

# WIFL picks

by Tim Enger

As fall grows nearer and the leaves start to turn, the burning question on most everyone's minds is 'What is going to happen in the W.I.F.L. this year?'

Okay, maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration because probably the one question that comes to your mind right now is 'What is the W.I.F.L.?' Well, the Western Intercollegiate Football League, created in 1959, is made up of teams from the University of Alberta, British Columbia, Calgary, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. The Golden Bears have enjoyed the most success in those 27 years, taking the league title 11 times.

Here are some predictions based on what is known about the five teams and what logically should happen. But, unfortunately for those of us who make predictions, a season of the W.I.F.L. is not always dictated by logic.

**UBC THUNDERBIRDS (6-2)** — Always tough at home, and now bolstered by one of their biggest line-ups since their 1982 Vanier Cup victory, the T-Birds should battle their way to the top of the W.I.F.L. in 1986.

All of their offensive backfield, which led them to a second place tie last year with Alberta and Manitoba (both UBC and Alberta missed the playoffs as a result of Manitoba having a better points for and against record), are back as well as most of the defense. The only foreseeable problem could be along the offensive line where they are rumored to have lost the entire starting unit from 1985.

Nevertheless, they have one of the easiest schedules in the league (for the first time in a long time they don't have to play their final game on the frozen prairie), and with the added distraction of Expo '86, at home the Thunderbirds should

catch some teams napping.

**ALBERTA GOLDEN BEARS (5-3)** — Though this is one of the youngest Bear teams in a long time, the 1986 edition hopes to have the same success as the 1979 team which won the W.I.F.L. despite being very green. What has yet to be seen is whether or not the starting rookies, of which there will be four on defense and five on offense, can adapt to university ball quickly enough.

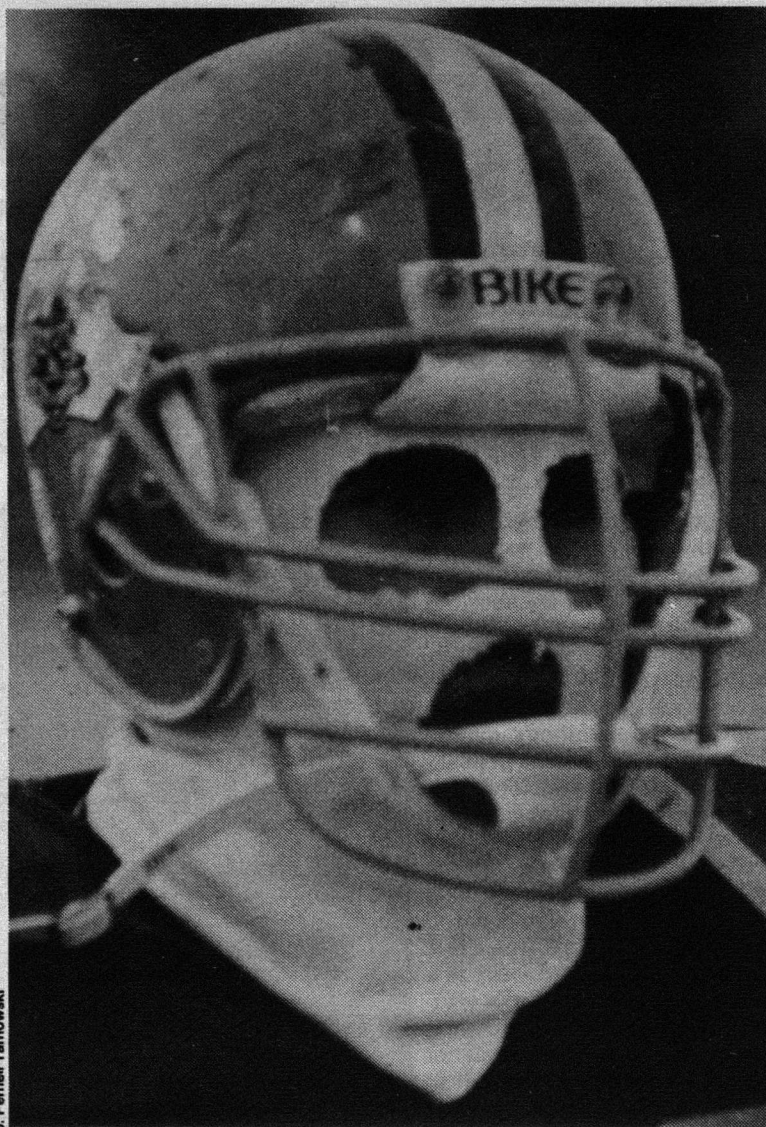
The two strongest points should be at running back where 1984 C.I.A.U. Rookie-of-the-Year Jeff Funtasz will lead the charge, and in the defensive secondary where most everybody has returned.

If all goes well this could be a banner year for the Bears, but if all does not go well . . .

**CALGARY DINOSAURS (5-3)** — It's hard to pick between the U of C and the U of A this year but the nod has to be given to the Bears because of the experience that they have in the crucial positions. This doesn't mean that the defending National Champions are going to roll over and die, though. They may have lost their Schwarzenegger-like defensive line to the CFL but they can always dig into their weight room for a couple more big boys and insert them as easily as replacing a lightbulb. Their problem lies at quarterback, a position which has been filled with talent along the lines of Greg Vavra and Lew Lawrick for the past five years. The Dino's will have to rely on some untested commodities this year (one being ex-Golden Bear back-up Joel Brown) in that position.

So it just might be that second place in the W.I.F.L. will be decided by who wins the North/South Shrine Bowl, the two regular season contests between Calgary and Alberta.

**MANITOBA BISONS (3-5)** — Last year the Bisons 4-4 record was



When November comes it should be the Bears at UBC... thankfully.


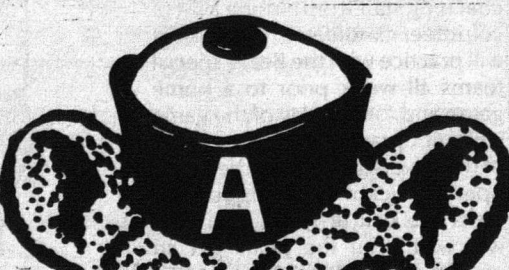
good enough for second place. This year with one less victory they should finish fourth. Manitoba is not all that bad of a team, they just happen to play in a league that has produced teams that have won four of the six Vanier Cups played in this decade. So the task in front of them is comparable to the plight of the other four teams in the Smythe Division of the NHL trying to finish first in the regular season standings. It's simply not going to happen too often. Until the Bison's

can wake up their program and realize what they are dealing with they will continue to play sub .500 football. The jury is still out on whether or not last year's playoff appearance was a fluke, but, as always, the verdict will be determined at the end of the season.

**SASKATCHEWAN HUSKIES (1-7)** — Same old song and dance for the doormat brothers. There must be something in the water at the U of S.

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 the one team that Alberta would most dearly love to beat is the Calgary Dinosaurs. In the past three years though, the Bears have defeated the Dinos only once in nine tries. And it's not that Alberta has been such a poor team either. In the aforementioned lean years for the U of A, Calgary has collected three WIFL titles and two National crowns. But the tide seems to be turning.  
 Calgary won the Vanier Cup last season despite the adversity of some speculation of steroid use among some of the Dinos. (It was rumored that their own trainer was at the head of a push for drug testing because he could see evidence of steroid use but could do nothing.) This year, Calgary has lost most of the monsters that helped them in their winning ways in '85. Couple that with the speculation that Alberta will field one of their strongest teams in this decade, and you have the earmarks of a pretty good two game set-to.  
 Ticket sales for the game have done surprisingly well thus far, no doubt aided by the intercity rivalry being at a fever pitch during the last several months. (And don't be surprised if the Alberta Athletics Department have 'sold' a large number of those tickets to their many corporate sponsors for their own distribution.) Ticket sales are reportedly at the 5000 mark already for the Edmonton game, which is already double the number of patrons that watched the Bears at Varsity all of last year. Ironically, when Alberta played in Calgary last season there were 5000 fans plus in attendance.  
 Now 5000 people is still a small number for the cavernous Commonwealth Stadium, but with two and a half weeks remaining and most of the promotions yet to come, the turnout could yet surpass the highest attendance ever at a Canadian university football game (15,000 for the 1984 Vanier Cup in Toronto).

## STUDENTS BEWARE!! INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM TRYOUTS

| WEDNESDAY<br>SEPTEMBER 3  | THURSDAY<br>SEPTEMBER 4   | FRIDAY<br>SEPTEMBER 5   | MONDAY<br>SEPTEMBER 6  | TUESDAY<br>SEPTEMBER 9  | WEDNESDAY<br>SEPTEMBER 10  | TUESDAY<br>SEPTEMBER 16   |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <b>GOLDENBEAR BASKETBALL</b><br>at 4:00<br>VAN VLIET<br>CENTRE<br>MAIN GYM          | <b>PANDA BASKETBALL</b><br>at 4:30<br>EDUCATION GYM                     | <b>PANDA VOLLEYBALL</b><br>at 4:00<br>VAN VLIET<br>CENTRE W1-14 | <b>GOLDENBEAR GYMNASTICS</b><br>at 4:00<br>VAN VLIET<br>CENTRE WEST<br>GYM | <b>CROSS COUNTRY</b><br>at 5:00<br>VAN VLIET<br>CENTRE E-120        | <b>GOLDENBEAR HOCKEY</b><br>at 5:00<br>VAN VLIET<br>CENTRE W1-39 | <b>GOLDENBEAR WRESTLING</b><br>at 5:00<br>VAN VLIET<br>CENTRE W1-39                   |
|  | <b>PANDA FIELD HOCKEY</b><br>at 5:00<br>OUTSIDE<br>BASKETBALL<br>COURTS |   | <b>PANDA GYMNASTICS</b><br>at 4:00<br>VAN VLIET<br>CENTRE WEST<br>GYM      | <b>SWIMMING &amp; DIVING</b><br>at 5:00<br>VAN VLIET<br>CENTRE W-01 |  |   |
|   |   |   | <b>GOLDENBEAR SOCCER</b><br>at 6:00<br>FACULTE ST.<br>JEAN FIELD           | <b>TRACK &amp; FIELD</b><br>at 5:00<br>VAN VLIET<br>CENTRE E-120    |  |   |
|   |   |   | <b>VOLLEYBALL</b><br>at 5:00<br>VAN VLIET<br>CENTRE W1-39                  |   |  |  |

"THE PRIDE RETURNS"

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