

sports

Dalton Smarsh, the big little man for Grid Bears

by Darrell Semenuk

You've heard the old adage, good help is hard to find. No one knows that feeling better than a football coach. Many a grey hair has taken root on a coach's scalp over the problem of trying to replace class athletes.

For someone like Golden Bear coach Jim Donlevy, that doesn't leave much room for any more silver strands to find a new home. Donlevy was spared at least a lock of the grey stuff when he learned that his all-star fullback, Dalton Smarsh would return for one more year of College ball, his fifth.

Smarsh, the 5'10", 185 pounder, who gained 892 yards last year, and who has amassed close to 3,000 yards throughout his career, decided to return after being released from the Saskatchewan Roughriders training camp earlier this summer.

Smarsh's prime motivation for returning was simple, his deep love for the game. "I love football with a passion," asserts Smarsh. And if his manner of speaking doesn't convince you, his presence on the football field surely will.

The man has nothing to prove to anyone, he's more than affirmed his position as one of the premier runningbacks in College football. Still, he's the hardest worker on the team.

After just finishing a grueling sprint, to end an hour and a half practice, that has left most players flat on their backs gasping for air, Smarsh utters three words for his feelings about the exercise. "I love it."

The two time leading ground gainer in the WFL knows he's in a different position than most players on the team. He's looked up to for leadership, a pressure that he readily responds to. "I wanted to win that last sprint to show that I was working as hard

as anyone else. There has to be leadership on and off the field."

The Education graduate says that no one person talked him into returning, but that the players voiced their desire to play another year with him. He has made lifelong friends with players on the team during the past four years and wanted to play another year with them.

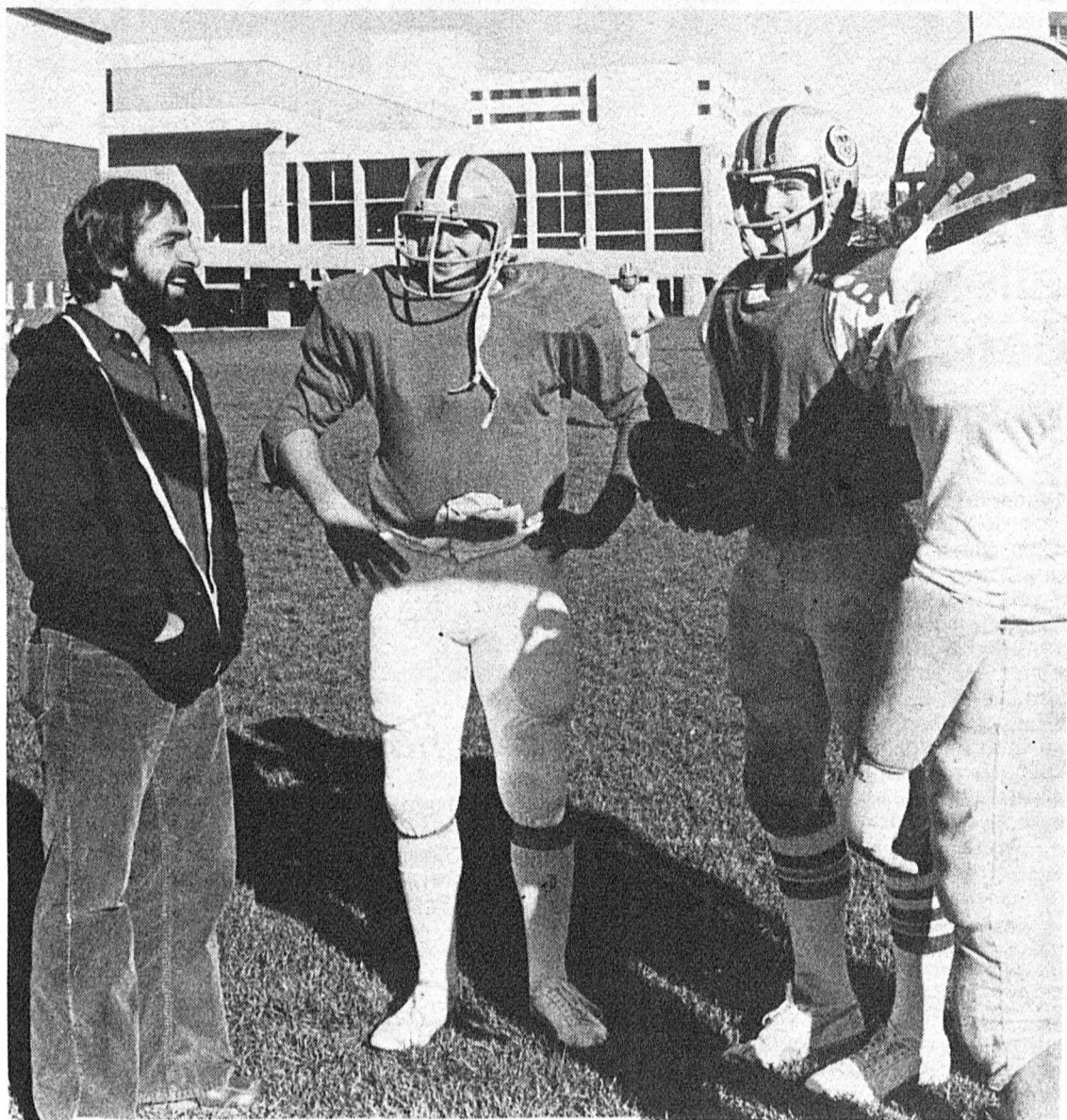
Smarsh is used to carrying the ball 20 to 25 times a game, but wouldn't balk at being used less. Team success comes first. As Smarsh unselfishly puts it. "Setting a team goal is my personal goal. I realize how much I love the game. I'm willing to give up a lot more than in my rookie year."

The "cannonball", which he was known as for the past three years, has picked up a new tag, this one coming from his tryout in Sask. "Cannonball" is now the "little man".

Coach Donlevy had only praise for Smarsh upon his return to the Bear training camp. "We're very pleased that Dalton came back this year. We've had experiences where it hasn't worked out very well. Players have come out (from pro camps) with a bad attitude. That's definitely not the case with Dalton. He's working his buns off. He's something unique, a veteran player with a rookie attitude."

Smarsh will get a chance to display that attitude along with the running that's earned him nearly 3,000 yards, on Saturday afternoon at Varsity stadium. The Bears take on the U of Saskatchewan Huskies at 2:00 p.m. in their home opener.

To come up with a win the Bears are expecting the "little man" to come up with a BIG game. And what's so unusual about that? He's done it every game before. When it comes down to giving everything you've got, you can count on Dalton Smarsh. That's the only way he knows how to do it.



Dalton Smarsh will suit up with his teammates on Saturday afternoon against the U of Sask. Huskies. Game time at Varsity Stadium is 2:00 p.m.

- photo by Brian Gavriloff.

Sports Quiz

1. Who holds the major league record for most consecutive games hitting a home run? a) Dale Long b) Mickey Mantle c) Lou Gehrig d) Hank Aaron (5pts)
2. Who was the number one draft choice in the NFL's 1976 College draft? (5pts)
3. Only one heavyweight boxing champion retired undefeated. Who? (3pts)
4. Wilt Chamberlain holds the NBA record for most points in 1 game, how many? a) 64 b) 81 c) 100 d) 104 (3pts)
5. Name the commissioner of the Professional Golfer's Association. (3pts)
6. Which team has won the Prince of Wales trophy (first place in the NHL) more times (17) than any other team? (2pts)
7. Name the last Montreal and Toronto player to win the Calder trophy (rookie of the year). (4pts)
8. Willie Burden became the first running back in CFL history to rush for more than a mile when he totaled 1896 yards last year. True or False. (2pts)
9. George Reed gained over 1000 yards in how many seasons? a) 7 b) 9 c) 11 d) 15 (3pts)
10. Name the captain of these NHL teams in the 1975-76 season. a) Buffalo b) Minnesota c) St. Louis d) Los Angeles e) Pittsburgh (5pts)

Join Judo

The U of A Judo club is offering an introductory session for all prospective members, tonight, Thursday, Sept. 16 in Rm. 2 of the Phys. Ed. Building.

The regular practices are held at 5:00 p.m. for seniors, Monday through Thursday. The beginners practice Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. There is a chance for both women and men to compete in tournaments, both in shiai (fighting) and kata (style). Everyone is welcome to join.

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U of A Curling Club requires an Executive Committee

Anyone interested please contact Games Area Supervisor. Watch *The Gateway* for information on the General Meeting, or contact Games Area Supervisor 432-3407.

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