If Bears win, they'll be in PLAYOFFS

A victory over Regina on Saturday night will put Alberta into the post-season.

“Tension will be as high as the stakes when Alberta Golden Bears football team (4-5) faces the Regina Rams (3-6) in a struggle to secure the final Canada West playoff position. The Bears—6-4-1 loss to the Saskatchewan Huskies last weekend and Calgary’s shocking upset of UBC (4-4-1) has left Alberta, UBC and Regina all vying for the third and fourth playoff spots in Canada West. UBC has guaranteed themselves a post-season berth, but if they lose, an Alberta win or overtime loss will lock up third position in the conference for the Golden Bears. A loss in regulation will most likely mean the end of the Bears’ season. A fact not lost on defensive coordinator Terry Baker. “This week the pressure starts to build and we certainly are going to have to be able to deal with the pressures that are involved with a playoff game,” he said. “I think our guys are up to it and it’s a challenge for us—all coaches and players.”

The result of a Bears win will have to measure some techniques and improve upon others after the lack loss to the Huskies. The Bears are last in the conference in passing yards per game and have perigrated a mere 46 percent of their chances. While the Bears defence has been winning them games, it too has had no chance over a third of Simon Fraser’s points on the year came in one game against Alberta.

“Don’t think we’re going to change a whole lot, but we’ve just got to do a little better than we did last time,” Bears defensive coordinator David Draudson said. Drausdon’s defense will be charged with slowing down Regina’s top-rated passing attack, and getting in quarterback Blake O’Neil’s backfield with pass rushers such as Danny Bas Jr, who leads the conference in sacks with eight. Alberta also boasts the second best pass defence in the conference. “What we have to be able to do is try to change our coverage so that their quarterbacks can’t just be able to drop back and feel comfortable about what’s being thrown. Drausdon said, “Our approach to where we’re playing any team is to try to make the quarterback uncomfortable, make him worried about the pressure.”

Baker noted that Regina also posses a defense defensively. Linebacker Clark Gans leads the conference in tackles for losses, while fellow linebacker Steve Wilson is tops in tackles with 14. 20 more than Bass in second. “Regina has no falling back,” Baker said. “We’re going to have to make sure we execute better than they have in the past and really make sure we put a solid game plan together versus the defense.”

The game kicks off at 7pm at Foote Field on Saturday night and can be heard live on the TEAM 1260 through the sweet sounds of Blake Drummond and Bob Stadler.