



ANDREW SPEARIN, THE SHEAF

JOZZ-LED Runningback Tendayi Jozzy is gang-tackled by a bunch of Huskies Saturday in Saskatoon. Jozzy gained 172 yards on the ground in his first CIS game. The Golden Bears lost 27-6 to Saskatchewan to start the 2006 season.

Bears dig for “W” in Calgary

A season-starting loss in Saskatoon raised a lot of questions for the Golden Bears football team, which will look for answers this weekend in Cowtown

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

While most eyes looking for a battle of Alberta this weekend will be turned toward the northern part of the province, there’s likely a more meaningful edition taking to the turf down south. That’s because while the hapless Eskimos are languishing in last place, the Canada West football season is just getting rolling.

However, while both the teams and fans know what they’ll be getting from the Stamps and Eskimos on Friday, question marks surround each CIS team this early in the year, as both the Golden Bears (0-1) and Dinos (0-1) dropped their first game of the season. According to Bears head coach Jerry Friesen, though, the overhaul of Calgary and their installation of a new head coach make the Dinos especially difficult to figure out.

“Their offence has changed significantly and their defence has already changed as well,” said Friesen. “[Dinos head coach] Blake Nill has already instilled some of the team characteristics that made him so successful in the Atlantic conference and helped Saint Mary’s capture two titles.”

“They’re a team that’s rebuilding and I don’t know what to expect from them,” added Bears linebacker/place-kicker Scott Stevenson. “I think that it’ll be a good game, but I think that our defence is really strong, and that we’ll be able to handle their offence. We’ve got a really good secondary and

linebackers.”

The Bears will need their experience on defence—where they have six of twelve starters back from last season—to figure out Nill’s playbook. Add in Dalin Tollestrup, the Dinos rookie quarterback from the football factory of Raymond, Alberta, and this is a completely different Calgary squad than the one that missed the playoffs two of the last three seasons.

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**JERRY FRIESEN
HEAD COACH
GOLDEN BEARS FOOTBALL**

However, while the Dinos have a new look, so do the Bears, who are fielding entirely new sets of running backs, kickers and also starting a rookie quarterback—though that’s hardly unique in Canada West this year.

“Canada West has gone through a transition at quarterback with four of

the seven teams having a new one,” Friesen said. “Everyone’s going to be having some growing pains, but it’s whoever’s quarterback that gets up that learning curve the quickest that’s going to give their team the best opportunity to win.”

While it’s still too early to tell which team will round into form the quickest, the Bears are confident that their rookies will step up and provide a better, more complete effort than was evident against Saskatchewan last week, when they dropped a 27-6 decision. But, if some of the rookies do struggle, the Bears are prepared to go with other options.

“We’re not at all hesitant to put Cam Linke in, and between him and Quade Armstrong, we’ve got two distinct, quality quarterbacks that both bring different things to the table and we’ve just got to make sure that we use them smartly,” Friesen said.

“We’ve got a rookie quarterback—Armstrong—who showed a lot of positives in our game against Saskatchewan, but he also showed that it was his first game, too,” said Stevenson, Tollestrup’s neighbour in Raymond. “Mostly, I think what Quade showed us was positive, and showed that he’s going to be an excellent quarterback for us.”


Kick-off time for the CIS version of the battle of Alberta is noon on Saturday, at McMahon Stadium in Calgary. All the action can be heard live on the TEAM 1260 with Bob Stauffer and Blake Dermott doing the calls.

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