



Flying Wing

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SPECIAL 100TH GREY CUP YEAR ISSUE

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About the CFRS

The CFRS, is a not for profit organization which is operated solely by the members, who volunteer their time, is headquartered in Toronto, Ontario. The CFRS is comprised of a group of men and women who are keenly interested in the research, study and promotion of Canadian football history. The CFRS value propositions are listed below;

- (a) To promote, develop, and encourage the study of the game of Canadian Football as a significant international athletic and popular social institution.
- (b) To establish an accurate historical account of Canadian Football through the years.
- (c) To assist in the dissemination of the findings and studies derived from Canadian Football research.
- (d) To acknowledge and assist in safeguarding the individual property of individual research endeavours conducted by Members of the Society.

The CFRS has established committees related to Canadian football history and CFRS members write articles and books about Canadian football history.

The CFRS hosts their own local social gatherings in addition to an annual general meeting and often supports and participates in as many events related to the CFL as possible.

The CFRS has members all across Canada and in the United States.

Editor's Comments

You will notice this issue is a complete re-format from previous issues and that was done because this issue is a special issue, hence the Memorable Moments Section, in celebration of the 100th Grey Cup this year. Thank you to all those who submitted articles especially the "Memorable Moments" articles that turn back the clock on some special times in Canadian Football history. We have received enough general articles to cover off our December 2012 issue.

Comments, positive or negative, regarding the newsletter may be sent to the editor at; bdmstmarys@rogers.com.

Message from the President

As I come to the end of my first year as president of the CFRS, I want to highlight where we began and where I see us going in 2013.

At the beginning of my term, I felt it was important to formally recognize our intent to carve out working relationships with the CFL Executive, the Hall of Fame and Museum and the CFL Alumni, by offering a seat on our Board to senior members of each of these entities.

During the course of this year, I have been in regular contact with each of these groups and the CFRS is now poised to be recognized for the work we have done and intend to do, to enhance the recorded history of Canadian Football.

We have completed our first group effort that will result in a book containing individual profiles of each honoured member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. This project was completed by six very dedicated members of the CFRS,; Lori Burse, Mike Martin, Jack Morrow, Bruce Findley, Paul Bruno and Josh Budish.

Currently, our Statistics Committee, under the leadership of Brian Marshall is undertaking the task of working backwards, building on the currently accepted record of statistics , which dates back to the early 1950s, to see how far back we can go in recreating the best, most complete statistical record for Canadian Football.

In addition, we are planning to create a working road show in which we take samples of our existing range of research and memorabilia out to different communities to advertise who we are and to attract new members.

One other very interesting initiative is already under way in terms of the 2013 Grey Cup. We have engaged in discussions with museums in Saskatchewan with an eye toward creating a CFRS exhibit for display to the throng of fans who will flock there for the 2013 Grey Cup festivities.

Currently, the bulk of our membership resides in Ontario. We would like to reach out across Canada to engage the rest of the country to become a truly national entity.

In keeping with a new focus, going forward, I believe the best way to engage football fans across the country, we have to do things right locally and mimic that successful template in each province.

We have also conducted a detailed search for an appropriate website and host situation which will certainly act as our collective business card and bring us all together, from coast to coast, in the very near future.

In the interim, I challenge each member to do his (her) part in increasing our numbers. Many hands make light work.

As we continue to grow, we can put more resources to work on raising our profile, doing more research and ultimately putting regional hubs in place.

I believe that if we continue our most recent efforts, to do what we do and do it well, our numbers will grow and the afore-mentioned Canadian Football League entities will certainly recognize the CFRS as a valuable entity and a potential partner.

To borrow, and alter, a phrase from the film, *Field of Dreams*, I ask you to help me build it and they will come.

CFRS Meeting/Barbecue

On Saturday September 15 we met at the home of Larry and Lynda Robertson for a Society meeting and barbecue. The following are some photos, taken by Larry, from the that event.



The members present were Leo Ezerins, Dave Kelterborn, Brian Marshall, President Paul Bruno, Paul Patskou, Shelly Kates, Bob Sproule, John Bellamy, Lenard Kotylo, Gene Mack, and Larry Robertson. Also in attendance were Carolyn Sproule and Mizzan Kotylo.

What a Rush: The 1957 Edmonton Eskimos

by Brian Marshall

If someone told you that a professional football team had rushed for more than 4000 net yards in a single season you'd probably say something like "Ya right" and question the person as to which planet they were from and where they parked their space ship. I am here to tell you it is true and it happened in 1957 when it was accomplished by the Edmonton Eskimos of the WIFU. The Eskimos actually gained 4545 yards but lost 200 for a net of 4345 yards. It should also be noted there were two other near 4000 yard rushing seasons; one in 1958 when the Winnipeg Blue Bombers racked up 3957 net yards and the other in 1960 when the same Winnipeg Blue Bombers did it again, this time rushing for 3972 net yards. Interestingly recent CFL Facts, Figures and Records guides (2010 and 2011) indicate that Winnipeg had 4043 yards in 1960 rather than 3972 while the WIFU statistics booklets published annually at the time (as well as team media guides) and the recently published Canadian Pro Football Encyclopedia (2011 and 2012 editions) indicate the 3972 number. Regardless of what the Blue Bombers did in the '58 and '60 seasons their rushing statistics were somewhat pale in comparison to the net rushing yards posted by the Eskimos in 1957, being 4345. It may be the most amazing statistic not only in the CFL Facts, Figures and Records book but in pro football history because it has stood the test of time and is not likely to be approached, let alone broken, any time soon. The 4345 yards is an average of 271.56 yards per game which, along with the yards per carry average of 6.02, is extremely impressive. I am quite sure I have your attention now because the 271.56 yards per game number is truly an amazing statistic while in Canadian professional football, at that time, it was fairly common for a team to have a mid to high 5s rushing average especially in the WIFU. The 271 or 272 yards per game number, which ever way you want to view it, is the most any team has averaged in the history of professional football. In fact, the team with the next best yards per game average, at the time, was the 1948 San Francisco 49ers, of the AAFC, with 261.64 on 3663 net rushing yards in a 14 game season. The 1957 Eskimo season was 16 games as we know which makes the Eskimo number that much more impressive because they managed it after playing two more games. If I was a coach, at the professional level, I would take 271 or even 261 net rushing yards per game any day, any time and twice on Sunday. For the record, in Canadian football, it wasn't until 1960 when the Ottawa Rough Riders, with an average of 262.71 yards per game, surpassed the 49ers mark of 261.64 yards per game.

I acquired the game by game statistics from the official game sheets and, after tabulating the statistics it is evident why the 1957 Edmonton Eskimos posted the rushing numbers they did. The game by game numbers indicate the Eskimos had 10 games where they rushed for 250 or more yards and of those 10 games 5 of them were 300 yard games and of those 5 games one of them was a 400 yard game. The fewest yards the Eskimos rushed for in a single game was 144 and the most yards they rushed for in a single game was 406. To understand how Edmonton managed to rush for so many yards, one simply has to look at the carries. The Eskimos had 722 carries on the season for an average of 45.13 carries per game and they rushed the ball 40 or more times in 13 of the games and of those games 4 of them were 50 carry games with 57 being the most in a single game. By comparison the Eskimos attempted 270 passes on the season for a ratio of 2.67

rushing plays to passing plays. To look at it another way, the '57 Eskimos managed a total of 403 first downs; 272 by rushing, 117 by passing for a ratio of 2.32 rushing first downs to passing first downs. Then, from a scoring perspective the Eskimos scored a total of 63 TDs; 45 by rushing and 14 by passing for a ratio of 3.21 rushing TDs to passing TDs. To say the 1957 Edmonton Eskimos were a rushing team is a gargantuan understatement. A note about the 45 rushing TDs, many statistical references list 46 rushing TDs for the '57 Eskimos but I have broken it down further to consider a TD scored by Jackie Parker (in the first game on August 15 vs Winnipeg Blue Bombers) as a lateral TD rather than a rush TD because it was the result of Parker running 25 yards with a lateral received from Johnny Bright. The total play was 42 yards; Bright had the first 17 and Parker the final 25. Actually, in 1957, Jackie Parker scored another TD on a lateral, this one, a 95 yard kickoff return in the second game, was the result of a lateral from Rollie Miles who had received the actual kickoff. I understand the League considers these plays "extention plays", hence how it started is how the League categorizes them, but while plays involving a lateral may be an extention play, in my mind, to simply call the resulting gain/loss/TD a run or a pass or whatever based on how it started overlooks the full extent of the play. It is not my intent or desire to change how the League categorizes the plays, I am merely describing why I view the plays the way I do and I believe it helps to categorize the statistics more accurately when, on lateral plays, mention of the lateral is included and the statistics are assigned to each player accordingly. As a point of reference, there was a time, in the 40s, when the NFL used to keep track of the lateral statistics. Afterall, this is the information age and leagues have been breaking down statistics finer and finer and adding new categories over the past few decades and I suspect the data will continue to be refined as we move forward.

The won/loss record of the 1957 Edmonton Eskimos shows 14 wins and 2 losses, 475 points for and 142 points against over the 16 game season, but in achieving that record they established many team and individual records, many of which are listed below.

WIFU Team Records; Season

Most Net Yards From Scrimmage: 4345 (Rushing) + 2730 (Passing) = 7075

Most Rushing Yards: 4545

Most Net Rushing Yards: 4345

Most Rushing Carries: 722

Highest Rushing Average (Yards/Carry): 6.02

Highest Yards per Game Average: 271.56

Most Rushing Touchdowns: 45

Most First Downs: 403

Most Rushing First Downs: 272

Highest Passing Yards per Attempt: 10.1

Most Points: 475

Most Touchdowns: 63 (tied with the 1952 Winnipeg Blue Bombers)

Most Converts Made: 50

WIFU Individual Records; Season

Most Rushing Yards: Johnny Bright 1693

Most Net Rushing Yards: Johnny Bright 1679

Most Rushing Carries: Johnny Bright 259

Most Converts Attempted: Joe Mobra 62

Most Converts Made: Joe Mobra 49

Summary

Points For: 475, Points Against: 142, Points Differential: 333, Points For/Against Ratio: 3.34

Edmonton Eskimos Rushing

722 carries for 4345 net yards, 6.02 yards/carry, 45 TDs, Long Run of 42 yards

Opposition Rushing

465 carries for 1673 net yards, 3.60 yards/carry, 9 TDs, Long Run of 74 yards

Edmonton Eskimos Passing

270 attempts, 149 completions for 2370 net yards, 10.09 yards/att, 14 TDs, Long Pass of 85

yards

Opposition Passing

333 attempts, 172 completions for 2353 net yards, 7.07 yards/att, 11 TDs, Long Pass of 82 yards

Edmonton Eskimos First Downs: 403 total; 272 by rushing, 117 by passing, 14 by penalty

Opposition First Downs: 217 total; 97 by rushing, 110 by passing, 10 by penalty

Edmonton Eskimos Passes Intercepted by Opposition: 21

Opposition Passes Intercepted by Edmonton Eskimos: 30

Edmonton Eskimos Fumbles Data: 33 Times Fumbled, 8 Own Fumbles Recovered, 25 Fumbles

Lost

Opposition Fumbles Data: 21 Times Fumbled, 18 Fumbles Recovered by Edmonton

All of the preceding is just wonderful but when the dust had cleared the Edmonton Eskimos were defeated two games to one in the best of three WIFU final by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

"What, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers you say", yes the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, a team that won 12 and lost 4 on the season and in the four games against Edmonton had won only one game and lost three. In those four games Edmonton had scored 130 points and Winnipeg only 50, a margin of 2.6 to 1. The Blue Bombers only victory came in Game 10 on September 30 when they nosed out Edmonton 28 - 27 only to lose 41 - 0 in the very next game on October 5. In fact, the Blue Bombers had also lost to Edmonton 41 - 8 on September 2. Edmonton had a bye into the WIFU, finals which amounted to a two week "rest", while Winnipeg had to play the Calgary Stampeders in the WIFU semi-final.

In the first game of the WIFU final the Blue Bombers simply outplayed the Eskimos which, on paper, was surprising but apparently rust had set in during a two week layoff. In fact Edmonton's only scoring, a converted touchdown, came early in the second quarter and that was all she wrote, the final score was 19 - 7. Probably the most interesting statistics were the rushing numbers which indicated the Blue Bombers had outrushed the Eskimos. This was pretty amazing since in the four regular season games the Eskimos had played their typical brand of smash-mouth football and out rushed the Blue Bombers by a considerable margin; 1156 yards to 469, a margin of almost 2.5 to 1.

The second game of the WIFU final was different story from the rushing perspective as the Eskimos were back to their old self, but they only managed to squeeze past the Blue Bombers by a score of 5 - 4 with a late, fourth quarter, field goal after being down 4 - 2 at the time. A win, yes, but still not the Eskimo football one would expect based on the regular season.

The third game of the WIFU final was 2 - 2 after regulation time and went into overtime where the Winnipeg Blue Bombers managed to score 15 points and win a thriller, 17 - 2. Edmonton controlled the play in many aspects; rushing, first downs, number of plays but the Blue Bombers were equal to the challenge. You can look at the mental lapse by Rollie Miles in the overtime and the four missed field goals but when the smoke had cleared the Blue Bombers were the 1957 WIFU Champions. In the end the most important statistic is the number of points scored and you can have all the various statistics in your favour but no matter how you slice it, it still comes down to the core objective; to score more points than the opponent.

Memorable Moment No. 1

MOST MEMORABLE GAME

1989 Grey Cup: Hamilton vs. Saskatchewan

by David Brauer

My most memorable CFL game was the 1989 Grey Cup game, which I experienced through television. While the game itself was a classic and considered by many to be the “greatest” Grey Cup, it has additional significance for me. For this long-time CFL fan from the United States, that particular game marked my introduction to the excitement of the Canadian Football League. In seventh grade at the time, I remember watching the game on tape-delay the Tuesday afternoon before our Thanksgiving. I was home sick that day, or perhaps wanted to start my holiday vacation early, and found the game on ESPN and decided to watch. After all, you can’t beat football on a Tuesday afternoon.

My prior CFL knowledge came from the occasional article in U.S. sports magazines and newspapers and the less prevalent television highlight. Some of the player names were familiar to me from watching college football. Intrigued by the CFL, I thought it was “cool” that its schedule included “summer football” because the NFL and NCAA seasons couldn’t come soon enough.

On this late fall afternoon, I saw the CFL’s fast-paced action and instantly became hooked.

Hamilton and Saskatchewan locked into a seesaw title game filled with touchdowns and big plays and I found myself caught up in the enthusiasm. High-scoring games that featured lots of passing were my favourite. The CFL, and this Grey Cup game, offered that and more.

I still remember the thrill of Tony Champion’s catch that tied the game in the final minute for the Tiger-Cats. I can recall the Roughriders final drive and lining up for Dave Ridgway’s game-winning kick as time expired in the 43-40 victory. What an incredible game!

My chance encounter with the 1989 Grey Cup broadcast increased my awareness of the CFL and its exciting brand of football. When Doug Flutie began his CFL career and as U.S.-based teams were added, more games became available on television and my interest evolved further.

By following the CFL through the years, I became interested in gaining additional knowledge about Canada, its history and great cities. As a result, I have developed the highest regard for all things Canadian.

I have been fortunate to see a dozen CFL games (all in Canada) in person since then and have made it an annual trip over the past few years. In 2007, I attended my first Grey Cup game and

look forward to returning to the Rogers Centre for the historic 100th Grey Cup game in November.

Memorable Moment No. 2

Leo Cahill's Penchant for Promotion rarely seen in CFL History

by Paul Bruno

In my years as a long-time fan of Canadian Football, I had a great deal of admiration for the efforts of Leo Cahill and Harold Ballard in promoting the Canadian Football League as a significant part of the very competitive pro sports landscape in Southern Ontario.

In the case of Cahill, the native of Illinois came to prominence as the head coach of the Toronto Argonauts from 1967-1972 and a brief second stint in 1977-1978.

He first rose to prominence as the head coach of the Toronto Rifles of the Continental Football League in the mid-1960s, where he first displayed his knack for recruiting, promoting and coaching.

At the same time, the Argonauts were really struggling as a franchise without direction and suffering through a period of poor results.

When the Argos were able to hire Cahill prior to the 1967 season, it marked a change in the club's fortunes as they made it back to the playoffs in his first season. Perhaps more importantly, though, Cahill used this more prominent platform to attract more talent via trade and strong recruiting ties to bolster the talent level of the club as he traded for the likes of Ed Learn and Dick Thornton and worked to incorporate Bill Symons. He was a fearless, wheeler-dealer, unafraid to move high profile players, as shown in 1968, when he dealt former starting QB Wally Gabler to Winnipeg for RB Dave Raimey.

Before long, Cahill matched the shuffling of this roster with a number of bold proclamations aimed at raising the profile of the Argos, locally and throughout Canada. He established a high profile for himself, and, by association, the team that he led.

In the early 1970s, the Argos cast a wide net and positioned the Argos as a viable alternative for high profile talent that would normally have gone straight to the NFL. Players like Joe Theismann, Leon McQuay and Tim Anderson would never have considered a stint in the CFL were it not for Cahill's efforts.

In his second tenure, he rocked the North American Football landscape when he lured running back Terry Metcalf from the St. Louis Cardinals. He later recruited Gill Fenerty, a top US College running back out of Holy Cross University. These two moves clearly showed that Cahill was still capable of attracting top talent to the CFL despite the imposing opposition of the NFL.

His boisterous comments regularly incited opponents and stirred the passion of Argo fans, which helped to make Exhibition Stadium the place to see and be seen during his tenure in Toronto. Those days have rarely been duplicated since he left the Argo sideline.

Following his coaching career he appeared as a color analyst, a role in which he also excelled, in the television coverage of CFL broadcasts.

To this day, he remains a goodwill ambassador for the Argos and the CFL. In my opinion, one would be challenged to find any non-player who has tried to advance the cause of the CFL in Southern Ontario more than Leo Cahill, who should one day be honoured with entry into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and Museum .

Memorable Moment No. 3

Here is a short memory of the 1952 Grey Cup
by Denis Gibbons

I grew up in Acton, Ontario , a town of only 3,000 in 1952. Very few people in town had a television set. That included the Gibbons family, who lived in a company (Beardmore and Company Ltd.) house where we paid the vast sum of \$20 a month for rent. Our neighbors, the Papillons, purchased a small, floor model, black and white TV just before the 1952 Grey Cup between the Toronto Argonauts and Edmonton Eskimos. I was only 9 at that time, but I was invited over to watch the first Grey Cup game ever televised. About eight of us were crowded into a small living room as the Argos won 21-11 at Varsity Stadium in Toronto.

Nobby Wirkowski, Billy Bass and Zeke O'Connor scored touchdowns for the Argos . Normie Kwong got both TDs for Edmonton. A touchdown was worth only five points at that time. Red Ettinger also kicked a field goal for Toronto.

This is the 60th anniversary of that game.

The First Grey Cup Game

by James Paul Garrison

The Grey Cup game is an event, which captures the nation's attention every autumn. Fans travel from all parts of Canada to take in the game and its television ratings are amongst the highest in Canada year after year. The fans that gathered to witness the first Grey Cup game nearly a century ago couldn't have imagined what a national spectacle the game has become.

Football as it was played in 1909, was already a sport distinct from its rugby ancestor, but still quite different from the sport we know today. Teams fielded 14 players per side and the wing line (as the linemen were referred to at the time) included a left and right snapper who supported the centre snapper as he 'heeled' the ball to the quarterback at the beginning of a play. The left and right snap would be eliminated in 1921 when the rules were adjusted and the centre snapper began passing the ball between his legs to the quarterback. The forward pass was illegal, extension plays were often employed, with ball carriers lateraling the ball to a team mate and flying kicks were sometimes employed, where a player would kick the ball as it bounced off the ground. Touchdowns were known as 'tries' and were worth six points after the point after.

The Canadian Rugby Union was the governing body of the sport at the time, and its member teams were based in central Canada. There were three leagues playing senior football at the time: The Canadian Intercollegiate Rugby Football Union consisted of the University of Toronto, McGill University, Queen's University and Ottawa College. The Interprovincial Rugby Football Union, which had been established in 1907 and was also known as "The Big Four", consisted of the Hamilton Tigers and Toronto Argonauts, formerly of the Ontario Rugby Football Union and the Ottawa Rough Riders and Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, who had previously been members of the Quebec Rugby Football Union. The Ontario Union now consisted of the Parkdale Canoe Club, Peterborough and the Toronto Amateur Athletic Club.

The senior leagues began play in early October and the first week saw some surprise finishes. The Tigers were ahead of the Rough Riders through the first three quarters, but Ottawa took the lead with six minutes left in the fourth quarter when Jack Williams' punting - as well as fumbling on the part of his Hamilton opponents, pushed Ottawa ahead for the 7-5 win. Montreal's talented backfield were too much for the Argonauts, who fumbled two punts that resulted in points for Montreal, who won the game 13-5. The University of Toronto gave fans a glimpse of their greatness as the Varsity team defeated Queen's 7-1 in Kingston. Varsity featured star players such as Charlie Gage, who played outside wing (a position that would later become known as an 'end'), Hugh Gall, who played left half back, right half back, Smirle Lawson, nicknamed, 'Big Train' for his ability to buck the line and Bill Richie, who played right snapper. Varsity extended its winning streak the following weekend when the team hosted McGill at Varsity field. The U of T were superior on both the wing-line and in the backfield as they out-punted McGill and forced fumbles en route to an 18-1 victory. During that weekend, the Rough Riders visited Montreal to play the M.A.A.A., which was nicknamed, The 'Winged Wheelers'. Ottawa had a veteran team, coached by Tom "King" Clancy, who's son would later be a star in the NHL, and were quickly establishing themselves as contenders. During a five-minute period in the third quarter, Montreal was unable to return four Ottawa punts, each resulting in rouges.

Ottawa went on to win 5-3. The University of Toronto's domination of the C.I.R.F.U. continued in the third week when Varsity met Ottawa College at Varsity field. The Varsity backs met little resistance moving the ball down field. Hugh Gall handled most of the kicking duties as he normally did, while Smirle Lawson got around the Ottawa ends time and again in Varsity's 63-2 win. The rematch was held the following week, and while the score was a little closer, the game was dominated by the U of T once again. Varsity scored seven tries during the 46-4 victory. The same weekend, The Hamilton Tigers played against Montreal and kept the Winged Wheelers on the defensive throughout the game. The veteran Hamilton squad defeated the largely inexperienced Montreal team 24-1. In the other Big Four game that weekend, the still-winless Argonauts met the Rough Riders at Rosedale Field. The Argos played solid football and led well into the fourth quarter, but Ottawa moved ahead and pulled off a 14-9 win.

With two weeks left in the schedule, the Rough Riders had a 4-0 record followed by the Hamilton Tigers with a 3-1 record. Varsity was practically assured the University title, boasting a 4-0 record, two wins ahead of second-place, Queen's. Meanwhile in the O.R.F.U., Parkdale and the T.A.A.C. shared first place with 2-1 records, but on November 6 the T.A.A.C. surged ahead of Parkdale in the standings with a 10-5 win over Peterborough. The Argonauts played the favoured Winged Wheelers in Montreal. During the first quarter, the Montreal offence made forays into the Toronto zone with end runs and long kicks, but the Argos would dominate the game, slowly racking up points with their kicking. The Oarsmen ended their losing streak with a 22-4 victory. In the Big Four that weekend the first and second place teams squared off as the Tigers hosted the Rough Riders in Hamilton. Ottawa was expected to secure the league title but in a shocking reversal of fortune, were defeated 30-5. Emotions ran high late in the game when Tigers halfback, Ben Simpson fielded a punt. Simpson kicked the ball downfield – a common practice at the time, and as he was getting the kick away, was gang tackled by three Ottawa players; one caught Simpson around the neck, another head-butted him and a third hit him in the face and Simpson landed on the ground, unconscious for five minutes. At the time, punishment for rough play meant that players were ejected from the game without substitution. The short-handed Rough Riders struggled against the Tigers, but the sides were soon evened out as three Hamilton players were ejected for retaliatory rough play.

The most anticipated game of the weekend was the Varsity/Queen's game at Varsity field. At the time the stands were small and overflow crowds lined the sidelines. Attendance was estimated at 3500 people, with many more turned away. Varsity led 6-1 by the end of the first quarter but Queen's dug in their heels and offered strong resistance. Smirle Lawson made several good gains but also fumbled several times. The big play of the game came when Hugh Gall fielded a punt at the Varsity 15-yard line and passed it to Lawson, who sprinted to the other end of the field, breaking tackles and scoring a try. U of T won the game 21-9 and appeared unbeatable. That notion was disproved the following weekend however, when Varsity faced McGill for the final league game of the season. McGill went in to the game with a 2-3 record and had lost 18 –1 to Varsity in their earlier meeting of the season, but proved an even match for their first place opponent. Gall, who suffered from a sprained ankle, was moved to fullback and Lawson sat out the game due to illness, forcing Varsity to make adjustments. They kept the ball in the McGill zone for most of the game but were behind 11-9 late in the fourth quarter. McGill's defensive play was outstanding as they held Varsity within a few feet of the McGill goal line for the last

five minutes of the game. Their determination paid off and when the final whistle blew, they had handed Varsity their first loss of the year.

While Varsity's loss prevented a perfect season, their first place finish earned them the intercollegiate title for 1909. The other two leagues ended the season with teams tied for first place, which would force playoff games to decide their championships. Varsity Field was set to host the Parkdale/T.A.A.C. playoff match, and Toronto's Rosedale Field was chosen as a neutral site for the Hamilton/Ottawa match. Tickets for both matches were in great demand: The Globe reported that before ticket sales began, the O.R.F.U. match was expected to result in 'standing room only' and that if not for the competition from the Big Four match being held the same day, that the crowd would have reached 'record proportions'. Tickets for the Big Four championship were put on sale in Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa and the demand was so great that organizers chose to arrange reserved seating, with the Hamilton rooster club and supporters seated in the west stands while the Ottawa rooster club and supporters would be seated in the east stands. Two special trains brought spectators from Hamilton for the game while a third train brought fans from Ottawa. Bands played and fans sang as the crowds poured into Toronto for the game, with Hamilton fans wearing yellow chrysanthemums to show their team colours. The weather was sunny and a strong western wind blew all afternoon. Ottawa kicked with the wind at the beginning of the game but still managed to score when facing the wind. Ottawa had managed a 9-0 lead with the wind but Hamilton had only managed to narrow that lead to 9-5 by half time. In the third quarter with the wind at their backs once again, Ottawa continued to rack up points with rouges and went into the fourth quarter with a 13-5 lead. Hamilton only managed three singles with the wind and Ottawa won the Big Four title 14-8. Meanwhile at Varsity Field, the final result was in doubt until the closing minutes. The first quarter had mostly seen the ball in Parkdale territory but T.A.A.C. failed to score until the second quarter, leading 3-0 at halftime. Parkdale came out in the second half with renewed vigour, scoring on a rouge and deadline before kicking a single in the fourth quarter to tie the score at three a side. Parkdale dominated the rest of the game and with a few minutes remaining, scored a try on a recovered fumble at the T.A.A.C. goal line.

In June of that year, the Governor General of Canada, Albert Henry George, Earl Grey had announced in a press release that he would donate a championship trophy for amateur rugby football. With Ottawa's victory over Hamilton, the Rough Riders anticipated facing the University of Toronto for the Grey Cup, but the office of H.P. McGiverin, a Member of Parliament and trustee of the cup, announced that the O.R.F.U. had been recognised by the cup's trustees and that neither the university or Big Four champions would be awarded the cup without first defeating the O.R.F.U. champion. To the players and the public however, the Varsity/Rough Riders game was the biggest game of the year. Fifty years later while being interviewed on CBC Radio, Smirle Lawson was asked about the first Grey Cup game and he went on to describe the Varsity/Ottawa match. He described how the game had captured the imagination of the public with fans lining up for two days to get tickets. The game was played at Rosedale field, where new bleachers had recently been erected, instead of Varsity Field, which had a smaller seating capacity at the time. Lawson recalled that "there wasn't a square inch of space left on the grounds in old Rosedale Field" and that some fans watched the game from trees and telegraph poles. 11,000 packed the stadium while another 10,000 in Ottawa stood outside the offices of two local newspapers watching dummy figures on a mock-up gridiron to follow the play as it

was relayed from Toronto. Ottawa was favoured to win, and their boisterous fans had a band, which played a song called, 'We're Sixty Minutes from the Championship'. For their part, the Varsity fans formed the word, 'Toronto' in the bleachers with their blue and white sweaters, and sang with the 48th Highlanders band. The weather was clear but the field was wet and sticky from the previous night's frost. Lawson was in his final year studying medicine and was given a unique incentive to perform in the game: the assistant professor of surgery told him that he would be awarded 100 marks in surgery if he scored three tries in the game – he would pass the course with flying colours, scoring his third try in the final minute of the game to defeat Ottawa 31-7.

The following weekend, the Dominion Championship game was played at Rosedale Field between Varsity and Parkdale. Public interest in the game was much lower than the Varsity/Ottawa game a week earlier due to the popular perception that Parkdale were a lesser opponent than Ottawa. The 3,807 spectators in attendance couldn't have known that they were witnessing a momentous event in Canadian sports history: the first Grey Cup game. As expected, Varsity dominated the game. Hugh Gall scored the first point in Grey Cup history when he kicked the ball downfield across the Parkdale goal line, where it was recovered by a Parkdale player, who was tackled before he could run the ball out. Varsity soon had possession deep in the Parkdale zone following a Parkdale turnover and a penalty, and Gall ran an end run and into the end zone for a major. Before the end of the half however, Gall fumbled the ball deep in the Varsity zone after mishandling a lateral pass, and the loose ball was pounced on for a touchdown by Tom Meighan. In the third quarter, Varsity capitalized on a Parkdale error when a fumble at the Parkdale 40-yard line was dribbled downfield by Varsity and scooped up by Murray Thompson who ran it in for a try. With a lead of 14-6, Hugh Gall began to demonstrate his brilliance as a kicker, scoring six consecutive singles – he kicked a total of eight singles in the game, which is still a Grey Cup record. With Gall's superior punting, Varsity's field position had improved as the game progressed. On the final play of the game, Smirle Lawson scored a try and Varsity won the Dominion championship 26-6. Ironically, although they were the first Grey Cup champions, the University of Toronto players were not awarded the cup that day: perhaps it was due to the distraction of having been asked to serve for another year, but after having announced the donation of the trophy, Lord Earl Grey and his staff failed to have the cup manufactured in time for the game. The oversight was noticed when trustee, H.P. McGiverin, had written to the Governor-General's secretary two weeks before the match, asking about the cup. The Varsity players would have to wait until the following March to receive the trophy.

Since that day in December 1909, the Grey Cup game has been played annually with the exception of the years 1916-1919 due to the First World War and the Spanish influenza pandemic. This year the 100th Grey Cup game will be played in Toronto once again. It will be watched by a crowd that will likely number around 55,000 and be seen on television by millions more. The venue will be the Rogers Centre, seven kilometres from Rosedale Field where that historic game was played over a century ago.

Sources:

"Canadian Football: The Grey Cup Years" by Frank Cosentino, 1969 Musson Books

"Heroes of the Game: A History of the Grey Cup" by Stephen Theile, 1997 Moulin Publishing

“The Blue and White: A Record of Fifty Years of Athletic Endeavour at the University of Toronto” by T.A. Reed, 1944 University of Toronto Press
 The Globe and Mail (various editions from 1909 and 1959)
 Interview with Smirle Lawson on CBC Radio’s “Assignment”, 1959
 1987 Grey Cup program

This article first appeared in the November, 2007 edition of Paw Prints, the newsletter of the Lionbackers fan club, and was updated in 2012.

In Memoriam

Provided by Leo Ezerins, Executive Director, CFL Alumni Association in conjunction with the efforts of Shelly Kates.

Coach	Bud	Riley			
Player	Charlie	Collins	Montreal	Saskatchewan	
Player	Alex	Webster	Montreal	New York Giants	
Player	Earl	Lindley	Edmonton		
Player	Al	Brenner	Hamilton		
Player	Doug	MacIver	Winnipeg	Toronto	
Player	Pete	Thodos	Calgary	Winnipeg	BC
Player	Dave	Mann	Toronto		
Player	Lorne	Benson	Winnipeg		
Player	Joe	Blanchard	Edmonton		
Player	Ray	Nettles	Ottawa		
Player	Jimmy	Carr	Montreal	Philadelphia	

Memorable Moment No. 4

60 in Twelve

by Brian Marshall

In today's 18 game seasons, 60 touchdown seasons are pretty common place by CFL teams, especially the point leaders, but they were not common back when the teams only played 12 games in a season. In fact there are only two teams in professional football history that have scored 60 or more touchdowns in a twelve game season and one of them was the 1955 Montreal Alouettes of the IRFU (Interprovincial Rugby Football Union). The other team was the Los Angeles Rams, of the NFL, who scored 64 touchdowns during the 1950 NFL season. When the respective seasons for each of the 1955 Montreal Alouettes and the 1950 Los Angeles Rams are reviewed, interesting similarities can be seen. Just, for a moment, think about what 60 TDs represents in a 12 game season, it is an average of 5 per game in the case of the '55 Alouettes and an average of 5.33 per game in the case of the '50 Rams. It is a feat that quite simply just wasn't done and the fact there are only two teams in professional football history that have done it, one in the Canadian game and one in the American game, gives you a feeling for the magnitude of the task.

The 1955 Alouettes scored their 60 TDs as follows; 26 by rushing, 31 by receiving, 1 by a kickoff return and 2 by fumble returns while the 1950 Rams scored their TDs as follows; 28 by rushing, 31 by receiving, 3 by a kickoff return, 1 by an interception return and 1 by a fumble return. Montreal converted 56 of their TDs while the Rams converted 59 of their TDs and both teams scored one safety. As far a field goals go, the Rams made 7 of their 14 attempts while the Alouettes made 6 of their 11 attempts. The real difference, in terms of the points, lies in the difference between the Canadian game and the American game at the time. The Canadian game allows for a single point to be scored on kicks, for example punts and missed field goal attempts, into the end zone that are not run out and, at the time, a TD was only worth 5 points. As an interesting exercise and in an effort to normalize the points between the two teams we could add a point to each TD scored by Montreal, therefore +60, but we should subtract the 12 singles because they are not possible in the American game hence that leaves us with an additional 48 points. Montreal scored a total of 388 points in 1955 which gives us $388 + 48 = 436$ or an average of 36.33 points per game. The 1950 Rams scored 466 points for an average of 38.83 points per game. To put it another way, the 466 points represents a point being scored every 1.55 minutes, just over a minute and a half, or about 93 seconds.

Both teams set multiple league records for team scoring categories, such as most points in a season and most touchdowns in a season, in their respective seasons and each team had players who either set records and/or led the league in various categories along with each team being well represented on the various All-Pro teams. Interestingly, both teams had identical 9 and 3 won/lost records on the season and both teams made it to their respective overall Championship games and both teams lost. Now, mind you, the Rams lost a squeaker, on a late field goal, in the dying seconds of the game to the Cleveland Browns while the Alouettes lost convincingly 34 - 19 to the Edmonton Eskimos for the second consecutive year. The Alouettes led after the first half 19 - 18 but failed to score a point in the second half.

Memorable Moment No. 5

My Most Memorable Moment In Canadian Football History: The B.C. Lions' 2011 Season

by James Paul Garrison

Trying to choose a single most memorable moment in Canadian football history wasn't as easy as I thought it would be; there have been so many remarkable moments that I have witnessed as a fan on television or in person, and so many more that I have read about. In the end I chose a moment that occurred quite recently and very close to home.

Being situated at the very edge of the continent and with an imposing mountain range separating it from the rest of the country, British Columbia missed out on the Grey Cup fanfare of the first half of the twentieth century. That changed after Vancouver hosted the 1954 British Empire Games, which had necessitated the construction of Empire Stadium, which allowed the B.C. Lions to come into existence. The team, which started from scratch without any kind of an expansion draft, struggled on the field during its first decade, but were a great success at the box office – the people of Vancouver had football fever and the Lions were the stars of the local sports scene.

Sadly, when I started watching the team in the late 1980s, interest in the team began to decline, as a constantly expanding television universe brought sports fans a vast array of options. During the 1990s, $\frac{3}{4}$ of B.C. Place Stadium's seats were often empty during the team's home games. The Vancouver Canucks had captured the fans hearts, playing in front of sold out crowds - winning record or otherwise, and local sports fans often gave the Lions little attention. One shining moment for the Lions during the era however, occurred in 1994, months after hockey fans rioted in the streets following the Canucks' loss in game 7 of the Stanley Cup finals. The Lions – the true underdogs in so many ways, won both playoff games on the road, before defeating the Baltimore Stallions on the final play of the game before a home crowd at B.C. Place. Until that game, the Lions were the only one of the original C.F.L. teams that had not won the Grey Cup in Vancouver.

The Lions slowly began to win over Vancouver Sports fans after Wally Buono took over the head coaching duties in 2003. There was now a level of excitement in the crowds at the games that had been absent during the 1990s. The team won the Grey Cup in 2006, but after losing the Western Final the following year, the team became inconsistent on the field, and although they never missed the play-offs, Grey Cup appearances were elusive.

The 2011 season began with much anticipation: after having been closed for a year and half for renovations, B.C. Place would reopen late in the season with a new retractable roof and the stadium would host the Grey Cup game. Every team starts every season with the hope that they will win the championship, but when a team's city will be hosting the big game, the stakes are higher: winning the Grey Cup in front of a home crowd is extra special.

The city was still stinging from the riots that had followed another Canucks loss in the Stanley Cup finals, and the start of the C.F.L. season provided a positive new focus, but Grey Cup glory in 2011 seemed like a fantasy after the Lions lost their first five games of the season. Morale was low, and fans wondered whether the team would even make the playoffs, but then the team acquired receiver, Arland Bruce III from the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, and the team began to regain its confidence. The team started winning again - one win after the other and it occurred to me that in B.C. sports that year, there were several parallels with 1994: the Canuck's Stanley Cup

appearances, the minor league baseball, Vancouver Canadians won their league championships in 1994 and 2011 and B.C. had hosted recent high profile international sporting events (the Commonwealth games in 1994 and the Winter Olympics in 2010) – could the stars be aligning for another miracle finish for the Lions?

The team had found its groove and after their dismal start, the Lions won 11 of their final 13 games - including an eight game winning streak, to secure first place. The Lions defeated the Eskimos 40-23 in the Western Final and it was clear that this was a team of destiny. Seeing the Lions defeat the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 34-23 to win the Grey Cup in front of a home crowd the following weekend was a very special experience. It was a classic story of overcoming adversity to achieve greatness, with what team president, Dennis Skulsky later decribed as being a “Disney ending”. In the short term, it helped restore the civic pride that the city had gained during the Olympics the year before, which had been damaged by the Stanley Cup riots, but as years pass it will no doubt be remembered as a remarkable turnaround season for the team, and will live on in the annals of Canadian football history.

Memorable Moment No. 6

1936 Grey Cup: Won by Default!

by Brian Marshall

The title says it all and yes there was a Grey Cup won by default, it happened in 1936. If you peruse the literature record you will see that for 1936 there is a notation indicating the 24th Grey Cup Game being played in Toronto on December 5, 1936 between the Sarnia Imperials and the Ottawa Rough Riders. There was a game played between the Sarnia Imperials and the Ottawa Rough Riders on Saturday, December 5 in Toronto at the University of Toronto Athletic Field but it wasn't the Grey Cup game, it was the Eastern Canada Championship game. The score of the game was 26 - 20 in Sarnia's favour and the general sentiment was that it was the greatest game ever by those who had witnessed the game. A Toronto Globe and Mail article read "Packed into that one hour of playing time was enough football and enough excitement for an entire season." And a further comment was as follows "It was the kind of game that not only sent the thrills up your spine but left you with the thought that it was just too bad that either team had to lose such an encounter." The winner of the Eastern Canada Championship game would play for the Dominion Championship, the winner of which was awarded the Grey Cup, which was proposed for the following Saturday.

On December 2, 1936 the WCRFU (Western Canada Rugby Football Union) withdrew the West's challenge for the Dominion Championship and authorization was not given to the Western Champion Regina Roughriders to play for the Grey Cup. Keep in mind the Eastern Championship game was on December 5, 1936 but take a seat and buckle in because there was more drama unfolding in the West. The Roughriders appealed directly to the CRU (Canadian Rugby Union) and apparently there was a message sent to the CRU late on December 6, 1936, by the WCRFU, cancelling the previous message withdrawing the West's challenge for the Dominion Championship. Apparently the WCRFU brass had voted in favour of renewing the West's challenge. Then five senior officials of the WCRFU, objecting to the Roughriders being allowed back in on a second ballot, tendered their resignation which meant the WCRFU was on

the brink of collapse and all the while the Regina Roughriders were preparing for the upcoming game. It was looking like the Dominion Championship game (aka Grey Cup game) was on but it was going to have to be played in Sarnia, rather than Toronto, on Saturday, December 12, 1936. Then late on Monday night, December 7, 1936, senior officials of the Regina Roughriders met and decided the Roughriders were not going to muddy the waters any further and agreed to not challenge for the Dominion Championship. There were two reasons for the decision; a) the Regina officials did not wish to cause any further dissention in the ranks and b) there was a little matter regarding five imports that were deemed ineligible by the CRU. If the truth be known it was over the imports that this whole mess started.

The Sarnia Imperials were notified on the morning of Tuesday, December 8, 1936 that the game was off which was just as well because some injuries had cropped up on the Sarnia team to key players. In the end a Dominion Championship game was never played and the Grey Cup was awarded, by default, to the Sarnia Imperials who were, simply, the last contenders remaining. This begs the question, If there wasn't an actual Dominion Championship game played, and the Grey Cup was awarded by default after December 5, 1936, can the Eastern Canada Championship game played on December 5, 1936 in Toronto be truly called the "24th Grey Cup Game" as it is in the literature record? The other question that results from researching the information for this article is "If the Western Union was referred to as the WCRFU as late as December 1936, well after their season had ended, did the WIFU (Western Interprovincial Football Union) actually officially start in 1936? It appears the WIFU was not an official entity in 1936 as has been stated as such in the literature record over the years. According to the Toronto Globe and Mail article dated Monday, March 1, 1937, discussing the CRU meeting held "over the weekend", the CRU had received an application for affiliation from the WIFU, which included Winnipeg, Regina and Calgary, all formerly of the WCRFU. In a Toronto Globe and Mail article dated January 6, 1937, regarding WCRFU President A. M. Naismith's proposal of January 5, 1937, the following was stated "the West is prepared to abolish the WCRFU and have our various unions affiliate with the CRFU". It appears, based on the newspaper articles mentioned, to be clear the WIFU was an official entity beginning in 1937 and it is unfortunate that at some point there was mention of the WIFU beginning in 1936, in some form of media, without corroboration. The resulting negative aspect of that effort was that many others simply echoed that point, without doing their own research to confirm the information, in a number of articles and books since that time. This led to a situation where it became generally accepted that the WIFU started in 1936.

Society News

On the Membership Front

Talk to your friends, talk to your neighbours, talk to your colleagues at work. The CFRS is always looking to add members to our growing Society.

On the Newsletter Front

We would like to receive articles for the March 2013 issue. Please send your articles, in an MS WORD format, to Brian Marshall at bdmstmarys@rogers.com.

Upcoming Meetings

Stay tuned for news about the AGM

Projects in the Hopper

a) CFRS Stats Committee; we need interested persons who are willing to do research perusing newspapers from the 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s. Please contact Brian Marshall (see email above) for more details.

b) The 1954 IRFU Players by Brian Marshall

- this is a book with a “bio”, including junior/intermediate teams, for 279 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 300+ 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