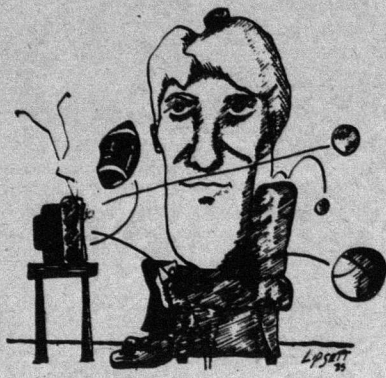


Hockey Bears surprisingly strong on defense. p. 13

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Horwood's hoop team pares down to size. p. 14



Mark Spector

Bear food for thought

by Mark Spector

Some thoughts concerning the **Alberta Golden Bears** football team:

The Bears are 1-2 after three games and appear to be heading toward a middle-of-the-pack finish again this year. "Too early to make such a prediction" you might say. Well the Bears did defeat the **Saskatchewan Huskies** in impressive fashion in Alberta's second game of 1986, but the Huskies are the proverbial wine stewards of the **WIFL**. They have spent a lot of time in the cellar. Last year Saskatchewan was last, posting a 2-6 record.

Since the formation of the league in 1959, the men from the wheatfields have posted the worst record of the five incumbents — 58 wins, 116 losses, 2 ties, and a .335 winning percentage. Alberta, incidentally, has the best record.

Which brings us to coach **Jim Donlevy's** foremost two problems: the **UBC Thunderbirds** and the **U of Calgary Dinosaurs**. So far this season Alberta has taken respective 23-5 and 46-7 drubbings from these clubs. Of the two in recent years, the Dinos have been Alberta's greatest nemesis. And this year it looks as if Calgary will be the team Alberta must defeat to gain second place behind 1986's WIFL powerhouse, the T-Birds. In the last three meetings between the two clubs, Alberta has been drubbed each time. Until Donlevy's Bears can figure out a way to beat **Peter Connellan's** Dinos, plain geography says that the **Vanier Cup** is merely a dream.

If you think that Saturday's game in **Manitoba** isn't a must-win'er, think again. In an eight game season, you simply don't rebound from a 1-3 start and make the playoffs. Not very often anyways.

Despite a 28-5 loss in Winnipeg in '85, Alberta has enjoyed success at **University Stadium** in recent years. Against the 0-3 **Bisons**, they had beter come out on top this time.

Alberta's quarterbacking woes continue this year, as it becomes increasingly obvious with every game that **Mark Denesiuk** is not the answer. The **St. Joe's** graduate does many things well, but nothing excellent.

The best comparison for Denesiuk can only be recollected by recent Eskimo fans, like myself. **Bruce Lemmerman**, the second stringer behind **Tom Wilkinson** in the mid-seventies, was an effective pivot as long as his line gave him time to throw and his backs were having some success running the ball. However, as soon as the rest of the offense began to stall Lemmerman, it seemed, stalled right along with them — resulting in more than one desperation pass being thrown up for grabs.

Wilkinson was a team leader. It's no secret that he had more leadership in his dufflebag-like frame than any other athlete on the field. He would not be dragged down by any defense, however stifling. Denesiuk gets dragged down.

Two of the most pleasant surprises this season are the kicking game being provided by **Steve Kasowski** and the job being done by two young defensive corners, **Trent Brown** and **Todd Matheson**.

Kasowski has taken over dismal Alberta kicking game that was last in the WIFL in field goals last year. He is a respectable 3/6 when you figure that he's 1/3 from the 40-49 yard range, and 2/3 from the 30-39 range. And he's only in his second year of eligibility.

At cornerback, one of the toughest positions for rookies to play in this league, Matheson has done an excellent job. Another rookie, **Andrew Ostashower** started the first league game in B.C. but has been injured ever since. He may have trouble regaining his starting job. Brown is only a sophomore, but was forced to start several games last season as a rookie when **Roger Benjamin** went down for the year in the season opener. Thus, he has developed into a promising young (19) cornerback.

A fuller pressbox than the one at **Commonwealth Stadium** last week has not been seen at a Bears game in a few years, mostly due to the hype over the first annual **Shrine Bowl**. Then, in an interview last week in a local paper, **Chairman of Athletics Bob Steadward** says that they would have liked to hold the game in **Varsity Stadium** if it were only a wee bit bigger.

And where would the press sit? On the roof of the **Butterdome**? Donlevy complains that there are no fans — rightfully so. My limited journalistic experience tells me that until you have press coverage, you don't have fans.

When will Athletics once-and-for-all fix up that outhouse that passes for a pressbox at Varsity? When the big games come in late October and November and the Bears really need (and deserve) the coverage, there's no way that **Edmonton press** will show up only to have to wipe snow off of their notes in this wind-blown place. No way.

Golden Bears look to "regain pride"



photo Dean Bennett

by Dean Bennett

Tuesday's Bear football practice was quieter than most. A rather subdued group of players worked out at Varsity Field for the first time since their 46-7 drubbing at the hands of the Calgary Dinosaurs last Saturday. While the U of A's new slogan "The Pride Returns" took a beating last week, the football players themselves did not fare much better.

"Everybody who played against Calgary is hurting," said Athletic Therapist Fraser Dods. "On Sunday morning I had 25 guys in the clinic. Usually I get only three to eight. I was treating (injuries) for three and a half hours."

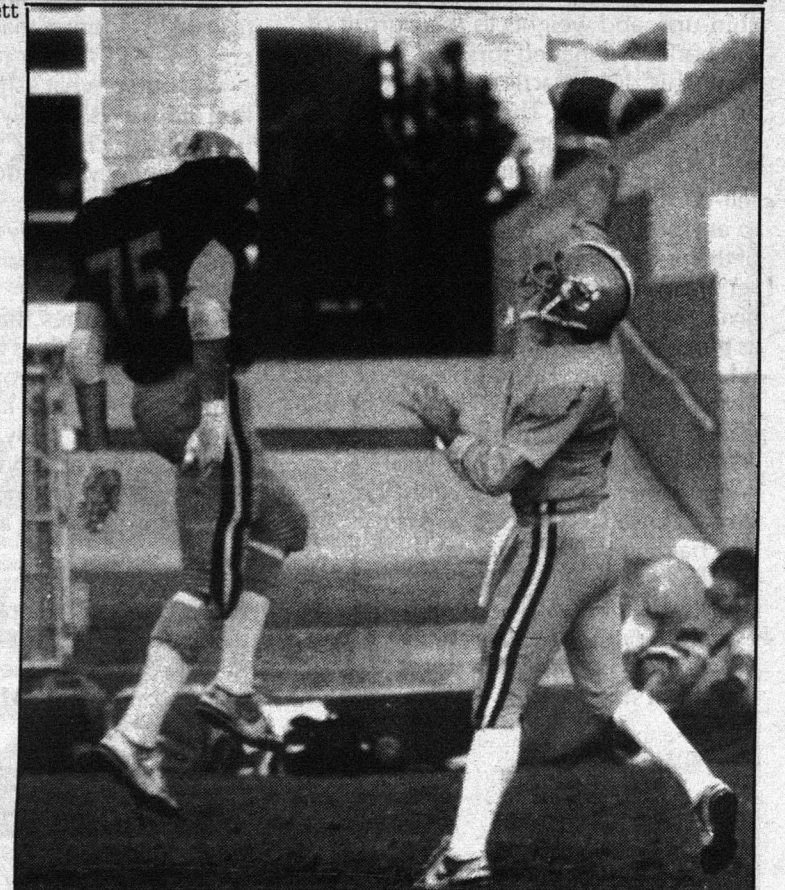
Looking back at the game, Bears Head Coach Jim Donlevy believed the hoopla surrounding the Shrine Bowl may have been a bigger distraction for his young squad than he had first anticipated.

"We were mentally and technically prepared but as soon as we got onto that field in that stadium (Commonwealth) and that crowd and national TV, it hit them (the players). We didn't get immediate success and they did (the Dinos scored on their first three offensive possessions to take a 12-0 lead) and we got hesitant. A lot of things had a cumulative effect that hurt us psychologically," he said.

Defensive lineman Dan Aloisio felt the Shrine Bowl pageantry did give an edge to the Dinosaurs. "I know Calgary got fired up because they live for that stuff," he said. "Calgary likes the big lights (the Dinosaurs have now made five appearances on TSN). For us, it was a whole different world. We're used to 500 fans and Varsity Field."

Bears centre Blair Wood, although conceding the distractions were a problem, felt experience (or lack of it on the part of the Bears) was as much a factor as anything else. "I don't think they (Calgary) were much better physically," he said. "It seemed we were always one block away from a good play; one mental mistake kept us from success. When it came together we had runs of 15 and 20 yards."

While the Bears are still embarrassed they don't appear to have lost faith in themselves and are definitely looking for somebody on whom they can take out their frustrations. In that case, this Saturday's



It's a big weekend for the Golden Bears football team. They travel to Manitoba and will return either still in the playoff hunt or in a tie for the basement.

photo Dean Bennett

road game in Manitoba against the Bisons may be just what the doctor ordered.

The Bisons, after an inspired second place finish last year, appear to have gone to the dogs. They're currently 0-3 and coming off of an 18-6 loss to the equally woeful Saskatchewan Huskies.

Donlevy, of course, is looking for a different style of football from the Bisons than the Dinosaurs.

"Manitoba plays an attacking, unpredictable, penetrating defense. On offense they play smash mouth football. They run at you; it's an 'our guys are tougher than your guys' type of attitude. They're not a finesse team," he said.

There's no doubt this game means more to the Bears than just points in the standings.

"We want to gain a little bit of pride back; a little bit of dignity," said offensive lineman Andrew Stephen.

Linebacker Russell Schoeppe, though, is looking at Manitoba and

points beyond. "The worst part (about the Dino victory) was the embarrassment. I want to play Calgary tomorrow."

Bear Facts: Alberta will have its second kick at Calgary when the Shrine Bowl moves south on October 24. . . Running back **Jeff Funtasz** is a question mark for the Manitoba game this weekend. He tore a hamstring on the last day of training camp and has not played a down all year. The strength in his injured leg is at about 65 per cent of what it should be. It has to be in the high eighties or low nineties before he can return. . . Defensive end **Dale Mounzer** reinjured his ankle against Calgary and is out at least two weeks. . . Quarterback **Mark Denesiuk** needs only 114 more yards to pass **Gerald Kunyk** and move into second place on the Bears all-time passing yardage list. . . Alberta was 1-1 against the Bisons last season. U of A won 22-11 here but lost 28-5 in Winnipeg.