

Brent, Andy and Harvey's big test

by Walter Neilson

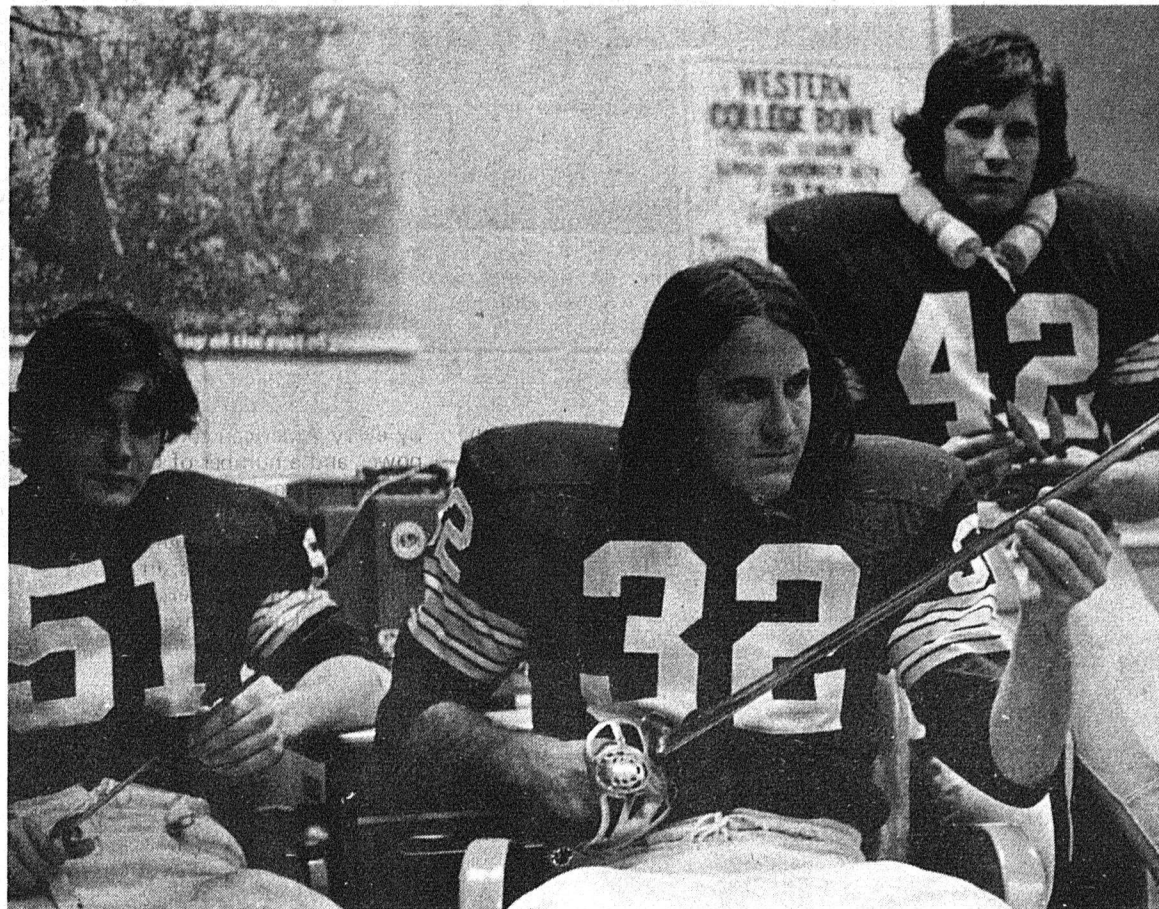
Before the start of the 1971 season, University of Alberta coach, Jim Donlevy was informed that Dave Wray, who was returning to college football after a two year absence, had injured his leg and would be out for the season. That left Donlevy with a serious shortage of line-backers, with Andy McCleod his only returning starter from 1970. Donlevy must have entertained doubts as to whether or not his defence could stop any running attack in the league, as line-backers are the key to a good pro 4-3 defence, such as the Bears employ.

But he needn't have worried. Brent MacClean, who had some experience with the Bears last year, and Harvey Clendenning, a junior football all-star with the Edmonton Huskies, showed in training camp that they were ready to do the job. Donlevy gave them the nod, and they have been justifying his confidence all season long. Along with McCleod, they give the Bears one of the best sets of linebackers in the league.

Of the three, Clendenning was the least heralded at the beginning of the season. "He was a real surprise to us," said defensive coach Bob Bennett, who was full of praise for the style of play the rookie has shown over the year. Playing at middle linebacker, Harvey shows great lateral motion and excellent reaction time. His speed and quickness have helped him compensate for his lack of size in the tougher college circuit.

McCleod, at right linebacker, is in his third season with the Bears. He had a badly sprained ankle that kept him out of action for a couple of games early in the season, but has fully recovered and is playing excellent football. His fine tackling and his ability to read pass plays make him a valuable asset to the defensive crew.

The third linebacker, Brent MacClean, has been another pleasant surprise to the Bears' coaching crew. He was injured



-Chuck Lyall photo

THERE'S NOTHING IN THE RULES that says that sabres and things aren't legal tender in the football wars, so linebackers Andy McCleod (51), Harvey Clendenning (32) and Brent MacClean (40) carefully examine prospective tools for Sunday's Western College Bowl at Clarke Stadium. There's a rumour that the defensive secondary have picked up the boys' cue and are looking into the possibility of using Sidewinder missiles to increase the number of interceptions against the Bishop's Gaiters.

most of last season and never had much chance to prove that he was worthy of a starting position. When Wray was injured, however, MacClean was given the task. He has given a solid effort all season and has to figure as a valuable player in assessing returnees for next year.

These three, along with the front four of John Taylor, Bob Clarke, Al Shermanchuk and Gary Adam, have been giving opposing ball carriers fits all season long. Though lapses have hurt them in a few games, they have been very effective in cutting off the ground game of

teams in the western Canada circuit.

Their biggest test of the season thus far comes Sunday when the Bears tangle with the Bishops University Gaiters in the Western College Bowl. Bishop's powerful running attack, spear-headed by fullback Larry Smith, led the Gaiters to an undefeated season.

But this writer isn't too worried about Bishop's. If the Bears play the jarring, hard-hitting style of defence they have displayed most of this season,

they should be able to muzzle the Gaiters handily.

And watch Andy, Harvey and Brent when they meet the Bishops' backs coming through the line. Even if they don't speak English, they'll give them the message.

IMPORTANT-The athletic department will have free transportation to Clarke Stadium for those on foot. Buses will be departing from Jubilee Auditorium beginning at 1:15 Sunday. Game time is 2:30, so be there.

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