

Golden Bears, We Love You - Have A Good Hibernation!

by Bob Dwernychuk
Another football season is over and footballs and grid enthusiasm are deflated. So are hopes for a Dominion crown for the U of A Golden Bears.

The Bears can go into hibernation knowing that they were the best western collegiate team fielded for a long time.

Kicking off the season Sept. 12, with hardly any training at all, the Bears bounced the Wildcats 20-12. Then 10 days later they blasted the U of S Huskies 59-0.

Almost one month after starting, the Bears somehow let a team score against them again. But the 47-7 snow-job against the new league entrants, the Bisons, could hardly be labeled as a defensive lapse.

T'BIRDS REAL TEST

A real test was in the offing in the game against last year's league champions, the UBC Thunderbirds. Once again the Green Machine showed its stuff by blanking the 'Birds 30-0, and it looked like the Bears were well on their way to the crown.

But alas, a loss at last dimmed ambitious aspirations. A win against the 'Birds the following weekend in BC would have sewn up the title but the Bears started slowly and found themselves on the low end of a 23-19 score.

Having only to run out the remainder of the season by beating the

weak-sisters of the league, the Bears did so in decisive manner. Backing up a 65-0 massacre over the U of S "team" with an equally impressive 46-9 victory over the Bisons, they ended the season with five wins and one loss in league play.

SOLID TEAM

With a team as solid as this, Clare Drake began looking for bigger things—namely the Dominion Collegiate crown. But first a western representative had to be chosen if negotiations were to carry any weight in the East.

Co-champions with the Bears, the T'Birds "offered" to play the Bearmen for the league title if, and only if, an East-West playoff materialized.

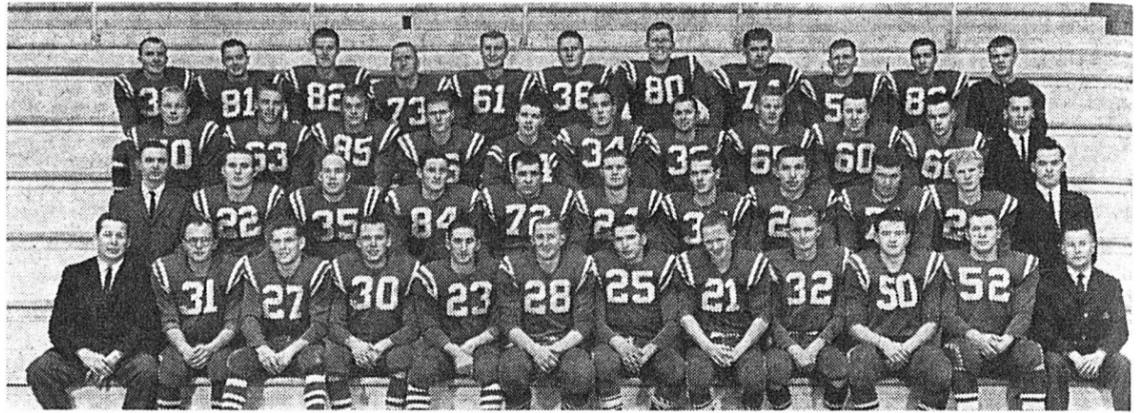
As it was, McGill, Eastern collegiate champions, would only play the West (who else but the Bears?) in Edmonton around the 24 of November, if the Bears' bucks backed them.

But "knowledgeable authorities" decided that snow and cold would be covering the Alberta terrain anyway, the money needed could be put to better use for new stands.

SHARE HARDY TROPHY

Satisfied with a piece of the title, the T'Birds were not going to lose their share of the Hardy Trophy by playing the Bears in a playoff deciding league supremacy.

The ruling not granting automatic playoffs in such situations was quite unfortunate for the Bears are, without doubt, the better half of the twosome in first place. Statistics



1962 GOLDEN BEARS FOOTBALL TEAM

compiled by league statistician Moe Allen prove this.

- BC's 142 points for and 49 against can not compare with the Bears' 266 points for and only 39 against.
- The Bears 153 first downs are 46 more than made by BC.
- Passing for 1,418 yards and rushing for 1,376 more, the Bears' total yardage exceeds that of the 'Birds by over 800 yards.
- Bears recovered the most fumbles (12), intercepted the most passes (10), made the greatest number of field goals (6), passed for the greatest number of TD's (20), got the highest average per completed pass (15.6), and per carry (5.7), and were the least penalized club (34 for 357

yards). In the individual statistics department, the Bearmen also cleaned up.

Neilsen, Carron, and Marteniuk, in that order are the top three scorers, garnering 66, 48, and 44 points. Strifler and Esper also made the top ten in scoring.

Carron and Strifler head the league rushing department. Carron carried 90 times for 499 yards, while Strifler carried 54 times for 390 yards for the highest average.

Ken "dextrous digits" Nielsen snagged 30 of 37 passes thrown his way for a league leading 601 yards and an equally impressive 81.2 per cent average.

Ron Marteniuk's talented toe was good for 25 converts and six field goals to lead the two departments.

In the passing department, QB Garry Smith tried 115, and completed 81, giving him a 70 per cent average for 1,243 yards.

Even though the Bears did not have the chance to earn National laurels, they have consolation in placing 10 gridmen on the All-Star team.

Making the team on offense were: Guard Ron Marteniuk, tackle Bill Duncan, end Rod Esper, QB Garry Smith, fullback Bert Carron, and halfback Ken Nielsen.

Interior linebacker Jim Cristoff, end Denny O'Donnell, center line-backer Vic Chmelyk, and halfback Vic Messier were the four remaining Bears making the defensive lineup on the dream team.

Receiving honorable mention were Stan Stinchcombe, Garry Naylor, and Maynard Vollan.

Next year will find the Golden Bears without the services of Vollan, Cristoff, Zuk, Duncan, and Elock, who are expected to graduate this spring.

Going with basically the same nucleus, the Bear team promises to be a league power next year too, according to Ed Zemrau, PEB business manager. The Bears could also conceivably go all the way to the Dominion collegiate crown, as next season will see the incorporation of a definite East-West playoff.

Jr. Bears: Win A Few, Lose A Few

The Junior Golden Bears hockey team, last week split a pair of games with the Edmonton Combines.

They won the Wednesday game 4-2 but lost on the following Friday 4-3.

Bear goals were scored by Don Chirnichin, two, and one apiece for Joe Laplante and Vern McKay, in the Wednesday game. Joe Laplante collected two and Bill Hall got one in Friday's game.

Present League Standings

	W	L	T	Pts
Edmonton Combines	4	2	1	9
South Side Red Wings	4	2	1	9
Golden Bears	4	2	0	8
Community Flyers	0	5	0	0

As a result of last weeks play one of the teams may be dropping out of the league. The Flyers lost to the Red Wings 19-0. They have been having trouble getting players out to the games.

League President, Jack Graham, indicated they may be getting players from other teams, but was not able to state whether the Flyers would remain in the league or not.



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