

Bears miss playoffs despite win

by Darrell Semenuk

The U of A Golden Bears went out Saturday afternoon and proved to themselves and to a lot of other people, including the Manitoba Bisons, that they may be possibly the best team in the WFL. The catch is that they won't get a chance to prove it to UBC or Saskatchewan, the two teams who qualified for the playoffs. Bears needed a small miracle to make it to post season play, needing a win over Manitoba and a loss by UBC. Bears lived up to their end of the miracle, beating the Bisons 27-13 before over 2,000 fans at Varsity stadium, but the T'Birds crushed the Calgary Dinosaurs 37-15 to clinch top spot and eliminate Alberta from the playoffs.

"All the guys I talked to on the Bisons said we were the toughest team they met all year," commented a subdued Larry Tibble in the coaches dressing room after the game. The assistant coach along with the rest of the coaching staff had just heard the bad news from Vancouver.

"We win a football game, play a great game, and it feels like a loss," stated a dejected head coach Jim Donlevy. "We tied in Saskatchewan and it felt like a loss. I don't know what we have to do to get the feeling that we've won a game."

Bears actually tied in points with Sask for 2nd place, but the

Huskies had a better record between the two teams, a win and a tie.

Defensive co-ordinator Clarence Kachman voiced his confidence of the team's calibre also. "It's a shame we didn't make it (the playoffs) because we're the best team in the league right now. We're the best defensively, that's for sure."

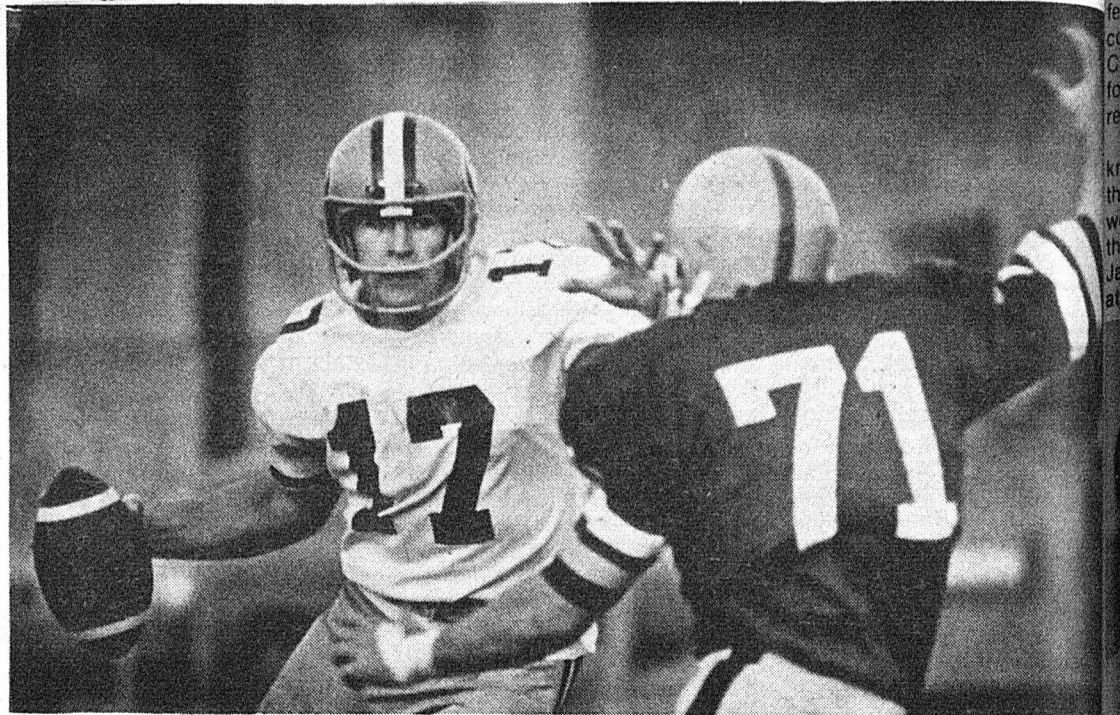
It's ironic that Alberta had the best record of any team in the 2nd half of the schedule (3 wins, 1 tie) and finished third, while UBC had one of the worst (1 win, 3 losses) and finished first.

It was the early schedule that made the year, for both Alberta and UBC, the Bears had trouble with their unstable offensive line, and had numerous rookies in the lineup, while UBC got off to a great 4-1 start.

In Saturday's game the Bears started early and never let Manitoba come within striking distance in the game. Quarterback Brian Larsen opened the scoring, hooking up with halfback Kerry O'Connor for a 40 yard pass and run play for Alberta's first major.

Poplawski added an 80 yard single. The second year flanker then booted a 34 yard field goal to increase the lead to 11.

Manitoba finally got things rolling with a fake field goal on the Alberta 14. Quarterback Bud Harden threw to fullback John Nelson who was forced out of



QB Brian Larsen had a good deal to do with the Bears success this season, but they still failed to make the playoffs. Photo Brian Gavril

bounds at the Alberta 2. Nelson carried over for the major on the next play. Dave Pearson added the point after.

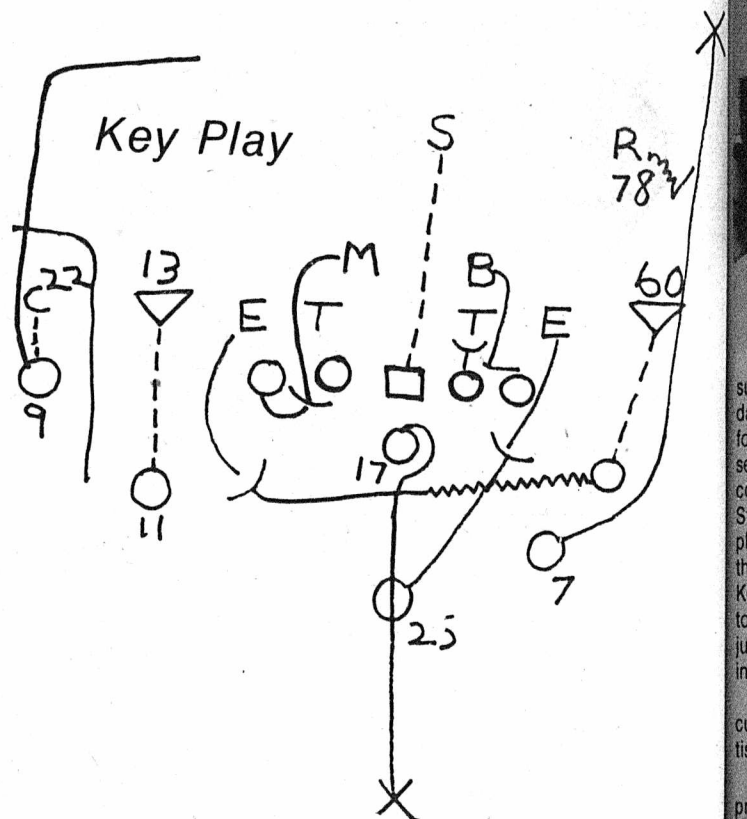
That set up the most crucial play of the game as far as both coaches were concerned — a 41 yard TD pass to John Tietzen from Larsen with 11 seconds remaining in the half. Poplawski again converted to give the Bears breathing room. The play was set up when Alberta stopped Manitoba on a third and ten gamble at the Bear 51. With 29 seconds showing on the clock, Larsen threw to Poplawski for 18 yards, and then the decisive strike to Tietzen who wriggled his way free for the major.

The Bears added 9 more points in the 3rd quarter on a 34 yard field goal by Poplawski, and a two yard TD run by fullback Dalton Smarsh, the convert was wide. Smarsh, who was playing in his final College game, turned in a gutsy performance, playing with bad ribs and rushed for 118 yards and another WFL rushing crown.

The Bisons added a late 4th quarter TD, on a 33 yard Harden pass to Wayne Ledyard. Their two point conversion failed. Alberta ran out the clock to preserve what turned out to be a hollow victory, leaving the Bears with a record of 4-3-1.

For the Bears it was a year that could have been, but never was. Ironically, they could end up the top ranked team in Western Canada while not making the playoffs. A small consolation for the Golden Bear coaching staff and players.

Bear Facts: Alberta had a number of players possibly playing their final games in Golden Bear uniforms. Graduating players include: Ron Bryant, Dalton Smarsh, Ray Manz, Dave Cawkell, Dennis Holowaychuk, Brian Towne, George Paleniuk, Jim Anderson and Leon Lyszkiewicz.



The Yardsticks

	Alberta	Manitoba
First downs	18	18
Yards rushing	157	138
Yards passing	188	173
Net offence	298	294
Passed made-tries	10-20	12-25
Interceptions	3	1
Punts-average	11-32.9	9-33.5
Fumbles-lost	0	1-0
Penalties-yards	10-100	11-65

Individual Rushing: Alberta, Smarsh 22-118. Manitoba, Nelson 11-60.
Individual Receiving: Alberta, Tietzen 3-67, Poplawski 4-61, O'Connor 1-40. Manitoba Ledyard 5-99.

WFL standings FINAL

	Won	Lost	Tied	For	Against
1. UBC Thunderbirds	5	3	0	204	202
2. U of S Huskies	4	3	1	161	141
3. U of A Golden Bears	4	3	1	165	164
4. U of Man. Bisons	3	5	0	181	135
5. U of C Dinosaurs	3	5	0	151	220

Sports Quiz

Answers page 2

- How many different presidents has the NHL had since its inception in 1917? a) 3 b) 5 c) 7 d) 8 (5pts)
- Name the home country of the following Wimbledon champions. a) Billie Jean King b) Manuel Santana c) Margaret Smith d) Ann Haydon Jones e) Roy Emerson (5pts)
- Which CFL player scored the most points in one game last year? a) Willie Burdon b) Art Green c) Terry Evanshen d) Johnny Rodgers (3pts)
- Who holds the CFL record for most interceptions in 1 year? a) John Wydraney b) Don Sutherin c) Garney Henley d) Al Brenner (3pts)
- Who led the NHL in penalty minutes last year with 370? a) Dave Schultz b) Bob Gassoff c) Steve Durbano d) Dave Williams (5pts)
- The first penalty shot ever taken in an NHL game didn't occur until the 1934-35 season? True or False. (1pt)
- Who captured the Men's World Cup skiing championship in 1976? (1pt)
- Which CFL player had the most converts in one game last year? a) Gerry Organ b) Dave Cutler c) Don Sweet d) Bernie Ruoff (2pts)
- Which Quarterback had the most yards passing in one game last year? a) Ralph Brock b) Tom Wilkinson c) Tom Clements d) Ron Lancaster (2pts)
- By what name is Edson Orantes do Nascimento commonly known? (3pts)

Bears utilize passing game

by Kelly Scott

The Alberta Golden Bears downed the Manitoba Bisons in a decisive win Saturday. Once again the passing game seemed to be the dominant factor in the win. The play diagrammed above, was one of the more outstanding passing plays of the game, as it netted the Bears a number of points.

Brian Larsen (17) pivots right and drops back to pass. John Tietzen (19) and Pat Barry (11) run outside patterns, removing their defenders, Ivan Csath (10), and Dave Pearson (13), from the downfield point of attack. Joe Poplawski (9) runs a sideline

pattern, which effectively removed Bisons cornerback Dave Henry (22), until it was too late. Brian Larsen released the ball to Kerry O'Connor (7) who on his downfield streak, left Brian Tarchuk (78) of the Bisons behind.

Throughout the game the Bears picked apart the Bisons man defence, which just didn't seem to be able to keep up with our receivers. Coupling the excellent passing game with some brilliant running plays, our Bears were clearly the victorious team.

Tickets on sale for Gold Rush

Tickets are now on sale for the Gold Rush International Gymnastics competition, to be held at the U of A Gym, Nov. 4 & 5 p.m.

The competition will feature world class gymnasts from 10 countries, including medalists from the '76 Olympics in Montreal. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for U of A students and children under 12. They can be purchased at the General Office in the Phys. Ed. Building or through all Woodward's outlets.

Co-Rec activities

Volleyball

All those who signed up for recreational volleyball, check the Co-Rec board or at the Co-Rec office (located in Men's Intramural Office) for November schedules.

Due to the overwhelming number of entries for volleyball, competitive volleyball will be run after Christmas. This will allow each team to play a greater

number of games — more volleyball time.

Curling

Sunday, November 7, 10:00 a.m. at SUB curling rink. A reminder to those interested in signing up for co-rec curling — deadline for team entries is Wednesday November 3. (2 girls, 2 guys). Check Co-Rec board or Co-Rec office for further details.