

U of A cross country team favored to repeat as champions of WCIAA

Not too many WCIAA cross country runners are looking forward to this season's competitions. It's going to be a long season of eating dust.

Led by Ray Haswell, Morris Aarbo and Ray Mackenzie the U of A cross country team is the odds-on-favorite to repeat as WCIAA champions. This year

they'll be able to make it to the Canadian championships and should come back with more trophies.

Of the fourteen or so who will be spending the next few weeks traversing hill and dale on foot, seven are returnees. The only notable absentee is Brian Stackhouse.

Stackhouse will be replaced by Don Hunter from Winnipeg and Tom Matras from Idaho State.

The first real meet of the year will be on Oct. 7, followed by meets every weekend thereafter, and culminating in the WCIAA championships in Winnipeg Oct. 21 and the Canadian championship in Guelph the following weekend.

The Canadian championships will be held earlier this year to allow the WCIAA champion to attend.

A field of seven is entered in every race, but only the first five count. Haswell and Mackenzie haven't lost an intercollegiate race yet and they should keep their record intact this fall.

Rule changes in WCIAA football may produce wide-open games

Like it or not the traditionalists are going to see some rule changes that are going to open up intercollegiate football.

The biggest change will be downfield blocking on punts. If the first game of the season is any indication this will become one of the most exciting aspects of a long season. U of A's Gil Mather returned one against the McMaster Marauders for 43 yards. But it works both ways, too, as one was run back against the Bears for 28 yards.

Instead of being penalized ten yards for failure to yield five yards on punt returns, fifteen yards will be marched off.

Another big change will see the adoption of the two point conversion rule. Instead of kicking for a single point the ball can be run or passed over the goal line for two points.

The Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Football Rules Committee has also decreed that whenever a ball carrier's knee touches the ground, the play will be whistled dead. This lessens the chance of injury somewhat but also takes away an exciting play or two.

Whatever you may think about the rule changes, they will definitely make the game a little more exciting. If nothing else, they'll add a few more grey hairs to every coach's head.

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