

Battle ahead for football Bears against Regina

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Though the football Bears drew the short straw schedule-wise for the season's first game—losing to last year's Vanier Cup runner-up Saskatchewan Huskies at their home stadium in Saskatoon last week—they should be much more evenly matched on Saturday's home opener against the Regina Rams.

Like the Bears, the Rams put up a 4-4 record last year—though they did make it to the playoff semifinals, unlike Alberta—and lost their first game of the season this year to a conference powerhouse. Regina was beaten by the Manitoba Bisons, who were unbeaten in the 2006 regular season, and eventually lost the conference title to the Saskatchewan Huskies.

For his part, Bears head coach Jerry Friesen wasn't disheartened by last week's 45-14 loss, especially considering the competition his team was up against.

"It was a learning opportunity for us, and a chance to find out where we are," he said.

Going into the Huskies game, and into the season as a whole, Friesen's goal has been to concentrate on refocusing the team after a number of off-season changes. In addition to losing a number of prominent players to graduation, there have been a few coaching changes. As he prepares to meet Regina, he said that this is still his main plan.

"It's progressing well, but it's something that doesn't happen overnight.

Everybody's adjusting to where they are now. We just need to work on our fundamentals," he said. "Outside of that, our communications process is starting to smooth out and get quicker, and those are two key things."

And though the Rams don't have the Huskies' fearsome reputation, Friesen won't be taking anything for granted this weekend.

"Everybody's adjusting to where they are now. We just need to work on our fundamentals."

JERRY FRIESEN
BEARS FOOTBALL HEAD COACH

"Regina is a very challenging team. They've only graduated a few players [from last year], so they're just getting better there," he said. "They've got an all-Canadian quarterback, so we've just got to make sure to watch out for these challenges defensively, and give them some things to work on as well."

The Rams know that they're going to have to bring their best game against Alberta as well. Head coach Frank McCrystal said that as long as his team manages to avoid some of the costly penalties they incurred against Manitoba, they stand a good chance.

"We're not expecting that we'll be given many easy chances this game, [but] we just need to focus on our execution," he explained. "We don't really focus on individuals; we just need to



FILE PHOTO: NICK WIEBE

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN The Bears offense will have their work cut out for them against the high-scoring Regina Rams.

play our best, and execute everything well."

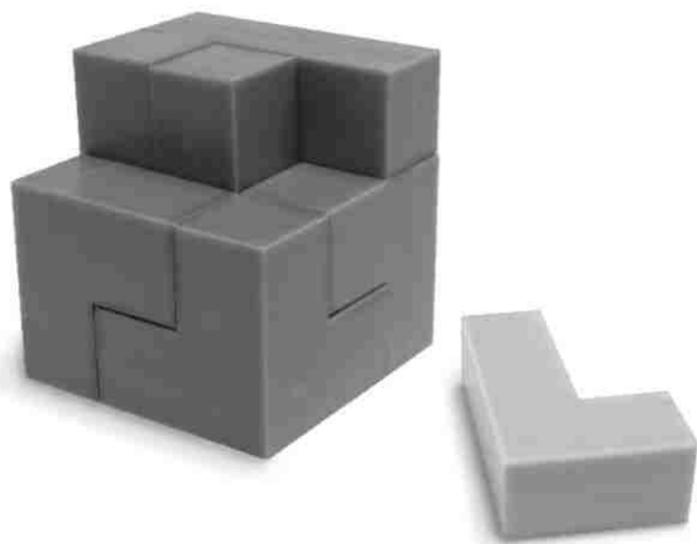
Friesen hopes that the fact that it's a home game will play to the Bears' advantage.

"It should make a real difference. This is our field; we practice on it; we run on it; we sweat on it; we go up and down on it," he explained. "There's just something about being

in your own turf."

The Bears will line up against the Rams at Foote Field on Saturday at 2pm, and can be heard on the radio on AM 1260.

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Undergraduate Student Awards

The Student Awards Office has several scholarship competitions with fall deadlines. Each competition has its own set of criteria and eligibility requirements as outlined in the following descriptions.

For more information on these and other competitions please visit our website at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards or the Student Awards Office at 1-80 Students' Union Building.

Jason Lang Scholarship

Applicants must be Alberta residents who have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.2 on ★24 in their previous year of studies (September 2006 to April 2007).

The deadline to apply is September 15, 2007

University of Alberta Undergraduate Academic Scholarship Competition

There are approximately 300 awards available through this competition. The awards range in value from \$500 to \$4,000 with some being Faculty specific and some open to students in any Faculty.

The deadline to apply is September 30, 2007

Rhodes Scholarship

Applicants must be Canadian citizens or living in Canada; have been born between October 2, 1983 and October 1, 1989; and have received an undergraduate degree before attending Oxford (except medical students).

Applications are available at the Student Awards Office.

The deadline to apply is October 1, 2007

Undergraduate Leadership Awards

There are approximately 50 available through this competition. The awards range in value from \$500 to \$12,500 with some being Faculty specific and some open to students in any Faculty.

Application information is available on the Student Awards website at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards.

The deadline to apply is October 15, 2007

Important Changes to Students Awards

The Student Awards Office is currently implementing new software that will allow us to distribute awards more efficiently.

Below is a brief breakdown of what to expect:

1. No more paper cheques will be issued. Payments will be applied directly to tuition.
2. Students will be able to input banking information on Bear Tracks and have any refunds or payments go directly into their bank accounts.
3. Most awards will be divided equally—half in the Fall term and half in the Winter term, prior to the deadline for paying tuition and fees. The award will be applied towards tuition and fees and any remaining balance will be refunded.

Check www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards for important notices.