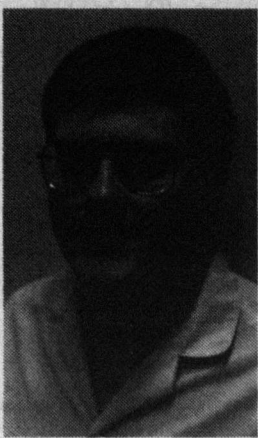


# T-Birds burst Bears' balloon

*Bears kill themselves with penalties and lose 28-10*



Alan Small

## The CFL is dying

So what has happened to the CFL?

During the 1970's the CFL was the thing. I would wait breathlessly for the season to start. Seeing the Eskimos waste on practically every opponent in this land of ours was the highlight of my weekend. Since I lived out of town, I never saw them in person, but unfortunately we were close enough that the blackouts hit us too. I cursed the CFL for everyone of those blackouts, especially if they were during the playoffs. It is too bad that the Eskimos were so good that they always got home field advantage for those games.

Those days, the CFL was the biggest cash cow in this country.

Nowadays, this cash cow is dry.

The CFL was enjoying massive profits, filled up stadiums and had the money to get some of the top players in the game to grace their fields like Warren Moon, Mervyn Fernandez, Dieter Brock, and Terry Greer.

What do they have now? Half filled stadiums, massive deficits, and all of the stars mentioned above have defected to the NFL. They now have one of the last nails in their hands and are ready to hammer it home. Salary cuts.

Why should a young Canadian player finish university football and go on to play in the pros? Instead of risking the onslaught of crippling knee injuries or major spinal damage, he could go back and get an MBA or something like that and rake in the same amount of cash and still be able to walk down the street without the aid of a cane.

The young Americans that come up here for the chance to play may either build their bodies up and work like dogs to make the NFL, or they could work their way up there like many do so now by playing both ways in the surprisingly successful Arena Football League. The least talented may either do the same things that the Canadian college players would do or maybe go into what they probably do if they didn't play football; coach high school or college ball, work in the steel furnaces or on the farms.

What mesmerizes me the most about the CFL and their financial woes is that they are so far into debt. Farmers have a reason why they have burgeoning debt loads: low prices.

If the CFL had marketed their products better ten years ago instead of taking the fan for granted, those fans would probably go to the games instead of watching the NFL. The managers of these football franchises only have themselves to blame.

The CFL keeps strangling the lower end of the spectrum of ticket buyers: the kids. The kids can't go to Dad and ask for \$20 dollars for a football game. They used to when it was \$5. Many teams are changing their policy on this issue but I am afraid it will be too little too late.

Pity.

by Alan Small

Coming off an impressive 40-10 victory at the hands of the Manitoba Bisons in their season opener, the Golden Bears were hoping to duplicate their success against the defending WFL and CIAU champions from UBC. Unfortunately for Head Coach Jim Donlevy they only achieved half of their objective in a 28-10 loss to the T-Birds. But they did look impressive.

They racked up 348 yards on offence, 260 of it on the ground. Most of that was done without the services of freshman running back Allan Bleiken, who went out early, after bruising his right calf during a punt return.

They traded possessions to start the game, until UBC drove down and opened the scoring on a 28-yard pass and run play from Jordan Gagner to wide receiver Craig Keller. After the convert by Mike Bellefontaine, the T-Birds led 7-0.

After two singles by the Bears Steve Kasowski, Gagner drove them down the field again and threw an eight-yard touchdown pass to Bellefontaine, who then added the convert to put UBC ahead 14-2.

Kasowski ended the scoring in the first half by booming a 68-yard punt through the UBC end zone with 1:31 remaining.

UBC expanded their lead in the third quarter on a two yard run by Mark Petros. Bellefontaine converted it to make the score 21-3 in favor of the T-Birds

Brant Villettard came in to replace starter Darren Brezden in the fourth quarter and drove them down the



field which culminated in a one-yard plunge by Mark Brus. Brus ran for 108 yards on the day to lead the Bear rushers.

Kasowski added the convert to make the score 21-10.

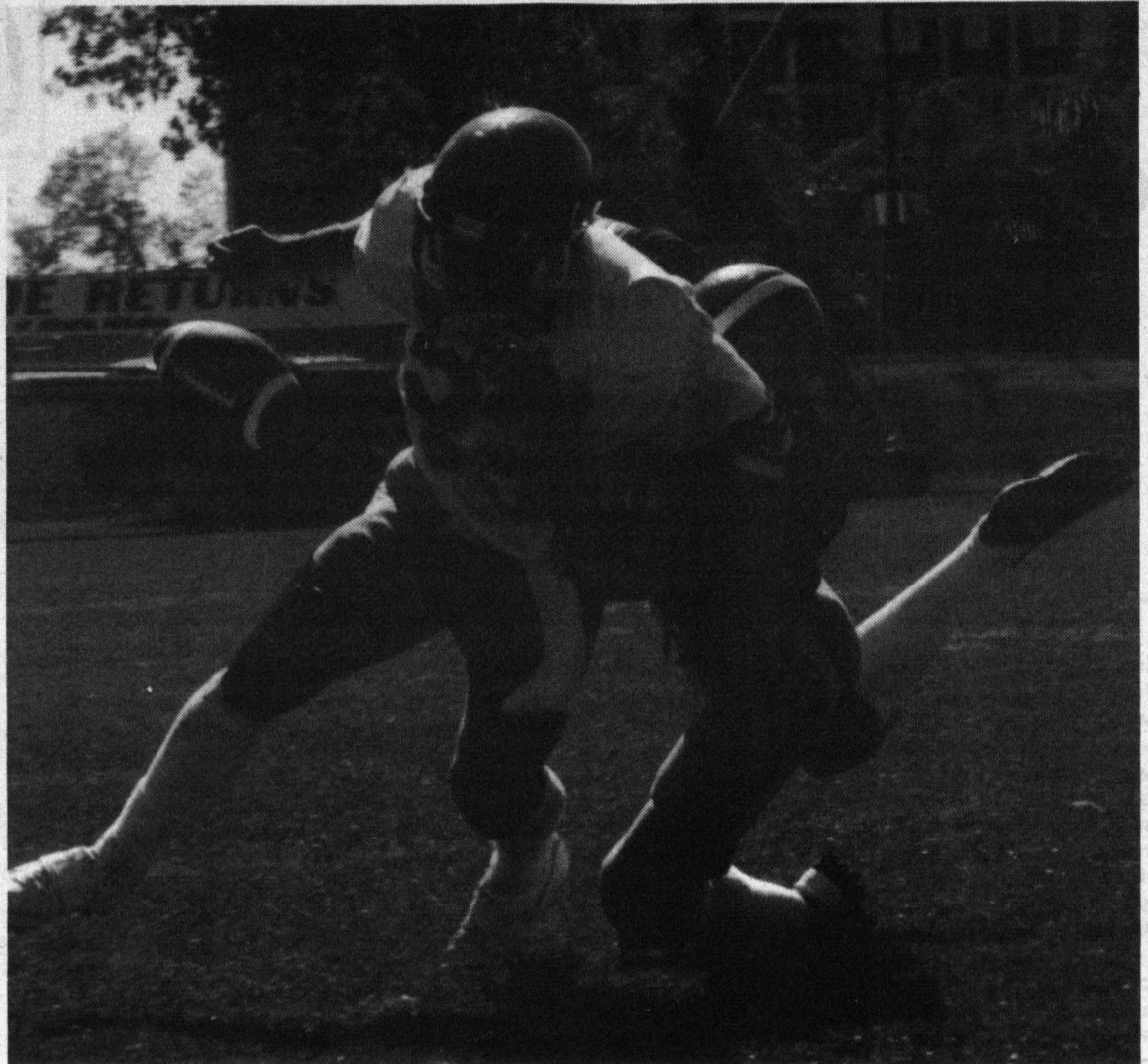


Photo Thomas Diefenbach

Mike Bellefontaine dropped this one but scored a touchdown and four converts for the T-Birds.

The comeback was short lived however, as Matt Pearce ran back a Kasowski punt 62 yards for a UBC touchdown. Bellefontaine's fourth convert of the day ended the scoring.

Penalties hurt the Bears at the most inopportune times on Saturday, as they took nine for 120 yards. On the T-Birds first scoring drive, they took two roughing calls and a pass interference penalty on just two plays to launch UBC down the field in a hurry. Donlevy later peeled a layer off his charges after the game about the penalties, which could be heard through all

the Walls of Fame in the Van Vliet Centre.

"Without a question, we shot ourselves in the foot with penalties," Donlevy said after his tirade.

"We were frustrated," said quarterback Darren Brezden, "the new players have to get used to it."

That didn't stop him from criticizing the officials, though.

"We are probably the only team in the conference that doesn't have home field advantage with the refs," Brezden admitted.

The good point of the game was that the offence had little trouble moving the ball. Last year the

opposite was the case as the only offence the Bears could put up was used by their opponents. The T-Birds scored two touchdowns on errant U of A passes on their way to a 35-7 victory over the then hapless Bears.

**Bear Tracks:** Besides Bleiken's injury, nose tackle **Rick Medcke** twisted his knee but should be ready for their next game, against Calgary. "I'll tape it myself if I have to," Medcke said... **Dale Mounzer**, who already was doubtful after having more hand problems and being sick came in and backed him up.

## 1987 Golden Bears Preview

by Alan Small

With a victory over Manitoba on August 28, the Bears equalled their tally of wins for all of last year. Last season was also the first time in head coach Jim Donlevy's Golden Bear coaching career that his team had a losing year.

The Bears now head into Calgary Saturday with a 1-1 record. What makes this tick? Here is a breakdown of how the Bears stack up this year.

**Quarterback:** Darren Brezden rejoins the team after a one-year hiatus playing for the Okanagan Sun. He is playing his fifth year of University ball. In his previous four years he has put his name in the Golden Bear record book many times. He holds career records for passing completions, attempts, and yards. He also holds the single season record, set in 1982, for yards passing.

continued p.25

## U of A honors athletes

by Alan Small

The University of Alberta's Department of Athletics has announced this year's inductees to the Sports Wall of Fame. Six people were chosen for this honor: Dr. W. George Hardy (posthumously), Clare Drake, Irvin Servold, Cathy McMillan (nee Galusha), Dr. Harold Richard, and the Honourable Peter Lougheed.

**Dr. W. George Hardy** — Dr. Hardy came to the University of Alberta in 1920 and began as a lecturer in the Department of Classics. He became head of the department in 1938, and stayed in that position until his retirement in 1964. Although he had an interest in the classics, he also had a love for sport, especially hockey. He coached the Golden Bears hockey club from 1922 to 1926. Between 1931 and 1951 Dr. Hardy also furthered the cause of hockey in Canada and around the world. He served for three years as the head of the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association. In 1938 Hardy became president of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and from 1940

- 1951 he was President of the International Ice Hockey Federation.

In 1973, Dr. Hardy was made a member of the Order of Canada, this country's highest honor. He died in 1979.

**Clare Drake** — Drake came to the U of A in 1953 from UBC, played on the Golden Bears hockey team that winter and lead them to the Western Canadian Championships. In 1955, he joined the team as interim head coach and won his first league championship. In 1958 he became full time head coach of the Bears. In over 25 years of coaching hockey at the U of A, the Bears have won six national titles, and sixteen Canada West titles. Drake became the winningest coach in intercollegiate hockey history in the 1985-86 season with his 556th victory.

Drake also coached the football Bears for three seasons in the sixties, and became the only person in CIAU history to coach both the football and hockey national champions in the same season, 1967-68. He also co-coached the 1980

Canadian Olympic team and coached the Canadian Students National Team to a gold in 1981, a silver in 1972, and a bronze in 1987. He also guided a university club to Canada's first gold medal at the Spengler Cup in 1984.

**Irvin Servold** — Servold was the Outstanding Male Athlete at the U of A in 1959, the first time the award had ever been given to a skier. Servold led the Alberta ski team to three intercollegiate cross-country titles in 1958, '59, and '61. He also placed third in the jumping event in 1958. He was also selected to Olympic squads in 1956 and 1960. Servold also won the Nordic Combined event eight times between 1955 and 1972. He has represented Canada as a coach, judge, and technical advisor to many international competitions. Servold was inducted into the Canadian Skiing Hall of Fame in 1985.

**Cathy McMillan** — Cathy McMillan, during her stay at the Uni-

continued p. 23