



Flying Wing

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The CFRS Flying Wing is a quarterly publication	
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Picking up the Slack

By Phil Kitchen

With the build of a linebacker, the fleet feet of a tailback and an arm that could light up a stadium, Reggie Slack was the type of athlete who makes you stop and take notice.

Reggie was a star in college with Auburn he received honourable mention as an All-American leading the Tigers to a career 21-4 record. Drafted in the 12th round by the Houston Oilers. Slack came to the CFL in 1993 after 3 disappointing seasons with the Houston Oiler franchise. He joined Toronto with very raw ability and had some success, lingering knee issues hurt his performance late in the season, but the promise of future success was visible with Reggie. In 1994, He split the season between the Argonauts and Hamilton after a mid-season trade. He had success with Hamilton with 8 passing touchdowns including a 102-yarder.

With the CFL expanding in 1995, Reggie signed with Birmingham to rekindle his former collegiate glory. The experiment did not last long and after just 3 games, he joined Winnipeg. With Winnipeg, Slack became the starter and led the team to a playoff berth. As a Blue Bomber, Reggie really started to garner attention from across the league as a rising talent. The Blue Bombers were handily defeated by Baltimore in the playoffs but Slack was becoming a crowd favourite.

In 1996, Winnipeg signed Kent Austin to start at quarterback. Reggie was retained to be the back up and frequent chants of "Reggie, Reggie" could be heard at Winnipeg Stadium whenever the starter struggled. The Blue Bombers were humiliated by Edmonton 68-7 at an icy Commonwealth Stadium in the Western semifinal. Slack mopped up for Austin but the defeat signalled an overhaul for the franchise and Slack was not in the future plans.

Reggie joined Saskatchewan as a free agent in 1997 and enjoyed his greatest season as a professional.

Cont'd on page 3

CFRS 'dogging it with the 'burgers of Newmarket

As President of the Canadian Football Research Society, I want to thank Dave and Joanne Kelterborn, and John and Marilyn Bellamy of Newmarket, Ontario for the lengths they went to make the Canadian Football Research Society's first summer barbeque on Saturday, June 11th a roaring success.

More than 20 people sampled the hospitality and were feted by the Kelterborns at their Newmarket home in spite what initially appeared to be stormy weather. Myself as President and wife Lynda (Burlington), Vice President Paul Bruno (Richmond Hill), Secretary Lenard Kotylo and wife Vemma (Thornhill), and Member at Large Leo Ezerins (Burlington), Executive Director of the CFL Alumni Association revelled in the experience.

Bob and Carolyn Sproule (Newmarket), Shelly and Francine Kates (Thornhill), Larry and Teresa Colle (Toronto), Duane and Shawna Douglas (Stouffville), Paul Patskou (Toronto), Josh Budish (Ottawa/Toronto), and Geoff Roberts (Newmarket) attended the event. Those present agreed that the barbeque must become a yearly fixture.

Our Society, founded in September of 2008 is a not-for-profit organization that has as its mandate to promote, develop, and encourage the study of the game of Canadian football as a significant national and international athletic and popular social institution.

The CFRS is operated solely by its members, who volunteer their time, and have as long-term goals the production of newsletters, journals and the maintenance of a website. All of this is done through membership dues, donations, and grants.



Canadian Football Research Society members in attendance at the first annual barbeque on Saturday, June 11, 2011 were from the left, Josh Budish, Duane Douglas, Bob Sproule, Paul Bruno, Paul Patskou, John Bellamy, Larry Colle, Dave Kelterborn, Larry Robertson, and Sheldon Kates. Kneeling with CFRS mascot Coco is Lenard Kotylo.



The Canadian Football Research Society is not just about football research, but about good times such as this first of what everyone hopes will become an annual event as (from left), Carolyn Sproule, Joanne Kelterborn, Francine Kates, Marilyn Bellamy and Teresa Colle will attest.

Picking up the Slack

Cont'd from page 1

In the improbable run to the 1997 Grey Cup with Saskatchewan, Slack grabbed his Roughrider team by the collar, threw the team on his back and carried the club to a November Grey Cup match-up with the dominant Toronto Argonauts.

In the West, semifinal Saskatchewan faced the heavily favoured Calgary Stampeders. The Roughriders has lost 14 straight contests at McMahon Stadium dating back to the Western final in 1989. Slack was magnificent passing for 278 yards and a touchdown and rushing for 102 with the winning touchdown run with less than a minute remaining in the game. said Slack to Reg Curran of the Canadian Press:

"It was a huge win for us," said Slack. "Coming into this game, we felt we would have an opportunity to win if we came out and played with a lot of emotion, and we did just that."

An injury to Calgary starter Jeff Garcia meant that rookie Dave Dickenson would have to rally the Stampeders. The rookie fell short in a gutsy performance that would foreshadow a successful career for Dickenson.

In the Western Final Slack was just as dominant rushing for 2 key touchdowns as the Riders squeaked out a 31-30 victory to advance to the franchise's first Grey Cup berth since 1989. Said Slack following the victory to the Canadian Press:

"We shocked the world," said Slack. "I don't think anybody gave us a chance. Last week nobody gave us a chance, this week we're going to the Cup," Coach Jim Daley added:

"We just knew by Reggie on the bench (between series in the fourth quarter) that it was going to get done," said Roughriders coach Jim Daley. "There's no panic in the man, there's no panic in our players."

Saskatchewan would be going to the 1997 Grey Cup hosted by Edmonton in Commonwealth Stadium to face the defending champion Toronto Argonauts.

The Riders and Slack were handily defeated by the Doug Flutie led Argonauts in the Grey Cup. The game was a disappointment after a magical run but did include a 55-yard pass and run touchdown from Slack to Mike Saunders.

Slack played two more seasons in Saskatchewan. The club or Slack did not enjoy a great deal of success and injuries coupled with a substance abuse problem caused Slack to leave the CFL prior to the 2000 season.

Reggie returned to the CFL with Toronto in 2002. Slack has bulked up even more and was effective running the quarterback option as well as pocket passing to Derrel Mitchell among his receivers. The Argonauts closed the season with a thrilling 33-32 victory over Calgary to edge into the playoffs. In the win, punctuated by an Antonnious Bonner interception return for a touchdown, Slack threw for 318 yards and 3 touchdowns. The Argonauts defeated Saskatchewan to advance to the Eastern Final versus the Alouettes in Montreal; Slack was forced to leave the contest in the second quarter with a concussion. Toronto would be defeated by the Alouettes in the Eastern Final.

Reggie Slack						Auburn							
						Passing				Rushing			
Yr	Team	Att	Cmp	Yds	Pct.	TD	Int	Lg	C	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
1993	Tor	184	104	1,372	56.5	7	7	61	27	172	6.4	31	3
1994	Tor	63	39	483	61.9	3	4	59	17	138	8.1	25	0
	Ham	155	95	1,313	61.3	8	7	102	35	179	5.1	19	3
1995	Bir	32	18	184	56.3	0	1	41	8	53	6.6	14	0
	Wpg	302	159	2,007	52.6	12	8	51	52	356	6.8	48	5
1996	Wpg	241	128	1,863	53.1	10	7	60	28	187	6.7	18	3
1997	Ssk	326	172	2,423	52.8	9	13	86	53	406	7.7	36	5
1998	Ssk	463	287	3,721	62.0	19	16	73	87	650	7.5	44	3
1999	Ssk	226	126	1,610	55.8	8	8	48	39	185	4.7	24	3
2000	Did Not Play												
2001	Did Not Play												
2002	Tor	155	92	1,055	59.4	7	3	46	33	255	7.7	36	2
2003	Ham	41	21	142	51.2	1	1	18	4	-3	-1	3	0
Total	9	2188	1241	16,173	56.7	84	75		383	2,578	6.7		27

With the signing of Damon Allen prior to the 2003 season, the career for Reggie Slack in Toronto was over. He did spend some limited time with Hamilton before retiring for good.

Reggie Slack was an incredible quarterback with amazing athletic ability. He proved on countless occasions throughout his career he could carry a team single handily to victory with his feet, his arm or his head. From Auburn to Winnipeg to Saskatchewan and Toronto, Slack delighted fans with his ability and left an impression on Canadian Football.

African-Americans in Canadian Football

By John Valentine

Russ Gideon, from Nova Scotia, was probably the first Black football player to play Canadian senior football, starring for the Calgary team from 1928 to 1933. Several times he was named the star of the game and was referred to as “Calgary's popular, coloured athlete, and brilliant end performer” by the Calgary *Albertan* in 1930. Just before his departure to study in Boston, the Calgary newspaper commented: “Russ is one of the most popular athletes in the west, and that goes for any city that he has played in. He has always given of his best and has stood out, particularly in the gridiron sport, being a speedy runner and a great tackler. He will be missed by the Altomahs.” So popular was Gideon, that decades later the Stampeders brought him from his home in Seattle to be honoured at a Calgary home game.

When Robert "Stonewall" Jackson (most likely the second Black pro player) signed to play with the Regina Roughriders in 1930 the headline ‘DUSKY ATHLETE JOINS RIDERS’ appeared in the *Leader-Post*. Referred to at the start of the season as the “ebony-hued boy” the same paper deemed him a fan favourite by the end of the season. The local media identified these early pioneers first and foremost by the colour of their skin and then by their playing ability. Gideon’s retirement led to the dark ages for Blacks playing football at the highest level in Canada as the unofficial ban taking place in the United States seemed to extend north. Once football in the US grew in popularity, black players were denied opportunities to play. The unwritten discriminatory ban lasted from 1933 until after the Second World War. After the success of Gideon and Jackson, there was not to be another Black player in Canadian professional football until Herb Trawick in 1946.

That same year Jackie Robinson became the first Black to play professional baseball when he suited up with the Montreal Royals baseball team. His success and acceptance in Montreal resulted in the Montreal Alouettes approaching Bill Willis, who was interested but signed with Cleveland of the AAFC. However, Willis recommended Trawick to the Als, who signed that same year and went on to become one of the most popular players of the era. Both Toronto and Ottawa threatened to boycott games against Montreal but the threats were not acted upon. The interest in winning trumped the racial discrimination that had impeded de-segregation and signalled the re-integration of football in both Canada and the United States.

But re-integration came about slowly in both countries. In Canada, at this time, each team was only allowed five American players. With so few Blacks living in Canada the number playing football was small. However, many Americans did seek the opportunity to play football north of the border. In 1947, Gabe Patterson of the Saskatchewan Roughriders led the West in scoring. In 1948, the Calgary Stampeders signed Woody Strode who had broken the colour barrier just two years previously in the United States. He was released by a Los Angeles team that objected to his inter-racial marriage but was welcomed in Calgary and given a pay raise. In 1949, Hamilton signed Tom Casey but he moved to Winnipeg to attend Medical School, played with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and went on to be named Winnipeg’s Citizen of the Year.

In 1950, the Argos, who for years had resisted using any American players, signed Billy Bass and Ulysses Curtis, and the next year Steve Hatfield was signed by Ottawa and Edmonton signed Rollie Miles and Jim Chambers. Canada seemed to be more open to welcoming African-American players. By the end of the decade, 13 percent of the Americans playing in Canada were Black while 3 percent of the US-based teams were made up of Black players, with the majority on just two teams. By 1951 all the Canadian teams had re-integrated, this happening much faster in Canada than south of the border. In 1956, a decade after Herb Trawick broke the colour barrier, 17 percent of the American players in Canada were Black while 8 percent of the players on American-based teams were comprised of Black players with many American teams still refusing to re-integrate.

It was at the quarterback position where the biggest differences between Canada and the US were observed. Willie Thrower in 1953 and Charlie Brackins in 1955 had limited opportunities to play quarterback in the US. Not until Marlon Briscoe in 1968 was there, a starting Black quarterback in American football and none of these athletes were given a chance to develop as a quarterback. Bernie Custis was denied the opportunity to play quarterback in the US and so in 1953 he signed with Hamilton, was named to the All-Star team at quarterback, and was voted most popular player on the team by the Hamilton fans. Some very talented quarterbacks were forced to follow Custis. The next year Willie Thrower came to Canada for an opportunity to play quarterback. John Henry Jackson in 1961, Sandy Stephens in 1962 after leading his US college team to the national title, and Carroll Williams in 1968 all signed with Canadian teams when they were deprived of the chance to play in the US. J.C. Watts, former quarterback for the Orange Bowl champion Oklahoma team who also played quarterback in Canada, believed that "NFL coaches and managers had a tough time seeing Blacks in leadership positions, and they worried that fans would react negatively to putting Blacks in charge of a team." In a 1972 article in *Sports Illustrated*, George Taliaferro, former college star quarterback, seemed to agree with Watts when he stated, "[t]his country is not at a point where it will accept a Black quarterback leading its finest white boys."

Chuck Ealey, won 35 straight games including three Bowl games as a starting quarterback for a top 20 US college team, but was ignored by the NFL. In 1972, his first year in the CFL, he won rookie of the year honours, led his team to the Grey Cup championship and was named game MVP. A Black quarterback would not start in the Super Bowl game for another 16 years, by that time seven Black quarterbacks had played in a Grey Cup. In 1976 there was one African-American starting quarterback among the 28 NFL teams while the next season one-third of the Canadian teams were led by Black quarterbacks and the highest paid quarterbacking pair played for Toronto, and both were Black.

In 1978, after leading his team to the Rose Bowl, Warren Moon was ignored by the NFL and headed north to play quarterback in Edmonton. The Underground Railway for Black quarterbacks continued after Moon. Roy Dewalt in 1980, and J.C. Watts in 1981, were drafted by NFL teams hoping to play them at positions other than quarterback, a common practice for Black quarterbacks at the time. Both signed to play quarterback in Canada. In 1981, Warren Moon faced JC Watts in the Grey Cup game, twenty years before the Super Bowl would see two Black quarterbacks oppose each other. In 1983, there were 15 Black quarterbacks among the 9 CFL teams, and 2 among the 28 NFL teams. By 1998, despite the fact that the NFL had 3 times as many teams, more than 40 Black quarterbacks had thrown 25 or more passes in the CFL but

only 9 had done so in the US. In 2003 the NFL, a league that is more than two-thirds Black, had advanced to a point where one quarter of the league's starting quarterbacks were Black. The following season three-quarters of the teams in the CFL were quarterbacked by Blacks. By 2011, 29 Blacks had started at the position of quarterback in Canada's Grey Cup while only 3 had played the position in the Super Bowl.

The Canadian league seemed to be more open to African-Americans as players, particularly as quarterbacks. These players came north for more money and opportunity, and many became leaders both on and off the field. While the Canadian league may have been more accepting, many of these players faced discrimination in Canadian society, and some spoke out against it. These players also affected change not only in the CFL but also in American football, which resulted in more opportunities for Blacks in all aspects of the game.

Editor's note: Bernie Custis came to Canada in 1951 (see article in this issue) and Willie Thrower came to Canada in 1954. Also, a list of 34 Black players, through the 1954 season, follows:

1928

1. Russ Gideon, Calgary Tigers

1930

2. Robert "Stonewall" Jackson, Regina Roughriders

1946

3. Herb Trawick, Montreal Alouettes
4. John (Big Train) Moody, Montreal Alouettes
5. George Edwards, Montreal Alouettes

1947

6. Gabe Patterson, Saskatchewan Roughriders

1948

7. Billy Bass, Montreal Alouettes
8. Woody Strode, Calgary Stampeders
9. Chuck Anderson, Calgary Stampeders

1949

10. Sugarfoot Anderson, Calgary Stampeders
11. Tom Casey, Hamilton Tigers
12. Ray Skerrett, Ottawa Rough Riders

1950

13. John Brown, Winnipeg Blue Bombers
14. Ulysses Curtis, Toronto Argonauts
15. Marvin Whaley, Toronto Argonauts
16. Dick Brown, Hamilton Tiger-Cats

1951

- 17. Bernie Custis, Hamilton Tiger-Cats
- 18. Oatten Fisher, Toronto Argonauts
- 19. Steve Hatfield, Ottawa Rough Riders
- 20. Larry Hairston, Ottawa Rough Riders
- 21. Rollie Miles, Edmonton Eskimos
- 22. Jim Chambers, Edmonton Eskimos
- 23. Mel Embree, Calgary Stampeders

1952

- 24. Johnny Bright, Calgary Stampeders
- 25. Bob Mike, Calgary Stampeders
- 26. Ray Don Dillon, Hamilton Tiger-Cats
- 27. Gerry Palmer, Winnipeg Blue Bombers
- 28. Danny Johnson, Montreal Alouettes

1953

- 29. John Henry Johnson, Calgary Stampeders
- 30. Avatus Stone, Ottawa Rough Riders

1954

- 31. Eddie Macon, Calgary Stampeders
- 32. Ivan Livingstone, Calgary Stampeders
- 33. Vince Drake, Winnipeg Blue Bombers
- 34. Jesse Thomas, Winnipeg Blue Bombers

The preceding list, meant to provide a basis from which to build on, indicates the season and team each of the identified players played their first regular season game.

Something to ponder, apparently there was a Black player in the Ottawa area by the name of Gordon Simpson that played in the 14 man-a-side era, so that puts him pre 1921, but this requires further qualification.

Editor's note: *The Player Bio Page* is a page (see next page) set aside to provide a brief "sketch" of a player from Canadian football history. The player presented in this issue is Herb Trawick and the bio is from the Editor's upcoming book on *The 1954 IRFU Players* and is presented here with permission.



The 1954 Montreal Alouettes

Herb Trawick



Date of Birth: February 22, 1921

Age: 33

Status: "Canadianized" Import

College: Kentucky State University

Selected to the Black All-America Team in 1940 at the Guard position

Selected to the Black All-America Team in 1941 at the Guard position

Selected to the Black All-America Team in 1942 at the Tackle position

Position: Guard

Height: 5' 10"

Weight: 250 lbs

Jersey Number: 56



Season	Games	League	Team	
1946	12	IRFU	Montreal Alouettes	Selected to All-Star Team
1947	11	IRFU	Montreal Alouettes	Selected to All-Star Team
1948	12	IRFU	Montreal Alouettes	Selected to All-Star Team
1949	12	IRFU	Montreal Alouettes	Selected to All-Star Team
1950	12	IRFU	Montreal Alouettes	Selected to All-Star Team
1951	10	IRFU	Montreal Alouettes	
1952	11	IRFU	Montreal Alouettes	
1953	14	IRFU	Montreal Alouettes	
1954	14	IRFU	Montreal Alouettes	Selected to All-Star Team - Off

Players: Herb Trawick

1951 Season Notes

by Brian Marshall

Research, the mere word strikes fear in the minds of many but actually, it is a necessary means to an end when the information at hand doesn't answer the questions being asked related to a specific topic(s). Furthermore, while performing the desired research task it is often common to uncover other pieces of information that are also very interesting. This was the case for me when, initially, I was doing the research for my book on the 1954 Montreal Alouettes and subsequently the Junior/Intermediate football research for a number of Canadian players. Over the course of the past number of years I have become aware of many facts related to the 1951 season which I found intriguing, caused me to delve a little deeper and while doing so I was able to fill in a few more blanks and the 1951 picture cleared up considerably.

While doing the research for my book on the 1954 Montreal Alouettes I had called Bernie Custis on a couple of occasions to get his insight into the 1954 season, what it was like to play the Alouettes as well as his general thoughts about his career and playing football in Canada during that time period. I was well aware that Bernie was the first Black to play a regular season game at the quarterback (QB) position in Canadian professional football and in fact not only was Bernie named the number 1 QB for the 1951 Hamilton Tiger-Cats, he was selected at the quarterback position in the 1951 Canadian Press (CP) "Big Four" (Inter-Provincial Rugby Football Union; IRFU) All-Star Team, see below. The team was chosen for the CP by the football coaches, writers and sportscasters although the selection of the 1951 team was a little different in that it marked the first year that the sportscasters were able to vote. Custis, as you can well imagine, is very proud of being the first Black QB in Canada and, for that matter, at the professional level in general. Willie Thrower is recognized as the first Black QB in the National Football League, for the 1953 Chicago Bears although he only played in a single game, October 18th vs the San Francisco 49ers. From a big picture point of view, keep in mind that Kenny Washington, while playing for the 1946 Los Angeles Rams, is credited with completing 1 pass in 8 attempts for 19 yards.

CP 1951 IRFU (Big Four) All-Star Team

Canadian Press; Announced on November 20, 1951

- chosen by coaches, sports writers and sportscasters in league cities

Position	Player	Team	Status
Flying Wing	Bruce Cummings	Ottawa Rough Riders	Canadian
Halfback	Hal Waggoner	Hamilton Tiger-Cats	Import
Halfback	Ulysses Curtis	Toronto Argonauts	Import
Halfback	Billy Bass	Toronto Argonauts	Import
Quarterback	Bernie Custis	Hamilton Tiger-Cats	Import
Snap (Centre)	Ed "Buckets" Hirsch	Toronto Argonauts	Import
Inside (Guard)	Eddie Bevan	Hamilton Tiger-Cats	Canadian
Inside (Guard)	Ray Cicia	Montreal Alouettes	Import
Middle (Tackle)	Jack Carpenter	Hamilton Tiger-Cats	Import
Middle (Tackle)	Bob Gain	Ottawa Rough Riders	Import
Outside (End)	Vince Mazza	Hamilton Tiger-Cats	Import
Outside (End)	Bob Simpson	Ottawa Rough Riders	Canadian

Bernie Custis went to Syracuse University and was drafted by the Cleveland Browns in the 1951 NFL Draft. Custis, wanting to play quarterback, didn't get the impression he was going to get that chance with the Cleveland Browns, given that Cleveland had a fellow by the name of Otto Graham, so he headed to Canada. Bernie arrived in Hamilton on July 30 and was working out with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats although he was also talking with the folks at the Ottawa Rough Riders. In 1951, Coach Voyles of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats had 5 quarterbacks (Bernie Custis, Zeke Martin, Alva Tabor, "Boots" Erb and Oddie Harras), of which all but Harras were imports, in training camp and, besides Custis, there was at least one other Black QB and that was Alva Tabor. Alva had been selected, at the QB position, to the Black All-America Team in 1944 while at Tuskegee and had been in the training camp of the New York Yankees of the AAFC in 1949. Erb and Harras were released after the intra-squad game on August 8 while Tabor was released on August 13, the same day that QB Stan Heath was signed. After August 13 there were 3 quarterbacks contending for the QB position, they were Bernie Custis, Zeke Martin, and Stan Heath. Then on September 6 Heath was in Calgary and at the import deadline, Martin was released. Coach Voyles said Custis was his QB and if a replacement was required, it would be either Bob McDonald or Stan Wolkowski. An article in The Globe and Mail newspaper dated August 3, 1951 stated the Canadian Rugby Union had announced a new ruling regarding when the imports must be declared. The teams may use any combination of seven imports in any game until October 1. At that time, the teams must declare the seven imports they will use from that point forward.

The 1951 season was a watershed season of sorts as it relates to the number of Black players playing their first game in Canadian professional football because seven, but not limited to, Black players were new to the WIFU (Western Interprovincial Football Union) and IRFU and they were as follows; Bernie Custis with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Oatten Fisher with the Toronto Argonauts, Steve Hatfield and Larry Hairston with the Ottawa Rough Riders, Rollie Miles and Jim Chambers with the Edmonton Eskimos and Mel Embree with the Calgary Stampeders. It is important to keep in mind that the players identified in this article are the ones who played at least one game for one of the WIFU or IRFU teams. The definition of "played" is being listed in the player lineup that was published in the various newspapers of the time.

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats were also involved in a couple other interesting player developments in 1951 although this story actually started in 1950. The Tiger-Cats had brought in an import named Oatten Fisher in 1950 although he was conditionally released to Toronto Balmy Beach Tip-Tops of the ORFU although he had to be returned to the Tiger-Cats. Fisher went on to become one of the 8 Beaches' players named to the 1950 Ontario Rugby Football Union All-Star Team, the others were; Billy Haddleton, Carl Galbreath, Gerry Tuttle, Dwight Follin, Ross Taylor, George Gilchrist and Art Scullion. Fast forward to 1951, Fisher signs with the Toronto Argonauts on July 23 and it was reported in the Toronto Globe and Mail newspaper that "Bob Moran, Argonaut team President had said I can't see where Hamilton has any claim to Fisher at all, he never signed a CRU form with them." Just spitballing here, but one has to wonder why a head coach would release a player prospect to the farm system of a competing team. Possibly Voyles, a new coach in Canada in 1950, may not have been aware the Balmy Beach were a farm team of the Toronto Argonauts at the time he signed the release document. An interesting comment by Coach Voyles that appeared in The Hamilton Spectator newspaper dated September 6, 1951, "Last year I cut Galbreath because I did not figure him as strong a man

as Edgar Jones and I let Oatten Fisher go because he did not measure up to Bill Gregus as a ball carrier."

The Ottawa Citizen newspaper dated October 2, 1951 reported the following comment related to Fisher being released at the 1951 import deadline, "Fisher played five positions in five games." Of interest is the fact that the position Fisher was selected to the 1950 ORFU All-Star Team at was "Middle" (Tackle) while Galbreath, also a Black player, was selected to a "Back" position. In case you are wondering, the seven imports the Toronto Argonauts retained at the October 1 import deadline were as follows; Nobby Wirkowski, Ulysses Curtis, Al Pfeifer, Marvin Whaley, Billy Bass, Ed "Buckets" Hirsch and John Kerns. It should be noted that Pfeifer had only arrived in the evening of September 26, 1951 after being released by the New York Giants, Wirkowski was selected over Al Dekdebrun, and Ed "Catfoot" Cody was released although he had been brought in to replace an injured Ulysses Curtis.

Another player development related to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in 1951 involved Vince Scott. Scott, who had played two seasons with the Buffalo Bills of the AAFC, came to Canada in 1949 and played for the Hamilton Wildcats in the IRFU and Hamilton Tiger-Cats, also of the IRFU, in 1950. Scott was an All-Star in both 1949 and 1950 at the "Inside" (Guard) position. Then along comes the 1951 season and Scott is released at the import deadline and not only that, he doesn't even play in a single game leading up to the import deadline. The seven imports the Hamilton Tiger-Cats retained at the October 1 import deadline were as follows; Bernie Custis, Vince Mazza, Ralph Sazio, Jack Carpenter, Hal Waggoner, Tom Worthington and "Spider" Gibson. On September 20, 1951, The Hamilton Spectator newspaper reported the following; "Vince Scott, all-star inside wing in Canadian football for the last two seasons, has decided he will play no football with Tiger-Cats this season, largely because Carl Voyles can see no way of working Vince into the Big Four line-up." Scott decided to function as a line coach for the McMaster Marauders in 1951.

On November 3, 1951, the Toronto Argonauts were playing the Ottawa Rough Riders in Toronto at Varsity Stadium and one of the most famous, or infamous, depending on how you look at it, events happened that would live forever in Canadian professional football history. The event involved Pete Karpuk and became known as "The Karpuk Play". Interestingly Karpuk had been cut on August 14, 1951 although he was reinstated on the next day, August 15. At the time of "The Karpuk Play," about three and a half minutes gone in the fourth quarter, the score was Ottawa 18 and Toronto 12, Ottawa had the ball at midfield. Tom O'Malley threw a pass intended for Howie Turner but an alert Ulysses Curtis jumped in front and caught the ball on the fly, at about the Toronto 45-yard line, with nothing but daylight between him and the end zone. With Curtis heading down the sideline, Pete Karpuk, for some unknown reason other than the fact it was Pete Karpuk being Pete Karpuk, catapults himself from the Ottawa bench, while throwing off his parka, onto the field and attempts to tackle Curtis at about the Ottawa 40-yard line but only succeeds in knocking Curtis off balance and slowing him down. O'Malley ended up tackling Curtis on about the Ottawa 25-yard line, Curtis fumbled and Steve Hatfield picked up the loose ball but was immediately tackled. Then all hell broke loose for about the next 10 minutes as the officials tried to figure out how to handle the situation, the players and coaches were inserting their two cents worth all while snowballs were being fired from the stands at everybody on the field. The result was that Karpuk was given a three-minute penalty, which left the Rough Riders a man short, and the Rough Riders were penalized, as a team, which moved the

ball half the distance to the end zone. The Argonauts went on to score a touchdown two plays later and the Rough Riders ended up losing the game 23-18.

The net result was there wasn't a rule in the CRU Rule Book, at the time, that prevented "The Karpuk Play" so the CRU had to address that matter immediately and did so on November 6, 1951, see below from The Globe and Mail newspaper:

"If any player or players of the defending side deliberately enters on the field while the play is in progress and interferes with any player of the attacking side, even without direct contact, the penalty shall be as follows; 1. The disqualification of the offending player or players from further participation in the game, 2. The ruling off for not less than five minutes one player of the offending side for each player so disqualified, 3. The awarding of first down to the attacking side on the defending side's one-yard line. Note: In the event of the offense occurring at the end of the second or fourth periods where the normal expiration of time remaining would be insufficient for a complete series of three downs, the attacking side shall be permitted to complete that series of downs."

One last note about the Argonaut-Rough Rider game on November 3, 1951, being the final game of the regular season, the Argonaut victory meant there was a three-way tie for first place between the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, the Toronto Argonauts, and the Ottawa Rough Riders. Each of the three teams had identical 7-5 records although the Tiger-Cats had the most points for and fewest points against. The way the IRFU determined the playoff format was to draw the team name out of a hat that would receive a bye while the other two would play a two-game total-point series with the winner playing the bye team. The Ottawa Rough Riders were selected as the bye team and they would eventually go on to become the 1951 Grey Cup champions. It seems a little cheesy that, after a whole season, your fate is decided by a simple draw from a hat especially since points for and points against could have easily settled the matter and it would have represented the team's effort over the course of the season.

Society News

Recently Published Books

Stampeders...The Years of the Horse by Daryl Slade, 2009

Stampeders . . .Grey Cup or Bust by Daryl Slade, 2011

The 1954 Montreal Alouettes by Brian Marshall, 2011, ISBN 978-0-9867435-0-4

- this book is available to CFRS members for \$25.00 CDN
- now in paperback (perfect binding) format

The Canadian Pro Football Encyclopedia by Tod Maher and Bob Gill, 2011,
ISBN 978-0-9835136-1-2

- \$34.95 US
- in paperback (perfect binding) format

Tell Me To My Face by Angelo Mosca with Steve Milton, 2011, ISBN 978-1-105-01836-7

George Reed: His Life and Times by George Reed and John Chaput, 2011

Projects in the Hopper

- a) Memories of the Game. An Anthology of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and Museum, CFRS Profiles Committee
- b) The 1954 IRFU Players by Brian Marshall
 - this is a book with a “bio”, including junior/intermediate teams, for 280 players that have been determined to have been associated with an IRFU team from training camp through the season
 - the book will contain an index and a breakdown of the players by position and Canadian/Import for each team and the IRFU overall
- c) The 1954 WIFU Players by Brian Marshall
 - this is a book with a “bio”, including junior/intermediate teams, for some 329 players that have been determined to have been associated with an WIFU team from training camp through the season
 - the book will contain an index and a breakdown of the players by position and Canadian/Import for each team and the WIFU overall
- d) The 1954 Edmonton Eskimos by Brian Marshall
 - this book will be a similar format to that of the 1954 Montreal Alouettes book

Canadian Football Research Society

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Annual General Meeting

Toronto, Ontario

TBA

Nominations for the CFRS Executive for 2011-12

To All CFRS Members:

Elections will be held at the Annual General Meeting in Toronto TBA for CFRS Executive positions. Executive positions are one-year terms, except Treasurer, which is a two-year term.

Any person who wishes to nominate a CFRS member to any CFRS Executive position should complete this nomination form, clip it out and forward it, to the attention of Secretary Lenard Kotylo, by fax or mail to the address above, or by email to lkotylo@aol.com.

Nominations must be received by 11:59 pm on a date 10 days prior to the AGM.

Thereafter, further nominations may be made in person at the AGM.

I would like to nominate the following CFRS member(s) for the following positions:

_____ for President

_____ for Vice President

_____ for Secretary

_____ for Treasurer

_____ for Director at Large (4 in total)