

Red Bombers bow 10-2

By DAVE ANDERSON

In a fumble and penalty filled exhibition game last Saturday the UNB Red Bombers were outmuscled 10-2 by Sir George Williams University of Montreal.

In a generally poorly played game, neither offence was very successful, with each only gaining 160 yards in total offence. UNB's ground game without Bob Clive gained 120 yards against a deceptively tough Sir George line. John Malcolm handled most of the quarterbacking for UNB, completing 4 of 14 pass attempts for 40 yards. The offence in general was inconsistent and nervous, giving away 5 fumbles, which kept nullifying any chances of getting a good scoring drive going. As is expected in a first game, positional errors occurred and needless penalties were taken, but the fact that Sir George scored only 10 points results from their own ineptitude rather than good defensive play. As usual, UNB's defensive line looks rough with Ken White, Larry Jack, Gil Meredith and Gary Galloway. They hopefully will get it together before the official season begins. The defensive secondary are generally inexperienced and should benefit from the exhibition season. It appears that the deep secondary, which last year was at best atrocious could do the job, although they will have to make up for their lack of size by speed and good team play. A big plus for UNB was the five interceptions picked off by the defence, opportunities which can't be expected during the regular season against a good opposing quarterback.

The offence, hindered by fumbles and missed plays relied heavily on the ground game with Bob Kay, Darell Brown, Steve Gale and Lloyd Picard, but neither the runners nor the line did the job, as they couldn't seem to put two good runs together. Hopefully this will improve as John Danaher will bolster the offensive line while Bob Clive will return from the injury list. The passing game looks good with Jamie Porteous and Gary Norcott, and will balance out what should be a good offence. Malcolm at quarterback was hot and cold,

but in general didn't look as bad as the score indicates. Given more time to practice with his offence, he should be able to fit in well and get the offence moving. The loss is even more disappointing when you consider that Sir George had only 28 players dressed as compared to our 53 and was missing a quarter to their team, including nine veterans, as many players had not as yet made it to camp. With Sir George considered the worst team in the Quebec league it shows the long way UNB will have to go in order to be prepared for a regular season game against a good team, and this year, every team in the Blue-nose conference will be hungry for wins.

The game started off well for UNB as Lloyd Picard returned the opening kick-off 36 yards. A few good runs brought the ball to the Sir George 42. Bob Kay's kick went into the end-zone where Dave Kent caught the returner for a rouge. Neither offence could get going early in the game, but a 19 yard run by Steve Gale set up the next scoring play for UNB, as a single was conceded off a missed 25 yard field goal by Clarence Baccus, a new addition to the Bombers, making it 2-0 for UNB. Mid way through the second quarter the UNB pass defence fell apart with Sir George finally scoring on a 10 yard touchdown play from Pukliez to Goldenburg. The attempt for a two point conversion failed, and the score stood at 6-2. Sir George then came alive on a good series of runs by Pukliez and Asmoklic, down to the UNB 1 yardline. After missed plays and penalties, Sir George though, could only manage a single on a missed 11 yard field goal, making the score 7-2. At the end of the half, a late scoring drive by John Malcolm on passes to Norcott and Porteous was ended by Nichols intercepting for Sir George.

The third quarter started with a seesaw battle between two butterfingers, offences who seemed determined to give each other the ball. Walt Kaczowski for UNB intercepted a dump pass at mid field, but a fumble by Brown gave the ball back a few plays later. Darell fumbled again on the next

series, giving the ball to Sir George at the UNB 45, but Dave Kent intercepted for UNB at 14 allowing Gale to fumble the ball away at the 15 resulting in a Georgian single on another missed field goal. The score was then 8-2, but if Sir George had a decent field goal kicker the score would have been much worse.

The fourth quarter was no better, as UNB couldn't get together a consistent ground attack while they all but abandoned the pass. Two more fumbles were given up by UNB, but Sir George managed only two singles to set the final score at 10-2. Bob Forbes made an appearance as quarterback late in the game for UNB, but could get nothing going.

Although this loss could be attributed to lack of practice and rookies learning their positions, we should see what kind of stuff the team is made of tomorrow as UPEI is here for an exhibition game at college field. The Bombers have a tough start in season play, away to X and Dal the first two weeks, so a good performance against UPEI will be needed to bolster the confidence of what can be a good team. Game time is 1:30, so get out and support the team.

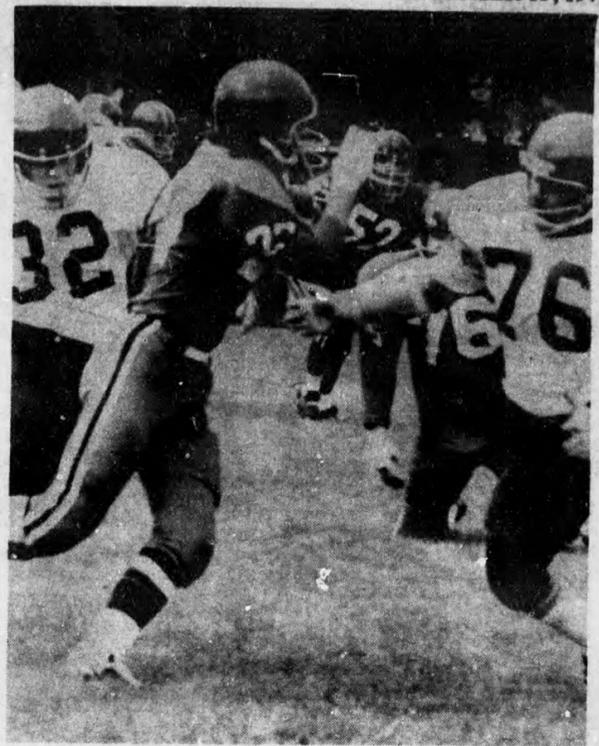


Photo by James Walker

Lloyd Picard romps around the right side into the waiting arms of two of Sir George's waiting defenders, who put up a far stiffer defence than anyone anticipated.

The Bombers gained 110 yards on the ground, but could not get any good drives together or put enough points on the scoreboard. The Bombers hope to make up for the 10-2 loss by beating UPEI.



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