

# Football Bears playoff bound despite loss

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**TOUGH TEST** The Bears fell 40–5 to the number-two Dinos Saturday afternoon.

The Golden Bears football squad finished up their Canada West regular season at Foote Field Saturday afternoon with a dismal effort, losing to the second-ranked Calgary Dinos 40–5 and finishing the regular season a 3–5 record.

Despite the loss, the Bears snatched the fourth and final playoff spot in Canada West thanks to a Regina loss Friday night, and will take on the Saskatchewan Huskies next Saturday.

“One of our goals at the beginning of the season was to make the playoffs and we did that, but we didn't create any momentum going into the playoffs,” head coach Jerry Friesen commented. “Even though we are in the playoffs, we still have to go out there and execute, which we did not do versus Calgary.”

After the first quarter, the score was locked at 3–3 by virtue of offsetting field goals by Alberta’s Hugh O’Neill and Calgary’s Aaron Ifield, and it appeared that the Bears defence could hold up against the powerful Dinos offence. However, the Dinos opened the second quarter with a 44-yard pass play from Eric Glavic to Nathan Coehoorn, which consequently led to a two-yard touchdown plunge by Steven Lumbala.

Big plays became the theme of the day for the Dinos, as they railed off five plays of 35-plus yards — three runs and two passes — on their way to racking up 568 yards of total offence. Calgary tailback Matt Walter had another outstanding outing, registering 189 yards running and receiving, as well as a major, thus making a strong push for the Hec Creighton Award as the top player in the country.

On the flip side, the Bears’ anemic offence was unable to generate a play longer than 20 yards and thus couldn't keep pace with the high-flying Dinos attack. It was the second consecutive game the Bears haven't scored a touchdown.

“Everything has to come back to our work ethic in practice and that is the only way we are going to end up making adjustments and increasing our intensity level during game play,” Friesen noted.

Not only did the Bears fail to make adjustments and step up their intensity to match that of the Dinos, but they made too many unforced errors. Whether it was dropped balls, turnovers, and unnecessary penalties, Calgary continuously capitalized on Alberta’s multitude of mistakes.

“Our preparation for the game was pretty good, but I have to evaluate the intensity level of the team. You have to go out there and execute no matter what’s in front of you,” Friesen said.

“The concern I have is executing in the scoring zone. We’ve been inconsistent there and we need to make sure that when we have those opportunities we take advantage of them,” Friesen explained. “That’s a huge part of the game and it happened today when it was 10–3 [Calgary] and we turned the ball over.”

In order to pull off the upset over the Huskies, the Bears are going to need to play their best football of the year. The Bears–Huskies Canada West semi-final will kick off Saturday at 1 p.m. from Griffiths Stadium in Saskatoon.