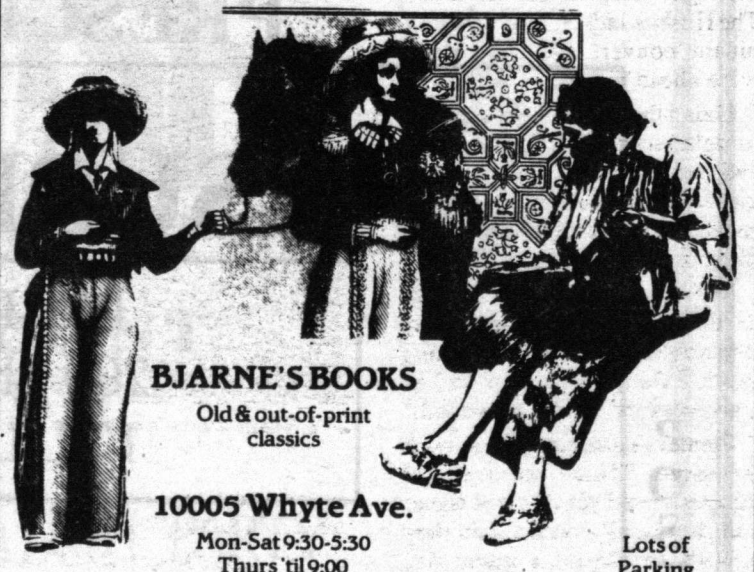
The defensive line is led by CIAU second team all-star Brent Korte, who led the Bears with three sacks last season. A pair of 250 pounders, nosetackle Rick Medcke and end Jim Clelland provide significant size and experience in the "30" defence.

Linebackers

Linebacking looks as solid as

Photo by Randal Smathers

People Say Life Is the Thing — But I Prefer Reading



Selection Committee for Deans: Review of Composition

The composition and size of selection committees for Deans are being reviewed by the Executive Committee of General Faculties Council.

Information about the present composition of such committees is available from Ellen A. Schoeck Solomon, 2-5 University Hall.

If you wish to submit your views on this subject, write to Dean Jean A. Bour, c/o 2-5 University Hall, by October 31, 1988.

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