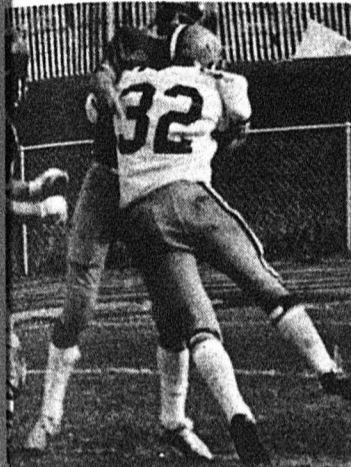


BC better, but not best

by Cam Cole

Despite a much-improved roster, and a couple of early-season upsets, the UBC Thunderbirds still seem to be able to make just enough mistakes to lose football games, particularly to the Alberta Golden Bears.



Rookie linebacker Neil Benwood (32) was one of the few Bears to get to BC quarterback Greg Gardiner on Saturday.

It looked like old times, as the Bears piled up 20 points, mostly on gifts, in the first sixteen minutes of play Saturday, then held on to post a 22-13 win before a crowd of about 2000 at Varsity Stadium.

Except for a 47-yard strike from Brian Larsen to Joe Poplawski for Bears' second touchdown, all the first-quarter scoring was set up along the ground, with fullback Dalton Smarsh rushing for over 60 yards in the opening period alone, including a 17-yard touchdown ramble at the 7:00 mark. He finished the day with 139 yards.

It was Smarsh's fourth consecutive 100-yards-or-better afternoon in four games this season, and it was made possible by an outstanding performance as a unit by the "Hogs" - Alberta's offensive line.

"The day belonged to the Hogs," as coach Jim Donlevy put it.

"They were ready to play today," echoed offensive line coach Don Barry. "Anderson

(Jim) and MacLeod (Mike) were really up for this one."

So ready were they, in fact, that the left side (Anderson and MacLeod) of Bears' line was getting off the ball ahead of the snap all afternoon, and not getting called for it.

UBC head man Frank Smith would argue that offside was not the only call the officials missed on Saturday. He was visibly upset when no call was made after Alberta defensive corner Jerry Shockey appeared to nudge BC punter Dan Smith, who had just got the kick away. Smith felt the kick was at a crucial time and the penalty could have given his team the break they needed to get back in the game.

Donlevy had another perspective on the matter.

"Shockey was going to go right by him, but Smith manoeuvred his leg into Shockey's path, and then took the big dive."

"Anyway," said Barry, "the game wasn't won or lost on a roughing call."

BC's running game, except for a reverse to wingback Digby Leigh, which worked for good yardage twice, was taken away from them by the Alberta defence, who held big Gordon Penn, BC's leading rusher, to 75 yards on the ground.

Bears had two weeks to prepare for the T-Birds, and certainly appeared to have done their homework, as the defensive alignment they adopted for the game seemed to confuse BC quarterbacks Dan Smith, who started, and Greg Gardiner, who replaced Smith late in the first quarter.

To refresh your memories - that's Frank Smith: UBC head coach - upset; Dan Smith: UBC starting quarterback - confused; and now we come to Garry Smith: Alberta defensive coach and the man who devised the particular defensive game plan used against the T-Birds - pleased - and rightly so.

UBC's only consistently successful play in critical situations was a 10 to 15-yard pass into the middle to tight end

Evan Jones, and that play succeeded primarily because Jones has approximately a 2-foot reach advantage over Gary Widynowski, Bears' middle safety.

The game started with a flourish, as Poplawski executed a perfect 11-yard short kickoff, which teammate Don Guy latched onto, but Larsen couldn't move the offence, and Bears were forced to punt the ball away.

The next time they got the ball, they marched down to the BC 15, where Smarsh fumbled, killing that drive.

Dennis Holowaychuk returned UBC's next punt to the T-Birds' 20-yard line, and Bears finally took advantage as Smarsh's 17-yard run and Poplawski's convert made it 7-0.

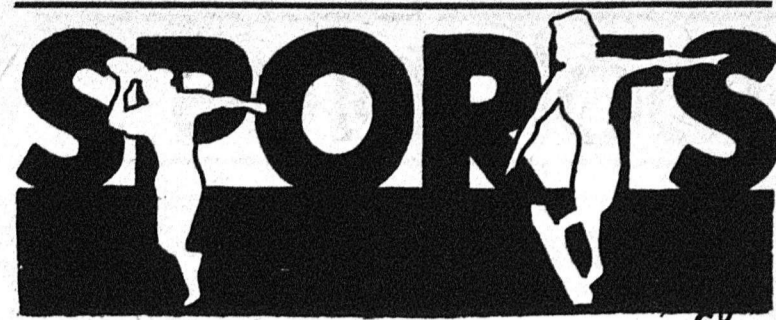
Bears got another break when Dan Smith fumbled a snap on the next set of plays, leaving Alberta with a first down on the BC 19 yard-line. The turnover resulted in a 20-yard field goal by Poplawski.

Again the T-Birds couldn't move the ball, and again their kicking game failed them, as Smith's short punt was further shortened by a no yards penalty. Three plays later, Poplawski caught Larsen's long toss for a major score, and converted it to put Bears ahead 17-0.

BC quickly dug themselves into another hole, giving Alberta good field position (thanks to no yards and faceguarding penalties) and Poplawski's second field goal resulted, with 13:20 left in the half.

At this point, Alberta abandoned the so-far-successful running game (Smarsh handled the ball only once in the second quarter), and the dormant BC offence began to show some signs of life.

An offside call against the Bears on a missed field-goal try by BC's Gary Metz gave the



Birds another chance from the three-yard-line, and quarterback Gardiner ran it in for a touchdown, converted by Metz, who added a field goal with seconds remaining in the first half, narrowing the gap to 10 points.

A drab second half followed, with singles by Fryer and Poplawski, and a field goal by Metz in the way of scoring, and very little else.

Only Smarsh's running and the continued toughness of the Bears' defence were of note in the last 30 minutes - - Larsen's passing was just as dismal as it had been earlier. He finished with 5/17 completed and 118 yards, while Smith and Gardiner combined for 16 of 31 and 167 yards.

Bears got themselves into trouble by fumbling 5 times (losing possession 3 times) compared to BC's lone fumble which they recovered.

Punting was a big plus for Alberta, however. Fryer, who also caught two passes for 32 yards and ran a kickoff back 80 yards, kicked 10 times for a 42.1-yard average, while Smith could only average 27.8 yards on 14 punts.

T-Birds were penalized 9 times for 81 yards compared to Bears' 8/58.

The victory moves Alberta into a tie with UBC for third spot in the WIFL, two points behind Saskatchewan (idle this week) and Calgary, who demolished the winless Manitoba Bisons 50-17 in Calgary on Saturday.



Fumble-itis plagued the Bears all afternoon. Here Pat Barry (11) scoops up the loose ball.

Soccer Bears win two

The Golden Bears were victorious in both their weekend matches, Saturday, by a 3-1 margin against Victoria, and by a 5-0 score against the Edmonton Buffaloes on Sunday.

Doug Potiuk scored twice and Bill McConkey once in the win vs. Victoria, while Bob Hrsak (2), Jamie Fiorello, Matteo Piscopo, and Terry Kindrat were the Bear marksmen Sunday.

Coaches Gerry Redmond and Geoff Salmon were cautiously pleased with both games, as the team begins a rigorous schedule in earnest, starting Wednesday, with a game against Edmonton All-

Stars at Clarke Stadium.

Ed Staszuk played well in goal in the weekend games and, with Peter Dickie as well, Bears appear to be sound at that vital position.

In mid-field, Piscopo, Ian Franks, Rob McCaulay, Malcolm Allen, and Glenn Murphy are shaping up quite well, and while the forward line that includes the likes of Kindrat, Potiuk, Hrsak, Fiorello, and McConkey is still missing chances, it too seems to be showing some improvement. Englishman Derek Baker is also bidding strongly for a forward berth.

Strangely, it is the experienced defence ranks about which the coaches are concerned most. Redmond feels the opposing forwards are getting too much time and space near the Bears' goal, and will be working with defenders Tom Schmidt, George Lovell, Rick Korol, Frank Tassone, and Geoff Bird to try and eliminate the problem.

"Better teams," says Redmond, "will cause us problems if we don't tighten up considerably here."

Redmond must have felt like a magician Saturday. He subbed in Bill McConkey and

Can Pandas beat 4th place jinx?

by Darrell Semenuk

For each of the past several years, the U of A Pandas basketball team have finished fourth in the CWIAU.

However Debbie Shogan, in her second year as Pandas coach, describes last year's finish as a competitive fourth rather than a distant fourth, citing the fact that the squad lost six games by five points or less.

Pandas hope to come forth this year rather than coming fourth. It won't be an easy task for coach Shogan with her team's lack of height, and the

strength of this year's league.

Recruiting bodies wasn't a problem this year as no less than 47 girls showed up for the opening camp. The surplus of bodies has allowed Miss Shogan to compose two teams: the Pandas and the Cubs who will compete against the community colleges in the province.

Pandas have six newcomers this year along with six holdovers. The rookies include guards Colleen Elder (5'-4"); Laurie Holder (5'-4"); Karen Johnson (5'-5"); and Mona Knudsen (5'-2") who has had two years experience at Camrose Community College.

Other newcomers are 5'9" forward Lori Chizik and 5'8" centre Kathy Webber.

Sophomores this year include 5'10" forward Jennifer Cooper, Nora Way, a 5'8" forward, and centre Chris Leiske back after a year's



Deena Mitchell is back for her fourth season.

absence, who is the tallest woman on the squad at 5'11". Third year returnees are forwards Amanda Holloway (5'-9") and 5'7" Nicole Robert. Deena Mitchell is the veteran of the team, the 5'4" guard beginning her fourth year.

Pandas may be hard pressed to break their fourth place jinx. Victoria, whose roster is virtually intact will be the team to beat, with UBC's loss of Carol Turney to the Canadian national team, preventing their perennial first place finish.

That leaves the Pandas with Saskatchewan, Calgary and Lethbridge to fight with. Their first test will be Oct. 31, Nov. 1 when they travel to Calgary for the WIT tournament.

Pep Squad, UNITE!

The U of A Pep Squad will hold an important organizational meeting on Wednesday, at 5:00 p.m. in the West Gym of the Phys. Ed. Building.

If you've done some cheer work in high school and would like to continue through University, remember men and women are welcome.

It's a lot of fun, some good parties, and maybe even the odd road trip, so come out and give it a try.

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X-C Bears triumph in Sled Dog Open

Golden Bear runners surprised U of C and U of S competitors with a strong showing, in winning the annual Sled Dog Open Cross Country Race in Saskatoon on September 27th.

Besides the Dinosaurs and Huskies, the U of A squad, comprised of thirteen men and one woman, battled the eventual second-place finishers, the Saskatoon "Warts", who narrowly edged out the Huskies.

Calgary finished a distant fourth.

Alberta's first five finishers, Darrell Menard, Jim Young, Lyle

Kuchmak, John Park and Kelly Simpson came in 3rd, 9th, 10th, 14th and 17th respectively, for a top-five total of 53 points, 6 points ahead of the "Warts".

Neil Munro, Rick Kennedy, and Stu Beck were right behind (18th, 19th, and 22nd), while Roy Merrill, Brian Asselstine, Bill Sutherland, John Ellis, and Rick Cyrnowski, most of whom are short-distance men doing XC for a foundation, finished farther back.

The team's next race is the Alberta Championships, on October 12th in Calgary.