

Football Bears have their fate decided for them

by Todd Saelhof

It all came down to the eighth and final weekend of play in Canada West regular season football for the University of Alberta Golden Bears. With the Bears having lost 37-9 to the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds one weekend ago, a T-Bird loss, coupled with an Alberta victory over the University of Saskatchewan Huskies this weekend was necessary if the Bears hoped to advance to the Canada West Finals.

The day before Alberta's confrontation in Saskatoon, however, UBC decided the Bears' fate by defeating the University of Calgary 34-24. The T-Birds win pushed the Bears out of contention, thus setting up for a UBC-Saskatchewan Canada West final in Saskatoon next Saturday.

Even with the bitter news of the Saturday contest in Calgary, the Bears clawed their way through the Huskies for a 22-21 win.

"I'm proud of the way they played, considering the disappointment of Saturday's game. It demonstrated the character of the guys to come out and play the way they did," said Golden Bear head coach Jim Donlevy.

Indeed, the green and gold victory under Donlevy helped bury memories of the painful Varsity Stadium 8-7 loss to Saskatchewan in September. The victory was also important to those Golden Bears who have dressed for the last time in a Golden Bear uniform.

Of those Bears not returning to the den next season is outstanding defensive lineman Brent Korte, who finished the year with a team high five sacks.

"We brought a lot of heat through during the game, with Len Sawatsky having a great game and Mark Singer as well, as usual," said Korte about the exceptional Alberta defense.

"It was a very emotional situation for the boys, because for some of them it's their last game," Donlevy said.

For starting quarterback Mike Kolodnicki, however, Alberta's final



The look of terror

Quarterback Mike Kolodnicki of the Bears sees trouble ahead. The Bears had trouble of their own as they couldn't turn a 4-2 start into a playoff spot. Although they did improve on their 1-7 record from a year ago, UBC and U of A both finished with 5-3 records. UBC grabbed the second and the last playoff spot because they swept both games from the Bears, 18-9 and 37-9.

game of the 1989-90 season provided him with some solid experience at the collegiate level.

"Mike played exceptionally well. He threw 35 passes which is more than usual for us," said Donlevy of the former Edmonton Huskie pivot.

Bear receiver Darryl Szafranski, who hauled in four Kolodnicki missiles, was quick to agree.

"We threw the ball a lot more than we usually do. We opened it up with the passes. Once we started, it caught the Huskies off guard," Szafranski said.

The Alberta pivot concluded the game throwing 17 of 35 for 240 yards. Just as impressive was that Kolodnicki and the offense were able to hold onto the football. "The offense never turned the ball over once. That was a big plus for us," Szafranski said.

The Saskatchewan offense, however, threw four interceptions under the guide of a replacement quarterback for the injured David Earl. Safety Terry Korte and cornerback Todd Matheson each split the four steals, with one of Korte's leading to a second half TD

big return.

Unfortunately for Korte and the Bears, the victory did little to cushion the realization that post season play was beyond Alberta reach. If anything though, Saturday's convincing victory did manage to allow the Bears not returning next year to end their careers on a high note.

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BEAR FACTS: (Defensive Lineman) Rick Medcke spent Sunday night in a Saskatoon hospital, but was expected to return to Edmonton Monday night.



Randal Smathers

Much ado has been made this year about the Bears hockey team rebuilding. Everyone points to the loss of Stacey Wakabayashi and Sid Cranston as the players the Bears need to replace. That's a little short-sighted.

Obviously, when you lose the last two CIAU most valuable players, their departure will leave a gap in your lineup, but expecting to replace them is not realistic. You can hope that Adam Morrison will continue at his present pace, and you can hope that Doug McCarthy will be able to reach last year's level without last year's linemates, but expecting any two players to replace Cranston and Wakabayashi is unfair to those players.

Instead, the Bears will have to rely on a different philosophy to get them to the top this year. They have been remarkably successful at recruiting "character" players over the years, and it is with these players that the Bears will rise or fall.

There is nothing wrong with being a grinder — just the opposite in fact — and being a grinder does not indicate that you can't score goals. What it does mean is that you're not afraid to check at both ends of the ice. It means that you can and will go into the corners to create a scoring opportunity, or that you'll take a beating in front of the net in order to set a screen or get a rebound.

Two years ago, the Bears lost a stellar crop of grinders: Jack Patrick, Curtis Brandolini, Jeff Helland, Dave Otto, and Dennis Cranston. That showed last year, as the team rode its specialty teams to the Nationals (71 powerplay and 15 shorthanded goals last year are both team records). This year, with three of their top four powerplay men gone — Wakabayashi, Sid Cranston, and Wes Craig—the team will have to rely on defence and depth.

The good news is that this year's crop of Bears matches up well with any squad in recent history, for size and checking ability. Rob Glasgow, Marty Yewchuk, Al Tarasuk, Todd Gordon, Brett Cox, and Dan Wiebe are the kind of forwards who can take up the slack from the grad class of last year. If these players use their speed and hitting ability to harass opposing teams, they can create a lot of turnovers, and therefore scoring chances.

When, in their home opener, the Bears were forced to pull the game out in the third period, they were a different looking club than in similar situations last year. When it's a close game and you can throw Wakabayashi and Cranston over the boards, you're apt to be fairly confident. As yet the team does not seem to have the same confidence in its ability to score almost at will. If they are content to put all the pressure on a few players — Morrison, McCarthy, perhaps one or two others — then this team will have problems against the better clubs in Canada West this year, and that self-confidence may not grow.

Somehow I don't see that happening. I think the Bear tradition and the class of the Class of '89/90 will come to the front. Forget trying to replace Sid and Stacey. What matters is that the Bears have replaced Jeff and Curtis and Jack and Dennis and Dave. It should be a good year.

Pandas off to Nationals

by Ajay Bhardwaj

Diana Kondrosky's second goal of the game lifted the University of Alberta Panda soccer team to 4-2 win over the University of Calgary Dinosaurs on Saturday. The win gave the Pandas a 5-0 record, good for first place in Canada West and a trip to the national championships in Acadia in November.

The Pandas trailed 1-0 at half-time, while they played against the wind. "We just kept coming," coach Tracy David said. "We got fed up at half-time and we attacked." The Pandas also got goals from Kelly Vandergrift and Janine Wood.

In a meaningless game on Sunday against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns, the Pandas came from behind again to grab a 1-1 tie.

The game was delayed for an hour as the field was cleared of one inch of snow. However, that was the least of the worries for the Pandas. "The refereeing was atrocious," David said. "Their goal came a corner kick that should have



The Panda soccer squad is going to the national championships. But, unlike last year, they hope they can win it all.

been a goal kick. But we didn't play well.

With the CIAU championships just ten days away, the Pandas want

to remain healthy. Already this season, the Pandas have seen goalie Lisa Tilley, defenders Nicole Poirier, Niki Townsend, and forwards Van-

dergrift, Sherri Froc go down with injuries. On the weekend, defender

PANDAS — p 13