

Bear hug on West strong

by Karl Wilberg

John Barry's U of A wrestling team had a hold on the West conference. However, this year Barry expects Lakehead, now part of the league after amalgamation with GPAC, to provide a challenge. Barry states this year's team is perhaps the strongest but mentions that Lakehead does "a lot of recruiting". Barry is determined though, the Bears will give the eastern school a "run for their money".

The wrestling team has won the West conference twice in the last two years. There has been a lack of competitors in the light and heavy weight categories. However, this year Barry states "there is a body in every weight class". The team is young and does not have the depth to replace first stringers. However, Barry believes the rookies will develop soon.

The team has been training for two weeks. The early weeks have emphasized running and Nautilus equipment work-outs. Soccer too is used to develop cardio-vascular strength. In the wrestling room the team members scrimmage and drill. Aside from the regular practices additional training is up to the individual.

Barry has never cut anyone from the program. This means that there are many skill levels to be accommodated. Barry comments that this "makes running a program difficult". Consequently, everyone "Starts at scratch" and once a basis of skills is learned, training is a matter of

refinement and match strategy.

The program and the sport itself relies so much on conditioning that a determined person can learn much in two years. For example, potential wrestlers have been found in the weight room and two years later have gone to win a conference title.

The level of conditioning is probably responsible for what Barry describes as a high attrition rate. For example, about 45 people quit during the year. Still, in spite of attrition, the team is not short for good wrestlers. Barry realizes that without a good high school program he will have few potential wrestlers.

Barry is disappointed with wrestling's low profile in high schools here. Barry attributes the problem to a shortage of interested physical education teachers. In addition, he mentions that a teacher's basketball or football coaching skills are viewed more favorably by schools than a background in wrestling.

Consequently, wrestlers at the high school level receive little school support if they compete at provincial or national levels. Barry's solution to the problem is to allow young wrestlers to work-out and compete in open tournaments with the U of A.

The West conference schedule provides the 20-25 competitors with 24 events and extensive travelling. The schedule, not including playoffs, consists entirely of exhibition matches. According to Barry, this gives coaches flexibility in

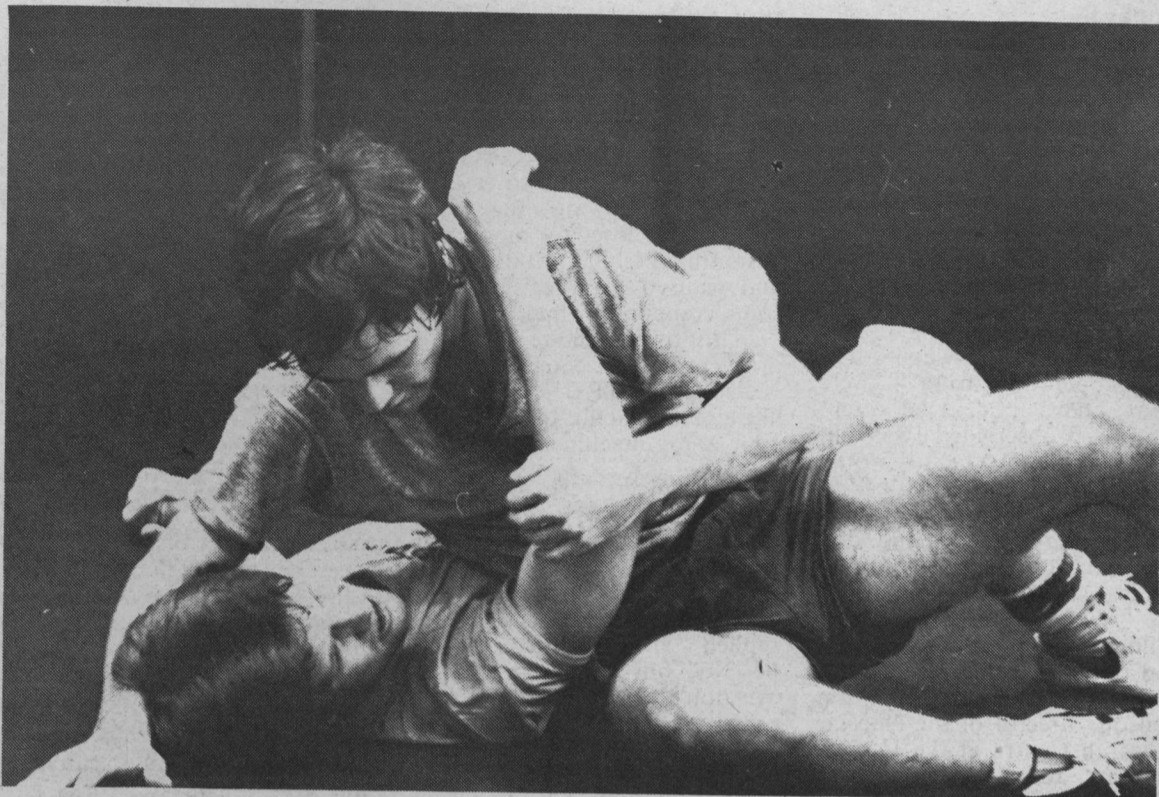


photo Russ Sampson

Bears have been practicing and seem to be the strongest team in some time.

classifying wrestlers. Experimentation in weight class assignments can occur without unwanted results affecting a team's position for the play-offs.

So far, aside from Lakehead, Barry sees Simon Fraser providing the West's only challenge to the team. In the past SFU has "been tough" and "beats us up". Barry mentions the meet is valuable because it "lets our guys know where they stand."

SFU gains its advantage in personnel by offering sports

scholarships. For this reason SFU does not compete for recognition in the CIAU. In any case, Barry questions if the small scholarships are worth travelling large distances to receive.

Barry promotes wrestling with clinics and practices for high school competitors. He states wrestling is "not difficult to promote for kids" and the biggest problem is there is "no one to coach". In addition, "There isn't much for good wrestlers in the city when they

finish competing."

On the other hand, Barry is happy with the travel and equipment budget. Still, he wishes the wrestling room was larger because injuries have resulted from its small area. In any case, the situation Barry would really like to see would be a development of school programs and coaching. In turn, Barry would have good material to select for future teams that will be facing a tough Lakehead University.

Invisible men appear

by Bob Kilgannon

Quick! Name two Golden Bear Receivers. Not the running backs, not Peter Eshenko, and not Murray McLean. Don't worry if you can't name them. Most people haven't heard of these two receivers because no one seems to notice them.

Their names are Dave

Brown and John Waterhouse. You might have heard of Dave Brown because he does the punting. Chances are you haven't heard of Dave Brown the receiver though. Or of John Waterhouse. Well here's some news: both Mr. Brown and Mr. Waterhouse are integral parts of the Golden Bear offense. Brown, the flanker, and Waterhouse, the

tight end, have been the least publicized players of the Bears fine receiving corps.

Waterhouse, a four year veteran, and Brown, in his second season with the Bears, are both getting their first real shot at starting. Each is doing well. Previously, Brown played for Jasper Place high school and was an all-city selection in his last season. After high school Dave played a season with the Edmonton Huskies where he was converted to a wide receiver. He joined the Bears last year and was a back up wide receiver.

This year he has really come into his own, being one of the nation's top five receivers. Asked if he was surprised to be one of the best in Canada, Brown replied, "We're a throwing team so I'm not really surprised to be fourth in the nation (in receiving). This is my best year since high school. I felt I played well up until the last couple of games. The last couple of games I could have played better."

Brown is not concerned about his lack of recognition so far this year. In fact he thinks others are more deserving of recognition. "Look at guys like Kerry O'Connor who haven't got any recognition and have been around a long time." Dave's biggest concern though is the welfare of the team. "I'd rather catch ten passes all year if it would help the team. The most important thing is for the team to be successful."

John Waterhouse played two years of high school football as a tight end for Eastglen. After graduation, he joined the Golden Bears in 1976. This year John

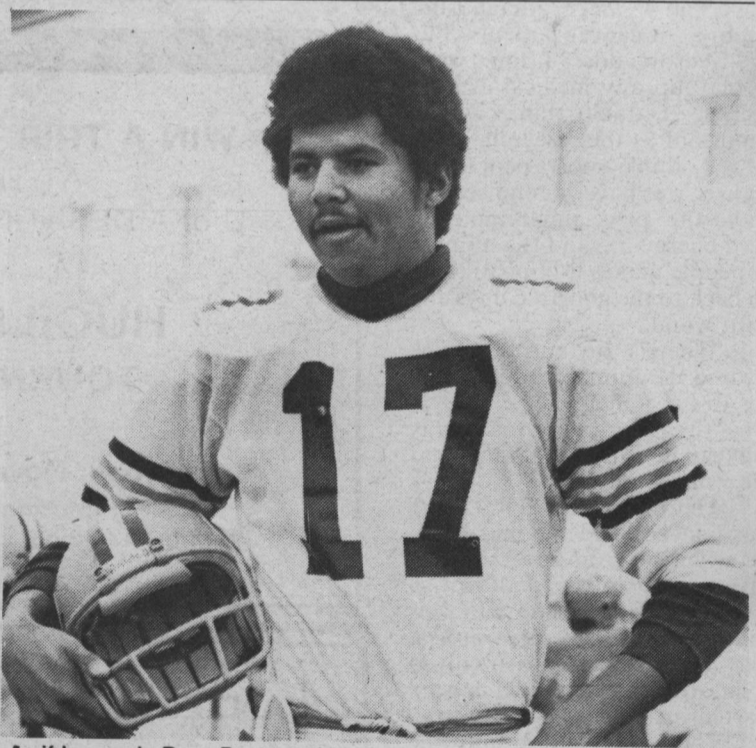


photo Russ Sampson

As if by magic Dave Brown appears.

alternated with Gord Reinich (bringing in plays from assistant coach Jim Lazaruk) for the season's first five games. In Winnipeg last weekend Waterhouse played full time at tight end (with plays being brought in by Peter Eshenko and Murray McLean). In the game, John responded with four catches for 51 yards.

Is Waterhouse surprised with his play so far this year? "Not really. I trained super hard (in the off season). Also, we've learned a lot and have done a lot differently this year. This year is my first real chance and I want to make the best of it. I always thought I could catch and I'm getting better at blocking." Waterhouse summed up his feelings saying, "Personally things are OK but when the team does well, that's when things are

super."

This weekend Waterhouse, Brown, and the rest of the Bears will need to perform well. They face the Saskatchewan Huskies this Saturday in Saskatoon for a crucial encounter.

Hockey

Billy Moore's new hockey team will be busy this weekend. The Bears play Winnipeg on Friday, Lakehead on Saturday, and on Sunday Manitoba provides the opposition. The Bears are in good shape, but the triple header will test them. This weekend you will have a chance to wearing your stetson's and skull caps because it's hat weekend at Varsity rink. Game time Friday and Saturday is 7:30 p.m. Sunday's is 2:00 p.m.

Terry Jonestown



CONFUSION AND DISAPPOINTMENT reigns in Athletic Services. Rumor is that Count Jocula has been torturing first years in order to discover why attendance at sports events is down. So far the answers all have the same ring. One spokesman said "we have to schedule events on Saturday" and lamented "we're competing with Canadian Tire and Southgate" for student attendance. "We've got two ideas", he said, "we'll go all out razzle dazzle, recruit real talent from the US and hire cheerleaders". He hinted possible chants would be: "Why participate, don't delay, come get drunk at the game today" and "look at all our hero's faces, from strange lands and strange places".

WONDERFUL WONDERFUL, wonder Bears. Yesterday Athletic Services brightened up the Golden Bear image with the annual Fall Fashion forecast. Of course, at the show, the traditional looks were still there. But designer Oscar de la Paproski has made some striking changes. For example, the full bodied earth tone football look has a slimmer silhouette. However, the gridiron garb has some luxurious material borrowed from the ever so scanty track, gymnastics, volleyball and Panda's accessories. They're such tyrants at the UAB fashion bureau, but c'est le chic. As usual, the intramurals will wear the vogue proletariat work denims and twills. Patches are out, but some say not far off in the future. Needless to say, I was taken with the sportswriter garb modeled by the trend setters at the Sun and Journal. Kaye Corbett modelled the naught Army and Navy asbestos lingerie collection, and Jim Matheson the Borg pile Cro-Magnon wrap. All in all, tres sophisticated.