

Kennerd: Bears' 'Little General'

Golden Bear quarterback Forrest Kennerd has been a valuable member of the team in his two years at the University of Alberta. While small for his position (5'6" and 165 pounds) Forrest has been a leader on the field.

This week Bob Kilgannon, Gateway football reporter and analyst, had a chance to talk with Forrest about his past, present and future career along with some related topics.

Gateway: First of all, Forrest, tell us a little bit about your football background: where you've played before, what positions you've played.

Kennerd: I started playing football in the bantam league. I was there for two years and then I moved on to Bonnie Doon High School under Lancers' coaches, Ken Brice and Bob Dean. That was from 1971 to 1973. Then I went to the (Edmonton) Huskies, under coach Vic Chmelyk, for three seasons. Then one year with the Huskies under John Belmont before coming to the U of A.

Gateway: Have you always been a quarterback throughout your career, Forrest?

Kennerd: Always a quarterback. Never been asked to try out for another position and never really wanted to.

Gateway: Do you have any pro aspirations? Would you like to give it a shot somewhere next season?

Kennerd: Right now all that's in my mind is the Calgary Dinosaurs. Professional football has always been something in the back of my mind. It would be a lot of fun to try it. I'm going to write some letters and possibly get a try-out somewhere. I know my chances are almost nil of making professional football, but as far as pro aspirations are concerned, not right now. It's the U of C Dinosaurs that's what I'm thinking about.

Gateway: I believe you've always played with your brother Trevor up until this season. I'm sure you're happy he made it in the pro ranks with Winnipeg. Were you surprised at all or did you always feel he could play professionally?

Kennerd: I was not surprised that he made it. What I was really surprised about, as far as Trevor is concerned, is that his kicking only really came around with the Huskies. In bantam and high school ball, he never kicked. We always had someone who was better. So he has really only been kicking since around 1975.

He's a relative newcomer to the position and as a pro this year - I don't know if you're aware of it - he broke Ted Gerela's old record for a rookie in the CFL. He's just got nowhere to go but up and he'll improve his kicking every year. I've seen his distance constantly improve. This year he hit a 57 yarder in exhibition play. I think in the years to come he's going to become one of the great ones.

Gateway: Let's talk about this year's Golden Bear team. What's your impression of the team? The camaraderie, the talent and things like that.

Kennerd: As far as this year's team is concerned, attitude wise and philosophy wise, I think we're a closer knit group (than last year). We know each other better. We're more mature collectively, as a group, than we were last year. I think we know what we have to do a lot better.

Last year's team was pretty well first or second year players. We really didn't know what to expect from the league. We knew nothing of the old Golden Bear jinx so we just went out and did it. It just came naturally.



photo Tom Freeland

This year the pressure is on, and we know the pressure is on. How that affects us will determine how far we go. Personnel wise, I think we lost an awful lot of key players from last year's team. As far as talent goes we might possibly even be a little weaker than last year. When you lose guys the calibre of Pat Toth, Kerry

slack.

Gateway: Talking specifically about the game this weekend, against Calgary: What do you think the game will be like? Will it be a wide open offensive game like the last encounter or will the defences come to the fore?

Kennerd: I would look for the defences to come up big. In playoff football it's the defence who wins championships. Offences will win your games during the regular season with the last minute comebacks and spectacular plays... and big plays. But in the playoffs, it's the team that has the most consistent defensive output that's going to win the game. I would consider defence and turnovers a

plan, for a consistent attack, I think we're going to use the short to medium range passing game.

Gateway: Calgary was successful doing just that against you last time you met. I watched their game against UBC on Friday and they did the same thing. Using the short passing game. Do you think they'll be able to do it twice in a row against your defence?

Kennerd: Well, they have got the best passing attack we've seen this year. I'm sure they'll be able to throw with some efficiency. If they can do to us what they did last game, we will be in a lot of trouble and probably lose the game. So I look for our defence to come up big when it has to. Calgary is out there to win too and they'll have some measure of success just because their passing game is an excellent one.

Gateway: How do you feel about the league all-stars that were announced this week? Were you surprised at some of the selections? Perhaps disappointed that some people weren't selected?

Kennerd: With the way the league all-stars work in the WIFL, I think there is a lot of politics involved. Especially in some of the situations that happened in the league this year. I think one guy that was just robbed is Glen Music. He's the best cornerback in the entire league, maybe the country, and he wasn't chosen. One other player on our team who I thought deserved to an all-star from our team is John Urschel at linebacker. That's about it. Those two guys.

Gateway: Getting back to the game this weekend. It's been suggested that the quarterback if the leader of the offense. Do you feel any added pressure on yourself going into the game? Do you feel the fate of the team rests on your shoulders?

Kennerd: Well, the fate of the team doesn't rest on my shoulders, but I do feel more pressure going into a big game like this. The quarterback in this league has to perform in order to win. It's passing we play in the WIFL and the quarterback has to be on. I really think a key as far as pressure is concerned in this game is not giving up the cheap interception. I think, like I said before, the quarterback who can stay away from the dumb turnovers, the poor interceptions, is the quarterback who will probably come out on top.

Gateway: Any final comments about the game?

Kennerd: I feel that for our team this year, for it to be a successful season, we have to win. We have to win this game to show some measure of success. If we lose this game our season has been a failure. We're the best team physically and mentally in this league. If we lose it's going to be for all the wrong reasons. We've got to be mentally and emotionally prepared. And emotion is the key word. If we don't win it will have been because we weren't mentally and emotionally prepared.

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O'Connor, Dean Kmech, Jan Tollovsen, and a guy who will get you ten or twelve points a game, Trevor Kennerd, a receiver like Murray McLean. When you lose players like this... in other areas of this league you would have a major rebuilding program to do. But we have just a tremendous group of individuals who have stepped in there to pick up the

key. If I can stay away from the garbage interceptions, we don't fumble punts and kickoffs and we can force them in to turnovers — force their quarterback Vavra into turnovers — then we're going to come out ahead.

Gateway: I don't want to ask you your game plan but are there any specific areas

of Calgary's defence you want to attack?
Kennerd: We've discussed it. We think we can attack them in their short to medium range passing game. They're very tough to beat over the top. They're not going to give you the easy six and they're very tough against the run. Sean (Kehoe) can break one or two on Saturday, I'm sure, but for the whole game

Bears and Dinos dominate all-stars

Nine Golden Bears were among 29 players selected to WIFL all-star team announced this week. Calgary Dinosaurs led all teams with eleven selections while Saskatchewan had five, Manitoba three and UBC just one.

Four of the 13 unanimous choices were from the U of A. Offensive lineman Elwin Worobec, wide receiver Peter Eshenko, running back Sean Kehoe and defensive back Gord Syme were first choices on every eligible ballot. Selections are made by the coaches who are not allowed to vote for players on their own team.

Other Bears picked were Percy Gendall and Rick Henschel, both offensive linemen, defensive lineman Rollie Miles, linebacker Lawrence Nagy and punter Dave Brown.

Syme is the only Golden Bear to repeat from last year's team. Players from other teams who were there last year include Scott MacArthur, Wayne Harris and Darcy Krogh, from Calgary; Murray Wenhardt from Saskatchewan, and Manitoba's George Seidel.

A noticeable absentee is Bears' defensive back Glen Music. With six interceptions and a CIAU Player-of-the-Week award he should have been a unanimous choice. Perhaps the coaches forgot they all employ five defensive backs on their own teams. So why are there only four on the all-star team? Whatever the reason, Music — who many thought had a chance to be an All-Canadian — got screwed.

Feature and articles
by Bob Kilgannon
and Shaune Impy



Rating the teams

It will be a battle between the top offensive team, Alberta, and the top defensive team, Calgary.

The Bears potent attack scored more points (197) than any other team. Calgary's defence allowed the opposition only 115 points in eight games. Sixty-one of those were scored by the Bears in their two regular games against the Dinosaurs. They whipped the Calgary team 28-8 in McMahon Stadium while losing a close 41-33 decision at home in the final league game.

Both teams finished the season with 6-2 won-lost marks but Alberta was awarded first place because they had the edge in points scored between the two in their seasonal series.

If the weather is good, as the forecast indicates, the game could be an aerial battle. Forrest Kennerd and Greg Vavra both have talented receivers to throw to. As well, each quarterback has proven he can operate under pressure.

The running games are close with the Bears getting the edge because of the breakaway speed of Sean Kehoe.

Dave Brown gives the Bears an advantage in punting while Tony Kuchera is better than either U of A placekicker.

The winner plays the Ontario champion at home in the Western Bowl next weekend. From there it's on to the College Bowl in Toronto on November 29.

Game time at Varsity Stadium on Saturday is 1:00 p.m. Note the time change. And like all playoff contests, students must pay admission. It's cheap at \$3.00.

PREDICTION — Bears by 4.