

Bears face UBC in battle of unbeatens

Soccer team puts six-game undefeated streak on the line on road trip to the west coast this weekend

NICK FROST
Sports Writer

After finishing last weekend’s action with their third win-tie split in a row, the Golden Bears soccer team will be looking for a change of fortunes in the upcoming weekend series: a west-coast road swing against the UBC Thunderbirds and Victoria Vikes.

The fact that the Bears haven’t been able to produce two wins in a week-end series thus far has yet to concern Golden Bears head coach Len Vickery. While he doesn’t believe that his team has any serious detriments, he still views them as a continuous work-in-progress.

“Well, I don’t know if we’re necessarily having any issues—we’re definitely not firing on all cylinders all the time,” Vickery admitted. “With all credit to the teams that we’ve played—on each and every weekend we’ve played two tough opponents—to try and get two wins is asking a lot. We’re a squad that’s slowly coming together; we didn’t come out of the gate as quickly as we would’ve liked, but we’re getting better week by week. The teams that we’ve tied this year have played strong games, and that’s reflective of their placement in the Canada West standings right now.”

Some possible good news for the Golden Bears could come with the return of Mark Korthuis. Last year’s Canada West MVP suffered a groin injury this past weekend against Trinity Western; however, while it’s not definite, the team is still optimistic that he could return to action without missing any more time.

“Hopefully, with some aggressive physiotherapy this week, we can, at least, try and get Mark back in the lineup this weekend,” Vickery said.

Saturday’s action sees Alberta face their toughest challenge to date: the top-ranked Thunderbirds (3-0-2). While the task does seem daunting, Vickery believes that this match will



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS LEG? Midfielder Junior Castrillion-Rendon and the Bears face a pair of tough BC teams.

provide an opportunity to display how well his team has developed so far this year.

“They’re the reigning CIS Champions, and they are ranked number one for a reason,” Vickery said. “From their early results, they’ve come by them honestly, so it’s a real opportunity for us to show how much we’ve progressed since the start of the season. Without a doubt, it’s going to be a truly competitive game. We have to be just as strong defensively as we

have been in each game thus far, and generate a little bit of offence to put them on their heels and get the kind of result that we’re looking for.”

In the second half of the BC road trip, the Bears will face the University of Victoria Vikes (2-2-1). Though Saturday’s game may appear to be the more challenging of the two, it definitely doesn’t mean that Alberta will be taking the Vikes lightly.

“The challenge of the Canada West Conference, as always, is that you have

to play two tough opponents back-to-back. Even anticipating a drop-off in performance from Saturday to Sunday, it’s usually the team that drops off the least that prevails. Victoria, unquestionably, will be big, strong and very well organized. So, it’s going to be a huge challenge as well.”

The Golden Bears will take to the field Saturday at 3pm at Thunderbird Stadium in Vancouver, and then again on Sunday at 2pm at the University of Victoria.

SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Paul Owen
and Mike Kendrick

Hockey

The Pandas head to the University of Toronto for a weekend of exhibition play. Friday afternoon at 3:15pm, they take on the University of Ottawa GeeGees. They go again at the same time the next day, taking on the host Varsity Blues. They’ll wrap up the weekend Sunday at 11am when they face off against the University of McGill Martlets. It will be the first CIS competition for the Pandas, who beat down SAIT 6-1 and 6-4 in a pair of games this past weekend. It should be noted that the Pandas gave up all four of those goals in the third period, probably a product of them not putting a goalie in. I can’t see any other way SAIT got four goals in a period. I can’t see any other way SAIT got four shots on goal in a period.

Field Hockey

After a 1-1-1 opening tournament in Calgary, the defending national champion Pandas will visit the University of Victoria for the second of three Canada West regular season tournaments. Their opponents will be the same as last weekend, as the Pandas will face the host Vikes at 4pm on Friday, follow that up against the UBC Thunderbirds on Saturday at 11am, and finish off against the Calgary Dinos at 11am on Sunday.

Cross-Country

Ian Manyfingers won the Cougar Trot Open on 16 September in Regina with a time of 26:26 over the 8km course. Both the Bears and Pandas will head to Victoria this weekend for a meet hosted by the Vikes.

Shorts

Editor-in-Chief Matt Frehner has abandoned the shorts for the snug fit of white boxer-briefs today. Why he has done this is anyone’s guess, but perhaps it has something to do with the man’s strange affinity for ball sweat.

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