

Bears consistent in win over T'Birds

by Peter Best

You've got to say one thing for the Golden Bear football team: they're consistent. In their first three games this season their average score was a 53-10 win. So what was the soccer in U of A's game against the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds last Saturday at Varsity Stadium?

53-10 Bears.

But while the score was a normal one for Alberta, the conditions were not. The temperature was about 30 degrees all afternoon and the winds were blowing strongly

from the north.

There were other unusual circumstances as well. The Bears were going into the game with a 3-0 record. The T'birds, a team with a majority of rookies, were 0-2. Naturally U of A was the favourite. No-one knew how the inexperienced T'birds would react in their first game with the powerful Golden Bears.

If you were one of the several hundred fans who saw the game you know that the U of A's lack of crispness held the scoring to a minimum. After 15 minutes Alberta held a 6-1 lead on two field goals by

Don Kates, compared by a 50-yard punt for a single by UBC's Jim Baker.

In the second quarter the Bears broke loose for 16 points. Kates kicked his third field goal, Gerald Kunyk threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Brian Fryer, and Ron Bryant ran one in from UBC players reacted pretty well. Head coach Frank Smith had his young team ready and hustling for most of the game.

On the other hand, the Bears were probably not as sharp as they could have been. It was a difficult game to prepare for from U of A's stand point. After all, it's pretty hard to take an opponent seriously when you know they lost 63-0 to a team you beat 54-7.

And so in the first quarter a combination of factors - bad weather, the T'birds' hustle, and UBC's five-yard line to give U of A a 22-1 lead at halftime.

But instead of folding after the Bears' outburst the T'birds came back strongly in the second half. With 5:45 gone in the third quarter UBC's

quarterback, Dan Smith, threw an eight-yard pass to Marshall MacLeod for a touchdown. Three minutes later Gary Metz kicked a 19-yard field goal for the Thunderbirds to make the score 22-10.

At that point the Bears decided they'd done enough fooling around. With Kunyk and Bryant alternating at quarterback they scored 31 unanswered points. First Kunyk passed 12 yards to Fryer for a touchdown. Then Brian Adam scores on an eight-yard run and Don Guy returned a punt 53 yards for another major. Finally Bill Evans blocked a T'bird punt at UBC's 35-yard line and Tom Towns picked up the loose ball and returned it for six more points.

Kates kicked his fourth field goal, a 45-yarder, and added

three converts. Kunyk booted a 73-yard punt for a single to finish the scoring.

In total offense for the afternoon U of A gained 515 yards, 302 yards by running and 213 passing. Dalton Smarsh continued to lead the runners with 113 yards on 13 carries while Fryer was the top receiver with five catches for 83 yards.

On defense the Bears held UBC to 11 first downs and 172 yards in total gains. Evans had an outstanding game at his linebacker position and tackle Mike Ewachniuk spent the afternoon roaming around the T'birds backfield.

In Saskatchewan, Manitoba Bisons recorded their first win of the season, downing the Huskies 11-0 on the strength of one converted touchdown and four singles.

Pandas win at field hockey

The Alberta Provincial team walked away with first place in the U of A Invitational Field Hockey tournament held last weekend at Lister Hall field. They defeated Edmonton Ladies and U of C to win their division on Saturday. Sunday the defending Canadian champions put on an impressive show as they beat U of A 8-0 in the semifinals and then waltzed past U of A 6-0 in the final game.

Miserable weather plagued the tournament. The few hardy

souls who did brave the rain and cold to watch the games did not have much to cheer about for their efforts as the Pandas had a disappointing weekend.

Saturday Pandas got off to a good start against Saskatchewan but let up the pressure midway through the first half and never did get back in the game. Saskatchewan wound up with a 2-0 win. The score would have been closer had Pandas been able to finish off their scoring chances in the opposition's

circle.

The second game against Calgary Ladies was a defensive battle, with the score winding up 0-0 at the end of regulation time. Pandas had numerous scoring chances during the second half but a determined goalie kept Calgary in the game. Pandas finally won in overtime when Susan Holder tapped in

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PANDA field hockey action

Photo by Charlie Pentax

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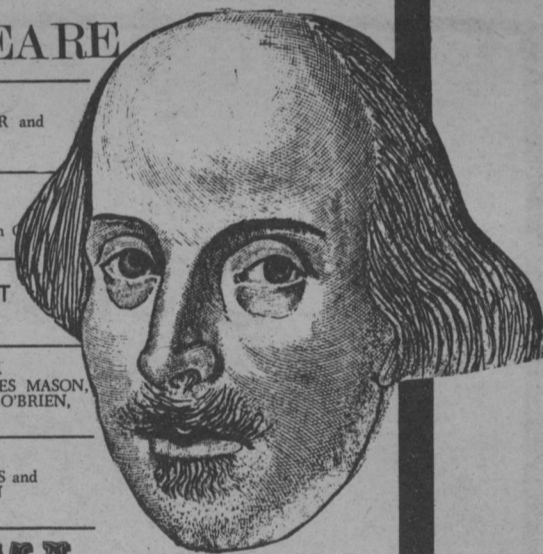
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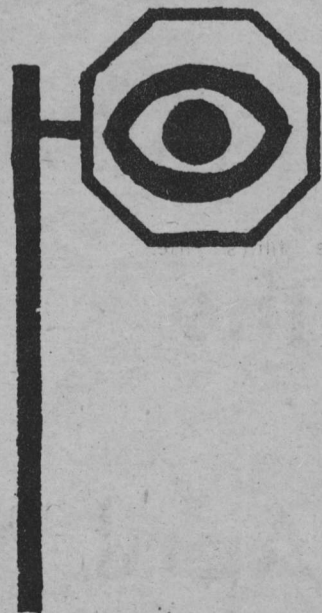
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