

THE OFFICIAL SCORE ARGOS 7, TORONTOS 6

But the Result is Open to Dispute—Committee to Decide.

By LOU E. MARSH.

I'm hanged if I know which team goes into the Dominion finals with Varsity, the champions of the "Big Knowledge" series' Saturday-Argonauts, champions of the Big Four, or Toronto, crowned Kings of John DeGruchy's O.R.F.U. senior series.



If Alex Sinclair can "fumble" a lopsided ball with his feet then Argonauts won Saturday's semi-final from Toronto's 7 to 6.

"Lion" Connacher If Alexander cannot "fumble" with his tootsies then Toronto won the game 8 to 7 and should face Varsity. The official score is 7 to 6 in Argos' favor, but that award is disputed.

A week ago J. B. McArthur complained that somebody unknown had taken the foot out of football. If they did A. Sinclair of Argos put it back with a vengeance. Alex wears 'em size ten, but the way his pair of hoots loom up in this ruby embroglio makes an ordinary pair of snowshoes look like Tom Thumb's footgear.

If Alex Sinclair had kept his big feet out of the argument Toronto would be facing Varsity in the finals Saturday and there would be no dispute.

And if he had made a good job of what he tried to do with the things he hauls his socks on in the a.m. Argonauts would be champions without an argument.

Where Sinclair's Feet Come In.

What makes Alex Sinclair's feet so blamed important in this contest?

Listen!

Argos and Toronto were playing off their Dominion final up at Varsity Stadium on a mixture of soft snow and slimy mud. Argos had the Toronto beaten 2 to 0 at half-time and looked to be a little the better team, when in the third quarter the squad led by Hal DeGruchy took a sudden brace and bounced the Oarsmen all over the lot. They backed them up to their goal-line and booted the ball over a couple of singles, which tied up the score, 2 to 2. They kept right at them, too, and looked like the better team when "Red" Batstone started the incident which is causing all the dispute over Alex Sinclair's feet.

The Disputed Play.

Batstone was compelled to try a punt to drive the play away from Argos' goal-line, when a Toronto wing man broke through and blocked the ball. The pigskin bounded 15 yards back over Argos' goal-line with everybody chasing it like Cohen chasing a twenty-dollar gold piece. Big Alex Sinclair was the nearest Argo player to the ball as it rolled over the line. Instead of chancing a fall on the oval he tried to boot it. He touched it, but instead of landing it over the dead-ball line for a single point, as he intended, he only dribbled the slippery pigskin. Hal DeGruchy, captain of the Toronto, dove into the bobbing pigskin and covered it for a try. He claimed an earned try, and Referee Hugh Gall awarded his team five points, with a possible chance of six if he could convert it, when President Bob Isbister of the Interprovincial Union, who was acting as head linesman and watching for offside interference, took tongue in the argument and offered it as his opinion that the try was an unearned try because Sinclair had "fumbled" it with his feet when he tried to boot it back to the dead-ball line. Umpire Ben Simpson agreed with that view, and Toronto were only awarded three points for the try was not converted. That made the score 5 to 2, instead of

7 to 2. They added another point before the quarter ended, making the official score 6 to 2 and the unofficial score 8 to 2.

Argos' Garrison Finish.

In the final period Argos braced up, and aided by a 10-minute penalty to Garnett, who got a double dose for using his knees in a tackle for the second time, mauled the Toronto all over the lot, and, after forcing Connacher to yield a safety touch, landed three singles on rouges and dead-ball line kicks and were officially awarded the game 7 to 6. If Toronto's contention is upheld the real score was 8 to 7 in their favor.

Two Grounds For Protest.

Toronto has two grounds for protest, if they care to protest.

One is that the officials were wrong when they called Toronto try an unearned try because the intercollegiate rules which governed the game distinctly say that an unearned try is a try scored on a fumble behind the goal line of the defending side. They argue that a fumble means faulty handling either catching a punt or taking a pass, and that Sinclair's bad kick cannot be called fumbling. Isbister and Simpson were right if the game had been under interprovincial rules, for it was agreed at an anti-season meeting of the "Big Four" officials that a "fumble behind the line" included any handling or touching of the ball by the defending players. If it was properly an unearned try then Referee Gall erred when he allowed Argos to kick-off from the halfway mark when the rule distinctly says that on an unearned try the ball shall be kicked-off from the 40-yard mark. That 15 yards advantage may have saved Argos from a defeat beyond all argument for though Toronto outplayed Argos the rest of the period, and had the ball over Argos' line three times, they could not prevent Batstone from galloping it out again twice. If Connacher had been 15 yards closer when he booted Batstone would not have had a chance to run it out for the ball would have been over the dead ball line for two sure points. That is the Toronto argument and it sounds reasonable. Referee Gall admits he erred when he let the Argos kick-off at half-way instead of the 40-yard mark when he only allowed Toronto an unearned try.

Anyway there is plenty of room for dispute over the result, and a protest committee will probably be asked to pass upon the points in dispute. It seems to be an "open and shut" problem. If the game was under College rules then Toronto won the game. If it was under Big Four rules then Argos are finalists with Varsity.

A Great Game.

The game was a corker from the spectators' point of view. It was close all the way and everybody was on edge until the final whistle. In fact the crowd invaded the touch lines the last three minutes and delayed the contest.

Argonauts led 2-0 at half time, and looked just exactly that much better than Toronto. Then the navy blue and white clad warriors took complete command of the game for a period. They backed Argos into their own territory and kept them there the entire fifteen minutes. Only the sturdiest sort of a defence by the Argo wing line and some grand catching, running and punting by Batstone and Munro kept them from gathering a whole lot more than the six they were awarded. The score then stood 6-0 and Toronto looked like a 1 to 5 shot.

Argos On Top.

In the final period Argos with a one-man advantage owing to the 10-minute penalty to Garnett, attacked the Toronto goal line desperately and incessantly. The DeGruchy clan hung on grimly but were forced to yield a safety and three single points, enough to make the official score 7-6.

Batstone and Connacher.

The game may have failed to definitely settle the question of superiority between the two teams, but it did settle that Lionel Connacher, the husky big backfield player of the Toronto team, is the equal, if not indeed the superior, of Harry Batstone, the sorrel-topped Argo halfback, who until Saturday was generally acclaimed the best all around halfback in Canada. Saturday's game was practically a duel between Connacher and Batstone and on the day the Toronto man was best. Batstone did some mighty hoofing but he did not have anything on Connacher in that regard. Both boys caught well, but both made a couple of errors. Both lads ran back many punts and both gained ground rounding the ends, but when it came to line plunging Connacher had it on Batstone. He has easily 25 pounds more weight. He starts fast and hits the line like a bullet. Batstone sidesteps

better than Connacher but the latter runs straight and hard and sends off tacklers with a wicked straight arm, or breaks away from encircling arms by sheer strength. They are a great pair and both will be in demand next fall.

Munro Starred.

Outside of this pair the only other player who stood out was Dunc Munro the Argo half. Munro played a whole of a game against Ottawa a week ago Saturday and saved the hard pressed Argos in their direst straits. Saturday he did the same. In that bad third period when Toronto had the Argos sewn up in their own quarter Munro rose to the emergency several times and relieved the situation by some grand runs, and in the fourth quarter when Argos simply had to have points Munro, in spite of a harsh grueling, caught faultlessly and mixing runs with punts while in motion had the Toronto wing men almost completely outguessed and made life miserable for the harassed Toronto backs.

Munro was a mighty good player Saturday and so was "Dud" Garrett, when he came on. Jack O'Connor could not negotiate the going at all and was away below par.

All Were Good.

To select other stars would be to name every man on the field, including the substitutes. The Argo wing line had nothing on the Toronto forwards, either in close or open field play or in tackling. Everybody tackled well on both teams, and while the game was close and hard it was clean.

For low, hard tackling Gilhooley, Britnell and Polson and Bradfield were prominent for Argonauts, but when it came to bringing them down hard they had nothing on Hal DeGruchy, Miles, Garnett and McCormick. Cochrane played his usual hard game at quarter and handled his team coolly even in the face of impending disaster. Beck, the Toronto quarter, looked like a smart, heady player. One wing man more deserves special mention—"Babe" Sheppard, the Human Tank, on the Toronto team. Sheppard looks like a candidate for Fatty Arbuckle's job, but the way he trundles his 220 and odd pounds around speedily made the crowd quit regarding him as the comedy element. He played hard and effectively all day and there wasn't anything comical about him as far as Gilhooley, the Argo flying wing was concerned. He flopped on Gill when the latter tried to ram the line, and when they pried the lanky Argo man out of the mud he measured considerably less in diameter and more laterally than he

did before the incident. In fact Gilhooley had to be carried off for readjustment after the genial Babe got through with him. Mitchell, who partnered Connacher behind Toronto's line, played high-class football all afternoon. He was the target for much of Batstone's punting but he only made one mistake all afternoon.

Argos—Flying wing, Gilhooley; halves, Munro, Batstone, O'Connor; quarter, Cochrane; scrimmage, Greey, Bradfield, Sinclair; insides, Sullivan, Hay; middles, Huestis, Romeril; outsides, Britnell, Henderson; spares, Push, Garrett, Shoebottom, Young, Fear, Parks.

Toronto—Flying wing, Myles; halves, Mitchell, DeGruchy, Connacher; quarter, Beck; scrimmage, Mills, Francis, Crawford; insides, Neat, Houston; middles, Sheppard, Smith; outsides, Garnett, McCormick; spares, McLaren, Bowby, Gillespie, Brass, Worthington.

Officials—Hugh Gall, Toronto; Ben Simpson, Hamilton.

Head linesman—"Bob" Isbister, Hamilton.



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