

Character key in Lions' drive

by GRANT KERR
Canadian Press

As autumn fast approaches and leaves fall gently, there's an amazing success story being shaped in the CFL's outer reaches of the West Coast.

Upstart B.C. has already won as many games as the Lions did in 18 starts last season and the schedule is just going into its 11th week.

The Lions have done it with several hair-raising comebacks engineered by quarterback Doug Flutie, including a league record four overtime games.

But the real reason for a 6-4 start, claims veteran fullback Chris Skinner, is the team's inner character.

"It's a thing where you just don't believe you're going to lose," Skinner said this week. "No matter what happens, you're going to come out on top."

The Lions had their first laughter of the season Sunday when they beat Ottawa by 27 points, although their lead was just three points in the third quarter.

This weekend they face Winnipeg, a team that took them to overtime in the second week of the schedule. B.C. won by three points and surrendered only one touchdown in regulation time against the Blue Bombers.

Winnipeg at B.C.: The Bombers (6-4) have won four of five after a slow start. Quarterback Tom Burgess likes to throw deep, but only after Robert Mimbs establishes the run.

B.C. (6-4) is on a roll offensively as Flutie leads the league in passing and escaping the pass rush.

Prediction: B.C. by six points Sunday.

Ottawa at Hamilton: The Rough Riders (4-6) are reeling after two losses to the Lions. Quarterback Damon Allen has missed injured wide receiver Stephen Jones, who gives the team a deep threat. Ottawa must do bet-

ter job stopping the run.

Hamilton (1-9) is moving the ball better with rejuvenated quarterback Mike Kerrigan, who can be dangerous when he's in a rhythm. But the Tiger-Cats have lacked consistency.

Prediction: Ottawa by four points Saturday.

Edmonton at Saskatchewan: The Eskimos (6-4) must play without injured quarterback Tracy Ham, which leaves the offence in the young hands of unproven Warren Jones. He has a strong arm and likely will go deep often to Jim Sandusky and David Williams.

The Roughriders (3-6) must tighten their defence if they hope to pull into the race for a playoff berth. What they can do well is score points — 141 in three games since Don Matthews became head coach and quarterback Kent Austin got healthy.

Prediction: Saskatchewan by three points Sunday.

Toronto at Calgary: This battle of division leaders favors the Argonauts (7-3) because they've got the healthy quarterbacks — both of them. Matt Dunigan and Rick Foggie will test the Calgary defence deep and often.

Calgary (7-3) will use second-string pivot Steve Taylor in the absence of injured Danny Barrett. Taylor had a miserable start last game against Edmonton.

Prediction: Toronto by seven points Sunday.

Prediction record: 10-10.

Home-field advantage: 25-15.

Interlocking games: 11-7 West.

Phoenix feeling good

by DAVE GOLDBERG
Associated Press

Eric Hill, the Cardinals' outstanding linebacker, is about the only one unmoved by Phoenix's 2-0 start.

"It's not a surprise to us," Hill said. "It might be a shock to everybody else."

The Vegas guys know reality when they see it — the Cardinals go into RFK Stadium on Sunday as nine-point underdogs against the Washington Redskins.

Sunday's game may be a homecoming for Phoenix coach Joe Bugel, who built the Redskins' offensive line that is affectionately dubbed the Hogs, and Washington's secondary may be hurting. But that won't be enough for the Cardinals.

REDSKINS, 30-7

Giants (minus 1½) at Bears: A characteristic of the Ray Handley era (two regular-season games and four exhibitions): the Giants win one then lose one.

Another characteristic: They've beaten the Bills (exhibition) and 49ers regular season; lost to the Browns and Patriots (exhibitions).

This is an up week.

GIANTS, 13-6

Rams (plus 3) at Saints: Only five times in 25 years has New Orleans started 1-0. This is the only year the team has been 2-0.

Anyone for three?

SAINTS, 13-7

49ers (minus 2½) at Vikings:

Herschel Walker will NOT run for 125 yards.

Steve Young might.

49ERS, 24-17

Bills (minus 8½) at Jets: Repeating . . . Who can stop Buffalo? Who can Buffalo stop?

The Bills average 44 points and allow 32.

BILLS, 44-32

Eagles (plus 3½) at Cowboys:

This game just doesn't seem right without Buddy Ryan to heckle the JJs.

Or without Randall Cunningham.

COWBOYS, 17-9

Seahawks (plus 6) at Broncos:

Why does this game seem to be played about eight times a year?

Why does Seattle always finish 9-7?

BRONCOS, 9-7

Bengals (minus 3½) at Browns:

Aren't the Browns the team that's supposed to have been outscored 75-21 in its first two games?

BROWNS 20-14

Dolphins (minus 1½) at Lions:

Statistical corner: Since 1984, the Dolphins are 2-1 indoors the week after they play Indianapolis.

Win No. 300 for Don Shula

DOLPHINS, 24-16

Colts (plus 8) at Raiders:

RAIDERS, 27-13

Falcons (plus 1½) at Chargers:

Statistical corner III: The Falcons have lost 19 straight road games.

Question: Who does San Diego fire this week?

FALCONS, 17-14

Buccaneers (plus 4½) at Packers:

The world eagerly awaits Vinny against Bryce Paup.

BUCS, 20-17

Steelers (minus 14) at Patriots:

Dick MacPherson's sideline dancing days are over.

STEELERS, 27-7

Chiefs (plus 4) at Oilers:

Why only a four-point spread, when:

■ Albert Lewis, the Chiefs' best cornerback may not play; Kevin Ross, their second best, is limping; and Jayce Pearson, the third best, is out?

Last year, Warren Moon picked apart the Kansas City secondary for 527 yards.

CHIEFS, 21-17

Last week: 6-8 (spread) 8-6 (straight up)

Season: 13-15 (spread) 17-1 (straight up)

The Dolphins visit Detroit at 10 a.m. Sunday on KING (cable 6).

The 49ers visit Minnesota at 10 a.m. Sunday on KIRO (cable 7).

ATTENTION HOCKEY PLAYERS

The Prince George Gentlemen's Hockey League requires players to fill team rosters for the 91-92 season. Players must be 25 years of age to play in this non-contact league. Games nights are Wednesdays and Sundays from October 2, 1991 to March 30, 1992, at the Elksentre.

Registration Fee is \$300⁰⁰

Register at Executive Business Centre, #200 - 1527 - 3rd Avenue

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Dawn Coe missed this putt but was just one shot back Thursday.

Free spirit on roll

COQUITLAM (CP) — Free-spirited Debbie Massey plays a mean game of golf — when she's not skiing, scuba diving, hunting, fishing or restoring old cars.

Massey even won a Ladies Professional Golf Association tournament last year when she took a break from her hobbies.

The 40-year-old shotmaker from Hilton Head, S.C., could be headed for her fourth tour victory after an terrific start Thursday in the \$700,000 US du Maurier Classic at the Vancouver Golf Club.

Massey fashioned a five-under-par 67 when she birdied the final two holes to pull into a tie with Laurie Rinker and Trish Johnson.

One shot behind the leaders was Canadian pro Dawn Coe from Lake Cowichan, B.C., after a solid 68. She was tied with Cindy Mackey going into the second round of the 72-hole event over the 6,421-yard layout.

Damp weather didn't seem to hamper the tourists, especially not Massey.

"We're coming into my time of the year," she said. "I played hockey for the first four months of the tour."

After the late start — she went skiing — Massey's best performance was a sixth-place finish in the JAL Big Apple tournament.

Massey feels she's ready to strike in the fourth and final major tournament of the LPGA schedule.

"I love the competitive situation," Massey said. "I feel lucky to be doing this for a living — this is fun."

Massey had five birdies and one bogey, the same as Johnson, who splits her time between the LPGA and European tours.

Johnson was six-under with two holes to play in the opening round but bogeyed the eighth (she started on the 10th tee) when she drove into the rough — the only time she missed the fairway off the tee.

JoAnne Carner scored the third hole-in-one of her illustrious career when she aced the par-three 12th with a seven-iron. Carner finished with a three-over 75.

Coverage begins at 11 a.m. Saturday on BCTV (channel 12, cable 11) and resumes at noon Sunday on BCTV.

CITY LEAGUE FINE

Hughes happy

by BILL SEYMOUR
Citizen Staff

Dave Hughes found a job on a soccer club in Prince George before he found a place to live.

The 24-year-old keeper for Labatt's-Honda North was recruited by his club a month before he arrived in the city in June. A member of the defunct Calgary Kickers of the Canadian Soccer League, Hughes is settling into his new role with the North Cariboo Senior Soccer League.

"Obviously when you are in a professional league it's different," Hughes said recently. "But here you still take it seriously and want to be prepared for the game."

Hughes played in Sunday's 1-0 season-ending shutout over Niner's-Molson, a result that gave his team the regular-season title. He is also a good bet for the starting job in Sunday's NCSL semi-final playoffs.

Sunday, Labatt's and Quesnel City Furniture both will meet the winner of Saturday's first-round playoff games. Semi-final play in both the Cariboo and Recreation Divisions of the NCSL begins Sunday at 1 p.m. at Rotary Field.

A chemical engineering graduate from the University of Alberta, Hughes spent five seasons with the University of Alberta Golden Bears and three seasons with the Calgary Kickers before moving to Prince George.

He played alongside Labatt's Sonny Powar while a Golden Bear. When word got out Hughes took a job at a city pulp mill, the Prince

George club moved quickly to recruit him.

His arrival has brought depth to a team that already held one of the league's premier goalies. For Labatt's coach Orlando Mauro, juggling Hughes with usual neminder Glenn Foerster is unique challenge.

"We've never had the luxury of two excellent goal keepers," said Mauro. "We are quite fortunate."

Recently the team has used Foerster as a forward when not playing net. His large size and speed make him a flexible player, said Mauro.

"Glen Foerster has been there for us and he's enough of a man to know we are in this situation and we do our best to alternate," Mauro added.

Hughes was a student throughout most of his CSL career. He maintained his amateur status to be eligible for university with a special amateur contract that helped him cover some of his living expenses.

Only about 10 per cent of players actually made a living through the game when he was in the CSL, said Hughes.

"It's a nice league to play in but it's not a league you get a lot of money in," Hughes said. "One of the highlights playing soccer in the CSL is that there are some great players."

With just a handful of NCSL games behind him, Hughes says he is getting a good feel for the flavor of soccer in Prince George.

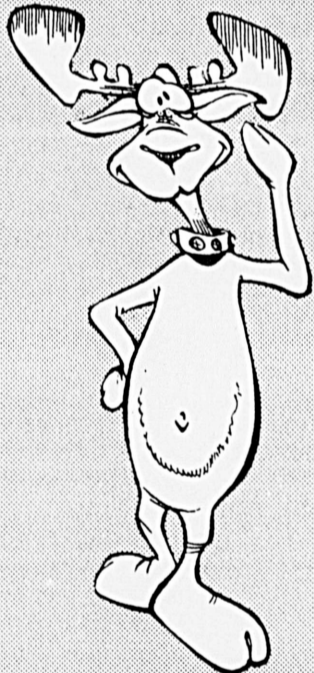
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