

# Bears topple second ranked Dinosaurs

by Ajay Bhardwaj

Jim Donlevy was running up and down the sidelines, waving his arms maniacally, and slapping five with anyone who cared to. In the dressing room area, his eyes were watery. In perhaps the most emotional game in recent Golden Bear history, the Bears beat second-ranked Calgary 29-26.

The win evened the Bears record at 2-2. Had they lost, the season might have been over. But the Bears walked into McMahon Stadium, where they hadn't won since September 12, 1987, and snared a victory. The loss dropped the Dinosaurs to 3-1 and snapped their winning streak at twelve. It was the first time that the Red and White had lost on their turf since October 2, 1987.

The Dinosaurs jumped out to a 15-0 lead. Kicker Brian Demug missed a 24 yard field goal 5:12 into the first quarter. The Dinos then



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"They sucked it up."

— Donlevy

went 74 yards on four plays, with runningback J.P. Izquierdo going into the endzone for the touchdown standing up. It was Izquierdo's seventeenth rushing score of the year, tying him with Dan Diduck for the most rushing touchdowns in one season for Calgary. Quarterback Bob Torrance hit slotback Dan Massey on a 20 yard crossing pattern for another touchdown.

The Dinos' quick start evoked images of last year's 44-3 victory over the Bears in the first half of the two game Shrine Bowl. The Bear offence didn't pick up a first down until 13:25 of the first quarter.

"We were frustrated the whole first half," linebacker Len Sawatzky said. "We added a lot of new stuff in practice and a lot of guys weren't comfortable with it. We knew we were better. They ran picks across the middle because they knew we're an attacking defence."

But the Bears fought back in the second quarter. Quarterback Jeff Steinberg completed his first pass of the game, to wide-out Darryl Szafranski, for an eleven yard gain. It was an important second down conversion, as it led to a 74 yard touchdown drive. Steinberg finished off the march with a one yard plunge into the endzone, after an interference call on Calgary placed the ball three feet from the goal

**Running room**  
Freshman runningback Robin Mead crashes through the line and looks for more yardage.

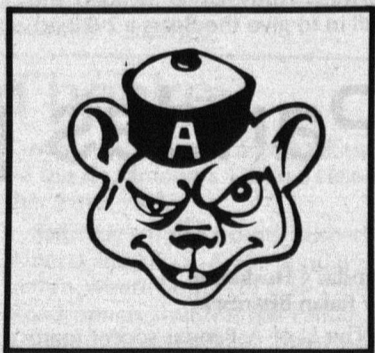
line.

On the next possession, the Bears went 32 yards in five plays before Steve Kasowski kicked a 31 yard field goal to narrow the score to 15-10. With only 30 seconds left in the half, the Dinos restored their eight point lead with a 35 yard field goal by Demug.

"In the first quarter, we stunk," Steinberg said. He quickly clarified himself when a defender tapped him on the shoulder. "Our offence stunk," Steinberg said, laughing. "Our defence was on the field too long. They (Calgary) are a tough defence, they really play hard-nose football." So just how did the offence raise the level of its play? "Execution. That's what it came down to," Steinberg said.

Torrance began the second half handling the Dinos' kicking and punting duties. Punting from his

endzone, Torrance received a punt snap from long-snapper Kevin Woods which he couldn't handle. Bear defensive back John Falconer smothered him for the safety 4:53



into the third quarter.

Bear hopes dimmed a little when Torrance orchestrated a four play, 69 yard drive which ended on Izquierdo's second touchdown of

the game at the 8:06 mark.

"Our kids could have bailed out," Donlevy said, "there's the exit sign," he pointed. "But the kids didn't give up on themselves. They sucked it up," Donlevy said, emotionally.

The Bears fought back when backup quarterback Rob Taylor entered the game. Six plays and 47 yards later, Taylor hit slotback Steve Camp for the touchdown. Camp fought off a Calgary defender to make the over-the-shoulder-catch with less than four minutes left in the third quarter. Camp's reception made it 26-19 for the Dinosaurs.

Torrance missed a 28 yard field goal with 11 seconds left in the third quarter. With less than ten minutes left in the game, Steinberg hooked up with cornerback (yes, cornerback) Trent Brown for a 52 yard touchdown to send the game to its climax. Finally, with less than

90 seconds remaining, Steve Kasowski kicked a 28 yard field goal to win it for the Bears.

"It's taken a long time to build it to this level," Donlevy said. "This is a team that's still building. It takes a long time to build it into a cohesive unit."

The mood was decidedly somber in the Calgary dressing room. "I give full credit to Alberta," Calgary coach Peter Connellan said. "No team is invincible. Their defence controlled our offence, and in the end, their defence came to the fore."

"They played very well," Izquierdo said, "we just let up. We knew exactly what they were going to do."

Maybe Donlevy summed up the victory best of all. "They (the Bears) had to answer the bell and they did."

## Bears' season looking up

Going into Saturday's game with the University of Calgary Dinosaurs, the University of Alberta Golden Bears football team had every excuse to lose.

The Bears had suffered a heartbreaking 8-7 defeat to the University of Saskatchewan Huskies the week before, a loss which saw

the Bears kicking duo of Stephen Kasowski and John Cutler go 1 for 7 in field goal attempts.

The Bear defence was going to have to find a way to stop Dino Quarterback Bob Torrance, runningbacks J.P. Izquierdo and Sheldon Cooper, and wide receiver Dave Brown. The Bears were also facing the fact that they have not won in Calgary since 1987, and that the Dinos had the bye the previous weekend to rest up for the 1st half of the North/South Shrine Bowl.

So when the number two ranked Dinos jumped out to a 15-0 2nd quarter lead, you knew the Bears were finished, right? Wrong, because on Saturday, September 23rd the Bears showed what they were made of.

With their backs against the wall on the foreign turf of McMahon Stadium YOUR Golden Bears answered the challenge, and in doing so, probably scared the hell out of the defending Vanier Cup champion Dinos,

as there was no question as to who was the better football team in the final three quarters in Calgary.

The Bears dominated every aspect of the game; the specialty teams set the tone with great downfield coverage all game long. The defence thwarted Torrance at every turn. The offence got the big play when they needed it, and the Jim Donlevy-led coaching staff outsmarted the Peter Connellan-led Calgary staff. The play which best illustrated that was the insertion of All-Canadian cornerback Trent Brown into the offence, as Brown was isolated one on one with a Dino defensive halfback and burned him for the tying touchdown.

In the end, Stephen Kasowski got a chance at redemption after his failure against Saskatchewan. On this day he made it, and in the process perhaps awoke the Dinos to the fact that the Bears are for real. Real enough, that if the Bears beat Calgary this Saturday, and



**Bob Stauffer**

win their remaining three games they would host the Canada West Finals with the knowledge that they can handle the rivals from the south.

Go to it Bears.  
Bob Stauffer is the Sports Director at FM-88 CJSR.