

# Smarsh and Fryer-



## Cannonball and the Streak depart

Saturday's 31-16 football victory over the U.B.C. Thunderbirds was almost certainly the last game for Dalton Smarsh and Brian Fryer in Golden Bears' uniforms. Each scored two touchdowns to finish their remarkable college careers.

During his four years with the Bears, running back Smarsh captured the Canada West rushing title in 1973 and 1974, and rushed for a total of close to 3,000 yards. His total this year is 892 yards, an extraordinary achievement if you consider that this yardage was gained in only seven games (Dalton missed most of the home game against Calgary with a head injury).

Fryer's statistics may be even more impressive. Last year he had 53 receptions for 1068 yards including 16 touchdowns for a total of 98 points. These figures represented four Western Conference records: most receptions, most touchdowns, most yards and most points in a season. His efforts earned him a nomination for the Hec Crighton Trophy as the nation's most outstanding college player.

This year has proved as outstanding for Brian as the last. He caught 52 passes for 943 yards including 7 Td's for a total of 48 points. Moreover, he was the leading punter (average: 38.8) in the league and 2nd in kick-off returns.

During his four years with the Bears, Brian has played at running back, wide receiver, wing back, quarterback, defensive back, punter as well as playing on kick-off and punt returns — you name it, Brian plays it.

Asked about the most rewarding moment during his time with the Bears, Dalton says:

"I think the most rewarding for me was in my rookie season to go all the way to the College Bowl. That's a team award. And then the personal award: winning the rushing title twice."

Brian agrees: "For me, 1972 when we won the College Bowl and then last year with four records and being nominated to go down east (for the Crighton trophy) even though you know you're not going to win down there."

Of course, times were not always "golden" for the Bears. Both players regard last year's "Kates Affair" as the greatest disappointment of their college career. (The Bears were required to forfeit two wins and a certain championship after it was found out that place-kicker Don Kates had not registered as a student and was therefore ineligible to play for the Bears.)

"We had a really good team," remembers Brian, "and games taken away just kills you."

This year's team performance proved another slight disappointment for the duo. Dalton remarks:

"I'm disappointed that we didn't win. I think we could have. I don't think that any team was that much better than us."

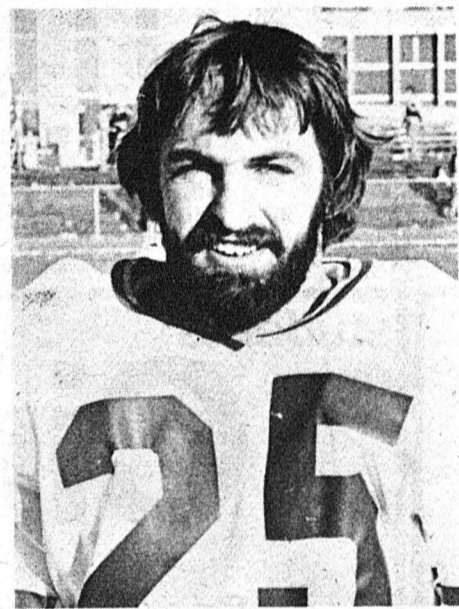
Fryer elaborates: "Since we had a lot of rookies, we had a lot of mistakes. You just can't do that."

Both players dedicated approximately four hours a day to the football team but they maintain that this did not interfere with their studies. Brian, a phys. ed. major, did not feel any great pressure.

Dalton, an education student majoring in phys. ed. and social studies, also points out that playing for the Bears does not give you any fringe benefits in school.

"I don't think we get any concessions at all as far as classes go. I doubt that half of my profs even know that I play football."

Brian agrees, adding: "They might recognize you but it's not at all the same kind of thing as in the States."



Dalton Smarsh

The only complaining of both players concerning the league centers around the size of the travelling roster. Dalton:

"A twenty-eight man travelling roster is just not enough. If you get two injuries, you're pretty well screwed if they are in key positions."

Brian feels that the teams should be able to take about 32 people on road trips.

Both players find it difficult to determine whether the calibre of play has improved in the Western



Fryer made scenes like this common at Varsity Stadium.

Conference over the last four years. Dalton says:

"1972 we had a super team. Last year we had a super team. This year we don't have a team that can compare with 1972 or last year. Other teams in the league are better than they have been before."

Bryan: "I think there is an improvement as far as the other teams are concerned. U.B.C. is a good example."

After four years together on the same team, Dalton and Brian will most likely go different ways next year. Dalton has not yet decided on his future plans.

"I'm not sure what I'm going to do next year. If I get a pro offer for a tryout, I'll go. But it's not the great hopes and aspirations for being a pro that I might have had when I was in high-school. It's just for the sake of going there and seeing why they (American running-backs) are supposed to be so much better."

Dalton has been told that his "small" size (5'10") prevents him from being an automatic choice of the pro-clubs.

"Right now I weight 175 pounds. I mean I could bulk up to 185, 190... They just don't look for Canadian running backs at that size. If you're a Canadian and a running back, they look for 6'1", 6'2" and 230 pounds."

Brian, on the other hand, will almost certainly play professional ball next year and probably with the Eskimos. He would like playing for

the Esk's because "it is a really good place. They've got a winning tradition and the coaching staff is good."

If Brian gets drafted in the States he'll see what the best offer will be but he obviously prefers the Eskimos.

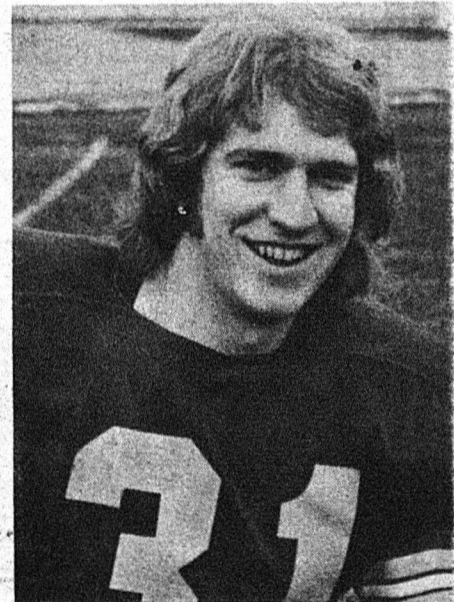
"It's your home town and you get more recognition. In the U.S., there is a lot of competition."

Brian is an Edmonton football product all the way. He played two years high school football for Scona and one year for the Huskies prior to joining the Bears.

Dalton and Brian are, of course, disappointed that they are not leaving the Bears as members of a championship team. Dalton remarks:

"It is a disappointment not to be on top when you go out but if you're playing football you've got to realize that you can't be on top all the time."

One last question remains to be asked. Gateway staffers have been wondering for a long time how Dalton can perform so well on the football field despite the fact that he is seen almost daily in SUB Cafeteria



Brian Fryer

for extended periods of time. Dalton quickly dispels the mystery. "I might sit there but I don't eat the food."

Otherwise, his almost 3,000 yards would have been even more astonishing.

Feature by  
Richard Hagar

## Donlevy comments

"If we could get every freshman in here and play football for four years the way those two have played football for us, we'd be in the College Bowl every year."

"Brian has never put himself and records ahead of the team interest. He's very conscious of records, and wants to set a lot of records, but he'd never complain that he wasn't getting the ball enough... he's a team man first."

"Brian's attitude was always a team attitude, despite his obvious superior ability."

"We never built our offence around him, despite his immense talent, and he never complained."

"Dalton, of course just never quits. He played hurt for more than a half against UBC, but that's just the way he plays the game."

"It will take us a while to replace a back of Dalton's calibre — you don't find that type of fullback too often."