THE GATEWAY • volume XCVII number 4 SPORTS 27



CHRISBEAUCHAMP, THE GAUNTI YOU AIN'T GOING NOWHERE Linebacker Dan Bass and the Bears "D" has been sharp, but it's a different story on "O."

Golden Bears host UBC in home-opener on new turf

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI Sports Staff

The ninth-ranked University of British Columbia Thunderbirds (1–0) will have gone 14 days without a game by the time they square off against the Golden Bears football squad on Saturday, but when they do finally hit the turf again, it will be brand spanking new. Renovations at Foote Field will be complete in time for Saturday's game; though, for awhile it appeared as though the game may have had to be moved to Clarke Park.

Both Alberta and the T-birds enter the game coming off of victories over Calgary. UBC got 97 rushing yards from running back Chris Ciezki and a 62-yard touchdown from receiver Darren Wilson while racking up 384 yards of total offence in the victory. Alberta needed a last second field goal by Scott Stevenson for the victory. Quade Armstrong scored the Bears' only touchdown of the season thus far for Alberta with a one-yard scamper into the endzone.

While having the field finished for Saturday is perfect timing for the Bears, it's far from the only thing that needed work this week to be ready for tenth-ranked Alberta's (1–1) home opener. With a Canada West-worst seven turnovers through two games and a passing game that's only put up 124 yards per game, the offence—and

in particular the quarterbacks—need to perform better.

"The turnovers are definitely something that I think is going to happen," said quarterback Cam Linke who's split playing time with Quade Armstrong thus far. "I don't think there's any excuse for them, and turning the ball over less is something we're definitely working on."

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CAM LINKE, GOLDEN BEARS QB

"I think our passing game will eventually mature, but we'll just have to take what [UBC] gives us this weekend," head coach Jerry Friesen added. "We'll slowly be able to bring our passing game along, as long as we make sure that our running game stays strong."

That running game, powered by standout rookie running back Tendayi Jozzy, has been the bright spot offensively for the Bears this season. With 359 yards through two games, Jozzy tops Canada West and is second in the

CIS in rushing yards—even though he has yet to cross the goal line for his first CIS score.

"I think we're running the ball well and that's a great thing," Linke said. "You get to control the clock, and when our [offensive] line is dominating like that, I don't necessarily think that we need to keep our offence balanced. If one things working then we're going to go with it."

Even though Alberta might try to keep running the ball down teams' throats, opponents are getting wise to the fact that the ground game has become the cornerstone of the Bears' attack. Teams are adjusting to Alberta's reliance on rushing the ball and making moves that Friesen believes will open up other areas for Alberta to exploit.

"We expect that teams are going to try and shut down [Jozzy], but we're preparing for it," he said. "As teams see us and see the strength of our team's running game, I suspect they'll put more pressure on it and that will give us an opportunity to throw the ball a bit more."

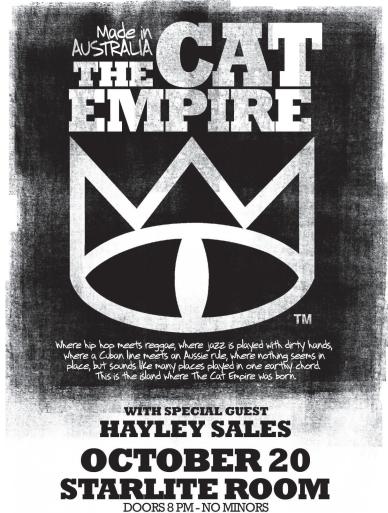
The newly renovated Foote will be the second new playing surface the Bears christen this season, as their season-opening loss in Saskatoon was played on Saskatchewan's new field. All the action goes at 1pm, and can be heard live on the Team 1260 through the words of Blake Dermott and Bob "0–2" Stauffer.

GATEWAY SPORTS

OUR TURF IS ALWAYS READY ON TIME.

Even when our meetings aren't.

Those are Tuesdays at 5:30pm in 3-04 SUB by the way. I'll try to be on time next week.



THE GATEWAY

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THE CHALLENGES OF SECURITY IN AN OPEN SOCIETY

The Honourable A. Anne McLellan, P.C. Counsel, Bennett Jones LLP

Thursday, September 21, 2006 5:00 p.m. Room 231/237 Law Centre University of Alberta

A reception will follow in the CN Alumni Hall & Faculty Lounge

RSVP by September 15 to Amber Holder: aholder@law.ualberta.ca, 492-5681

