

1989

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demoralizing. All year long we were talking about controlling our own destiny, and when it came down to it, we didn't do it," said linebacker Jeff Tobert. The defeat meant that a Bear victory over the Huskies coupled with a T-Bird loss to the Dinos in the final weekend was necessary for a Bear advance to the playoffs.

Game 8

Bears vs Saskatchewan Huskies

With the Bears eliminated from the playoffs following a UBC win over Calgary, only Alberta pride was left to be preserved. "I'm proud of the way they played, considering the disappointment of Saturday's (UBC victory). It demonstrated the character of the guys to come out and play the way they did," said Donlevy reflecting on the final game 22-12 victory. For the frustrated final year Bears, the win allowed them to leave the Green and Gold on a high note.

Highs and Lows

From *The Gateway* sports office in SUB, here are the top 5 highs and lows of the 1989 Golden Bear football season (drumroll please).

Coming in at number five for the top five highs is:

Number 5. The rookie backfield compiled 804 yards consisting of Duxbury, Mead, and Thorsteinson. Number 4. Kasowski scoring an Alberta Golden Bear career high of 251 points.

Number 3. Mark singer, Jim Clelland, and Trent Brown being nominated as all-Canadians.

Number 2. A Bear turnaround from the "debacle of '88" (1-7) to this year's 5-3 record including a sweep of the Shrine Bowl.

And the number 1 high of the 1989 Golden Bear football season is the killer defense allowing an average of only 16.25 points per game.

Now for the top five lows of 1989 Golden Bear football season.

Number 5. Possessing a .500 record (2-2) at home while displaying a 3-1 record away.

Number 4. The inconsistency of the offense when it was needed most. Number 3. Losing both starting quarterbacks to injury, especially Jeff Steinberg, in the thick of the playoff hunt.

Number 2. A 4-2 record with 2 games to go and not making the playoffs.

And the number 1 low of the 1989 Golden Bear football season. *The Gateway* sports football staff not being able to attend the Vanier Cup under the 'Dome in Toronto!



Stauffer

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coach is not just measured in the win-loss columns. Part of being a football player is fulfilling academic requirements, at least at this school it is. In his role of peer educator Bear coach Donlevy has always been a success. Thus the Golden Bear football program is still successful in the most important facet of its game... now if the passing game can only get going!

Underrated Sawatzky a terrorizing figure

by Todd Saelhof

Listen up all you CFL scouts! One of the meanest, most intense inside linebackers in recent memory is available in this year's draft. His name — Len Sawatzky. His play on the gridiron — terrorizing.

Thick with talent, the fourth year Golden Bear football man is easily the most underrated Bear player, maybe even the most underrated in Canada West. Sawatzky's contribution to the league, however, did not go totally unnoticed as he grabbed Canada West all-star recognition for the third straight year.

The honor which has eluded the 5'11", 218-pound threat is a selection to the CIAU all-star squad. It is an omission which a disappointed Sawatzky feels may have hurt his chances to turn professional.

"I wanted to be voted all-Canadian. I've been selected to the Western all-star team three years in a row and I deserve to be all-Canadian. After three years I felt I should have at least have been nominated Sawatzky said.

It is hard to argue against his point of view, especially when you consider the impressive effort

Sawatzky contributed to the devastating Bear defense.

"I consider myself an anchor on the defence. I've led the team in tackles and assists the past three years. I'm probably what you call the most consistent player on the defence. I'm not flashy at all."

Flashy or not, Sawatzky packs a punch when the game is on the line. Just ask University of Calgary Dinosaur quarterback Bob Torrance about Sawatzky's play in the dying minutes of the Shrine Bowl in Calgary.

"With a couple minutes left on a

third down gamble, Torrance rolled out and I happened to be free on the play. I grabbed his jersey, swung him around and souffleed him," said the intense linebacker.

More than once Sawatzky has been in the right place at the right time. He realizes, however, that the Bears react to every play as a cohesive defensive unit, and a terrorizing one at that.

"I'd like to say that Rick Medcke and Ferris (Mike) Buhler deserve all kinds of recognition. They don't get any limelight either and deserve to be all-stars. They're responsible,

to a large extent, for the recognition that we get," Sawatzky said.

For Sawatzky, his last game as a Golden Bear has passed. Now he looks for greener pastures, hopefully those pastures of the CFL, who could use the excitement of Len Sawatzky. Looking back, Sawatzky is disappointed with the Bears' heartbreaking season, believing the opportunity was there to make a CIAU National Championship appearance.

"We had the potential to go right to the Vanier Cup. Anybody who had watched us play knows that."



Ron Sears

Matheson little-big man

by Todd Saelhof

At 5'9", Todd Matheson is by far one of the smallest cornerbacks in Canada West football. What he lacks in height, however, Matheson makes up for in sheer talent.

As a fourth year Bear, Matheson grabbed two interceptions and posted kick return yardage of 352 yards on 32 returns, good for first place in Canada West. The impressive part of Matheson's game, though, is his ability to cover man-to-man as rightside cornerback. This contribution to an already talent-laden Golden Bear defensive unit, earned Matheson a selection to the Canada West all-star squad. The 183 pounder, however, is quick to credit the rest of the pack with his all-star recognition, especially the defensive front seven.

"It makes it so much easier when you have those great guys like that up front. They provide a lot of pressure on the quarterback and

that makes whatever Trent (Brown) and I do that much easier," Matheson said.

Regardless, Matheson stuck to the receivers like glue. Against more revered quarterbacks like Calgary's Bob Torrance and Saskatchewan's David Earl, Matheson's one-on-one play was both essential and exceptional. At the very best, exceptional enough to cinch a starting position for the past three seasons.

"I started three games in my first year, and I've started every game since the beginning of my second year."

Obviously the Bears' coaching staff has not been disappointed in Matheson's play. Matheson, on the other hand, sometimes loses sight of his ability.

"I think the biggest problem I have is confidence. Sometimes I tend to get down on myself, but a lot of the problems are just inside

my head."

Mind games aside, Matheson's concentration on the field seems to produce consistently solid outings game after game. The key reason for the prolific cornerback's success is a cautious attitude as a coverage man.

"I like to play it a little safe, a little more cautious than Brown who likes to take more chances than I do. I'm strong enough that I can play a little more physical of a game than other defensive backs," Matheson said.

Although safe is not flashy, look for the talented Golden Bear cornerback to be selected in this year's Canadian Football League draft. With one more year of eligibility left in CIAU football, the Bears would be more than happy to see a return of Matheson to the den next season, but most assuredly, a CFL franchise could use his ability too.

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