

# Bears kick Wesmen

by Karl-Wilberg

Much of the soccer Bear's 6-0 and 3-1 victories over the University of Winnipeg Wesmen can be attributed to the usual early season factors. The consistency of both team's play varied and can be partly explained by U of A coach Esdale's statement "It's pre-season play." Still the Bears showed they have the potential for a good season.

The Saturday game started with the Wesmen holding the attack until about 15 minutes into the first half. Soon the Bear's youthful team settled down and proceeded to press the Wesmen defenders. After the Wesmen goalie stopped Ase Ayubahan's hard kick, and Phil Webb lost control of the ball, John Forbes booted the first of his two goals for the Bears. His second came about five minutes later. Shortly after, a lethargic Winnipeg defense resulted in another Bear's goal.

For the next 20 minutes the Bears were in control and allowed the Wesmen only a couple rushes past midfield. Both were stopped by the Bears defense that operated on a zone system until an opponent was close enough to cover man-to-man.

However the attack was reversed in the half's last 20 minutes. Wesmen forwards forced the Bears to make a stand and

prevented a rush, led by Rick Capallego, from reaching midfield. In addition, another Bear attack was allowed by an aggressive Wesmen goalkeeper rushing to meet the attackers.

An exciting moment of the half occurred when Phil Webb outran his opponent and, from the field corner, booted a kick across the goalmouth where an alert forward headed it just over the goal cross-bar.

The second half continued in much the same way as the Bears scored another three goals. The first of the set was earned by Ayubahan, after a good show of running speed on the Wesmen flank. His shot found the Wesmen goal-cornor and beat the goal keeper.

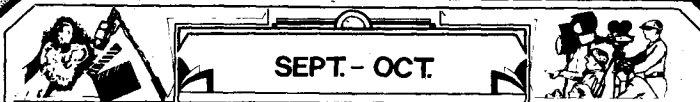
The rest of the game was in the Bear's control and the Wesmen, travelling with a small team, looked fatigued. According to Esdale, this shortage of players, to substitute for tired men, can really disadvantage a team.

However, the Bear's hard work gains the real credit for the win. Esdale's team did not dominate the second game however. Esdale states his team tries to "pressure people" and so create offensive opportunities. Still the 3-1 score indicates that the Wesmen were more able this time to resist a Bear attack.

Coach Esdale states that the first goal, giving Winnipeg the first half lead, was a "defensive error." A second Bear's offense however, gained three goals that were scored by Olivieri, Capallego, and Ayubahan. It was "a matter of getting plugged in again" states Esdale.

Esdale points out that injuries have removed veterans from the team. In addition experienced players have moved to other schools, or have no time now for the game. In any case, player turnover is high and the Bears have only four returnees. Consequently, Esdale is trying to play the new men as much as possible, during the pre-season, in order to give them needed experience. He hopes this will raise confidence and create effective team play. This means "knowing when to call for the ball and having confidence in the man beside you."

The Bears seem to be in good physical condition and once they gain experience will be good competition for the powerful West Coast teams. The Bears next chance to display their enthusiasm is on September 21 at 4:00 p.m. with the U of S and play UBC on September 22 at 12:00 noon.

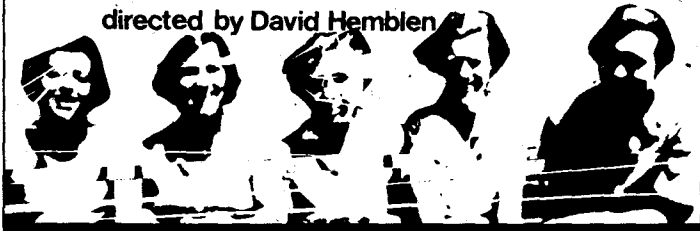


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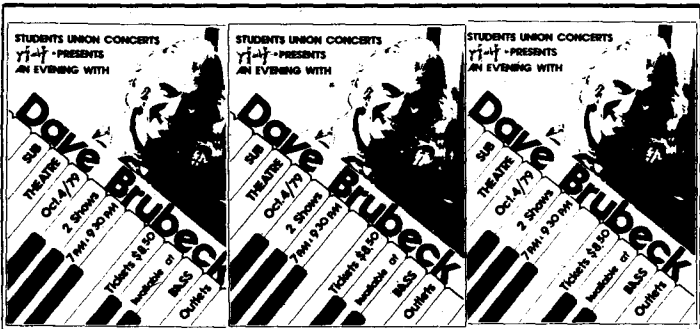


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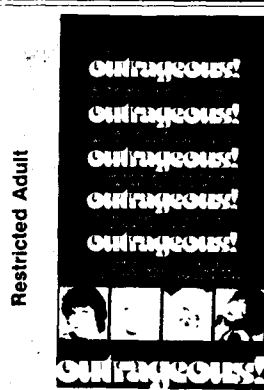
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