

Alex Hardy

Sports Chatter

Five years ago the University of Alberta Golden Bears travelled to Montreal for the first East-West college football final. They left with a string of tincans tied to their tails, losers of a 46-7 mismatch to McGill University Redmen.

Still, the Golden Bears weren't convinced. They waited patiently for another crack at the East. It finally came in 1963, and Bears made the most of it by trampling Queen's 25-7 in the Golden Bowl. It was rich revenge for players like Maury Van Vliet Jr., who had been a part of that ill-fated 1960 Alberta team.

Since then, Alberta hasn't lost a game to Eastern opposition in four encounters. They get a chance to add to the string Saturday in Toronto, when they meet Toronto Varsity Blues in the first annual Save The Children College Bowl.

Despite the strong possibility of Alberta losing Saturday, the general consensus of Western observers is that the East is living in the past. They haven't kept pace with the swift advancement in game strategy.

In an attempt to discover the truth, I travelled with the Golden Bears on their September Eastern exhibition swing. It took them to London to meet Western Ontario.

My first clue came during a brief inspection of the locker rooms. In one I saw two white-and-purple

Western helmets. At first they appeared to be made of cardboard. A closer look revealed the truth. They were leather helmets . . . the big rage in the 1930s.

The morning of the game I went to see coach Metras in his office, seeking his side of the story. He had stepped out briefly, but a cute secretary ushered me into his office. On his desk I spied a letter from a coaching buddy. It went something like this:

"Dear John,

"How's the old single wing? You got the flying wedge down pat yet?

"John, this Alberta team you're going to play are a bunch of smart Alecks. They got a new-fangled thing in football now John. It's called the 'forward pass.' Perfected a couple of years ago by a couple of young fellows named Rockne and Dorais, I hear.

"No, I know Walter Camp wouldn't approve of it, but you have to go along with the times, John. What you do is THROW the ball from one feller to another. Honest, I PROMISE you it's legal, John.

"And another thing, John. I was reading where you don't have to chase a pig and get the bladder and blow it up anymore.

"Well, best of luck against Alberta, John. And for heaven's sake, try to get everybody uniforms that match. Have your wife sew numbers on the uniforms, too."

Best wishes,
Joe Schlotz"

By BRYAN CAMPBELL

REVIEW: 1965 SEASON

The Toronto Varsity Blues finished the 1965 season with a 4-2 record. The Blues lost to Queen's 31-0 and University of Western Ontario Mustangs 36-35. They clinched a berth in the College Bowl by defeating the Mustangs 21-16 in a post season play-off game.

What all this means in relation to western teams no one can say. The Blues did defeat the Manitoba Bisons 36-10 in a pre-season exhibition contest. The game saw the Blues rack-up an impressive 534 yard total offence against the powerful Bisons. The Bisons managed a pathetic 279 yards.

The Toronto team depended on a hard-charging offence, coupled with a stingy defence to nail down the Yates cup. The Yates cup is emblematic of eastern collegiate supremacy.

THE TEAM

1. OFFENCE

The Toronto Varsity Blues rely on a combination of short passes and long runs and they are strong in both departments. Number one quarterback for the Blues is Bryce Taylor, a man with an impressive arm and a good sense of timing. Taylor's pass completion average is 51.3 per cent, he also won the eastern scoring title last year. Taylor depends on the short ball, seldom throwing the long bomb associated with the Manitoba Bisons this year.

Back-up quarterback is Vic Wozniuk. Vic is no slouch as quarter-

backs go but his completions just shave the 40 per cent mark so he spends a little more time on the bench than Taylor. But don't underestimate this boy, he has thrown his share of touchdowns this year. Wozniuk is a proficient runner as well. He carried the ball three times for a total of 91 yards in the Blue's 36-10 romp over the Bisons early in the year.

Then there is Gerry Sternberg. Sternberg is the best halfback in Canadian college ball. The long end run is the 170 lb. back's trademark. He has blazed a trail over, under and around some of the best defences in the eastern league.

Sternberg's biggest moment came in a game two years ago against McGill when he scored three touchdowns in the last five minutes. Over the season he averaged 7.4 yards a carry rushing, and 20.8 yards per completed pass.

The Blues have a powerful, hole-opening line in front of them. Men like Jim Pampe, a 215 lb. guard for the Blues, make the breaks and run interference for the fast moving backfield.

Another big gun in a well armed backfield is split end Mike Eben. Eben averaged 16.1 yards a pass over a long season. Mike does the bread and butter work which makes the Blues go. Jim Ware is another sticky fingered Blues flanker, he averages 12 yards a carry.

Andy Szandtner is kick-off and punt return man for the Blues. Fast and tough, he averaged 20 yards a carry on the kick-off returns and 13.5 yards on the punts.

Toronto has one of the best offensive units in Canadian college ball. It is a line which capitalizes on every mistake and makes its own breaks if it has to. The Toronto offence relies on perfect execution in the short pass and end sweep departments to ensure victory.

2. DEFENCE

The Toronto defence is stingier than a government loan. If the offence bogs down the defence can almost win the game by itself. A fine example of the Toronto defence in action is the 1-0 defeat they meted out to the Queen's Golden Gaels Oct. 16. The Blues' front wall of Laird Elliott, Jim McMahon, Gary Clipperton and Ron Wakelin limited the hapless Gaels to 75 yards total rushing in that one. Then there's Al Giachino, middle linebacker, who is responsible for half the compensation cheques in the eastern league.

But this list of 200 lb. plus stalwarts leaves out all-star corner linebacker Ranny Parker. The legend of the 5'11". 205 lb. tough guy reached U of A last year when the Bears defeated the Blues 25-16. Parker is in charge of filling the holes around the end. Parker is a big boy and covers a lot of ground just standing there.

And you can't forget Rivo Ilves who plugs any end holes Parker isn't plugging. Then there is Ian Kirkpatrick, the opposition pass receiver. Kirkpatrick led the league in interceptions this year—his big hands saved several crucial games for the Blues.

The Blues' defence is tough, tough, tough. It will take a well co-ordinated attack to shake a few points out of this squad.

PREVIEW

There is no way to compare the east with the west, but it is safe to say the Blues will provide stiff resistance in the College Bowl.

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