

THE SPORTS BEAT

By Glen May



Argo's bubble bursts

Prior to the recent football game between Hamilton's Tiger-Cats and Toronto Argonauts the sideline experts were muttering, "I wonder when the bubble will burst?"

The Argos went into the game with three wins in five outings. They had even beaten Hamilton the week before in the Cats' own lair. Naturally, Leo Cahill's warriors must have had visions of grandeur as they rode Cloud Nine during the pre-game callisthenics.

A victory would have moved them into a first place tie in the east with Ottawa Rough Riders.

You could sense a difference between the two teams as they went through their pre-game loosening up program. Argos floated through theirs. The Tigers snarled through theirs.

Hamilton's pride was hurt, and we all realize a wounded Tiger is a dangerous and vindictive animal. As you watched the two clubs line up for the opening kickoff you could almost see the quiver of muscles inside those yellow and black jerseys worn by the Tiger-Cats.

As the Argo players later admitted: "Hamilton wanted the game more than we did. They just out-played us."

Press-box observers were more outspoken. They were of the opinion that "Hamilton beat the hell out of the Argos." It was a typical Hamilton victory. Physically pounding their foe into submission.

There was the time when Angelo Mosca, the bestial defensive tackle on Hamilton's right side, mocked Dave Mann's 12-yard punt with derisive applause.

As the Cats continually crumbled the Argos' offence into powder you could again see the jovial, congratulatory back-slapping taking place among the Hamilton defenders. This trademark had been missing in the early games.

In the dressing room after

the game, Argo players praised the Hamilton attack. Defensive halfbacks Ed Learn and Gil Petmanis agreed that they found it impossible to break down the phalanx of Tiger blockers on running plays. The linebackers were quick to admit they were confused at times by the three-man motion in the Hamilton backfield.

But something else was evident in the Argo dungeon. It was that intangible element which has not been apparent since Leo Cahill took firm control last year as coach of the Boatmen.

Defensive players began mumbling about their team's lack of offence.

"How can we win if we can't score one touchdown? . . . We have to score to win . . . Our offence better start scoring . . . The defence can't win the game all the time . . ." and so it went.

It would be unfair to say dissension is wedging itself into the Argonaut locker-room, but the ingredients are there. If this happens the Argos will revert to where they were for the past decade; a collective group of clubhouse lawyers blaming each other for mistakes while the rest of the teams pass them by.

Quarterback Wally Gabler revealed coach Cahill sent in about "40 percent of the plays," but this didn't "bother" him. His tone was not convincing, especially when he added: "He (Cahill) sent in more plays against Hamilton than he has ever done before."

Veteran Dave Mann sat in front of his locker discussing the team's first six games, explaining that they were still playing ".500 Ball."

He continued: "Ya know, we're batting .500, and that's not bad, but we've got to be careful now and start watching out for that curve ball."



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THE HOME TEAM



NOTICE - A Wedding Reception in honor of Diane Morrison and Brian Duffy will be held in the Schreiber Town Hall on September 21st from 8.30 to 12.00 p.m. (E.S.T.)

"We're counting on you to keep the rally alive McNulty. Go in there and get beaned!"