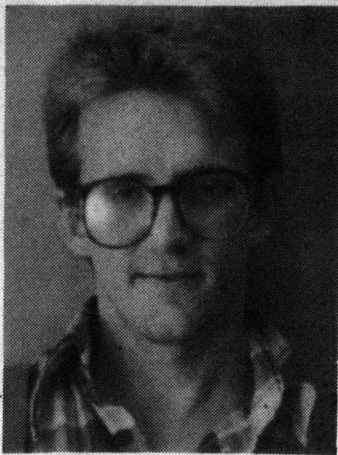


# Bears barely buffalo Bisons



## Randal Smathers Eight Days of Jays Hell

To begin I would like to apologize to all regular readers of this space who are also Jays fans. We all know that it was Al Small's column of last week which caused them to fold like paper, uh, Tigers and blow their whole season in the Eight Days of Jays Hell, 1987.

I couldn't bear to watch most of the weekend series in Motown, although I had to watch the Sunday closer. A few thoughts resulted.

Jimmy Williams should be toast. I argued against this point of view until I watched the Jays bat in the bottom of the ninth on Sunday, when Jimmy froze like the Iceman. It is easy to second guess managers, but nobody in their right mind would have sent up, in order, Cecil Fielder, Manny Lee, and Garth Iorg. All season of Jimmy has been changing bodies like a mechanic changing spark plugs, and when it counts, he can't think to try even one pinch-hitter? Iorg especially shouldn't have hit in this situation, with his miserable stats.

Anyways, the smart money has the Tigers trouncing the Twins. Both teams hit for power, but Detroit also hits for average, and they can pitch too, or their starters can.

Purists will appreciate the fact that the World Series will be decided on grass that grows for the second straight year, as the Giants pitching will prevail over the St. Louis All-Wimp offense.

Pick the Giants over the Tigers in a real snoozer series, mainly on the strength of having outfielders named Candy and Chili. Also look for Sparky Anderson to fall asleep face-first into his stupid charts, and for at least one complaint about doctored split-fingered fastballs per inning.

The other sport going full-bore right now is football. I caught part of a couple CFL games this weekend, and actually recognized several players on both teams; which is more than I can say for the National Fraudulence League games on Sunday. Didn't fill-in Bears QB Mike Hohensee once play for the Las Vegas Crapshoots of the US Awful a few years ago, or something?

Actually, the best football I saw all weekend was the Varsity Stadium tilt 'twixt the Golden Bears and the U of M Bisons. Head coach Jim Donlevy wasn't real happy, with his team holding on to win at the wire for the second straight game, but it sure makes fun for the fans. If you need a football fix in two weeks, show up for the Shrine Bowl against Calgary. It beats what's on TV.

Oh yeah, and as for the All-Canadian World Series? Well, just wait till next year. We'll get 'em then.



Photo Paul Menzies

The Bears Brian Forrest(31) and Gord Brown(42) keep an eye on Bison punt returner Jeppesen.

by Alan Small

Sure, they got the two points in the end, but a few more wrinkles and grey hairs could be spotted on the heads of the Golden Bears football coaching staff as the Bears squeezed out a 27-25 victory over the winless University of Manitoba Bisons.

Andy Branicki hauled in a fourth quarter pass from Darren Brezden to put the Bears in front for good. It capped off Branicki's greatest day as a Golden Bear as the freshman snared 5 Brezden passes for 74 yards on the day.

However the spotlight will be shone upon Bear fullback Mark Brus, who carried the ball 33 times for 250 yards and two touchdowns on the day. Brus also snared two passes along with WIFL player-of-

the-week honors.

The Bisons were no pushovers though. If Manitoba completes their two-point convert late in the fourth quarter Manitoba may not be winless and the Bears may not have been sixth-ranked in the country at the end of the week.

"If their offense can keep it close, they'll grind on you like a street fighter," Bears head coach Jim Donlevy said, "They love that old fashioned football."

After a 57-yard single by Steve Kasowski, the Bisons scored the first major of the game on a five-play-75-yard drive capped off by a 42-yard pass from quarterback Doug Lynch to Rob Turner. Peter Pura kicked the convert and put the Bisons ahead 7-1. Pura then kicked a 18-yard field goal to end

the first quarter scoring with the Bisons ahead 10-1.

The Bears would own the second quarter. After killing one of their own drives with penalties, they got the ball back and with one play put themselves back in the contest. Mark Brus ran one 41 yards into the Bison end zone, and with the convert, the score was 10-8.

Pura shanked a 24-yard field goal attempt, which ended up going wide for a single to put the Bisons up by a field goal, which was evened up late in the half by a 22-yard Kasowski field goal effort.

The U of A stormed out the locker room after the half and trampled down the field in seven plays and scored another touchdown. Brus, again, powered through the line of scrimmage,

hurdled over a couple of Manitoba tacklers and trundled into the end zone, forty yards later.

The celebration was short lived however, as the Bisons fullback Daryl Beswitherick ran one 80 yards on the next Manitoba play from scrimmage. Pura added the convert to tie up the ball game once more.

In the fourth quarter, turnovers reigned supreme. Brezden tossed one to Bison defensive back Bo-chinski on the first play of the quarter. The Bears defence stood tall after that until cornerback Todd Matheson blocked a Manitoba punt. The Bears though couldn't capitalize very well as they could only manage a 50-yard single by Kasowski.

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## O line making room for Brus

by Randal Smathers

In the first game after his running partner Jeff Funtasz was lost for the season with a knee injury, the pressure was squarely on the shoulders of sophomore fullback Mark Brus. After all, the Golden Bears offense revolves around the running game. With Funtasz out, Brus would have to carry the offensive load alone. How did he respond?

How about 33 carries for 250 yards, including touchdowns of 40

and 41 yards, plus 2 receptions for another 24 yards, to lead his team past the U of M Bisons?

If Brus was the individual game's star however, he refused to accept the laurels by himself. Brus instead credited his offensive line with giving him holes to run through. "They get such a good surge that the first five yards are easy," he said.

The line features Russ Brown, John Lamb, Kelvin Ostapowich, Dan Aloisio, Rick Shinkaruk, and Robin Steward. Lamb, the tight end, also contributed a couple of catches on second and long to keep the ball moving.

The line's main job is usually run-blocking, but on Saturday the Bears threw 25 times, and QB Darren Brezden had time to toss most of the day. Offensive line coach Brian Dickinson noted that his players can block either drop-back or roll-out plays equally. "We pass block well," he said. "In six games we've only allowed five sacks. They're experienced players and they work hard together."

Dickinson attributes much of the line's success to the size and strength of his linemen, saying that "they wear people down".

Head coach Jim Donlevy was pleased with the work of his line as well. "Early in the game they were taking away our tendencies and we

had to make adjustments, (we had to get the blockers) one-on-one so our guys have a chance. Nobody can block two men at once," said Donlevy. He added that on the whole, "Our offensive line gets the job done."

Everyone talked to after the game stressed the physical nature of the Bison team, especially in the pit where the line does their work.

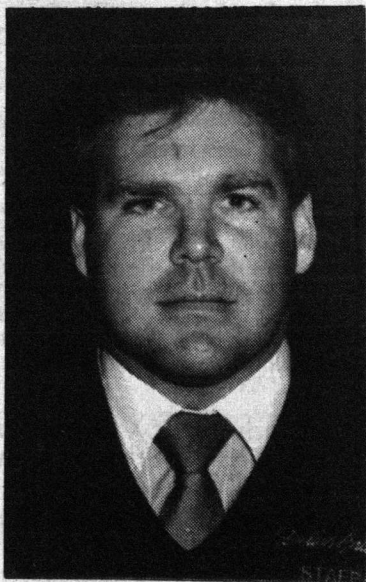
"They were keying hard on the inside," said Brus, who added that in the first game of the season the Bear attack had "beat them (Bisons) bad" up the middle.

John Belmont, offensive back coach, said that this is where Brus' physical skills came into play, that Brus is capable of reading his blocks well. In a game like Saturday's, where the interior line was clogged, Brus "would bounce it outside and get it turned upfield," said Belmont.

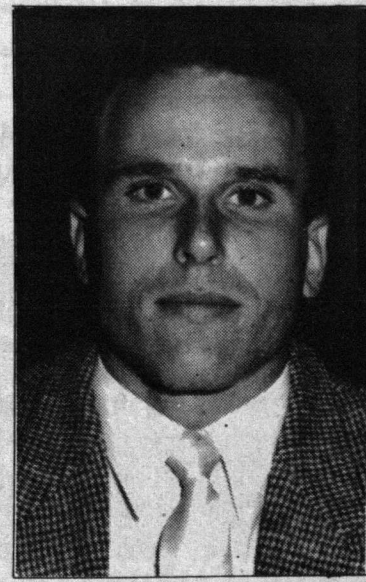
In fact Brus' second TD run came on a pitch around left end, and was opened up by some nice blocking. Brus was modest in describing his touchdown runs. "Darryl Grass pinned his block on the outside... it was real easy," he said about one, and "it was a nice play... I got some good breaks... it just opened up," about the other.

Brus also said that the improved passing game helped. "It kept the defense honest," he said.

Still, this game was important for Brus personally. "These are the guys that put me out (with last year's knee injury), and that caused a little hesitation," he said. He also admitted to feeling the heat with Funtasz out, because earlier, if a back was having a slow start, one could go in for the other, whereas now Brus will be relied upon. He ran the ball on 33 of 43 Alberta carries on Saturday. His backups are Tom Houg, chiefly a receiver, and freshmen Allan Bleiken and Jeb Norrie.



Offensive tackle Russ Brown



Offensive guard Robin Steward