

CAREER RECAP

Compiled by Matt Hirji



BIOGRAPHY:

Born: Osler, Saskatchewan

Played nine years in the CFL, making two Grey Cup appearances as a linebacker for the Montréal Alouettes

Named head coach of the Bears football program in 2001, taking over from decade-long head coach Tom Wilkinson

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

Overall coaching record: 36-40

Most successful seasons: 7-1 (2004 and 2005)

Least successful season: 1-7 (2002)

Awarded: the Frank Tindall Trophy for coach of the year in 2004

U OF A COACHING RECORD:

Year	Conference	Playoffs	Overall
2001-02	2-6-0	-	2-6-0
2002-03	1-7-0	-	1-7-0
2003-04	4-4-0	1-1	5-5-0
2004-05	7-1-0	1-1	8-2-0
2005-06	7-1-0	1-1	8-2-0
2006-07	4-4-0	-	4-5-0
2007-08	2-6-0	-	2-6-0
2008-09	2-6-0	-	2-6-0
2009-10	4-4	0-1	4-5
2010-11	3-5	1-1	4-6



FILE PHOTO: MATT HIRJI

Friesen bids farewell to the Bears

Former CIS Coach of the Year announces his resignation from Green and Gold football team

EVAN DAUM
Sports Staff

When the Golden Bears football squad takes to the field this fall, they'll do so without long-time coach Jerry Friesen on the sidelines.

After 10 seasons at the helm of the Green and Gold football program, the Friesen era came to a close Thursday after the former CFL linebacker resigned as head coach.

"I have resigned to pursue other opportunities. I am proud of the Golden Bears and all that we accomplished together and I am confident the U of A Golden Bears will continue to improve and achieve their goals," Friesen said in a press release. "When I am ready, I will publicly discuss my other opportunities."

In 10 seasons, Friesen amassed a 36-40 conference record, guiding the program anywhere from the depths of a 1-7 season to the heights of 7-1 years.

Friesen accomplished those 7-1 seasons in 2004 and 2005, and was named CIS football coach of the year in 2004. After those two tremendous years, however, the program went a combined 15-25 during Friesen's final five regular seasons as head coach.

Friesen addressed the team for the final time early Thursday where he informed them of his decision to step down. The news came as a surprise to both the team and assistant coach Jeff Stead.

"He came in and he had something prepared.

He was pretty emotional, and read that off to the team. Obviously he said farewell to a bunch of the guys, and then he was gone," Stead said Thursday afternoon.

"It was a shock, for sure."

While the news was a surprise to the team, Acting Director of Athletics Vang Ioannides and Friesen had been in conversation about a possible resignation over the last week or so.

"No, we haven't discussed that at this time," Stead said. "I know they did mention to me that they are in the process of sitting down and figuring out what direction they want to go in."

With spring camp set to open in little more than a month, finding a replacement will be crucial for the Bears as they prepare for next season.

"They want to get things done as quickly as possible," Stead explained. "For spring camp

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JERRY FRIESEN
HEAD COACH, BEARS FOOTBALL

"It was in the works for a little bit of time, so Jerry and I had started having discussions over the last week to 10 days, but it took some time to come together," Ioannides explained.

"Now we're in a situation where we're of course planning for what we're going to do in the immediate future, as well as trying to take stock of what we need to do to move forward and to have the Golden Bears basically reach prominence in CIS and compete."

As for Stead, whether or not he will be given the task of leading the Bears on an interim basis has yet to be decided.

and recruiting — it's a big part of [the discussion] right now. We need to try and get [the coaching situation] solidified as soon as possible so we at least have a direction."

While Ioannides' term as Acting Director of Athletics will come to a close April 1 when Ian Reade takes over the position on a full-time basis, the change will not affect the immediacy of finding a replacement.

"Ian has been made aware of the situation as it stands," Ioannides said. "In the interim, we need to do something sooner than when Ian takes over. We will be making decisions."