

Speaking on Sports

with RICHARD VIVONE

They came from all over the Prairies. Some even came from the other side of the Rockies.

Some brought their typewriters. Some brought their girls, others dragged booze bottles along. But to a man, all were well equipped with optimism.

This was to be the Year of the Great End. Writers from every college newspaper in Western Canada would be on hand for the great clash between the Golden Bears and the University of Manitoba Bisons.

Headlines were being written before the game was underway. The writers loved it. Their fingers itched to type such words as 'slaughter', 'lobber', 'bashed' and the rest of the cliches.

Their eagerness was justified. Hadn't the Bears looked positively inept in their last two and a half games compiling a miserable total of one point (exclusive of the safety in Winnipeg)? Hadn't the Bears greasily slipped by Manitoba in the past three years for WCIAA titles?

What did you say, friend?

Dennis Kadatz, coach of the University of Calgary Dinosaurs, told us several weeks ago that the Bisons were a better club than the Bears. "Manitoba should win it all," he prophesied.

Hadn't Gino Fracas of the Bears warned us that the Bisons would be tough? "They're loaded with experience," he said.

A brief trip into yesterday tells us why the visitors wanted to see the decline of a dynasty.

In 1964, the Bears faced the Bisons in Edmonton in early November. The Albertans, to that time, had won four straight including an opening day 34-13 clobbering in Winnipeg.

Now the Bisons were back. A win for the Bisons would deadlock first place in the WCIAA. They came in strong and confident. The Bears sent them home licking their wounds after a 16-6 title-clinching victory.

"Wait 'till next year," they griped. "Nielsen and Kachman will be gone and we'll even up then."

So it was said, so it was written. The Bears lost a 34-26 decision to Manitoba at Winnipeg.

Another showdown was in the offing. On October 25, 1965 the Bisons returned to Edmonton with a firm grasp on first place. Manitoba could lose the game by anything less than eight points and still wind up first.

But John Violini, Willie Algajer and company snatched the crown from the Bisons teeth once again with an 18-7 win.

The Bisons left once again, heads hanging low. "Wait 'till next year," they said. "Algajer and Schneider will be gone. We'll get even then."

A long ride home

Enter 1966. The Bisons are foaming, drooling and mad. The Bears lost 4-2 in a mighty defensive battle on the banks of the Red River. The end was in sight.

The Bears had played their last 150 minutes without a touchdown. The outlook was bad.

Ever get axed over the head without warning? If you have, then you wouldn't be around to tell about it.

The Manitoba Bisons weren't around after the first quarter Saturday either because the Bears lowered the boom early and just kept hammering their way to a convincing 33-9 victory.

So they went home. With their broads and their booze and their empty typewriters.

It happened once—just an accident.

It happened twice—a coincidence.

It happened a third time—fact, baby, fact.

* * *

The Bears' victory over Manitoba combined with Saskatchewan's narrow 23-22 loss to the University of British Columbia puts Alberta back into the running for a place in the Canadian College Bowl on November 19 in Toronto.

To win the WCIAA crown again, the Bears must beat Saskatchewan here next Saturday. If the Bears win, it's all over. However, a Manitoba win over UBC and a Bear setback would be fatal.

However, if both Manitoba and Alberta win, who will go east? The chances of Gino's Bears will be good.

Miners celebrate Rock Crawford night with 6-4 win over Bears

By DON MOREN

It was a gala affair for Rock Crawford Friday night at Varsity Arena. Not only did the burly Drumheller veteran have his own cheering section, but the Miners also came up with a 6-4 win over the Golden Bears.

The Miners, defending Allan Cup champions, started out quickly with two goals in the first five minutes of play, but the startled Bears soon regained their poise and scored twice to tie the game.

Drumheller went ahead 4-2 before the first period ended. A goal by Owen Mailey midway through the second period eventually proved to be the winner.

Another two-goal rally by the Golden Bears kept them in the game, but the more experienced Miners added another in the final frame to sew up the game.

Two-goal performances by Pat Halas and Ron Loughlin and singletons from Mailey and Bill Voss constituted Drumheller's scoring. Bear goals came from captain Brian Harper, Sam Belcourt, Bob Baker and Gord Jones. Experience was a big factor in

the game. Veteran players such as former professional Ron "Squeak" Leopold were their usual sly selves. Half of their goals were earned on

tip-ins and rebounds.

Four players were missing from the Drumheller squad, including Sid Finney, a former professional with the Calgary Stampeders.

DEFENSE HAS PROBLEMS

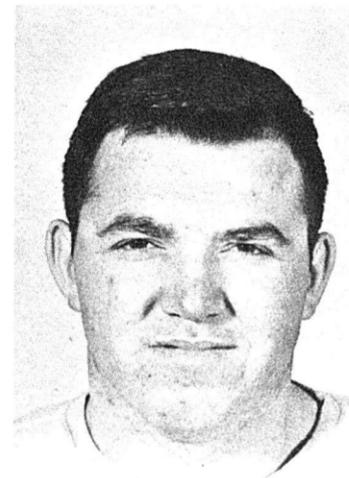
The Bears problems were mostly defensive. They had trouble moving out of their own end and lacked defensive manipulation around their own goal.

Coach Clare Drake was pleased with his club's effort despite the loss. He felt his team was "generally improved" over previous showings this year. He pointed to defensive positioning and "mistakes in our own end" as causes of the loss.

And rough ol' Crawford had reason to be pleased too, as he was spurred on by the cheers of university fraternities in attendance.

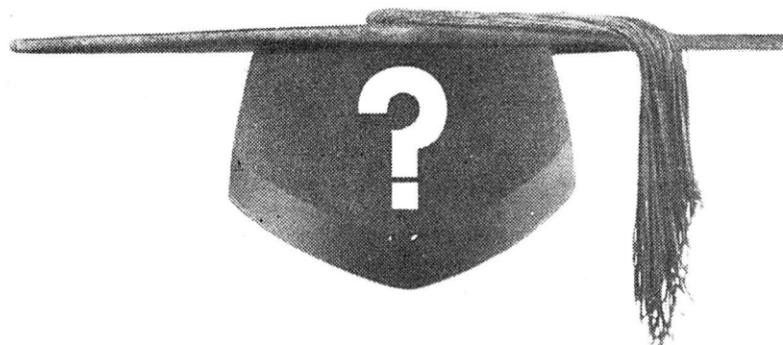
Two hundred and sixty saw the game, which was played under international rules. The Drumheller club is preparing for an European hockey tour beginning Dec. 20.

Edmonton Nuggets visit the Golden Bears next Friday night at Varsity Arena. Game time is 8 p.m.



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