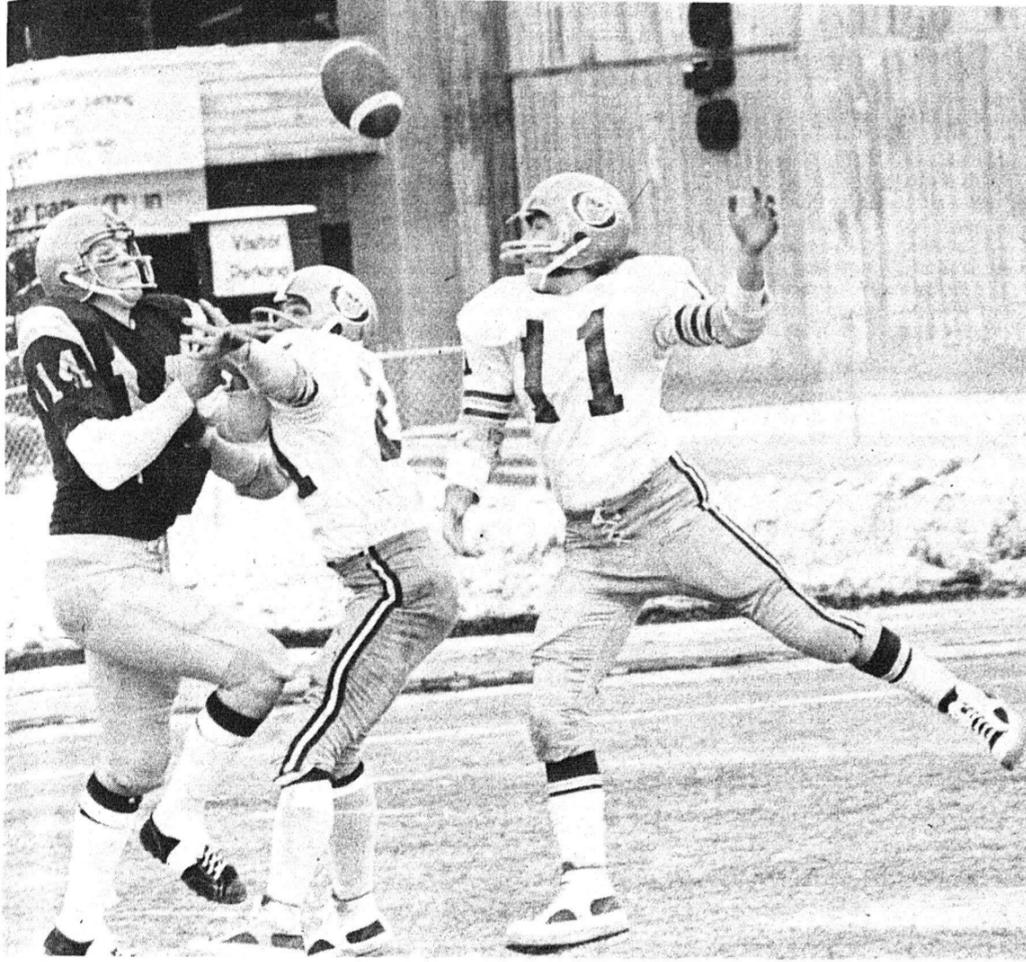


SPORTS



Larry McDaniel and Gary Widynowski defend against a Bud Hardin pass to Bisons' Rick Koswin in Bears' grand exit from the 1973 season.

photo by Sandy Campbell

Football Bears finish strong

by Peter Best

Tonight in Winnipeg Manitoba Bisons and Saskatchewan Huskies will meet to decide the Western Intercollegiate Football League championship. The playoff game is necessary because University of Alberta Golden Bears defeated Manitoba 23-15 here Saturday and Saskatchewan beat UBC 38-3 in Saskatoon, leaving Bisons and Huskies tied for first place.

The WIFL officials could have saved themselves a lot of headaches if they would just send the best team in the league to the Western College Bowl: Golden Bears.

Why bother with a playoff that'll only leave the winner completely exhausted for next Saturday's national semi-final? Why not let Alberta represent the league?

It's true that Manitoba and Saskatchewan both finished the regular season with 6-2 records while Bears were 5 and 3. But forget those minor details. Bears led the league in scoring with 261 points and had the fewest points (148) scored against them. They beat Simon Fraser University, supposedly Canada's best intercollegiate football team because of its athletic scholarships. They suffered injuries to players like Terry Cairns, Larry Tibble, Mike Ewachniuk and Bill Evans but still kept playing.

But nothing can change the WIFL's decision to have the playoff. Not even Bears' victory over Manitoba.

Just 247 fans showed up to watch the game, played in 12 degree weather on a frozen Varsity Stadium field. But Alberta's come-from-behind win was enough (almost) to keep anyone warm.

In the first half Manitoba almost knocked Bears out of the stadium. They opened up with a

reverse to halfback Gord Paterson on the kickoff for a return to Bisons' 52 yard line. Quarterback Bud Harden led his team to a touchdown in seven plays, Paterson going over from one yard out for the major. Fullback-placekicker Don Kates' convert made it 7-0 just two minutes, 55 seconds into the game.

Bears fumbled the first two times they had possession and Bisons recovered both but U of A's defence held the herd to a single on a wide field goal attempt to leave the score 8-0 after 15 minutes.

Near the end of the first quarter Bears' offensive tackle Bob Pugh and Manitoba's linebacker Bob Toogood were ejected for fighting. Neil Falkied replaced Pugh and John Frase backed up Toogood but a few plays later Frase was injured and Kates was pressed into service. Kates played both ways for most of the final three quarters.

At the 5:21 mark of the second period Bisons jumped to a 15-0 lead on a 76-yard pass play from Harden to Rick Koswin and Kates' convert.

Alberta's offence sputtered for most of the first half under quarterbacks Gerald Kunyk and Ron Bryant. They managed to score a single on a wide field goal attempt by Jack Schwartzberg to make it 15-1 at halftime.

But it was all Alberta in the second half. Less than five minutes into the third quarter Kunyk hit Vance Curtis with a 65-yard pass good for a touchdown and Schwartzberg's convert put Bears back in the game, 15-8.

After Kunyk's 53-yard punt for a single cut Bisons' margin to 15-9 Bears' defence took over.

Safety Lyle Watson picked off the first of Alberta's five interceptions to stop one

Manitoba drive, then, on Bisons' next series, recovered Harden's fumble at U of A's 51 yard line.

But Bears couldn't take advantage of Watson's heroics and the score was still 15-9 after three quarters.

Linebacker Tony Pugliese intercepted an overthrown Harden pass and returned it to Manitoba's 34 yard line to set up U of A's go-ahead points. Dalton Smarsh went 12 yards around right end for a touchdown and Schwartzberg converted to make it 16-15.

On Bisons' second play following the kickoff linebacker Jamie Steer read and intended screen pass for Paterson perfectly and was in position to haul in Harden's high throw. Determined not to let Bears' offence have all the fun of scoring, Steer returned his interception 26 yards for a touchdown. Schwartzberg's convert finished the scoring at 8:45 of the fourth quarter.

Manitoba tried to come back but Alberta's defence took the game away from them. On a third down gamble at U of A's 29 yard line Jim Drummond rose up and batted down a Harden pass to give Bears possession.

With 42 seconds left to play Harden tried to hit Koswin with another long pass but Bears' defensive halfback Gary Widynowski intercepted. On the game's final play Doug Senuik picked off a pass intended for Paterson to kill Bisons' last hopes.

While Bears were gaining their league-leading team totals for points-for-and-against Smarsh and halfback Brian Fryer were becoming the top two rushers in the WIFL. Smarsh

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Soccer league must organize

by Paul Cadogan

This year, the soccer Bears official league schedule consisted of one round robin tournament that was played in Victoria on Oct 28 and 29.

This tournament decided the Canada West champions who would represent the Western division in the National finals that were played in St. John's, Newfoundland last weekend.

The preparation for these tournaments is strictly in the form of exhibition games, all of which were arranged by the coaches of the various teams.

The exhibition season saw Bears travel to Saskatoon, Calgary and Washington State to play against teams that were inferior to them in every way as far as their soccer abilities were concerned.

A regular season should be established for the league in time for next year. Granted that soccer does not attract the audience in the West that turns out for football and hockey games but part of the reason for this situation can be laid upon the fact that there is really nothing for the average sports spectator to go by.

The major consideration in fielding a team for a minor sport is money. The travel budgets for western teams are much higher than those in the east. U of A teams travel 185 miles for their closest competitors while a team from Toronto travels about that far for their furthest game from home.

If a two division league were set up with Calgary, Saskatchewan and U of A in the "eastern" division and teams from UBC, Victoria and, if they could avoid importing scholarship players from South America, Simon Fraser, there would be a little more for the fan to see.

The teams could play three home and three away games and have an interlocking schedule that would see a western division team travel to play one or two of the eastern teams. The teams could alternate who visited who on a yearly basis.

It would not be as awkward as the present system and, what is more important, the idea of working toward a Canada West final would carry a bit more weight for the players and fans alike.

Now, few people are likely to go to a hastily arranged exhibition game as has been shown.

In a league situation, natural rivalries tend to develop and this adds a positive dimension to the game as well. Calgary/Golden Bear hockey and football games attract respectable crowds and probably will for a long time yet.

As long as no action is taken to get a regular season for soccer, it will continue to be a "write-off" sport on campuses throughout the West.

Soccer Bears had a good team this year. Ike MacKay, John Devlin, George Lovell, Phil Craig, Geoff Salmon and Tony Msemakweli were all scoring throughout the exhibition season and in the playoffs.

The defense was solid right up to the last game in St. John's.

In short, Bears fielded a team that were good representatives of the fast exciting sport in which they participate.

They deserve better conditions in which to show what they can do and a league would certainly show that the sport is being taken seriously by more people than the coaches, players and reporters who follow the team.

Hurry Christmas !!

by Allyn Cadogan

Several of Clare Drake's hockey Bears have been heard to comment recently along the lines of, "I'll be in condition by Christmas..."

While there's nothing at all wrong with being in condition for the Christmas exhibition games, Bears' regular season unfortunately began last Friday in Vancouver and they just weren't ready for it. Alberta lost to University of British Columbia Thunderbirds 6-2.

Team captain Jerry LeGrandeur commented after the game, "I was up for it, but I just didn't have the legs." The entire team got their legs for the exhibition match Saturday night, however, when they trounced 'Birds 5-3.

'Birds came out skating hard and fast in Friday's encounter and Bears were pretty well out of the game after the first ten minutes.

Len Ircandia, a BC defenceman, put Alberta on the scoreboard when he tipped in a shot from Oliver Morris. But Bill Ennos got that one back just seconds later and Chuck Carrigan gave Birds a 2-1 lead to end the first period.

Morris again evened the score midway through the second period. Four minutes later Ennos came from behind the Alberta net to scoop in the winner. Rich Longpre netted two more for BC while Scott Munro dumped in a single.

Thunderbirds have a fast-skating, hard-hitting club that doesn't miss a chance with the puck. Coach Bob Hindmarch

commented that it is the best skating and most physical team he's ever had. "There's lots of competition in practice," he added. "The team spirit is just fantastic."

Hindmarch lost only six players from last year's club and has had little trouble filling in the gaps. Yoshio Hoshino, a centre from the Japanese National Team, and Rod Hare on defense, a transfer from University of Guelph, were two very impressive rookies. From the look of things, UBC is going to be the team Alberta will have to beat to repeat as league champions.

Although Bears were outskated Friday, exhaustion seemed to be their biggest problem. Coach Drake had worked the team hard all last week in an attempt to ready them for the weekend matches. By Saturday they were completely recovered from the heavy practices and tiring plane trim from Edmonton.

Clarence Wanchulak and Oliver Steward paced Alberta with two goals each while Steve McNight netted the single. Carrigan, Hoshino and Hare scored for 'Birds.

While Bears played a near-perfect game, BC looked rather worn out from their previous night's effort.

Drake saw it just a little differently. "The team proved a point in the second game," he said "It wasn't so much a question of BC playing badly as

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