

REED TURCOTTE

THREE DOWN



FOOTBALL

Past, Present & Future

THREE DOWN FOOTBALL

By **Reed Turcotte**

Newspaper & Magazine Publisher,
Author & Emphatic Storyteller

E-Edition

PUBLISHED BY: BCP Publishing

Division of Boundary Creek Printing & Publishing Co.
Ltd. (est.1896)

Copyright 2018

Thank you for downloading this book. Although this is an e-edition, it remains the copyrighted property of the author and may not be reproduced, scanned, or distributed for any commercial or non-commercial use without permission from the author. Quotes used in reviews are the exception. No alteration of content is allowed.

If you enjoyed this book, then encourage your friends to download their own copy.

Your support and respect for the property of this author is appreciated. Pictures and logos used in this book are from Google unless otherwise stated.

Website: www.threedownfootball.ca

“The words that affect us most are the ones that inspire mankind to think for themselves”

Reed Turcotte (1991)

Contents

Acknowledgements

Prologue

- ¹
- 7** Introduction: History of the Canadian Football League put in perspective and in chronological order
- 33** Chapter 1: The BC Lions were not invited into the 'old boys club' at first
- 91** Chapter 2: Calgary Stampeders ride into Canadian football in a big way
- 109** Chapter 3: The Eskis in Edmonton had (have) it all and are something special indeed
- 129** Chapter 4: Everyone knows that the Saskatchewan Roughrider fans are the league's best
- 157** Chapter 5: In Winnipeg, football is a passion that knows no bounds
- 175** Chapter 6: The Argos in Toronto have been up then down more times than a yo-yo
- 201** Chapter 7: Hamilton's Tiger-Cats have a lot more than history going for them
- 215** Chapter 8: The Nation's Capital have had both the Roughriders and Redblacks
- 235** Chapter 9: The Montreal Alouettes had their own God – Anthony Calvillo

- 251** Chapter 10: Are the Atlantic Schooners finally going to be the CFL's tenth team?
- 259** Chapter 11: An in-depth look and wrap-up of the 2017 football season
- 273** Chapter 12: CFL included the Baltimore Stallions, Birmingham Barracudas, Las Vegas Posse, Sacramento Gold and more
- 283** Chapter 13: A look at Doug Flutie's influence on football in Canada and the United States
- 296** Chapter 14: Mothers - don't let your babies grow up to be football players
- 331** Chapter 15: We also have a football Hall of Fame. We tell you who's there
- 366** Chapter 16: Millennials love these "new media" forms of football
- 403** Chapter 17: Minor, High school and University football in Canada is really cool
- 409** Chapter 18: Musings and thoughts
- 418** Chapter 19: About this author and his passion for Three Down Football in Canada
- 422** Epilogue

425 to 429 List of television football announcers

Acknowledgements

A special heartfelt thankyou goes out to my wife Lorraine, who besides being my confidante has assisted me with my last few newspapers, magazines and my previous four books, as well as this one.

I have been blessed to have plied the newsprint trade over the last forty-one years and able to hob-knob with many prominent football journalists and successful football players, general managers, presidents and owners, many who are mentioned in this book. It has been an honor to publish the 'history' of football for all fans in Canada.

The fiery football used on the cover is courtesy of all-free-download.com

CFL Hall of Famer Annis Stukus commented many decades ago, "The CFL's been dying for thirty years – it'll be dying thirty years from now."

Prologue

A Roller-Coaster called the CFL

Earliest mention of football: “he who at any time got the ball into his hands, run with it till overtaken by one of the opposite part; and then, if he could shake himself loose from those on the opposite side who seized him, he run on; if not, threw the ball from him, unless it was wrestled from him by the other party, but no person was allowed to kick it.” William Hone 1826

From the 1860s and continuing right up-to the Grey-Cup game played in a blizzard in 2017, Canadian football has been played more or less continually north of the 49th in one form or another. In the early era, the players, coaches, managers and owners were of white heritage and all were among the most prominent citizens in the city they served. Today’s owners, managers and coaches still have an air of exhilaration around them (although the general managers, coaches and players are no longer just white Europeans) but the prominence that they had in

years gone-by has been greatly over taken by other sports in the last few decades.

The quarterbacks or in some markets, the running backs or receivers, were the leader of Canada's sports world and they were the person(s) the community looked up to and idolized. Football was the life blood and the heart and soul of the city they served. In the early days the town's media (mostly newspapers) promoted these players and the team they played for in each and every issue. Readers devoured the sports section and every word printed on the local football team was discussed and in many cases, argued about in the local coffee shops, pubs and places of work.

Once upon a time, the CFL was looked upon as the forerunner in the world of Canadian sports and their teams were a living, breathing identity that in many cases took on the persona of their owner or general manager. This is not necessarily the case now, today's teams are doing well on television (TSN had record viewers for the 2017 Grey Cup battle) but not in the stands, as millennials (especially younger immigrants) have not taken to the sport as they have to the new darling on the block-soccer. These attitudes will most likely change in the next few years due to the use of smart phones as a viewing platform, Fantasy Football, e-sports and gambling will also become a much bigger player in the future of football in Canada.

This book portrays the saga of the Canadian football league from the late 1800s until today. It starts out in chronological order of Canada's football history and then spends a chapter on each team (past and present) that not only gives the reader a history lesson on each team but an in-depth look at the owners including their teams various idiosyncrasies. A chapter at the end of this book is full of anecdotes that happened during this author's sixty-three years as a CFL football fan and later as a publisher in the newspaper industry. This chapter has a touch of provocative fodder regarding early B.C. Lions football players, politicians and so called celebrities who helped shape the city and the province the Leos called home beginning in 1954.

It was in this environment that this writer honed his publication skills and developed his insight into the CFL. Many of these 'stars in the making' ended up building their community in which they played into a much better place to live and they gave dreams to those who may have lost theirs. This chapter also touches on the dark side that the love of football has had on this writer's personal life.

The final chapters of this book tell the tale of the fall from grace of Canada's first true spectator sport and the real reasons behind its secondary status to hockey. University, High school and Minor football have their own chapter. The future of the CFL is also dissected including the latest on the issue of concussions. The

book finishes up with football musings, thoughts and a look at “new football”. In other words this book is basically an over-view of three down football over the past one-hundred and twenty-five plus years – warts and all.

There was a time when football in Canada was in better shape than its counterpart (NFL) south of us and the local Canadian teams were king of their domain. That was until Canadian footballs slip from grace. Today’s younger millenniums in many Canadian cities (Vancouver and Toronto for example) are not as involved with the CFL as the older generation was (is). They are more involved with the National Football League in the United States and all the hype that goes along with the juggernaut called the NFL.

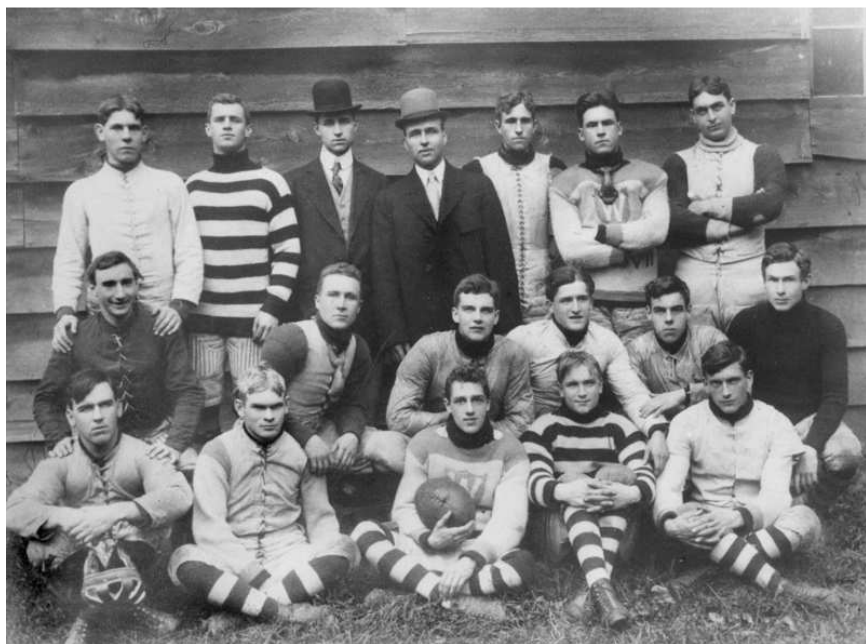
The owners of CFL franchises in Canada should shoulder some of the blame for what has been a form of ‘stale’ football over the last twenty years. In some markets the business model is broken. Younger fans ask, where is the fun, where are the tail-gate parties, where is the tie-in to social-media? Canadian Football has truly been on a roller coaster these one-hundred plus years, a veritable elevator ride of ups and downs, but the years ahead are also filled with promise and excitement. There is a lot of “up” left in the CFL and much of this has to do with their new commanding concept oriented commissioner Randy Ambrosie at

the helm; so the best days of football in Canada probably lay ahead, not in the past.

While the B.C. Lions are still up for sale (sort of), the league in general has owners who all have deep pockets and to a person (business) they seem to have a fondness for their teams. Depending on location and circumstances, each specific CFL team will face varied threats and changes. In some cases, owners have increased their reliance on television rather than seeking out more butts in the seats. Ultimately, the Canadian football of the future may bear little resemblance to its older fans. It may become a hybrid, part Canadian, part NFL and part flag football. Gaming, gambling, Fantasy Football and e-sports will most likely be part of the bigger picture. In the years ahead one may see new teams in Halifax, Quebec City, Saskatoon and Kelowna. One thing that you can bet on is that the CFL and football in general will be around for yet a long time to come.

This book is a compilation of stories, facts and information gleaned from hundreds of sources and put together in chronological order for an easy and understandable read. This book is an independent, not for profit work of art and is not affiliated with any football club, organization or other media.

Here then is the story of three down football as played on the north side of the forty-ninth parallel with a particular narrative on the Canadian Football League (CFL).



Western's 1908 football team

Picture courtesy JP Metras Sports Museum

Introduction

The Saga of Football in Canada

The history of Canadian football put in perspective and in sequential order using a multitude of sources and archives

The first acknowledged football game was a training match that took place on November 9, 1861, at University College (University of Toronto located just a few yards west of Queen's Park). One of the contestants on the pitch involved University of Toronto student Sir William Mulock who later became Chancellor of the school. A football club was created at the school of higher learning shortly afterward, although the rules they played under are hazy and impossible to ascertain more than one-hundred and fifty years later.

.The first account of the sport (football) put to paper was the contest played on October 15, 1862, on the Montreal Cricket Grounds, between the First Battalion Grenadier Guards and the Second Battalion Scots Fusilier Guards. The Grenadier Guards won by three goals, two rouges to nothing. In 1864, at Trinity College

in Toronto, F. Barlow Cumberland, Frederick A. Bethune, and Christopher Gwynn, devised rules based on the sport of rugby. The game gradually gained a rabid following. The Hamilton Football Club formed on November 3, 1869, Montreal formed a team April 8, 1872, Toronto was formed on October 4, 1873, and the Ottawa FBC on September 20, 1876. Of those clubs, only the Toronto team is still performing today.

Rugby, which shortly would be called Football, was introduced to North America in Canada by the British Army garrison in Montreal, which played a series of games with McGill University. In 1874, the U.S. Harvard University hosted Canada's McGill University to play the new game derived from rugby come football in a home-and-home series. The Canucks arrived several days early to see Boston and the surrounding areas. During this time they held practice each and every day. Watching from the sidelines, the Americans were surprised to see the Canadians kick, chase, and then run with the ball. Picking up and running with the ball violated a basic rule of the American game of the day. When the U.S. captain Henry Grant pointed this out to the captain of the Canadian team David Roger, the retort was simple; "Running with the ball is a core part of the Canadian game" the Yanks were told.

When the American asked which game the Canadians played, David replied "rugby". After some negotiation, it was

decided to play a game with half Canadian and half U.S. rules. Consequently, many of the similarities and differences between the Canadian and American games indeed came out of this original series where each home team set the rules. For example, Harvard, because of a lack of campus space, did not have a full-sized rugby pitch. Their pitch was only one-hundred yards long by fifty yards wide with undersized end zones (slightly less than the fifty-three and one-third yard width of the current regulation-sized field for American football). Because of the reduced field, the Harvard team opted for eleven players per side, four fewer than the regulation fifteen of Rugby Union.

To generate more offense, Harvard also increased the number of downs from three, as set by McGill, to four. The Harvard players enjoyed running with the ball so this rule was wholly adopted into all Harvard play following the two games with McGill. While the American team bested the Canadian (3 to 0 and a following tie game), both countries' flavours of football were forever changed and linked to one another. Both the Canadian and American games still have some things in common with the two varieties of rugby, and because of the similarities, the National Football League (NFL) had a formal relationship with the Canadian Football League (CFL) which started in 1997. McGill challenged Harvard University to a game, in 1874 using a hybrid game of English rugby devised by the University.

The first attempt to establish a proper governing body and adopt the current set of Rugby rules was the Football Association of Canada which was organized on March 24, 1873, followed by the Canadian Rugby Football Union (CRFU) founded June 12, 1880, and included teams from Ontario and Quebec. Later both the Ontario and Quebec Rugby Football Union (ORFU and QRFU) were formed (January 1883), followed by the Interprovincial (1907) and Western Interprovincial Football Union (1936) (IRFU and WIFU).

By the 1870s the hybrid form of the Rugby game was being played regularly in Montreal among the garrison personnel, citizens and McGill University students. In 1874, McGill was invited to Cambridge, Massachusetts to play a game of “football” with Harvard. Within a year of their receipt, Harvard had persuaded other eastern US teams, known as the Ivy League, to adopt the game.

Although rugby featured spontaneity of play, the Americans soon made the style of play more organized and subject to planning and design. For example, where rugby called for the ball to be put into play by a scrum, with possession going to whoever won the ball from the scrum, the Americans introduced a “snap back” system and a certain number of attempts to gain a set amount of yardage or give up possession.

The continual evolution and development of the American game served to influence the Canadian more so, as British influence waned in Canada.

The CRFU reorganized into an umbrella organization forming the Canadian Rugby Union (CRU) in 1891. The original forerunners to the current Canadian Football League, was established in 1956 when the IRFU and WIFU formed an umbrella organization, The Canadian Football Council (CFC). In 1958, the CFC left the CRFU to become the CFL.

The Burnside rules closely followed American football that was incorporated in 1903 by the ORFU in an effort to distinguish it from a more rugby-oriented game. The Burnside Rules had teams reduced to twelve men per side, introduced the Snap-Back system, required the offensive team to gain ten yards on three downs, eliminated the Throw-In from the sidelines, allowed only six men on the line, stated that all goals by kicking were to be worth two points and the opposition was to line up ten yards from the defenders on all kicks. The rules were an attempt to standardize the rules throughout the country. The CIRFU, QRFU and CRU refused to adopt the new rules at first. Forward passes were not allowed in the Canadian game until 1929, and touchdowns, which had been five points, were increased to six points in 1956, in both cases several decades after the Americans had adopted the same changes.

Gradually, the prestige associated with the CRU's Dominion title led to more uniformity in rules. The Grey Cup game, first played in 1909, symbolized henceforth the Canadian championship. The first game was played between University of Toronto, representing the CIRFU, and the Toronto Parkdale Canoe Club (ORFU). The U of T won the match 26 to 6.

Western teams competed for the trophy for the first time in 1921. The game between the Edmonton Eskimos and the Toronto Argonauts was won by Toronto 23 to 0. Nevertheless, there was no question that the best football was being played by the university teams during the early years of the Grey Cup.

Under Harry Griffith, who was classified as an honorary coach, and with players such as Smirle "Big Train" Lawson and Hughie Gall, consecutive titles (1909, 1910 and 1911) were won by the U of T team. In those days a paid professional coach was not acceptable in a sporting match governed by the rules and conventions of amateur sport McGill, coached by Frank Shaughnessy, who's hiring as a professional coach, the first for such a purpose, created much controversy and was perhaps the best team from 1912 to 1919 however they refused to take time from their studies to pursue the Grey Cup.

During 1922, 1923 and 1924, Queens won three consecutive Grey Cups led by Harry "Red" Batstone and Frank "Pep" Leadley. An indication of the strength of the Queens team coached by Bill Hughes was evident in the score of the 1923 game. Queens defeated the WCRFU Regina Roughriders (Saskatchewan Rough Riders) by a score of 54 to 0.

From 1925 on, the Intercollegiate Union gave way to the stronger city-based teams and unions. Football began to attract

large numbers of spectators and teams sought ways to make the game more pleasing to the public. Clubs set out to attract proficient players and amateurism lost its control. In 1931, when the forward pass was approved for all Canadian leagues (it had long been part of the US game), the Montréal Amateur Athletic Association (*see* Montreal Alouettes), known as the Winged Wheelers, imported Warren Stevens from Syracuse University to play quarterback.

The team's success in winning the Grey Cup sparked a more intense search for American talent, especially by western teams, to augment the players on whom they could draw with their smaller population base.

Winnipeg Blue Bombers general manager, Joe Ryan, was able to sign nine Americans for the 1935 season for seven thousand, five hundred dollars. The move paid off handsomely as Winnipeg defeated the Hamilton Tigers (Hamilton Tiger-Cats) 18 to 12, the first Grey Cup victory for a western team. It also heightened the conflict between the CRU and the leagues competing for the Grey Cup.

The CRU was interested in maintaining at least a façade of amateurism, while the leagues wanted to field the best teams possible. The friction would continue until 1956 when the CRU was controlled by the leagues representing the nine strongest teams in Canada. An ORFU team from Sarnia had gained similar success because of sponsorship by an oil firm. The "Imperials", as they were known, were able to augment local talent with players such as "Bummer" Stirling, Norm Perry and the giant, Orm Beach. They were the 1934 and 1936 Grey Cup champions.

In an effort to stem the influx of American "imports", the CRU sought to impose a residence rule. It soon became obvious however, that the member clubs and leagues were not as adamant. The Grey Cup was gaining prestige and acceptance with the public. With the end of WWII and the resumption of the various leagues, the 1946 CRU meeting stipulated that each team could play with five American imports. Some teams, notably the Toronto Argonauts, preferred to play with an all-Canadian lineup. The Argos did so until 1950 and in the process won three consecutive Grey Cup championships under Coach Teddy Morris (1945, 1946 and 1947).

The primary differences between the Canadian and American games stem from rule changes that the American side of the border adopted but the Canadian side did not (originally, both sides had three downs, goal posts on the goal lines and unlimited forward motion, but the American side modified these rules and the Canadians did not). The Canadian field width was one rule that was not based on American rules, as the Canadian game was played in wider fields and stadiums that were not as narrow as the American stadiums

The Canadian game allows twelve players per side, compared to eleven in the US, and allows much more movement of players before the ball is put into play; only three downs, compared to four in the US, are allowed for the offensive team to make ten yards and retain control of the ball; the team receiving a punt must run it back - there is no option to call the ball dead by a "fair catch"; any member of the offensive backfield may be in motion prior to the snap of the ball.

Other minor differences exist; example there is a one yard restraining area between offensive and defensive lines. Partisans of the Canadian version claim it is more exciting and unpredictable than American football.

At each goal line is a set of forty foot high goal posts, which consist of two *uprights* joined by an eighteen and a half foot-long crossbar which is ten feet above the goal line. The goalposts may be H-shaped (both posts fixed in the ground) although in the higher-calibre competitions the tuning-fork design supported by a single curved post behind the goal line.

The sides of the field are marked by white sidelines, the goal line is marked in white, and white lines are drawn laterally across the field every five yards from the goal line. These lateral lines are called "yard lines" and often marked with the distance in yards from and an arrow pointed toward the nearest goal line. In previous decades, arrows were not used and every yard line (in both multiples of five and ten) was usually marked with the distance to the goal line, including the goal line itself.

The CRFU reorganized into an umbrella organization forming the Canadian Rugby Union (CRU) in 1891. The original forerunners to the current Canadian Football League, was established in 1956 when the IRFU and WIFU formed an umbrella organization, The Canadian Football Council (CFC). In 1958 the CFC left the CRFU to become the CFL.

The Canadian football field is 150 yards (137 m) long and 65 yards (59 m) wide, within which the goal areas are 20 yards (18 m) deep, and the goal lines are 110 yards (101 m) apart. In most stadiums today, only the yard markers in multiples of 10 are marked with numbers, with the goal line sometimes being marked with a G. The centre (55-yard) line usually is marked with a C (or, more rarely, with a 55). Hash marks" are painted in white, parallel to the yardage lines, at one yard intervals, twenty-four yards from the sidelines.

On fields that have a surrounding running track, such as Molson Stadium and many universities, the end zones are often cut off in the corners to accommodate the track. Until 1986, the end zones were twenty-five yards deep; giving the field an overall length of 160 yards (150 m), and a correspondingly larger cut-off could be required at the corners. This was particularly common among U.S.-based teams during the CFL's American expansion, where few American stadiums were able to accommodate the much longer and noticeably wider CFL field. The end zones in Toronto's BMO Field are only eighteen yards instead of twenty yards.

In the CFL, if the game is tied at the end of regulation play, then each team is given an equal number of offensive possessions to break the tie. A coin toss is held to determine which team will take possession first; the first team scrimmages the ball at the

opponent's thirty-five yard line and conducts a series of downs until it scores or loses possession. If the team scores a touchdown, starting with the 2010 season, it is required to attempt a two-point conversion. The other team then scrimmages the ball at the opponent's thirty five yard line and has the same opportunity to score. After the teams have completed their possessions, if one team is ahead, then it is declared the winner; otherwise, the two teams each get another chance to score, scrimmaging from the other thirty-five yard line. After this second round, if there is still no winner, during the regular season the game ends as a tie. In a playoff game, the teams continue to attempt to score from alternating thirty-five yard lines, until one team is leading after both have had an equal number of possessions.

The 1948 Grey Cup game, won by the Calgary Stampeders 12 to 7 over the Ottawa Rough Riders, was a catalyst in several ways. To be sure, the excitement generated by the westerners turned the final into a national celebration. But just as importantly for the development of football, the 1948 game marked an escalation in the quality of player attracted to play in Canada. Previously, many clubs got much of their import talent from among those with American college football experience. The American Football Conference's disbanding meant that many players would be available to the Canadian game.

It soon became obvious that the smaller centres of the ORFU (Toronto Balmy Beach, Kitchener, Sarnia and Brantford) could not compete. In fact, they seemed to be a hindrance to the Western Interprovincial Football Union (1936) and the eastern teams, known as the "Big Four". The 1954 game between Edmonton and Kitchener (actually a farm team for the Eskimos) represented the last time the ORFU was scheduled into the Grey Cup play-downs.

The Grey Cup was established in 1909 after being donated by Albert Grey, 4th Earl Grey and the Governor General of Canada as the football championship of Canada. Initially an amateur competition, it eventually became dominated by professional teams in the 1940s and early 1950s. The Ontario Rugby Football Union, the last amateur organization to compete for the trophy, withdrew from competition in 1954. The move ushered in the modern era of Canadian professional football, culminating in the formation of the present-day Canadian Football League in 1958.

Canadian football has mostly been confined to Canada, with the United States being the only other country to have hosted high-level Canadian football games. The CFL's controversial "South Division" as it would come to be officially known attempted to put CFL teams in the United States playing under Canadian rules between 1992 and 1995. The move was aborted after three years; the Baltimore Stallions were the most

successful of the numerous American teams to play in the CFL, winning the eighty-third Grey Cup. Continuing financial losses, a lack of proper Canadian football venues, a pervasive belief that the American teams were simply pawns to provide the struggling Canadian teams with expansion fee revenue, and the return of the NFL to Baltimore prompted the end of Canadian football on the American side of the border.

In Canada, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) made plans to televise the Grey Cup game between the Edmonton Eskimos and the Toronto Argonauts on November twenty-six, 1952 from Varsity Stadium in Toronto. The telecast would only be seen by those few with televisions who could access Toronto's CBLT. For their first television revenue, the Canadian Rugby Union (CRU, predecessor to the Canadian Football League) received \$7,500 for the Grey Cup TV rights.

In preparation for this inaugural telecast, technical testing as well as the audition of play-by-play men took place at the preceding playoff game between Sarnia Imperials of the Ontario Rugby Football Union (ORFU) and the Toronto Argonauts. A sportscaster from Hamilton's CHML's radio station, Norm Marshall, was the winner in the test run. Marshall was joined by Montreal broadcaster Larry O'Brien for this historic first televised football game in Canada. Marshall and O'Brien were each paid \$250 for their work in this game.

CBLT's programming during weekdays started with a test pattern at 7pm and ended before midnight. Airtime was limited but the CBC placed ads in newspapers to advise viewers of the first Grey Cup related programs. On CBLT's 'Big Revue' show, Argo coach Frank Clair presented his views on the upcoming game. On another program, football personality Annis Stukus diagrammed plays and discussed strategy for the game.

For those football fans without television sets there were other methods of viewing the game. Westinghouse in Hamilton installed over twenty sets so that their 8,000 employees and friends could watch the game. The Paddock and the El Mocambo Taverns in downtown Toronto each advertised that their 'Giant TV Screen' would be showing the game. Pubs with televisions in the Toronto area were filled to capacity and those with televisions at home had plenty of company on Grey Cup day.

Well-known Canadian sportsmen Harry 'Red' Foster's advertising firm handled this first football telecast which was sponsored by the Northern Electric Company and Sweet Cap Cigarettes. The Grey Cup Cavalcade show hosted by Annis Stukus preceded the game itself at 12:30 pm. with the game starting fifteen minutes later. Newspaper reports declared that the first televised football game had been a success and had been the most watched program in the brief history of Canadian television. The television audience was estimated to be 700,000 viewers.

The year 1960 was a big one for the CFL, the IRFU changed its name to become the Eastern Football Conference and the CFL allowed unlimited blocking on interception returns. The Calgary Stampeders moved into McMahon Stadium on Monday, August 15, after it took only 103 days to be built.

On September 14, four of the six directors of the Montreal Alouettes abruptly resigned their positions. The resignations of Lucien Beauregard, Morgan N. Johnston, David C. McConnell and W. Heard Wert left only owner-president Ted Workman and general manager-coach Perry Moss on the board. Rosters were reduced from forty players to thirty-four on September 15.

Ottawa's Ron Stewart rushed for 287 yards on sixteen carries in a game in Montreal against the Alouettes on Monday, October 10. He rushed for four touchdowns, one in each quarter, on runs of 39, 51, 51 and 37 yards. He broke the single-game record of 217 yards held previously by Hamilton's Gerry McDougall.

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers honored their eleven year veteran guard with "Buddy Tinsley Night" at half-time during their Thursday, October 13, 1960, game versus the BC Lions. The Winnipeg crowd of 16,773 was delighted when Tinsley lined up at fullback and took a hand-off from quarterback Kenny Ploen over from the BC one-yard line for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

At league meetings during Grey Cup week, Western teams dropped their insistence on sharing in the lucrative television rights payments received by the Big Four (Eastern) teams as a condition of accepting an interlocking schedule. It was agreed to begin a partially interlocking schedule in 1961, with travel costs to be offset by an across-the-board surcharge of twenty-five cents on the price of every ticket sold.

Until 1961 there was no interdivisional play; each conference decided a winner to meet in the Grey Cup game. Limited interlocking play after 1961 allowed east-west rivalries to develop, and this acted as a catalyst for the growth of the league. In 1968 J.G. (Jake) Gauder was appointed the new CFL Commissioner and would occupy that seat until 1984. In 1966 the Canadian Rugby Union finally gave their trusteeship of the Grey Cup to the CFL. During that year Montreal beat Ottawa by the score of one to nothing tying the lowest score ever recorded, a one to nil game out-come also happened in 1949 between Winnipeg and Calgary.

Highlights from the 1970s include artificial turf installed at Vancouver's Empire stadium, Sam Berger purchases the Montreal Alouettes both taking place in 1970. Nineteen seventy eight saw league attendance hit an all- time high of 31,831. By 1981 both divisions were playing sixteen games in a fully interlocking schedule and the league had reached a peak of success. The 1977

Grey Cup game was played on a frozen field and after words took on the nickname, “the ice bowl”. In 1986 the schedule was increased to eighteen games. The structure and success of the league had allowed for non-profit community ownership of the local teams. Traditionally only the Toronto, Hamilton and Montréal franchises were privately owned. Gate receipts and lucrative TV contracts allowed teams to remain profitable.

The early 1980s appeared promising for Canadian football and the fortunes of the CFL appeared to be at an all-time high. Attendance climbed, sponsorship appeared to be increasing and the Grey Cup game was played indoors for the first time at BC Place Stadium. At the same time, the success was simply a veneer. The Montréal team was in serious financial trouble in 1982 and folded prior to the 1987 season, forcing the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to the eastern division. By the late 1980s, attendance had dropped significantly at Grey Cup games and sound financial contracts with sponsors like Carling O'Keefe and various television networks were not forthcoming.

The ensuing decline in attendance, gate receipts and Television revenue hit the CFL and individual franchises hard. The loss of Montréal intensified the financial difficulties facing the league. The imposition of a salary cap curtailed excess spending, but franchises in Calgary, Ottawa and BC all required infusions of private capital to continue operations, and there remain only 3

teams with community ownership: Winnipeg, Edmonton and Saskatchewan.

Private ownership led to more aggressive marketing and finally to expansion into the United States, with the admission of the Sacramento Gold Miners in 1993 and teams in Baltimore, Shreveport and Las Vegas in 1994. Concerns over the Americanization of the league were legion, particularly among Canadian players. The success of the Baltimore franchise, which reached the Grey Cup game in their inaugural 1994 season, only deepened these concerns. The league, however, was committed to US expansion. The Sacramento franchise was moved to San Antonio before the 1995 season, and Las Vegas, which failed miserably on and off the field, was put on hiatus while new ownership could be found. Franchises were awarded to Memphis and Birmingham for 1995, and the league continued to pursue other American locations.

Baltimore coached by Don Matthews proved to be the only franchise to achieve any success. They led the CFL in attendance in both 1994 and 1995 and defeated the Calgary Stampeders (led by Doug Flutie) in the 1995 Grey Cup. The other four US teams all failed at the gate and folded following the 1995 season. The Cleveland Browns moved to Baltimore in 1996 and the Stallions relocated to Montréal for 1996, reviving the Alouettes franchise. With the re-emergence of Montréal, the

league returned to its traditional format of 4 teams in the east and 5 in the west, with Winnipeg shuttled westwards.

While the experiment with US expansion failed, much-needed money was poured into the CFL through expansion fees and a US cable TV contract was renewed for 1996. The league survived the 1996 season and instituted a salary cap to ease its financial problems. In the late 1990s, attendance in the CFL grew, sponsorships increased and television network ratings went up. Nevertheless, the Ottawa Rough Riders were disbanded in 1996, forcing the league to once again move Winnipeg eastwards.

Most CFL historians agree that the 2002 season was a success for the CFL. Two teams that had previously folded, the Ottawa Roughriders (now Renegades) in 1996 and Montreal Alouettes in 1987 made successful comebacks in recent years with the Alouettes winning the 2002 Grey Cup against the Edmonton Eskimos. Canadian football was also staging a remarkable comeback in Québec at every level; television ratings were up both on TSN and CBC; and a new 3-year collective agreement had been struck with the Players' Association, which added an additional import player to each roster and increased the salary cap by \$160,000 to \$2.44 million annually per club.

The CFL returned to an all-Canadian format in 1996. With nine teams, the league conducted a dispersal draft to distribute players from the shuttered American-based teams; however,

the Ottawa Rough Riders, in existence since 1876, folded after the 1996 season (another dispersal draft was conducted as result to distribute the former Rough Rider players amongst the remaining eight teams). Toronto and recently revived Montreal also were struggling; Montreal's woes were solved by moving to Percival Molson Memorial Stadium, a much smaller venue than the cavernous Olympic Stadium.

In 1997, the NFL provided a three million USD interest-free loan to the financially struggling CFL. In return, the NFL was granted access to CFL players entering a defined two-month window in the option year of their contract. This was later written into the CFL's collective bargaining agreement with its players. The CFL's finances have since stabilized and they eventually repaid the loan. The CFL–NFL agreement expired in 2006. Both leagues have been attempting to reach a new agreement, but the CFL broke off negotiations in November 2007 after Canadian telecommunications firm Rogers Communications paid \$78 million to host seven Bills games in Toronto over five seasons.

In 2002, the league expanded back to nine teams with the creation of the Ottawa Renegades. After four seasons of financial losses, the Renegades were suspended indefinitely before the 2006 season; their players were absorbed by the remaining teams in a dispersal draft, as was the case during 1996 and 1997.

In 2005, the league set an all-time attendance record with a total attendance of more than 2.3 million. With the absence of Ottawa from 2006 onwards, league attendance hovered around the 2 million mark. It stood at 2,029,875 in 2012 for a single game average of 28,193. The 2007 season was a recent high point with average game attendance of 29,167, the best since 1983.

With Mark S. Cohon as the twelfth commissioner of the league, the CFL entered a period of stability and growth. New television deals, two new collective bargaining agreements, the 100th Grey Cup celebration, and widespread stadium renovation and rebuilding highlighted this era. The 100th anniversary of the Grey Cup had the highest ever television ratings for a championship game in English Canada.

During the 2000s the CFL had the third highest per-game attendance of any North American sports league and the seventh highest per-game attendance of any sports league worldwide. A 2006 survey conducted at the University of Lethbridge confirmed that the CFL was the second most popular sports league in Canada, with the following of nineteen per-cent of the total adult Canadian population compared to thirty percent for the NHL.

The NFL had eleven percent following, with a total of twenty six percent following at least one of the pro football leagues. In other words, approximately eighty percent of Canadian football fans follow the CFL, and about fifty-five percent

follow the NFL. During Mark Cohon's time in office many of the teams either undertook major renovations to their existing stadiums, or constructed brand new stadiums. The Montreal Alouettes were the first to undertake this project, adding 5,000 seats to Percival Molson Memorial Stadium in time for the 2010 CFL season.

The Edmonton Eskimos and Calgary Stampeders also renovated their respective stadiums and facilities for the 2010 season. In 2011, the BC Lions played under a new, retractable roof in BC Place after spending one and a half seasons at Empire Field. In 2013, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers moved to an entirely new stadium at the University of Manitoba. The Hamilton Tiger-Cats began using their new stadium, Tim Hortons Field, after spending 2013 at University of Guelph's stadium and the first half of the 2014 season at McMaster University's football field following the demolition of the iconic Ivor Wynne Stadium.

In 2014, the Ottawa Redblacks kicked off their inaugural season (having been awarded a franchise in 2008), becoming the third Ottawa franchise in CFL history. The new Ottawa franchise returned the league to nine teams with five teams in West Division and four in the East. The Winnipeg Blue Bombers moved back to the West Division. The 2014 expansion Ottawa Redblacks played at the massively renovated Frank Clair Stadium, now branded as TD Place Stadium. In Mark Cohon's last year as

commissioner, he negotiated a new five-year collective bargaining agreement (from 2014 through the 2018 season) between the CFL and the CFLPA. The Toronto Argonauts entered a period of transition off the field, with new ownership and a new stadium.

The Argonauts were sold by businessman David Braley to Bell Media and MLSE chairman Larry Tanenbaum. At the start of the 2016 season the Argos moved to BMO Field after more than twenty seasons at the Rogers Centre (formerly called the Sky Dome from 1989–2005). Construction on New Mosaic Stadium for the Saskatchewan Roughriders was completed in October 2016 and the first game was played in the 2017 CFL season. On May 22, 2015, Michael Sam signed a two-year contract with Montreal Alouettes of the CFL. The signing made him the first openly gay player in the league's history. Sam left the team the day before the first preseason game, citing personal reasons.

Immediately following the 2015 season, Jeffrey Orridge announced a re-branding for the CFL, including a new logo, motto, uniforms for all nine teams and website. After not having a drug enforcement policy in effect for the 2015 season, the league and the CFLPA agreed to a new drug policy. On April 12, 2017 the Board of Governors and Jeffrey Orridge agreed to part ways, effective June 30, 2017; Orridge cited "differing views on the future of the league" between him and the Board of Governors for the departure, with both sides stating the decision was mutual

and amicable. His last day as commissioner was June 15, 2017. Jim Lawson, the CFL's Chair of the Board of Governors, took over the duties of interim Commissioner until a suitable replacement was found.

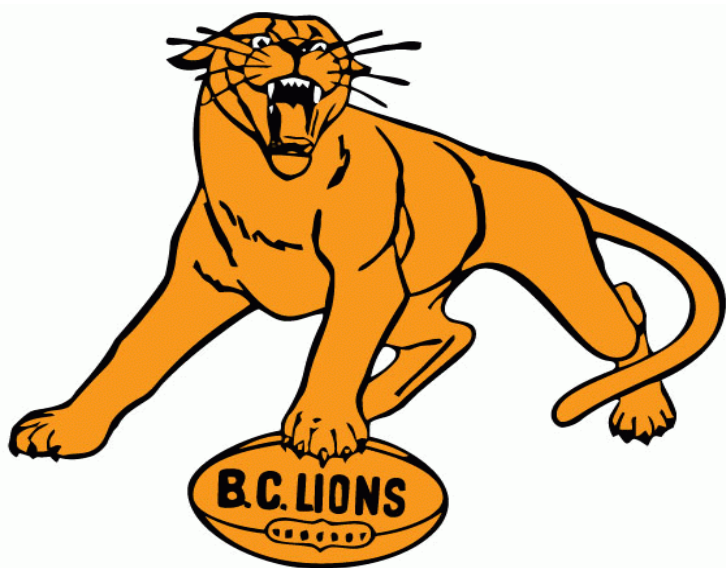
On June 29, 2017, the CFL announced Randy Ambrosie would succeed Orridge as CFL commissioner. The move was made official on July 5, 2017, with Ambrosie named as the fourteenth Commissioner of the league that day. Having spent nine seasons as a player with the Calgary Stampeders, Toronto Argonauts and Edmonton Eskimos from 1985 to 1993, Ambrosie is the first commissioner to have played in the league since Larry Smith left the position in 1996.

Aaron Hutchins in a 2013 MacLean's article stated that Canadian football history has been reconstructed one play at a time. Part of the story says that for decades, the record for most touchdowns scored by any single CFL player in a Grey Cup game was three, a record shared by three players: Red Storey in 1938, Jackie Parker in 1956 and Tom Scott in 1980. Then, in 2011, the record was shattered, not with any superstar performance in that year's game, but through dogged research of a game played nearly a century earlier, before the days of the forward pass. One long-forgotten member of the Hamilton Tigers, Art Wilson, scored four touchdowns in the 1913 Grey Cup, and he finally got his due.

It was just one in a long line of efforts to set the record book straight by Steve Daniel, the CFL's statistics guru, who has possibly the league's loneliest job. In modern professional sports, statistics are invaluable. And it was in his role as chief stat keeper that Daniel helped rediscover Wilson's record. Playing in front of 2,100 fans at the Hamilton Cricket Grounds a century ago, Wilson's record day was long lost in newspaper archives. The league's historian, Larry Robertson, had become aware of old news reports about the feat and, after bringing it to Daniel's attention, the duo spent months combing through newspaper archives. Among the eight dailies covering the game that day, they found a tangle of conflicting reports for how many touchdowns he scored, a consequence of reporters sitting in the stands without the benefit of television or instant replay.

Robertson has an additional theory. "Reporters in those days liked to have a drink or two," he says. In response to the Grey Cup being a blowout, with Hamilton defeating Toronto 44 to 2 he stated "I would say, by halftime, half the reporters started to lose interest in who was scoring the points on the field."

Named media plus the Canadian encyclopedia, team archives, history of Canadian broadcasting and Wikipedia are some of the sources that were used for this chapter



Chapter One

The Team No One Wanted

*“C’mon and roar you Lions roar, that’s what a Lion’s roar is for
from the mountains to the sea, you are the pride of all BC*

RAH -RAH

*So buckle down and play the game, you’ll lead us on to football
fame, we love the L, the I, the O, N, S*

*C’mon and roar you Lions, roar you Lions, roar you Lions roar
RAH- RAH- RAH”*

Written by Dal Richards

The BC Lions call Vancouver, B.C. home and they compete in the Western Division of the Canadian Football League (CFL) and play their home games at BC Place.

Their first year of operation was in 1954 and they have played nonstop every season since and they are the oldest dedicated sports franchise in the city of Vancouver and in the province of B.C. The Leos (their nickname) have appeared in the league's Grey Cup championship game ten times, winning six of those games, with their most current occurring in 2011.

The Leos were the first Western Canadian team to have secured the Grey Cup at home, having done so in 1994 and 2011, before Saskatchewan won in 2013, while also becoming the only team ever to beat an American-based franchise in a championship game, an act accomplished in 1994. The Lions hold the second longest playoff streak in CFL history, making the playoffs every season from 1997 to the 2016 CFL season. They failed to make the playoffs for the first time in over twenty seasons in 2017. Only the Edmonton Eskimos have had a longer playoff streak; theirs lasted from 1972 to 2005.

The BC Lions Football Club is owned by entrepreneur David Braley, who bought the club in 1997. Braley was a member of the Canadian Senate. As of 2017/18, the BC Lions Football Club executive committee consisted of five people; David Braley, owner and governor, Dennis Skulsky, vice chairman, and alternate governor. Ed Hervey is the new general manager; Wally Buono is head coach and alternate governor and George Chayka, vice president. The new president, in 2018, is Rick LeLacheur.

Compared to the rest of the country, senior football arrived late in British Columbia. Rugby unions had been organized in all of the Prairie Provinces by 1907 and the Western Canada Rugby Football Union had been formed in 1911. However, it would not be until 1926, after the sudden collapse of the Western Hockey League, that the British Columbia Rugby Football

Union was formed, and not until 1930 that the BCRFU would challenge for the right to represent the West in the Grey Cup. The Vancouver Meralomas were the most successful British Columbian team of the era. They played in the Western Final in 1930 and again in 1934, only to lose on both occasions to the Regina Roughriders of the Saskatchewan Rugby Football Union.

The BCRFU stopped challenging for the Grey Cup following the formation of the Western Interprovincial Football Union. After the BCRFU's collapse in 1941, the Vancouver Grizzlies joined the WIFU. They played only one season, finishing 1-7, before the WIFU suspended operations for the duration of the Second World War. In 1951, a group led by Ken Stauffer and Tiny Radar were inspired by Vancouver Sun columnist Andy Lytle's article to start a new football team in Vancouver that would play in the WIFU. The ownership group sent Radar and Orville Burke to represent them at the off-season WIFU meetings to initiate Vancouver's bid for a team. The Burkes were told to return to the meetings the following year with a \$25,000 good-faith bond if they could generate sufficient interest in the Vancouver area. The first meetings were held at the Arctic Club in November and a committee headed by Burke and Harry Spring of the Meralomas Rugby Club, set out to sell memberships at twenty dollars each.

Though Burke, Vic Spencer, and John Davidson offered the good-faith bond to the WIFU in 1952, the idea of having a Vancouver team was rejected when both Winnipeg and Saskatchewan voted against the idea of a fifth team. The group in Vancouver, however, did not give up their efforts to have a franchise in the WIFU.

On January 22, 1953, the first get-together of the club was held. In that meeting, Arthur E. Mercer was hired as the club's first president. Later in the year, Mercer, Bill Morgan, Bill Ralston, and Whit Matthews went back to the WIFU meetings. This time, they sold the idea of a fifth Western team, and Vancouver was granted a conditional franchise. They were required to provide a 15,000-seat stadium, sell at least 6,500 season tickets, and guarantee travel expenses for the visiting teams.

All the pieces began to fall into place when it was announced that Vancouver would host the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games, and that it would mean the building of a new stadium to be called Empire Stadium, which would seat 32,300 people. By Easter of 1953, the verbose Annis Stukus was enticed away from the Toronto Argonauts to return to the West to become the first public relations manager, general manager, and head coach of the franchise.

During the rest of 1953, a fan contest was held by the local media to pick the team's new name. The name was chosen

because it represented a local landmark and legend of the area. The name of the team was based on the Lions, twin mountain peaks that can be seen north-west of Vancouver. The twin mountain peaks was based on a legend that the mountains looked like two lions guarding the city. Through this landmark and legend, the "Lions" nickname became the winner in the fan contest to become the new name of the franchise.

After the fan contest, the name Vancouver was dropped from the team name. Though the franchise was based in Vancouver, Stukus decided to reject the idea of naming the team as the Vancouver Lions. Instead, he decided that the team should represent and encompass the entire province of British Columbia. In the end, Stukus introduced the team to the entire Canadian football world as the BC Lions.

The mountain lion also has a strong connection to the name of the team, as it appears in the BC Lions' logo. The mountain lion (or cougar) had an influence on the name of the team because it is renowned for its speed, courage and strength and is carefully respected by British Columbia's citizens as an amazing but dangerous predator. The new team also adopted the black and orange colours of the Meralomas team.

In their 1954 inaugural season the loquacious Stukus had the Vancouver and the whole Lower-Mainland crazy with football fever and he put together a team that made history when they

stepped on the field of Empire Stadium for their first home game, against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, on Saturday, August 28, 1954. In that game, fullback Byron (By) Bailey scored the first touchdown in franchise history in an eight to six loss to the Blue Bombers. The Lions were only able to manage a 1–15–0 record in their inaugural season. The team recorded their first franchise win against the Calgary Stampeders, on September 18, 1954 at Empire Stadium, with By Bailey scoring the winning touchdown in a nine to four Lions victory. On that night, the win caused the BC supporters to dance and celebrate in the streets. However, celebrations like this were not usual for Lions faithful during the 1950s due to the mounting losses.

In 1955, during their second year as a franchise, the Lions once again failed to make the playoffs though the team was able to show signs of improvement, finishing with a 5–11–0 regular season record. Despite this, Lions fans were stunned and stupefied at the move of the team directors to ask Annis Stukus to step down as the team's head coach in October of 1955. While fan reaction to his dismissal was noisy, Stukus still asked his admirers to continue their support of the BC Lions. Annis Stukus' assistant, Clem Crowe, was subsequently named as the new head coach for the upcoming 1956 season.

In the 1956 season, the Lions finished fourth in the West, posting a 6–10–0 record under Crowe's first season as head

coach. While this was a one-game improvement from the 1955 season, once again they were still not able to make the playoffs.

After the 1956 season, Bill McMahan assumed the role as team president. One of his first duties involved him bringing Kelowna native Herb Capozzi from the Montreal Alouettes and hiring him as the new general manager. However, BC continued to struggle on the field, finishing the 1957 season with a 4–11–1 record, missing the playoffs for the fourth straight year.

A year later, the on-field performance went from bad to worse for the Lions as they opened the 1958 season with five straight losses. The team's on-field struggles, caused Capozzi to fire Clem Crowe as the head coach and replace him with Danny Edwards, who returned after playing with the club during the 1957 season. The team was only able to manage three wins during the year, causing them to miss the playoffs once again. Although it was a season to forget, two rookies, Tom Hinton and Sonny Homer showed promising signs of being major future football stars which happened the following year.

During the off-season, Capozzi improved the team for the 1959 season, first by hiring Wayne Robinson from the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to become the new head coach, then bringing in a troop of veteran players to beef up and add more experience to the team. This was followed by the signing of a rookie running back Willie (The Wisp) Fleming to the team,

tallying yet more youth to play alongside Hinton and Homer. Capozzi's moves proved successful in the end. In 1959, the Lions managed their first winning season with a 9–7–0 record and were able to make their first playoff appearance with a final-game triumph over the Calgary Stampeders at Empire Stadium. The Lions' first playoff appearance ended with two straight losses to the Edmonton Eskimos. However, the team's future looked bright heading into the 1960s.

The high hopes of the Lions heading into the 1960 season faded when the team finished with a disappointing 5–9–2 record, which again eliminated them from playoff contention. It was unfortunate considering the team added rookie talents Steve Cotter, Lonnie Dennis, Jim Carphin, and Neal Beaumont to a team that had a strong core of veteran and young players from the previous season. The only constructive for the Lions happened at the end of the season, when Beaumont won WIFU Outstanding Rookie of the Year honors, becoming the first Lions player to win a major CFL award.

The Lions started the 1961 season by signing former Minnesota Golden Gopher Tom Brown to a contract, but the team continued performing poorly on the field. In September, the team made a major trade with the Calgary Stampeders, which was considered by much of the sports journalists to be a major gamble. In the trade, the Lions got quarterback Joe Kapp in the

deal while four Lions' players were sent to the Stamps. A week later, Wayne Robinson was relieved of his duties as head coach and was replaced by Assistant Coach Dave Skrien. The year ended with a dismal 1–13–2 record. In 1962, Skrien made an immediate impact in his first full season as head coach. The Lions finished the season with a 7 and 9 record, but the team finally had the look (and swagger) of a champion in wait. After eight years of hard work, the Lions were on the cusp of real football success.

Before the beginning of the 1963 season, a new optimism was articulated at the chances that the Lions would not only make the playoffs, but also contend for the Grey Cup. With a veteran roster headlined by Joe Kapp and arguably the best running back in Canada, Willie Fleming, the Lions not only finished with their first winning record, but won their first-ever regular-season conference title with a twelve to four record. After a two-one series victory over the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the Western Conference finals, the Lions lined up in the fifty-first Grey Cup game against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, which was played at Empire Stadium, which was the first time a Western team had hosted the Grey Cup. However, their momentum would be stalled as a series of injuries affected the team's performance in the championship game.

In the Grey Cup game, star running back Willie Fleming was injured after he received a late, out-of-bounds hit by Tiger-

Cat defensive tackle Angelo Mosca. This proved to be a huge blow to the Lions' chances of victory and Hamilton went on to win the Grey Cup. Over fifty years later Grandpa Mosca and Joe Kapp would get into a fight onstage during Grey Cup week in Vancouver. The grudge still exists to this very day. The following season (1964) was all Lions though, and revenge would be theirs.

After the season, Joe Kapp became the first BC Lion to receive the Jeff Nicklin Memorial Trophy as the Most Valuable Player of the Western Conference and Tom Brown became the first Lion to win the CFL's Most Outstanding Defensive Player Award. In addition, Dave Skrien became the first Lions head coach to receive the Annis Stukus Trophy as Coach of the Year, and kicker and part-time fullback Peter Kempf also became the second Lion to win the Dr. Beattie Martin Trophy for Rookie of the Year honours in the Western Conference.

After achieving an 11–2–3 regular season record in 1964, and defeating the Calgary Stampeders in a three-game series in the Western Conference finals, the Lions advanced to meet the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in a Grey Cup rematch at Toronto's Exhibition Stadium. In the rematch, Hamilton got their clock cleaned as Kapp, Fleming, and Bill Munsey, who had a two-touchdown, two-way starring effort, helped the Lions to their first Grey Cup victory. With the addition of two field goals and an extra touchdown by the field goal unit, the Lions won the Grey Cup for

the first time in franchise history with a 34 to 24 victory. The win ended eleven years of waiting for the BC's staunchly faithful supporters. At the end of the 1964 season, defensive lineman Tom Brown was named a CFL All-Star, a back-to-back Schenley award winner as CFL's Most Outstanding Lineman Award, and won the Jeff Nicklin Memorial Trophy as the Most Valuable Player in the Western Conference. Joining Brown as All-Stars on defence were Mike Cacic, Dick Fouts, and Munsey. Joe Kapp and tackle Lonnie Dennis were also named CFL All-Stars on offence.

Any hopes of the BC Lions becoming a dynasty team after their Grey Cup championship season quickly disappeared in 1965, as the team started to regress back towards the basement of the Western Conference. Before the beginning of the season fan favourite By Bailey left the team and the entire roster was starting to age causing the Lions to finish the season with a 6–9–1 regular season record. As a result, the Lions missed the playoffs a year after being on the pinnacle of the CFL world. It was clear to many that head coach Dave Skrien would never again experience the same triumphs as he achieved the previous two seasons.

The situation for the Lions went from bad to worse in the 1966 season as the team would go on to post a horrible 5–11 record. Due to the dreadful team performance, Herb Capozzi was fired as the Lions' General Manager after nine seasons as G.M.

and just two years after taking the franchise to consecutive Grey Cup appearances. In addition, Willie Fleming and Tom Hinton decided to retire, and Joe Kapp left the team to continue his playing career in the NFL with the Minnesota Vikings.

In the 1967 season, Denny Vietch became the new General Manager of the club. Denny Veitch's first move was to fire Skrien after the Lions lost their first three games of the season. Veitch named Jim Champion as head coach, but the Lions would end up finishing the season with a 3–12–1 record. The only two positives for the club were two new rookies, wide receiver Jim Young and kicker Ted Gerela, who would end up winning the Dr. Beattie Martin Trophy as the Western Conference's Rookie of the Year.

Following Skrien's departure, the Lions went through five head coaches between 1968 and 1976 while only qualifying for the playoffs three times. Champion would remain as head coach in 1968 season and CFL legend Jackie Parker was brought aboard as an assistant coach. Parker even came out of retirement to suit up in a Lions uniform for eight games as their quarterback that year. However, the Lions still finished the season with a 4–11–1 record, again missing the playoffs. Despite the lowly record, seven of those games were lost by less than a touchdown, which gave some indication that the team was indeed improving.

Eleven games into the 1969 season, after stumbling to a pitiable 1–10 record, Jim Champion was fired as head coach and

replaced by his assistant, Jackie Parker. The Lions responded by winning four of their last five games, and with a 5–11 record took third place in the Western Conference. The Lions were now in the playoffs but were thumped in Calgary by the Stampeders by a score of 35–21. Independently, Dave Easley won CFL and Western Division Rookie of the Year honours, and Jim Young was a Schenley finalist.

In 1970, the first artificial turf field in Canada was installed at Empire Stadium (3M's Tartan Turf) and Jim Young became the first Lion to win the Schenley Outstanding Canadian Award, but the team still finished fourth place in the Western Conference at 6–10 and missed the playoffs.

The 1971 season began with a major off-season reorganizing that saw Head Coach Jackie Parker elevated to General Manager, and replaced by former Saskatchewan coach Eagle Keys. Don Moorhead was recruited at quarterback, and a total of fifty-three different players put on a Lions uniform in a year of change, including movie and TV personality Carl Weathers (of Rocky fame), at linebacker. Bruising running back Jim Evenson finished the season with 1,237 yards to lead the Western Conference in rushing, and won the Eddie James Memorial Trophy. The Lions again finished the season at fourth place in the West Division with a 6–9–1 record, missing the playoffs for a second consecutive year. Parker became the first Lion (mostly as

an Eskimo) player inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

In 1972, the Lions added new players such as defensive back Rocky Long, running back Johnny Musso, linebacker Ray Nettles and centre Al Wilson, but finished fifth in their division with a five-eleven record. Jim Young won his second Schenley Award as Outstanding Canadian.

The Lions' fortunes improved during the 1973 season, as they posted a 5–9–2 record, good enough for a third-place finish in the Western Conference and a playoff berth, the first in four years. The Lions lost in the semi-finals to the Saskatchewan Roughriders 33–13 although linebacker Ray Nettles won the CFL's Outstanding Defensive Player award.

In 1974, the Lions showed continued improvement in posting an eight-eight record and again returned to the playoffs for the second straight year. They faced their familiar foe Saskatchewan in the semi-finals, where they lost once again, 24–14. Second-year running back Lou Harris replaced injured Johnny Musso to lead the Lions in both rushing and receiving, winning CFL All-Star honours in the process. The well-loved Annis Stukus became the first Lion inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame as a builder.

The Lions began the 1975 season with a change at quarterback, as Eric Guthrie and Peter Liske took over the

position, replacing Don Moorhead. They went on to lose five of their first six games before a shake-up was announced in August. General Manager Jackie Parker and head coach Eagle Keys were both dismissed, with Bob Ackles (a former Lions waterboy) moving up from his assistant general manager post and Cal Murphy elevated to head coach. The Lions played "five-hundred football" the rest of the season but finished in fifth place in their division with a 6 and 10 record.

The Lions' 1976 season concluded with a 5–9–2 fourth-place finish. Individually, John Sciarra became the second Lion to win the Schenley Award as the CFL's Most Outstanding Rookie, while Bill Baker won the Schenley Defensive Player award. Harry Spring became the second Lion inducted into the Hall of Fame in the builder category. Rookies and local B.C. boys, linebacker Glen Jackson and punter and place kicker Lui Passaglia were two cheerful spots in an otherwise disappointing season.

A complete off-season overhaul in the coaching staff brought Edmonton assistant Vic Rapp in as the tenth head coach of the Lions, as they got ready to open the 1977 season. A largely revamped Leo lineup included rookies Leon Bright, John Blain, Ken Hinton, and quarterback Jerry Tagge, as well as several newly acquired veterans. The Lions last-minute quarterback led heroics earned them the nickname, the "Cardiac Kids." They finished with a ten-six record, good enough for second place in the Western

Division and the first time the Lions had finished with a winning record since the Grey Cup year of 1964. BC opened the playoffs with a 33–32 upset of the Winnipeg at home before being destroyed 38–1 in Edmonton by the Eskimos in the Western Division final. Wide receiver Leon Bright captured the CFL's Most Outstanding Rookie award, and Al Wilson became the first Lion to win the CFL's Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman Award.

In 1978, the Lions finished the season at 7–7–2 and in fourth place in their division. Rookie running backs John Henry White and Larry Key provided a much improved rushing game, but depth was still the missing ingredient. That year also saw the emergence of rookie quarterback Joe Paopao, nicknamed the "Throwin' Samoan".

The Lions' 1979 season began with Tagge at quarterback, but his season and ultimately his career were ended by a knee injury. Led by Joe Paopao, the Lions skidded down the stretch, losing five games in a row. Despite this, the team finished third in the Western Conference with a 9–6–1 record, making the playoffs. In the semi-finals, the Lions were blasted 37–2 by the Calgary Stampeders. Jim Young retired at the end of the season, and Norm Fieldgate became the second Lions player to be inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. Rising costs, due in part to increased salaries and travelling as well as an aging Empire Stadium, now casted a shadow over the future of football

in Vancouver. To head off a crisis, the directors, led by past-president Jack Farley, developed a plan to sell stock and seek a strong partnership with a major corporate sponsor to keep operations viable while waiting for the construction of a new stadium in downtown Vancouver. The Lions failed to make the playoffs once again in 1980, despite a winning record of 8–7–1. Off the field, the decision was made to begin construction of a new indoor stadium in downtown Vancouver.

In 1981, the Lions returned to the playoffs with a third place divisional finish and a 10–6 record. The team qualified for the playoffs on the final weekend of the season with a victory over the Saskatchewan Roughriders that took place in a driving rainstorm at Empire Stadium. The key play was a late fourth-quarter fumble by Saskatchewan fullback Greg Fieger at the Rider two-yard line which the Lions recovered. The Lions turned this into a touchdown two plays later to take the lead for good after Saskatchewan had led for most of the game up to that point. In the playoffs, the Lions again upset the Blue Bombers 15–11 in the semi-finals before losing 22–16 in the Western Division final to eventual Grey Cup champion Edmonton. Paopao and second-year quarterback Roy Dewalt had wide-out Ty Grey as their deep-threat receiver, while rookie defensive back Larry Crawford led the CFL in interceptions. The Labatt Brewing Company became

the Lions' major sponsor in a marketing agreement that brought much needed financial stability to the team.

Standout wide receiver "swervin" Mervyn Fernandez was among the rookies who joined the Lions in 1982, winning the Jackie Parker Trophy as the Western Division's most outstanding rookie. Despite a 9–7 record, the Lions finished fourth in their division and failed to make the playoffs. As in the previous four seasons, the Lions got off to a fast start only to stumble badly after Labour Day. In many cases the Lions would lose crucial divisional games by a very large margin after Labour Day. Due to this troubling trend, head Coach Vic Rapp and his coaching staff, were dismissed. Lions' running back great Willie Fleming was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

In January 1983, former Edmonton defensive coordinator Don Matthews was named BC's new head coach. The Lions also moved into BC Place Stadium, their new home, which opened to a sold-out crowd in June 1983. The quarterback-receiver combination of Dewalt to Fernandez led the Lions' attack, while the defence set a new CFL record of forty-two interceptions. The Lions finished 11–5 for the second-best record in team history and returned to first place for the first time since the 1964 season. They marched into the playoffs, defeating Winnipeg in the Western Division finals, 39 to 21. The now Western Division champions then hosted the Toronto Argonauts in the 71st Grey

Cup, ending a nineteen year absence from Canada's classic game. BC Place fans watched in agony as the Argonauts defeated their hometown team in a close 18 to 17 match.

In 1984, the Lions' biggest trade since the Joe Kapp deal brought CFL All-Star James "Quick" Parker from Edmonton to shore-up their defence. The Lions again finished first in the Western Division with a league leading 12–3–1 record, but the second straight first-place finish was dampened by the late season loss of quarterback Roy Dewalt to injury. In a repeat Western finals matchup at BC Place, Winnipeg triumphed 31 to 14 and went on to win their first Grey Cup since 1962. Average crowds in excess of 40,000 in each of the first two years at BC Place reversed the team's financial fortunes, with stockholders receiving early repayment. Lions Joe Kapp and linebacker Tom Brown were inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

The Lions' 1985 season began with much promise and fanfare. Mervyn Fernandez shattered several team receiving records and second year receiver Jim Sandusky broke the 1,000 yard mark. Rookie defensive tackle Mike Gray was the most visible of several rookies. With depth and few injuries, the final season record of 13 and 3 was the best in team history, bringing the Lions their third consecutive first place divisional finish. The Lions avenged their prior year's playoff defeat by handing Winnipeg 42 to 22 loss despite the fact that the Blue Bombers had won both

regular season meetings and wide receiver Fernandez was out with a leg injury.

One week later, the same Lions line-up met Hamilton at the Olympic Stadium in Montreal. Twenty-one years of waiting ended with a 37 to 24 Grey Cup championship victory over the Tiger-Cats in the 73rd Grey Cup. Quarterback Roy Dewalt won the Grey Cup's Most Valuable Player award on offence, while defensive end James "Quick" Parker took home the Grey Cup's Most Valuable Player award on defence. Kicker Lui Passaglia was named the Grey Cup's Most Valuable Canadian. Don Matthews won his first CFL Coach of the Year award. Mervyn Fernandez became the first Lion to win the CFL's Most Outstanding Player Award and defensive tackle Mike Gray won both the CFL's Most Outstanding Rookie award and the Jackie Parker Trophy. Linebacker Tyrone Crews won the first of two consecutive CFL Players Association Outstanding Community Service Awards. The CFL champions returned to Vancouver for a victory celebration that swept not just downtown Vancouver but across the entire province as well.

Defending their championship in 1986 proved even harder than winning it the year before, as the Lions battled the Eskimos, Blue Bombers, injuries, and the CFL's new eighteen game regular season. The Lions reached the halfway mark at 7 and 2 losing only in Edmonton, and at home to Calgary. The Lions

then ran their record to 9 and 2 before hitting a four-game losing streak, started by back to back losses to Edmonton. The Lions rebounded to win two straight against Winnipeg to finish the season 12 and 6, and second in the Western Division.

The Lions met the Bombers for a third straight week, winning the Semi-Finals 21 to 14, before travelling to Edmonton for the Lions' first Western final road game in four years. The Lions lost their fourth game of the year to the Eskimos 41 to 5, ending the Lions' hopes of defending their title in front of a home crowd at BC Place. The 1985 Grey Cup title won by the Lions the year before, as well as the prospect of defending the title at home and the excitement in the area generated from Expo 86 helped the Lions outdraw the Vancouver Canucks in total attendance in 1986. This was despite the fact the Lions had only nine regular season home games compared to the Canucks' forty. Off the field, the big news of the year was the departure of god-like general manager Bob Ackles to the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, ending Ackles' 33-year association with the Lions (he would return in 2002 and go on to tell his incredible football story in a book called, 'The Water Boy' in 2007).

Ackles was replaced (although no one could fully replace Bobby Ackles) by former Montreal General Manager Joe Galat, in August, 1986.

The Lions began their 1987 campaign without the services of stand-out wide receiver Mervyn Fernandez, who left during the offseason to join the Los Angeles Raiders (soon to move back to Oakland). The season began with a four-game winning streak but the team seemed to lose focus through the middle of the season, looking invincible in one game and lacklustre the next.

Entering the last half of the year, the Lions were still in contention for first place but not playing like a team competing for a title. When the team suffered a three-game losing streak, General Manager Joe Galat unexpectedly fired Don Matthews. The likeable (but moody) Matthews was the winningest coach in Lions history and as there were only four games to go until the end of the season, the move did not sit well with many Lion backers. However, the Lions instantly responded to new coach Larry Donovan, winning the final four games including a thrilling come-from-behind 33–32 victory over Edmonton at Commonwealth Stadium. Many football fans called this contest the CFL's greatest comeback ever. The win gave the Lions first place in the Western Division for the fourth time in five years with a 12–6 record. Home field advantage at BC Place in the Western final was not enough however, as the Lions fell to the eventual Grey Cup champion Eskimos, 31 to 7.

The Lions started the 1988 season with twenty-two new faces in their lineup, one of which was super-star quarterback

Matt Dunigan who was acquired in a trade with Edmonton. Despite the large number of new players, the Lions jelled and finished the regular season with a 10 and 8 won-loss record. The Lions entered the playoffs with momentum and were touted as Grey Cup favourites. The Leos managed hard-earned playoff victories on the road at Saskatchewan, beating the Roughriders, 42 to 18 in the semi-final, before defeating the Eskimos in the Western Division final at Commonwealth Stadium, 37 to 19. That set the stage for the 76th Grey Cup Championship Game against the Blue Bombers in front of a crowd in excess of 50,000 in unseasonably mild but windy conditions in Ottawa. The lead changed hands several times during the tough gruelling game. The Leos drove to the Winnipeg seven-yard line in the final minutes only to have Matt Dunigan's pass deflected by two defenders and intercepted to snuff out the drive. Much to the Lions' faithful the Bombers went on to win the Cup, 22 to 21. After the game much discussion and teeth-gnashing went on as to whether throwing the ball at that moment was the right call. More than two decades later the same discussions took place on whether the Seattle Seahawks should have given the ball to running back Lynch instead of throwing an interception to end (and lose) the Super Bowl to New England.

Buoyed by their Grey Cup appearance the previous season, the Lions entered the 1989 season with much confidence.

The team opened the campaign with a loss to Edmonton in Commonwealth Stadium, followed by three more losses before Coach Larry Donovan was fired and replaced by General Manager Joe Galat. After dropping their fifth straight game to the Eskimos, the Lions then put together a four-game winning streak, fuelling playoff hopes. The Winnipeg Blue Bombers shattered those aspirations in back to back games, rolling over the Leos 53 to 34 in Winnipeg and then edging the Lions 24 to 20 in an overtime contest in Vancouver.

Prior to the Winnipeg home game, Lions new owner Murray Pezim and his minority partner, ex-NFL all-star Mark Gastineau and his celebrity wife Brigitte Nielsen were introduced to the home fans. The Lions never did get back on track finishing the year with a disappointing 7 and 11 record and missing the playoffs for the first time since 1982. Bright spots included running back Darrell Wallace, who won the Western Division's Jackie Parker Trophy as Most Outstanding Rookie (Wallace was second in the CFL in total offensive yardage), and quarterback Matt Dunigan who won the CFL Players Association Outstanding Community Service Award.

In his first full season as owner, Pezim made changes to the look of the team. They ditched their predominantly orange and white uniform design to black with silver helmets and pants. Under new head coach Lary Kuharich and general manager Joe

Kapp, the Lions generated a good deal of preseason hype in 1990 with the signings of West Virginia University quarterback Major Harris, who was fourth in 1989 Heisman trophy balloting, and quarterback Doug Flutie. Minority owner Mark Gastineau even returned to active duty, but abandoned his disastrous comeback attempt early in the season. However, all this publicity did not translate into on-field victories. Turmoil and controversy plagued the team causing two coaches to leave early in the season.

The Lions tied their first game of the season against Calgary in the dying seconds of the contest as Doug Flutie tossed a "Hail Mary" pass (much like he did at Boston College) to Ray Alexander in the end zone. The Lions kept it close in every game, winning a close one against Winnipeg at home on a last-second Passaglia field goal, while losing to Hamilton in the final seconds in the next contest. The eastern road trip to Ottawa and Toronto, during which the Lions lost both games, spelled the beginning of the end for the new Coach and General Manager. The following week, the Lions dropped another one, this time to the Argos, 49 to 19. One week after that, on September 14, 1990, another former Lions great, Jim 'Dirty Thirty' Young, was behind the bench as interim Head Coach and promptly guided the team to a strong 34 to 4 victory over Hamilton.

The Lions gained stability as the season wore on, and although they missed the playoffs, “Obie”, Bob O’Billovich’s players went 4 and 3 over the last seven games of the season and their strong finish fuelled hopes for a much brighter 1991 season. Highlights of the year included Lui Passaglia's new professional football scoring record, as he booted his 2,238th point. He would finish his career with a total of 3,991 points. Lui also became the longest-playing Lion in history appearing in a total of 236 games overtaking Al Wilson's previous mark of 233 games. ‘Loouu’ (as his fans would chant) would eventually end his playing days at four hundred and eight games.

The 1991 season opened with much potential. Although the team dropped a 39 to 4 decision to Calgary at BC Place, the game was tight and the Lions were in the contest to the very end. It was an omen as Bob O'Billovich's young team with twelve rookies in the lineup, turned virtually every contest into a nail biter, playing in a CFL record six overtime contests, winning three and losing three.

Behind the outstanding quarterbacking of Doug Flutie, the powerful running of rookie Jon Volpe, the receiving of rookie Matt Clark and veteran Ray Alexander, the Lions were capable of beating any team in the CFL. On August 1, 1991, the 2 to 1 Lions faced the undefeated Toronto Argonauts featuring Raghib, ‘the Rocket’ Ismail, at BC Place Stadium. A huge crowd of 53,527 was

on hand. After falling behind 21 to 3 in the first quarter, the Lions battled back and took control of the game in the final quarter. Toronto managed to tie the game in overtime but an electrifying kickoff return for a touchdown by Raymond Ethridge and terrific play by the Lions' special teams spelled the difference. The Lions prevailed 52 to 41 in overtime.

However, the following week, Calgary stopped the Leos, 34 to 30, also in overtime. The Lions offence led the CFL in eleven different categories and the team was in a three-way battle with Calgary and Edmonton for first place in the Western Division, right down to the end of the season. In the last game, the Lions hosted the 2 to 15 Hamilton Tiger-Cats, needing a win to clinch first place.

The Lions would lose and finish third with an 11 to 7 won-lost record. In the Western semi-final in Calgary, the Leos took a commanding 31 to 15 lead by the end of the first half. Although the Lions had never lost a game all year when leading at the half, Calgary stormed back with a robust third quarter, scoring four touchdowns, and holding off the Lions to win, 43 to 41. The disappointing loss (blamed on the defence) was at least partially offset by the awarding of three Lions with outstanding player awards. Doug Flutie was named the CFL's Outstanding Player, Jon Volpe won the CFL's Outstanding Rookie award as well as the West Division's Jackie Parker Trophy and the Eddie James Memorial Trophy for leading the division in rushing. Offensive

tackle Jim Mills became the CFL's Outstanding Offensive Lineman and the West Division's DeMarco-Becket Memorial Trophy award winner for the second consecutive year.

Although quarterback Doug Flutie signed as a free agent with the Stampeders in the post-season, the acquisition of his replacement from Calgary, Danny Barrett prior to training camp, brought hope of good things to come in 1992.

The Lions entered training camp in 1992 with high expectations. Despite the loss of Doug Flutie, two time Grey Cup finalist quarterback Danny Barrett was counted on to be an able replacement. In the season opener against Edmonton, however, Barrett struggled, eventually giving way to back-up Tony Kimbrough in the second half. The Eskimos went on to win, 37 to 26. The following week, the Lions' fortunes continued to spiral downward, this time, on the road, as the Toronto Argonauts crushed the Leos, 61 to 20. In the third game of the year against Doug Flutie and the Calgary Stampeders, Barrett, who had regained his starting job at quarterback, went down in the third quarter with a separated shoulder. Flutie then guided Calgary to a 37 to 19 win, and the Lions slid further downhill from there. The team lost eight straight before finally edging out Ottawa 33 to 27 on September 3, 1992, with Danny Barrett back at the helm.

To add insult to injury, off-season and off-field problems emerged to swing focus from football to ownership, as Lions'

showman type owner Murray Pezim declared bankruptcy and the CFL was forced to take over the team.

Three weeks later, a new owner was found as The Brick Furniture Store owner Bill Comrie purchased the Lions from the CFL on September 23, 1992. The team on the field did not respond to the newfound ownership stability, losing the final seven games of the year to finish the season with a disappointing 3 to 15 record. Head coach O'Billovich and his Staff was fired at season's end and on December 12, 1992, new General Manager Eric Tillman announced the hiring of Ottawa defensive coordinator Dave Ritchie, as the new head coach of the Lions.

The "new", 1993 edition of the BC Lions, under the guidance of head coach Dave Ritchie and general manager Eric Tillman, signed a number of proven CFL veterans, including Danny McManus, James ('Wild') West, Rob Smith, Less Browne, Tyrone Jones, and CFL all-star Vic Stevenson, winner of the 1992 DeMarco-Beckett Trophy as the Outstanding Offensive Lineman in the Western division. The team also added promising rookies, such as running back Cory Philpot, draft pick Tom Europe, and Derek Grier. A contract dispute with Jon Volpe kept him from training camp, but he was back in the fold by the second game of the season.

The Lions struck quickly with quality victories over Saskatchewan and Toronto before grinding to a halt

in Winnipeg. The Lions had only three days of rest between road games. However, the Leos would only lose two more games through July, August, and mid-September, cruising to an 8 to 3 record, the Lions' best start since 1987. Quarterback Danny Barrett broke the CFL's single-game passing yard record, completing 30 passes for 601 yards, eclipsing the previous mark of 586 yards set back in 1954 by Alouettes legend, Sam ('The Rifle') Etcheverry.

The Lions entered the September 18, 1993 game against Calgary in a battle for first place in the Western Division. However, Doug Flutie and the Stamps prevailed, 40 to 21. The Lions would go on to win only two of the next seven games, sliding to a 64 to 27 and pounding against Sacramento in the regular season finale, for a 10 to 8 finish. Nevertheless, the Lions made the playoffs after a one-year absence, facing Calgary in the Western Division's semi-finals on November 14, 1993. Despite generating twice as much offence as the Stamps, the Leos could not score a touchdown and fell 17 to 9.

The Lions moved onto the 1994 campaign with yet another new quarterback, Kent Austin, at the helm. Off-season trades with Ottawa provided offensive guard Denny Chronopoulos, defensive lineman Andrew Stewart, and rush linebacker Angelo Snipes. A group of young, unknown and aggressive linebackers emerged at training camp; Henry Newby, Tyrone Chatman, and

Virgil Robertson, while the secondary was strengthened with the additions of Charles Gordon and Enis Jackson. The Lions opened the season at B.C. Place and gave the fans a taste of things to come with a hard-fought 24 to 20 victory over Winnipeg. The Lions offensive power was amply demonstrated the following week with a 57 to 18 thumping of the Ottawa Rough Riders. By the end of August, 1994, the Lions were 7–1–0, and had broken several single-game offensive records, including a 67 to 15 point record win over Shreveport (more about this and other US teams in chapter eleven). The Leos' secondary was further bolstered by the signing of former NFL stars James Jefferson and Barry Wilburn.

The team endured a dry spell at the season's midpoint, losing close games to Winnipeg, Edmonton, Saskatchewan, and Baltimore. A late season win over Las Vegas (45 to 7) and a close 24 to 23 loss to Calgary, gave the Lions new hope heading into the playoffs, as well as an 11–6–1 regular season finish. The team travelled to Edmonton for the Western Division Semi-Finals, where the Lions had only managed one playoff victory at Commonwealth Stadium. With just over four minutes left in the game, defensive back Charles Gordon's miraculous end-zone interception stopped the Eskimos in their tracks and gave new life to the Lions.

Quarterback Kent Austin, replacing an injured Danny McManus who had started the game, mounted a Lions' drive which ate up the clock and the field. Lui Passaglia kicked the winning field goal with 30 seconds left to give the Lions a tough 24 to 23 come-from-behind victory.

The following week, in one of the most memorable CFL games ever, the Lions and Doug Flutie led Stampeders traded touchdowns and field goals all night at McMahon Stadium. In swirling snow with just two minutes left, Calgary, who led by 5 points, set up to kick a field goal. Lions' wide receiver Ray Alexander leapt up and made an amazing block, giving the Lions renewed hope and decent field position. Danny McManus, who had replaced Kent Austin in the second half after Austin re-injured a separated shoulder, staged a furious last-minute drive, hitting receivers all the way down the field to the Stampeder's four-yard line. With Calgary leading 36 to 31, with four seconds left in the game, McManus found receiver Darren Flutie alone in the end zone to give the Lions their first playoff victory over Calgary in 30 years, and a berth in the Grey Cup against Baltimore at B.C. Place.

The dramatics continued the following week in the eighty-second Grey Cup. With 55,097 cheering fans looking on, the Lions and Stallions staged another thriller with both teams playing smash mouth football. Baltimore took a 17 to 0 lead at halftime, and extended their lead to 20 to 10 early in the third quarter.

Lions' quarterback Danny McManus entered the game and staged yet another second-half rally. Seemingly stalled and out at the Baltimore 30 yard line, Lui Passaglia and Darren Flutie staged a fake field goal that resulted in a first down.



Mr. B.C. Lion – Lui Passaglia

The momentum of the game was now changed. McManus ran the ball in from the two-yard line to tie the score at 20. McManus was not known as a runner so Baltimore coach Don Matthews was caught off guard. After the teams traded field goals to make the score 23 to 23, McManus engineered a late-game drive only to stall at the Baltimore thirty seven yard line. Unbelievably Passaglia missed the field goal but with just over one minute remaining the Lions' defence rose up mightily to stop Baltimore cold and on their own five-yard line. After a Baltimore punt and two good Lion runs, Passaglia came back onto the field. The stadium was eerily silent as the greatest kicker in Lions' history would once again try a field goal and this time with no

time remaining on the clock. To Lions fans, time indeed did stand still but the kick was straight which gave the Lions an incredible 26 to 23 victory. This was the third Grey Cup championship in the team's history. Passaglia went on to win a Grey Cup, Most Valuable Canadian award, for his heroics.

The 1995 season began with Grey Cup hero Danny McManus named as starting quarterback, replacing Kent Austin, who was traded to Toronto. Shelton Quarles was added to a strong linebacker corps. The season started with an exciting, late come-from-behind 37 to 34 victory over the Baltimore Stallions at BC Place. The Lions won their first three games before suffering a setback in Calgary. The Leos got back on track with a strong performance over Ottawa and went on to a 7 and 1 record, challenging the Stampeders in the North Division.

Injuries to key players during a three-game, 10-day road trip, resulted in a late season swoon that the Lions could not recover from. A victory over Saskatchewan at B.C. Place in the regular season finale solidified 3rd place in the rugged Northern Division with a 10 to 8 record and a trip to Edmonton for the playoffs. The Lions' 1995 season came to an end with a 26 to 15 loss to the Eskimos in the semi-finals. Individually, Lions running back Cory Philpot broke the CFL record for touchdowns in a season with twenty-two, and won the Eddie James Memorial Trophy for the second year in a row as the Northern Division's

leading rusher. Lui Passaglia ended the season with 3,160 career points. Jamie Taras won the DeMarco-Becket Memorial Trophy as the Northern Division's Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman.

The 1996 season was one of turmoil for the Lions, both on and off the field. Former Lions' quarterback and fan favourite Joe Paopao returned to the team from the Edmonton Eskimos as the new head coach, replacing Dave Ritchie. On March 11, 1996, Lions' owner Bill Comrie announced that the club had been sold to a group of ten local businessmen headed by flamboyant Nelson Skalbania and Michael Jensen. The Lions held training camp at UBC with over a hundred players invited. Mike McCarthy arrived in Vancouver to become the Lions new VP of football operations. On the field, the Lions started the season with eighteen new faces in the line-up, including heralded Heisman Trophy winner Andre Ware at quarterback.

The Lions started the season at 0 and 4, and quarterback Damon Allen was signed to replace Ware. As the team stumbled on the field, attendance plummeted. Stability in the front office proved short lived as Skalbania and his ownership group lost control of the team, and the Lions (again) went into receivership. The bright spot of the season was an exciting and improbable, 35 to 11 victory over Doug Flutie and the Toronto Argonauts, in September, 1996. On October 31 1996, Hamilton businessman David Braley announced his intention to buy the

team November 2, 1996 marked the end of the season as the Lions defeated Ottawa 35 to 24 in what was the Rough Riders' final game in club history.

David Braley's ownership and a coaching change brought the Lions much needed stability as they entered the 1997 season, and some of that stability seemed to have translated to success on the field. Joe Paopao resigned prior to the season's start, and was replaced as head coach by Adam Rita. The Lions made the playoffs for the twentieth time in their forty-third year club history, despite an 8 and 10, fourth place divisional finish. The Leos' 1997 playoff appearance marked the first time in CFL history that a Western Conference team participated in an Eastern Conference semi-final, under a then in force, "cross-over rule" . The fourth place team from one division qualified for the playoffs, as long as the team earned more points than the third place team from the opposing division. Once so qualified, the fourth place team would then "cross-over" to the other division to play the second place team in the opposing division.

The Lions faced Montreal in the Eastern semi-finals, eventually losing to the Alouettes, 45 to 35, in a hard and punishing contest. Fullback Sean Millington was awarded the CFL's Outstanding Canadian Award at season's end, while linebacker B.J. Gallis won the Jackie Parker Trophy as the Western Division top rookie.

The Lions started the 1998 season off on the wrong foot, losing their first three games, before finally beating Saskatchewan in week four. The defence held themselves but the offence struggled. The low point of the year occurred on August 9, 1998, when the eventual Grey Cup champion Calgary Stampeders came into B.C. Place and humiliated the hometown Leos 55 to 9. With a record of 3–6–0, head coach Adam Rita resigned, and was replaced by Greg Mohns.

The no nonsense approach of Mohns seemed to spark the team, as the Lions embarked on a memorable, six-game winning streak (which the team had not done since 1986) heading into the playoffs. The Lions, who finished 9 and 9 on the year, lost in the semi-finals to Edmonton in heartbreaking fashion. Kicker Lui Passaglia won the Dave Dryburgh Memorial Trophy as the top scorer in the Western Division.

Anticipations for the Lions were high as the 1999 season began, following the team's good finish a year earlier, and with the announcement that the Grey Cup game would be played in Vancouver. Top-notch free agents such as slot-back Don Blair and cornerback Eric Carter were brought in to add depth to an already impressive lineup, and with the likes of Robert Drummond and Jimmy ('The Jet') Cunningham back in form following injury-plagued 1998 seasons. The Lions were primed for a successful season. The Lions started fast out of the gate, winning their first

three games to set a new club record with nine straight regular season wins. The Lions either held sole possession of first place or were tied with Calgary throughout the season. The Lions ended the regular season with two straight wins, finishing first in the division with a 13 to 5 record, the Lions' best record since 1985, and the first divisional championship since 1987. The Lions' dream season came to a premature and heartbreaking end, as the Stamps beat the Lions 26 to 24 in the Lions' first home playoff game in twelve years. The Lions appeared to be driving toward a chance to kick a game-winning field goal in the last minute before Damon Allen fumbled the ball at mid-field, allowing the Stamps to kill off the remaining time.

The Lions fielded three CFL All-Stars in 1999: slot-back Jimmy Cunningham, centre Jamie Taras, and defensive tackle Johnny Scott. Linebacker Paul Lacoste was voted the CFL's top rookie, and was also awarded the Jackie Parker Trophy. Defensive end David Benefield was named the Western Division's top defensive player, while Jamie Taras won the DeMarco-Becket Memorial Trophy as the West's most outstanding offensive lineman, as well as the CFL Player's Association Outstanding Community Service Award.

The Lions began the 2000 campaign with only one goal in mind, to win the Grey Cup. Six months later, the Lions would fulfill that destiny, but the path to the eighty-eight Grey Cup was one of

the most audacious, unpredictable, and memorable ever in CFL history. The year started well enough, with victories over Hamilton and Saskatchewan, but a 35 to 2 loss to Calgary began a four-game losing streak and a lot of finger-pointing. A win over the Toronto Argonauts halted the slide, but following the game, head coach Greg Mohns resigned to join the XFL. Long-time CFL coach Steve Buratto, who joined the club only two weeks earlier as a receivers coach, was promoted to the top job, and got instant results with a huge 51 to 4 win over the Argos in the second of back-to-back games.

Despite a promising start, the Lions only won one of their next five games to sit at 5 and 9 on Thanksgiving. Nevertheless, the Lions came together when it counted the most, winning three of their last four heading into the playoffs, and the offence gelling to become the best in the CFL that season. Quarterback Damon Allen broke Ron Lancaster's CFL record for career passing yardage. Lui Passaglia played in a memorable, "Luv 'ya Lui" night in his final game at B.C. Place, and set a CFL record for single season field goal percentage. The Lions finished the year 8 and 10 and in third place in the Western Division, but were the team other teams did not want to face in the playoffs. A great defence started to show its teeth, and the Lions roared confidently into Edmonton and emerged with a 34 to 32 Western semi-final victory, thanks to a Passaglia field goal on the final play.

The Lions next faced Calgary in the Western finals, and they steamrolled to a decisive 37 to 23 win. The Lions' Cinderella season came to a close on November 26, 2000, in the Grey Cup at McMahon Stadium in Calgary, as the Lions won their fourth championship in team history with a nail biting 28 to 26 victory over the Montreal Alouettes. Running back Robert Drummond won the Grey Cup's Most Valuable Player award, while backfield teammate Sean Millington took home the Grey Cup's Most Valuable Canadian trophy. The Lions' triumph marked the first time a team with a sub five hundred regular season record won the Grey Cup, and it signalled a marvellous end to Lui Passaglia's outstanding twenty-five year CFL career.

Expectations were high for the CFL champion Lions in 2001, but the team ultimately never seemed to jell. Finishing 8 and 10 with a struggling Damon Allen, the Lions did make the playoffs, but were immediately bounced by Calgary in the Western Division semi-finals, 28 to 19. Matt Kellett became only the second full-time field goal kicker in 26 years, as he replaced the legendary Lui Passaglia. Rookie middle linebacker Barrin Simpson led the team in tackles and was named a first-team CFL All-Star, as well as the CFL's Rookie of the Year and Jackie Parker Trophy winner. Cornerback Eric Carter was also named to the CFL's 2001 All-Star team.

Bob Ackles returned to the Lions as president and CEO before the 2002 season, which saw the Lions finish at 10 and 8 for a third-place finish in the Western Division, and the return of Adam Rita as head coach. The Lions faced Winnipeg in the Western semi-finals, falling 30 to 3 to the Bombers. Individually, Eric Carter and Barrin Simpson repeated as CFL All-Stars, while slot-back Jason Clermont won CFL's most outstanding rookie award, as well as the Western Division's Jackie Parker Trophy. Fullback Sean Millington won the Dr. Beattie Martin Trophy as the outstanding Canadian Western Division player, for the 3rd time. This would be the last season that Damon Allen would play for the Lions, as he finished as the franchise's all-time leader in passing yards, pass completions and passing touchdowns.

The 2003 season really did mark the beginning of a new era, as Wally Buono replaced Adam Rita as Head Coach and GM. The Lions also acquired former Stampeders and NFL QB Dave Dickenson through free agency, which prompted Lions QB Damon Allen to leave for the Toronto Argonauts. The Lions finished in a three way, second place tie at 11 and 7 with Western Division foes, Winnipeg and Saskatchewan, and faced the Eastern Division's Toronto Argonauts by way of the CFL's "cross-over rule." The Lions closed out the season with a 28 to 7 loss to the Argos in the Eastern Division semi-finals. Barrin Simpson appeared as a CFL All-Star for the 3rd year in a row,

joined by newcomers Ray Jacobs on defence, and electrifying slot-back Geroy Simon on offence. Wide receiver Frank Cutolo won the CFL and Western Division rookie of the year awards. Offensive tackle Steve Hardin won the CFL Player's Association Outstanding Community Service Award.

The 2004 season was one of the Lions' best regular season records in club history. Going 13 and 5 and finishing first in the division, the Lions set a team record of eight consecutive wins in a single season. In addition to club records, the season brought an array of individual performances to the forefront.

Quarterback Casey Printers set a CFL record for highest single game completion average of 90.9% (completing 20 of 22 passing attempts) during an August, 2004 game against Hamilton.

Outstanding slot back Geroy Simon tied three team records by catching four touchdown passes in the same game. After the conclusion of the regular season, Printers was named the CFL's Most Outstanding Player, while Jason Clermont won the Most Outstanding Canadian award. Printers and Simon joined 4-time All-Star linebacker Barrin Simpson as 2004 CFL All-Stars. The Lions, receiving a bye in the first round of the playoffs by virtue of their first place divisional finish, faced one of their biggest rivals, the Saskatchewan Roughriders. In a nail biting finish, the Lions in overtime defeated the Roughriders 27 to 25.

The Lions were then challenged by the Toronto Argonauts in the 92nd Grey Cup Championship, a rematch of the 2003 semi-finals. The Lions would not exact their revenge, losing 27 to 19. Jason Clermont won the Grey Cup Most Valuable Canadian award in the effort. The game was marked with

controversy for the Lions, as Dave Dickenson got the start over Casey Printers, who had led the team through most of the season as Dickenson was injured. The Lions fan base was outraged at Wally's call. Before and during the 2005 season there was much controversy as to which quarterback should be the starter, Casey Printers or Dave Dickenson. Casey Printers was the CFL's 2004 season Most Outstanding Player, but Dickenson was a veteran star destined for the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. Ultimately Wally's team chose to go with Dickenson, despite his having been somewhat injury prone. Led by Dickenson and an outstanding receiving corps, the team strung together eleven consecutive wins. The final game of the victory streak came on September 17, 2005, when the Lions squeaked past the Montreal Alouettes by a score of 27 to 26 when Don Matthews elected to go for a two-point conversion (and did not make it) rather than tie the game.

The Lions' bid for an undefeated season came to a halt the very next week on September 24, 2005, when the Edmonton Eskimos defeated the Lions 37 to 20 at Commonwealth Stadium. Dickenson sustained a season-ending concussion and Printers took over once again as the starting Quarterback with the Lions winning only one of their remaining seven games of the regular season. On November 20, 2005, the Lions lost in the Western Finals to the eventual Grey Cup champion Eskimos at B.C. Place. The game ended with a controversial "non-call" on the last play of the game; as what would have been Printers game winning pass to slot-back Geroy Simon appeared to have been interfered with by an Eskimo defender, and was ruled incomplete. Defensive end Brent Johnson was named a 2005 CFL All-Star, and won the Outstanding Canadian Award.

The 2006 season saw Casey Printers go off to the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs however a new quarterback controversy of sorts threatened to develop. During the off-season, 2005's third stringer Buck Pierce won the back-up role and early season injuries to Dave Dickenson forcing him into action. Pierce's best game as the starter was on October 6 against the Calgary Stampeders, where he threw 25 for 31 for 297 yards, one touchdown, and one interception. He began the game with one incomplete pass, and then hit his next fourteen.

The Lions in the off-season also acquired former Roughrider Paul McCallum to stabilize the kicking game which had not recovered from Lui Passaglia's retirement in 2000. After a sluggish 2 to 3 start in 2006, Coach Buono signalled that no starting job was safe by releasing running back Antonio Warren and defensive back Sam Young. The team responded by winning the next six games. New running back Joe Smith ran for over one hundred yards in his first game. Brent Johnson, Barron Miles, and Mark Washington led a dominant defence. Ten different defenders scored touchdowns on turnovers. They also held opposition offences to seventeen points or less on six occasions. Receiver Geroy Simon dominated opposing defensive backs straight year. The Lions clinched first place on October 6, earning a third straight bye into the Western Final at home, and tied a team record with a 13 and 5 mark for the season. Over fifty

thousand fans (league best for 2006) saw BC crush the Roughriders 45 to 18 in the West final. Looking fully recovered from earlier concussions, Dickenson went 27 for 37 with three touchdowns and no interceptions. Canadian Paris Jackson made two circus catches for touchdowns, Jason Claremont bulled his way to ninety-eight yards on six catches, Joe Smith scored twice and ran for 116 yards, McCallum was five for five in field goals, and the BC defence dominated Saskatchewan all afternoon.

On November 19, the BC Lions captured their first Grey Cup Championship since 2000 by defeating the Montreal Alouettes 25 to 14 at Canad Inns Stadium in Winnipeg. Dave Dickenson was named the Most Valuable Player of the game, while Paul McCallum was named the Most Valuable Canadian. In the post-game exuberance, the team snapped the Grey Cup off the lower base with the engraved names, but it was repaired the following Monday. The game is also noted for kicker Paul McCallum going six for six in field goals, making him a perfect eleven for eleven in the post season. Coach Buono also used all three quarterbacks in the game: Dickenson, Pierce and third-string Jarious Jackson all took snaps.

The record setting season was capped off with Buono's third CFL Coach of the Year Award. The Lions nearly swept the annual player awards, with Brent Johnson, Geroy Simon, Rob

Murphy, Mark Washington, and Aaron Hunt (BC's sixth Outstanding Rookie in nine years) all taking home hardware.

In 2007 Offensive coordinator Jacques Chapdelaine left for the Edmonton Eskimos in the off-season, becoming their offensive coordinator and assistant head coach. The Lions' play-calling duties for the 2007 season would be handled by quarterbacks coach Steff Kruck, with play design by offensive line coach Dan Dorazio. Veteran linebacker Carl Kidd announced his retirement at the Grey Cup ring ceremony held just prior to training camp.

The new season (2007) proved to be one of the best seasons for the Lions, as they set a new franchise record for the most regular season wins in club history. The season started off on a five game winning streak, including dominating wins over Edmonton (29 to 9) and Saskatchewan (42 to 12). However, the streak came to a halt on August 3, 2007, when the Leos suffered a 21 to 9 loss to the Saskatchewan Roughriders. The Lions had a little trouble getting back on track, as they suffered a loss to Winnipeg and a tie with Calgary. A 40 to 7 win over Toronto moved the Lions back into first place in the West Division, due to a Saskatchewan loss to Calgary. On September 22, 2007, the Lions battled their biggest foe, the Saskatchewan Roughriders, for the first place in the West Division. The Saskatchewan lead increased and decreased several times throughout the game. However, with Saskatchewan leading by

four, the Lions never gave up in the dying minutes of the game, and QB Jarious Jackson was able to find Geroy Simon in the end zone and pass the ball for a game winning thirty-three yard touchdown. The final result was an unexpected come-from-behind 37– to 4 victory for the Lions. The Lions went on to win all the rest of their games of the regular season and captured first place in the West for a fourth consecutive year. The Lions also finished with a regular season record of 14–3–1, the best in club history. The Lions felt confident heading into the Western Final, but their dreams of second consecutive Grey Cup title came to an end in a heartbreaking 26 to 17 loss to the eventual Grey Cup champions, the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Just before the 2008 season things took on a newer look with Mark Washington becoming the secondary coach due to salary cap issues. Quarterback Dave Dickenson was released in the final year of his \$400,000 contract and was immediately picked up by Calgary. Jacques Chapdelaine came back from the Eskimos after being fired as offensive coordinator. Defensive coordinator Dave Ritchie retired after the 2007 season and Mike Benevides was promoted to his position. As well, director of player personnel Bob O'Billovich left to become general manager of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and former Saskatchewan Roughriders general manager Roy Shivers filled his position.

The season started off on low notes, both on and off the field. After losing their first two games to Calgary and Saskatchewan, the BC Lions and the entire CFL community was shocked to hear that Lions popular President and CEO Bobby Ackles had suffered a heart attack and died on July 6, 2008. The Lions held a memorial ceremony at the next home game against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and would wear an orange paw on their helmets with BOB on the inside to commemorate Ackles.

In their first game of the season, against Calgary, starter Buck Pierce left the game with yet another injury, meaning Jarious Jackson would take over as starter. After losing their next game to the Roughriders, the Lions won three straight, synonymous with Stefan Logan's debut with the Lions and Joe Smith sitting these games out. On July 25, Geroy Simon surpassed Jim ('Dirty 30') Young as the Lions' all-time receiving yards leader, in a game against the Montreal Alouettes. While also posting unimpressive numbers, the Lions saw fit to trade their former star running back to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers for their former star running back, Charles Roberts on Sept 1, 2009. Shortly after, Roberts reached the 10,000 rushing yard mark for his career on Sept 13, 2009, against the Saskatchewan Roughriders in his first game as a Lion.

After a Labour Day loss to the Montreal Alouettes, the Lions won five straight under a now healthy Buck Pierce. Since

Buono had become head coach in 2003, the Lions had won at least four in a row each year, a streak that ended in 2009. The Lions finished the regular season with an 11–7 record, including a loss at Calgary in the last regular season game. After going 3–0–1 against Calgary in the previous season, the Lions were swept by Calgary for the first time since the 2000 season. After amassing twenty-three sacks, Cameron Wake won the Most Outstanding Defensive Player Award for the second consecutive year. In the playoffs, the Lions defeated the Saskatchewan Roughriders at Mosaic Stadium at Taylor Field 33 to 12, but lost, yet again, to the Calgary Stampeders, this time in the Western Final.

The next year (2009) season saw a team that would be decidedly different from the previous seasons' roster. While the coaching staff remained completely intact, the playing roster saw a number of notable players released or traded with a few leaving for the NFL. Outstanding Defensive Player Cameron Wake signed with the Miami Dolphins, Team Rookie of the Year, Stefan Logan, signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Rob Murphy signed with the Toronto Argonauts and Jason Clermont and Charles Roberts were released. Otis Floyd and Tyrone Williams were later released and Jason Pottinger was traded to the Argonauts. They signed all-star linebacker Anton McKenzie, while trying to fill holes in their roster with their depth players from last year and new recruits from the US.

The season was notable for the team's use of five different quarterbacks. Buck Pierce started the year but gave way after injury to Jarious Jackson. When Jackson was injured, 3rd stringer Travis Lulay was pressed into action. Former Lion and league MVP Casey Printers then signed to the practice roster on October 8, and suited up as the third-string Quarterback on October 9 in a game versus the Edmonton Eskimos. He then became the starting quarterback on October 24, in a 33 to 30 overtime loss to the Saskatchewan Roughriders. In the season finale on November 6 against Edmonton, Printers was knocked out of the game with a broken thumb. In the last regular season game 5th string quarterback Zac Champion played more than two quarters when Buck Pierce also went down.

After having lost to each of the other three Western teams in successive games meant BC finished fourth and last. However, Hamilton defeated Winnipeg in their last game of the season, enabling the Lions to cross-over to the Eastern Division's play-off format (ahead of both Winnipeg and Toronto). The Lions faced the Tiger-Cats in the Eastern semi-final in Hamilton on November 15 and won in overtime. The Lions then advanced the eastern final against the Montreal Alouettes, but lost 56 to 18.

The 2009/10 offseason saw the club lose even more veterans, many who were cut by Buono, and others who left for the NFL. Quarterback Buck Pierce was released on March 9

2010 after the return of Casey Printers meant that the injury-prone Pierce was expendable. The Lions also released former Special Teams Player of the Year, Ian Smart, Javier Glatt and defensive back Lavar Glover, each of whom played a major role in the Lions' 2006 Grey Cup win. The team also lost Rolly Lumbala and Ryan Grice-Mullen to the NFL's Miami Dolphins, while rookie phenom Martell Mallett signed with the Philadelphia Eagles. Despite this, the club signed a number of proven CFL players, including Davis Sanchez and Keron Williams from the Montreal Alouettes, Jamal Robertson from the Toronto Argonauts and exiled former Bomber Derick Armstrong.

The 2010 BC Lions played all of their home games at their former site at the Pacific National Exhibition grounds at Empire Field while BC Place Stadium had a retractable roof installed. The Lions also staged their training camp in Kamloops, BC – the first of three over the next three years – as a part of the club's desire to represent the entire province.

The season started out well for the Lions, with a win against Edmonton, but that success would be short lived as the Lions lost their next seven consecutive games. Quarterback Casey Printers suffered a knee injury in game 3 against the Montreal Alouettes, which forced backup quarterback Travis Lulay to start the next three games. After losing to Toronto and the previously

winless Eskimos, Lulay was replaced by Jarious Jackson in the fourth quarter in the August 7, 2010, contest against Calgary after demonstrating poor play and inexperience.

After the bye week, Printers returned and won three out of the five games he started, but due to his turnover-filled back-to-back performances, he was replaced with Lulay as the starter in Game thirteen against Winnipeg, which the Lions won. After Lulay had a minor injury in the following game, again against Winnipeg, Printers came into the game to protect a twenty-one point lead. The Blue Bombers stormed back to tie the game and force overtime, which was decided by Printers' game-clinching interception. It was Casey's last game with the Lions as Buono released him soon after the game. Consequently, Lulay became the undisputed starting quarterback, finishing the season 4 and 5 as a starter. The Lions won their last three games to qualify for the playoffs after Edmonton lost their final game of the season, but lost in double overtime to the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the West Semi-Final game.

The 2011 BC Lions season marked what would be known as the greatest season turnaround in CFL history. The Lions entered the 2011 campaign with a lot of question marks. The team had almost exactly the same coaching staff as they had the year before, which had been criticized by many fans the past season. The team also lost a few key players, most

notably Emmanuel Arceneaux to the NFL. As well, the team opted to go with inexperienced third year pivot Travis Lulay to start at quarterback.

Despite a questionable lineup, the Lions, as well as many fans and critics alike, believed that the team was good enough to win the Grey Cup, especially since the game was scheduled to be played in Vancouver at the newly renovated BC Place Stadium. However, the season started out with five straight losses which forced changes to be made. The Lions signed two notable CFL players; defensive back Tad Kornegay, who had just been released by Saskatchewan, and wide receiver Arland Bruce, who was acquired in a trade with Hamilton.

The Leo's got their first win of the season when they beat the Saskatchewan Roughriders 24 to 11 in week six, but the following week, the Lions were swept by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers for the first time in ten years. Now sitting at 1 and 6, many fans and critics started to doubt the Lions playoff hopes, but after a convincing 36 to 1 win over the Edmonton Eskimos, the Lions went on a remarkable eight game winning streak, climbing the Leos all the way to the top of a very competitive West Division.

The Lions winning streak ended after a 42 to 10 loss to Hamilton in week seventeen, but after that, the Lions won their last two games of the season, which included a 43 to 1 clobbering

of the two-time defending Grey Cup champions Montreal Alouettes in the regular season finale. After starting the season 0 and 5, the Lions rebounded to win eleven of their last thirteen games to clinch first place in the West Division with an 11 to 7 record, as well as a bye in the first round of the playoffs and a home playoff game.

In the West Division Final, the Lions faced the Edmonton Eskimos, the same team that beat the Lions in the 2005 West Final, which denied the Lions a home game in the Grey Cup, since Vancouver hosted the Grey Cup that year. However, in 2011, a home game in the Grey Cup is what the Lions would get, as the Leos dominated the Eskimos 40 to 23 as the Lions advanced to the big game for the first time in five years. In the Grey Cup, the Lions were up against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers for only the second time in Grey Cup history.

The Bombers won both regular season meetings with BC but the Lions would go on to beat the Bombers 34 to 23 in front of a home crowd to win their sixth Grey Cup championship in franchise history. Travis Lulay was named Grey Cup Most Valuable Player, while Winnipeg native Andrew Harris was named Most Valuable Canadian. With the Grey Cup win, the BC Lions became the first team to start a season 0–5 and win the Grey Cup.

Head coach Wally Buono announced shortly after the Grey Cup that he would step down as head coach but will remain as

vice president and general manager. The BC Lions were named The Canadian Press Team of the Year for 2011 in voting by sports editors and broadcasters across Canada.

Defensive coordinator Mike Benevides was promoted and announced as the team's new head coach on December 13, 2011. Several veteran players left the team or were released prior to the start of the 2012 season. Defensive back Tad Kornegay was released by the Lions while all-star linebacker Solomon Elimimian and defensive tackle Aaron Hunt signed with the Minnesota Vikings and the Montreal Alouettes, respectively. The Lions did, however, manage to resign veteran cornerbacks Dante Marsh and Ryan Phillips during the free-agency period, as well as all-star defensive back L.J. Shell and cornerback Byron Parker.

On December 19, 2014, Jeff Tedford was named the twenty-fifth Head Coach in franchise history .after Mike Benevides had been let go. The 2015 season saw the emergence of rookie quarterback Jonathan Jennings, who took over as the starter from Travis Lulay midway through the season. The 2015 season was the only one for Tedford, as he resigned after only one season where he led the lions to a 7 and 11 record, finishing third in the west and losing to Calgary in the playoffs. Upon Tedford's resignation, Wally Buono announced that he would return as head coach in 2016.

In Buono's first season back at the helm of the Lions, he guided the team to a 10 and 6 record and defeated the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the West Semi-Final, only to lose to Calgary in the West Final. The following season, the Lions would miss the playoffs for the first time since 1996, finishing in 5th and last place in the West with a 7 and 11 record.

On November 30, 2017, Buono stepped down from his position as General Manager, being replaced in by Ed Hervey. Buono will stay on as head coach in 2018, but it will also be his last as coach for the team. Shortly after, offensive coordinator Khari Jones and two lesser coaches were let go and Jarious Jackson was brought in as offensive coordinator along with Jeff Reinhold as special teams coach.

Interesting information and tid-bits on the B.C. Lions

Founded: 1954

Name: the team is named for the Lions, a pair of mountain peaks overlooking the team's home city of Vancouver

Helmet design: white background, with a black BC and a profile of an orange mountain lion's head

Uniform colours: orange and white with black accents

Nickname: Leos; Fight song: "Roar, You Lions, Roar" composed by Dal Richards and His Orchestra

Stadiums: Empire Stadium (1954–1982), Empire Field (2010–2011) and BC Place Stadium (1983–2009, 2011–present)

Western Division 1st Place: thirteen,
1963, 1964, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2006,
2007, 2011, and 2012

Western Division championships: 10, 1963, 1964, 1983, 1985,
1988, 1994, 2000, 2004, 2006, and 2011

Grey Cup championships: 6, 1964, 1985, 1994, 2000, 2006,
and 2011

2017 regular season record was seven wins and eleven losses.

The Leos won thirteen Western Division regular season
championships, ten Western Division championships and six
Grey Cup championships

2017 regular season record was seven wins and eleven losses.

*Special shout-out to the many media personalities that have covered the Lions
all these years including, Al Davidson, Lowell Ullrich, Tom Larscheid, Neil
McRae, Dan Russell, Scott Rintoul, David Pratt, Mike Beemish, Farhan Lalji,
Giulio Caravatta, Bob Marjanovich, Chris Burns, and Glen Suitor*



B.C. Place stadium and Bobby Ackels, David Bradley and Wally Buono

*Sources for this chapter were from the author's memories,
archived sources, B.C. Lions, various web-sites and Wikipedia*



Chapter Two

Branding - Stampeders Style

Hit 'em again, ye men of Calgary
Get on the ball and let's go marching down the field
While there's a goal in sight, play on with all your might
'Til the victory's won, get in and fight, fight, fight!

We're all behind you, men of Calgary
So when your backs are to the wall don't ever yield
Come on you Red and White, we need a win tonight
Hit 'em again, ye men of Calgary

Ye men of Calgary fight song

Stampeders were established in September 1945 by a group of stakeholders which included player-coach Dean Griffing. There was no regular season for the Stamps in 1945, but Calgary defeated the Regina Roughriders 3 to 1 in their first game on October 27th and 12 to 0 a week later. It was a two game series at

the time. They then lost to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 9 to 5 in the WIFU Championship. Running back Paul Rowe paved the way with Calgary finishing first in the WIFU in 1946 and second in 1947. They did lose the final to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers both years. The following season Les Lear replaced Griffing as coach. Under Lear`s guidance, the team was built around American players like quarterback Keith Spaith and receiver Woody Strode. Canadians such as club icon Norman Kwong, Cedric Gyles, Rod Pantages and Norm Hill were also part of the mix.

The Stamps ran rough shot during the 1948 regular season. They did not lose a game, the only undefeated season in Canadian football history. They completed the season with their first Grey Cup victory, a 12 to 7 win over the Ottawa Rough Riders. With the Stampeder in the Grey Cup for the first time, a couple hundred Calgarians crammed onto trains to Toronto. The days leading up to the big game were packed with pancake breakfasts, horses and naturally cowboys. Folklore has it that at least one Calgarian rode his horse into the Royal York Hotel in downtown Toronto, although some believe the incident happened the following year, during the 1949 Grey Cup. The wild Calgarians are widely credited with launching what would become the annual Grey Cup Festival that precedes the big game.

In 1949, the Calgary signed Ezzrett `Sugarfoot` Anderson, who played tight end and retired in 1955, but worked for the club

in different capacities well into his ninety's. On October 22 1949, the Stamps lost to the Saskatchewan Roughriders, snapping a twenty-five game winning streak. The team made it back to the Grey Cup final, but lost 28– to 5 to the Montreal Alouettes

The Stamps had a rough go of it in the 1950 season, missing the playoffs, despite retaining most of their core players from the 1949 team. In 1957, the Stamps finished third before losing in the West semi-final to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Before the start of the 1951 season, the Stampeders traded Norman Kwong to the Edmonton Eskimos, where he went on to a Hall of Fame career and grab three more Grey Cups. The Stampeders without their star running back floundered and missed the playoffs again in 1951. They signed Johnny Bright for the 1952 season and he would go onto have a stellar career. That year Calgary was eliminated in the semi-finals by the Edmonton Eskimos, leading to the firing of Les Lear and the hiring of Bob Snyder as new head coach. Despite the change in coaches the Stampeders still missed the playoffs in 1953 with a dismal 3 and 12 and 1 record. They once again fell short of the post-season the next year now with Larry Siemerling as coach. They went 8 for 8 despite Howard Waugh becoming the first CFL player to rush for 1,000 yards in a season.

Jack Hennemeier took over as head coach for the 1955 season, but the Stamps finished in last place that year with a 4 to

12 record, behind even the lowly (at the time) BC Lions, who had only joined the league the year before. In 1956, the team missed the playoffs again, prompting Hennemeier's firing. Jim Finks was then named general manager and he began laying the groundwork for the improvements that came in the 1960s.

Before that though, the Stampeders needed to get through the 1958 and 1959 seasons, missing the playoffs in both and finishing the decade with a ten year record of just 54 and 100 with two ties.



McMahon Stadium is home the Calgary Stampeders football team

On the fifteenth of August 1960, the Stampeders football team played their first game in the new McMahon Stadium. The Stampeders have called McMahon home ever since. Although the

team opened their new home with a 38 to 23 loss to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, they defeated the Saskatchewan Roughriders 23 to 15 two weeks later on August twenty-ninth.

Calgary made the playoffs in 1960 before being eliminated by the powerful Eskimos in the West semi-final. Otis Douglas was fired as coach and replaced by Steve Owen partway through the year with Owen lasting only until the end of the season. He was replaced by Bobby Dobbs.

The Stamps once again made the playoffs in 1961 before losing in the West Division final, but the news of the month was the arrival of Wayne Harris, considered one of the greatest linebackers in CFL history. Harris' arrival helped push the Stampeders to their best season since 1949, as Calgary finished second in the West Division in 1962 after compiling a 9 & 6 & 1 record. The West finals were as far as that team would go, though, as they lost to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

In 1963 and 1964 the Stamps finished both seasons in second place, losing again in the West Division playoffs. Running back Lovell Coleman became the first Stampeders player to win the CFL Most Outstanding Player award. Bobby Dobbs resigned as coach at the 1964 post-season party after his former assistant Rogers Lehew was promoted to general manager. Jerry Williams replaced Dobbs as coach, and the Stampeders finished in first

place in the West Division in 1965, before falling short in the West final to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Injuries to star running back Lovell Coleman in 1966 cost the Stampeders, and ended the season in fourth place with a 6 & 9 & 1 record. New quarterback Peter Liske was successful however and threw for 2,177 yards to receivers like Herm Harrison and Gerry Shaw. Liske was even better in 1967, setting a new league record with forty touchdown passes. The Stampeders finished first in the West and Jerry Williams was named the CFL's top coach, but the team lost in the West final to the Saskatchewan Roughriders. This was the first of five straight conference finals between the Stamps and Roughriders. Next year, the Stamps beat the Riders in the 1968 West final and made their first Grey Cup since 1948, before losing a close one, 24 to 21 to the Ottawa Rough Riders. Jim Duncan became head coach for the 1969 season, but the Stampeders lost again in the West final to the Saskatchewan.

The Stamps started the 1970s with a flourish, qualifying for two Grey Cups in a row. The team lost 23 to 10 in 1970 to the Montreal Alouettes after an MVP-winning performance from Montreal quarterback Sonny Wade, but the next year they finally got second Grey Cup victory. Local Albertan John Forzani arrived that year to play with his brother Joe, and the Stampeders outplayed the Joe Theismann-led Toronto Argonauts and won the

rain soaked Grey Cup 14 to 11 at Empire Stadium. Wayne Harris however did earn MVP honours.

Many Calgarian fans thought a dynasty was in the making, however, they were to be disappointed once again. Starting in 1972 when the Stampeders finished 6 & 10, the team began a long slide that lasted almost two decades. The emergence of the Forzani brothers, Joe, John and Tom was a positive and the arrival of running back Willie Burden gave life to the team's ground game, but the Stampeders still finished in fifth place in 1974 and missed the playoffs under head coach Jim Wood. Bob Baker replaced Wood before the 1975 season, but Calgary again finished outside of the playoffs despite Willie Burden setting the CFL rushing record with 1,896 yards and winning the CFL's Most Outstanding Player award.

The team finished 1976 with its worst ever record at 2 & 12 & 2, prompting the football team to fire Baker, who was then replaced by Joe Tiller until the end of the year. In 1977, Jack Gotta took over as coach, but the Stampeders finished 4 & 12 and missed the playoffs for the sixth straight year. Calgary did make the playoffs in both 1978 and 1979 under Gotta, but did not make it to the Grey Cup in those years.

The Stampeders started the 1980s with a 9 & 7 record, but lost in the West semi-finals before finishing in last place the next year. They had a bounce back year in 1982, but yet another loss in

the West semi-final caused the Stampeders board to insist that Jack Gotta give up some of his general manager duties and focus on coaching. Walter Prisco was brought in to take over team administration (including accounting, marketing and public relations), and Gotta lasted only one more year with the team.

The situation didn't improve under new coach Steve Buratto, who led the team to a last-place finish in 1984. Buratto was fired after the team started 0 & 5 the next season. Things were no better under replacement Bud Riley and he left after they finished in last place in 1985.

At this point, the Stampeders were averaging less than 15,000 fans for home games at McMahon Stadium and facing bankruptcy, but a last ditch "Save Our Stamps" campaign that included telethons and contests resulted in the sale of over 22,000 season tickets and financial security for at least the next few years.

With Earl Lunsford as general manager and Bob Vespaziani as head coach, the Stampeders had a good year on the field and in 1986 finished 11 & 7 in the CFL's first year with an eighteen game schedule. Quarterback Rick Johnson led the league in touchdown passes and earned All-Canadian honours. In the West semi-final, the Edmonton Eskimos eliminated the Stampeders.

Lunsford and Vespaziani were both fired after a slow start in 1987, and the team responded to newly promoted Lary

Kuharich's coaching style by finishing with wins in eight of their last ten games before losing in the West semi-final to Edmonton.

The team couldn't replicate that success the next year, but 1988 did see CFL icon Norman Kwong replace Jim Silye as team president, a move that kickstarted the club's recovery. The following year, after the team lost the 1989 West semi-final, Kuharich cleared out his coach's office and moved to Vancouver to take over the Lions, setting the stage for the most successful decade in Stampeders history.

With the departure of Kuharich, Norman Kwong chose to promote defensive co-ordinator Wally Buono to head coach, ushering in an era of on-field success the likes of which Calgary football fans had never seen.

The Stamps began the Buono era (1990) with fourteen rookies on the roster. Their inexperience however didn't prevent the team from finishing in first place in the West Division, although they burnt out in the West final. In 1991, the Stampeders finished the regular season 11 & 7 and won the West final, defeating the Eskimos 38 to 36. However, at the Grey Cup final, Calgary fell 36 to 21 to the Toronto Argonauts, led by Rahgib `Rocket` Ismail.

In October 1991, Calgary businessman Larry Ryckman bought the team and ended community ownership. Four months later, he signed quarterback Doug Flutie to a personal services

contract. With Flutie putting up numbers that would see him named the CFL's Most Outstanding Player, the Stampeders rolled to first place in 1992 with a 13 to 5 record. In the Grey Cup final against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Flutie, Dave Sapunjis and Allen Pitts all put up great numbers to win Calgary's first Grey Cup since 1971 with a 24 to 10 victory.

The Stampeders finished first in the West Division again in 1993, but lost to the Eskimos in the West final, missing their chance to play in the Grey Cup final in their hometown. In 1994, after putting up the most points in CFL history, the Stampeders stumbled in the West final again, losing 37 to 36 to the BC Lions and prompting questions about why the best team in the regular season continued to fall short in the big games. The same thing just happened in 2016 and 2017.

The 1995 Stampeders finished first in the regular season again with a 15 to 3 record despite an injury to Flutie that saw backup Jeff Garcia take over starting duties mid-season. However, they lost to the Baltimore Stallions in the 1995 Grey Cup final. That game was Flutie's last in a Stampeders uniform, as Ryckman reneged on his personal services contract and Flutie moved east to sign with the Toronto Argonauts. With the Stampeders heavily in debt, Ryckman sold the team to new owner Sig Gutsche after the 1995 season. Future CFL Hall of Famer Stan Schwartz became president of the club in February 1996.

Flutie's may have left but the Stampeders had a ready-made replacement at quarterback, one Jeff Garcia, who led the team to another first place finish in 1996 with a 13 to 5 record. Garcia injured his knee in the West final and Calgary lost 12 to 15 to the Edmonton Eskimos.

In 1997, the Stampeders finished in second place in the West before bowing out to the Riders in the West semi-final. Garcia's performance shone brightly, as he finished as runner-up to Flutie for the league's Most Outstanding Player award.

During the 1998 season, Dave Dickenson backed up Garcia as quarterback, with Henry Burris as the team's third option. The Stampeders rolled to a 12 to 6 record, good for top spot in the West for the seventh time in the 1990s decade. In 1998, in the Grey Cup final, they beat the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 26 to 24 after a last second field goal from Mark McLoughlin.

Garcia left after the 1998 season to join the San Francisco 49ers, allowing Dickenson to take over at quarterback for the 1999 season. The team's 12 to 6 record saw them finish in second place where they landed a Grey Cup rematch with the Tiger-Cats, losing 32 to 21. After finishing the 1990s with a 127 & 52 & 1 record and making the playoffs every year, expectations were sky high for the 2000s.

In 2000, the Stampeders finished in first place in the West Division with a twelve and five, one tie record and Dickenson was

named the CFL's Most Outstanding Player. Calgary still lost to the Lions in the West final. In the off-season, Dickenson left to try his hand with the NFL's San Diego Chargers, while the team's all-time touchdown leader Allen Pitts was released. Pitts still holds the CFL record for most career 100-yard receiving games.

Marcus Crandell became the team's starting quarterback for most of 2001 and the new-look Stampeders snuck into the playoffs. An MVP winning performance by Crandell helped the Stampeders upset the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 27 to 19 to win the fifth Grey Cup in team history. The in-season purchase of the team by California businessman Michael Feterik brought about three nasty turbulent years. Feterik purchased the team in October 2001 from Sig Gutsche and insisted that his son, quarterback Kevin Feterik, be included on the roster. The Stampeders got off to a sputtering start that saw them out of playoff contention by mid-October and finish with a 6 to 12 record. The controversial Fred Fateri was hired as chief operating officer at mid-season, and Buono handed in his letter of resignation in January 2003, with Jim Barker replacing him as head coach.

Things went from bad to worse in 2003 as the Stampeders finished in last place in the West with a 5 to 13 record. Fateri left the team in September, while kicker Mark McLoughlin retired and replaced Stan Schwartz as team president, infuriating players,

alumni and most of the community. McLoughlin lasted only fifty-six days as president with Ron Rooke stepping in to replace him. Rooke fired Barker as coach three days before Christmas and hired Matt Dunigan as general manager and head coach, but the changes didn't pay off. The Stampeders ended the 2004 season in last place, with a 4 to 14 record and the organization's reputation in tatters.

In January 2005, the team changed ownership yet again when a group led by Ted Hellard, John Forzani and Doug Mitchell purchased the team from Michael Feterik for around six million dollars. Within days, Dunigan and Rooke had been fired. Jim Barker returned to the team to serve as general manager, with Tom Higgins joining as head coach and vice-president of football operations. Hellard took over as team president, with Forzani as chair and Schwartz as executive vice president.

Changes on the field were no less dramatic with former backup Henry Burris returning to the team and took over as quarterback. The team bounced back with an 11 to 7 regular season record to finish in second place in the West, only to lose 33 to 26 to the Edmonton Eskimos in the West semi-final.

The next season, 2006, saw the emergence of Nik Lewis and Jeremaine Copeland as one of the CFL's most dynamic receiving duos. The Stampeders again finished in second, but lost in the West semi-final. The pressure was on Higgins heading into

2007, and another loss to the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the West semi-final marked the end of his time as head coach in Calgary. He was replaced by John Hufnagel, who had served as offensive coordinator for Wally Buono's 1990s Stampeders teams and had recently been fired from his role as offensive coordinator of the NFL's New York Giants.

Improvements came quickly, with Joffrey Reynolds putting up impressive numbers at running back and Burris earning a Most Outstanding Player nomination. After finishing in first place in the West, the Stampeders won their sixth Grey Cup with a 22 to 14 win over the Montreal Alouettes.

In 2009, the Stampeders fielded a team with four All-Stars, but fell to the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the West final. Under Hufnagel's coaching, the Stampeders finished the 2010 regular season in first place in the West Division, but again fell at the hands of the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the West final, despite Henry Burris winning the CFL's Most Outstanding Player award. Former quarterback Dave Dickenson assumed offensive coordinator duties in 2011, but the team was eliminated in the West semi-final. The following year, the team defeated the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the 2012 semi-final before losing to the hometown Toronto Argonauts in the 100th Grey Cup.

Calgary fell to the Roughriders in the West final in 2013, although running back Jon Cornish became the third Canadian to

win the CFL's Most Outstanding Player award and the fourth football player to win the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's top athlete. Cornish and Russ Jackson are the only men to have won both awards.

With Bo Levi Mitchell assuming starting quarterback duties in 2014, the Stampeders tied a team record by finishing 15 to 3 in the regular season and went on to beat the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 20 to 16 for their seventh Grey Cup in history. However, the Stampeders couldn't repeat this success in 2015, losing to the Edmonton Eskimos in the West final. John Hufnagel then stepped down as head coach to focus on his duties as president and general manager of the club, while Dickenson took over head coaching duties for the 2016 season.

In his first season as head coach, Dave Dickenson set a CFL rookie-coaching wins record by guiding the team to a 15 & 2 & 1 record. The Stampeders dominated the post-season CFL Awards, with Bo Levi Mitchell winning Most Outstanding Player, Jerome Messam being recognized as top Canadian, Derek Dennis winning Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman, DaVaris Daniels being named Most Outstanding Rookie and Dickenson winning Coach of the Year. The season ended on a bad note however as the heavily favourite Stampeders were upset in overtime of the Grey Cup final by the Ottawa Redblacks.

The team was hit by tragedy on September twenty-five 2016, when defensive back Mylan Hicks was shot and killed outside a Calgary nightclub. In November 2017, the Stampeders were upset for the second year in a row by the Toronto Argonauts, 24 to 27, at the Grey Cup final in Ottawa. According to Pat Steinberg of CFL.ca the question for the Stamps' future is, "how do you approach an off-season to try and win just one more game"?

Interesting information and tid-bits on the Calgary Stampeders

Founded: 1945

Helmet design: Red background with a white, running horse. This design has been in place, with slight variations, since the 1967 season

Uniform colours: Red, white and black

Past uniform colours: Red and white with accents of grey

Nicknames: Stamps, Horsemen with Ralph the dog as Mascot

Fight Song: "Ye Men of Calgary"; Stadium: McMahon

Western Division 1st Place: twenty, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1965, 1967, 1971, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017

Western Division Championships: sixteen, 1948, 1949, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2017.

Cup Championships seven 1948, 1971, 1998, 2001, 2008 and 2014
2017 regular season record: thirteen wins and four losses



The Stamps hoist the Grey Cup

A big shout-out to every media person who have promoted the Calgary Stampeders over the decades including Jock Wilson, Mark Stephen, Pat Steinberg and Graham Kelly

Sources for this chapter include various archives and the Canadian Encyclopedia



TM



Chapter Three

Those Esks Know How to Feast

*We're cheering fight, fight, fight on Eskimos
We're marching right, right, right on Eskimos
We're charging down the field for all to see
And shouting rah, rah, rah, fight on to victory
We're fighting on 'til every game is won
The green and gold is bold and when we're done
We'll tell the world we're proud of Edmonton
and the Edmonton Eskimos.*

Edmonton's fight song

The Edmonton Eskimos are a pro team centred in Edmonton, Alberta and they compete in the West Division of the Canadian Football League (CFL). The Esks (nick-name) play their football games at The Brick Field at Commonwealth Stadium. They are the third-youngest franchise in the CFL and were founded in 1949, although there was a team with the name Edmonton Eskimos as early as 1895.

The Eskimos are the most fruitful football team in the CFL of the modern era (since 1954), having won the league's Grey Cup championship fourteen times, second overall only to the Toronto Argonauts who have won seventeen. This includes a worthy three-peat between 1954 and 1956 and an unbelievable and unmatched five consecutive wins between 1978 and 1982, most recently in 2015.

Edmonton's football team holds a North American professional sports record by qualifying for the playoffs for thirty-four consecutive years between 1972 and 2005. Edmonton has had the most regular season division championships in the CFL's modern era with twenty-one, with their most recent coming in 2015. The team has a bitter rivalry with the Calgary Stampeders and are one of the three community owned teams currently operating in the CFL.

Eskimos Football Club is one of three "community owned" teams in the CFL (owned by local shareholders) which was once the most common type of ownership in the CFL. In 2006 the *Ottawa Sun* reported that shares cost \$10 each, but were not open to the general public and required the approval of the 80 existing shareholders. Edmonton Eskimos, Inc. is governed by a ten-member board of directors. The board consists of a chairman, treasurer, secretary, six directors and an alternate governor. The

club's president and CEO is Len Rhodes, he is not currently a member of the board.

The story of the team's name goes back to press articles from 1903 and possibly as far back as 1892 and the first date of a "rugby football" game between Edmonton and Calgary. It is a legacy of the bitter rivalry between the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, the so-called Battle of Alberta. In the early years of sports competition between the cities, the press in each town used colourful nicknames to insult the rival team's home. Edmontonian writers called Calgary "the cow camp", "horse country", or "the little village beside the Bow". Likewise Calgary's responded with insults about Edmonton's northern latitude and frigid weather, calling the city's residents "Esquimeaux" (an archaic spelling of "Eskimos", referring to the indigenous people of the Canadian Arctic, properly called Inuit). Despite the fact Edmonton is several thousand kilometres south of the Arctic, the name "had the advantages of alliteration, neatness, uniqueness, and a certain amount of truth," and thus, according to historian of Edmonton Tony Cashman, "it stuck."

The name remained an unofficial nickname, however, until the arrival in Edmonton of American baseball coach and sports promoter William Deacon White in 1907. White founded the Edmonton Eskimos baseball team in 1909, the football

Eskimos in 1910, and Edmonton Eskimos hockey team in 1911. Of the three, only the football teams' name has survived.

However recently, the mayor of Winnipeg and Edmonton's mayor Don Iverson have spoken up against the name. Natan Obed, the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Canada's national Inuit organization, has stated that "Eskimo is not only outdated, it is now largely considered a derogatory term and is a relic of colonial power". After Inuit singer Tanya Tagaq suggested that a name change would show respect, Paula Simons of the Football was first played in 1895 with a series of organized games under the umbrella of the Alberta Rugby Football Union. In 1910 the club was officially named the Edmonton Eskimos, with the current incarnation beginning play in 1949.

Since 1978 the Esks have played their home games in The Brick Field at Commonwealth Stadium. They are one of the most successful teams in Canadian football history, having won the Grey Cup more than any other team except the Toronto Argonauts, and being the leader in attendance for many years.

A storied history and a promising future make the Edmonton Eskimos a franchise to be copied indeed.



Commonwealth Stadium is the home of the Eskimos

The team holds many impressive records, including five consecutive Grey Cup wins (1978 to 1982) and thirty-four consecutive years in the playoffs (1972 to 2005), the latter is a record no other North American professional sports team has equalled. Former Eskimos have figured prominently in Alberta political life: past players include two former provincial premiers, Peter Lougheed and Donald Getty, a former mayor of Edmonton Bill Smith, and a lieutenant-governor, Norman Kwong.

Edmonton's football team made it to nine Grey Cups in a ten-year span from 1973 to 1982. Since Edmonton re-entered the CFL in 1949, only one other team, also Edmonton, has managed to win even three championships in a row (1954 to 56). The

achievements during the Eskimos dynasty were documented in the book, *Decade of Excellence*, with photographs by Bob Peterson.

At the beginning of the 2017 season the Eskimos had the largest average attendance in the league twenty-seven times since moving to Commonwealth Stadium in 1978. The current uniform colours, green and gold, were adopted when the Eskimos received uniforms from the University of Alberta Golden Bears football team in 1949, which was dormant due to a lack of competition. Overall, the jersey and colours have remained essentially the same over the years with only minor modifications. In 2001 the Eskimos introduced white pants to be worn with their away jerseys.

In the 2005 CFL season all CFL teams switched to a Reebok designed template but the jerseys for the Eskimos stayed much the same. In that same year the Eskimos introduced an alternate jersey for the first time in the franchise's history. Green pants were also introduced at this time and were worn with their home and away jerseys from 2005 to 2015. Along with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and Winnipeg Blue Bombers, they were one of the few teams to alternate the pants and jersey combinations of their uniforms within a season.

The jerseys were remodelled for the 2012 season and brought back the green helmets that were worn for the Labour

Day game and rematch in 2008. The green helmets were worn with the away jerseys and marked the first time in franchise history that a helmet other than gold was worn as a regular facet of the uniform. It was also the first time in franchise history that two different helmets were worn for home and away uniforms. The team also stopped alternating pant and jersey combinations during this season, using consistent home and away looks all year long.

During the next season, on August 24, 2013, the Eskimos returned to the all-green combination of green helmets, jerseys, and pants that had not been worn since 2008. With the league switching uniform contracts to Adidas in 2016, the Eskimos again redesigned their uniforms, with the jerseys more closely resembling the simplistic jersey stripe pattern worn from 1996 to 2011. The white jerseys removed the green side-panelling and the team retired the green helmet.

The first western Canadian team to play in the Grey Cup was the 1921 Edmonton Eskimos, coached by William Freeman 'Deacon' White, a native of Illinois. They returned to the Grey Cup game the next year after changing their name to the Edmonton Elks, following a sizable donation from the Elks service club. This time, the team got on the scoreboard with rouge which was a single point awarded to the kicking team in certain situations, in a 13 to 1 loss to the Queen's University Rugby Club

in the only Grey Cup ever played in Kingston, Ontario. They made Canadian football history in 1929 by scoring the first touchdown pass in the country, in which Pal Power caught a ball thrown by Joe Cook on a play that covered 65 yards and was taken into the end zone. However, the team folded after the 1932 season.

It wasn't until construction of Clarke Stadium in 1938, named after former Edmonton mayor Joe Clarke, that the Eskimos football club resumed play. The team ended up 0 and 8 that season under head coach Bob Fritz, who, three years earlier, led the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to become the first western Canadian team to win a Grey Cup. But Fritz couldn't recreate his magic in Edmonton. He followed up his winless first season as coach with a 3 to 8 record in 1939..

The Edmonton Eskimos franchise of today was founded as a community-owned, not-for-profit endeavour in 1949, in what is now known as the modern era of Canadian football. This new era was supported by a cast of future Hall of Famers in director Eric Duggan and head coach Annis Stukus, along with builders Kenneth Montgomery and Moses ('Moe') Lieberman. The Edmonton football team was decidedly unsuccessful on the gridiron during their inaugural season. However, the roster included players who went on to find fame in other capacities, with Peter Lougheed being elected as Alberta's premier, Steve Paproski

becoming a Member of Parliament and Gene Kiniski finding fame as a champion professional wrestler.

The Edmonton team took five years to rise to the cream-of-the-crop in the CFL. Improving from a 4 to 10 record in 1949 to an even 7 to 7 the next season, the team acquired a winning record of 8 to 6 in 1951, thanks in part to acquiring Norman 'Norm' Kwong from the Calgary Stampeders that year. The running back was part of Calgary's 1948 Grey Cup championship as a rookie, but he would go on to become the "China Clipper" and self-proclaimed "Living Legend" while wearing green and gold. Fellow future Hall of Famer Roland 'Rollie' Miles was also brought on board that season. Edmonton reached its first Grey Cup final the following season, with a 21 to 11 loss to the Toronto Argonauts.

Johnny Bright joined the backfield in '54, alongside "Old Spaghetti Legs" quarterback Jackie Parker, adding to a cast of personalities that would become known as the "Glory Gang." That same season also ushered in Frank 'Pop' Ivy, who ran up an impressive 61 to 18 record in his time as head coach. After posting 11 to 5 in the regular season, Edmonton made it to that year's Grey Cup. The game turned for the underdog Eskimos when Parker returned a fumble ninety yards for a touchdown (worth five points back then) to tie the heavily favoured Montreal Alouettes 25 to 25. Bob Dean then lined up and kicked the

winning convert to capture Edmonton's first ever Grey Cup championship.

Edmonton won its second championship in a row in 1955 while playing in the first Grey Cup held west of Ontario, holding the Alouettes scoreless in the first half on the way to a 34 to 19 victory in Vancouver's new Empire Stadium. They made it three in a row the following year, finishing 11 and 5 to edge out the Saskatchewan Roughriders for first place in the division. In the team's last two playoff games that year, including the Grey Cup final, Ivy made the controversial decision to move Parker to running back and play Canadian Don Getty as quarterback.

It paid off, though, leading to a big 50 to 27 victory over the Alouettes. The 1957 season marked the end of an era when, despite earning a 14 to 2 record, the Eskimos failed to score a touchdown in the playoffs during a best-of-three series loss to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. The departure of coach Ivy after that season marked the beginning of the unravelling of the Glory Gang, even though Edmonton reached the West final in each of the next three years.

In 1960, the second year under head coach Eagle Keys, the old Glory Gang returned to the Grey Cup. They lost 16 to 6 to Russ Jackson's Ottawa Rough Riders, prompting *Vancouver Sun* columnist Denny Boyd to sign off on Edmonton's initial championship era with the phrase "The Eskimos are too old to cry

and too proud to alibi. There were no tears and no lies in the dressing room when it was over.” Another thirteen seasons would pass before the Eskimos played in another Grey Cup.

During the 1960s, there was no guarantee they would even last that long. In danger of disbanding like previous ghosts of Eskimos football organizations, the 28-member board of directors was replaced by a nine-person board in 1964 in efforts to streamline decision-making at the executive level. Responsible for the entire payroll, they became known as the “Nervous Nine.” But thanks to various loans and fundraising initiatives like the Eskimo Annual Dinner, the club stayed afloat.

Eagle Keys was fired in early 1964 after the team finished in last place in 1962 and 1963. Under his leadership (1959 to 63), the Eskimos went 37–40–2. He went on to coach Saskatchewan to their first Grey Cup championship three years later and finished his CFL coaching career with a 146–115–8 record on his way to the Hall of Fame. Norm Kimball came in as the Eskimos general manager in 1965 to guide the rebuilding process and, together with Ray Newman, paved the way in recruiting players from north and south of the border.

Spending four seasons as Edmonton’s running back coach, Ray Jauch finally replaced head coach Neill Armstrong, who went on to join the NFL’s Minnesota Vikings. In 1970, Jauch was named CFL Coach of the Year in his rookie campaign, which saw the

Eskimos finish in second place with a 9 to 7 record. Two years later, thanks to the addition of quarterbacks Bruce Lemmerman (who was a back-up QB for the Atlantic Falcons) and Tom Wilkinson, Jauch led the club back to the Grey Cup final. While they lost the '73 Grey Cup to Ottawa by a score of 22 to 18, the Eskimos became a staple in the final. Appearing in nine of ten consecutive Grey Cup games, Edmonton won six championships over the span of a decade.

Losing the 1974 Grey Cup by a score of 20 to 7 to the Montreal Alouettes, the Eskimos rebounded in 1975 to earn the club's first championship in nineteen years. On the strength of a 12 to 4 regular season, Edmonton once again faced the fierce Alouettes. Montreal bobbled the snap on what would have been the game-winning field goal, and Edmonton held on to win a low scoring game 9 to 8 to end one of the longest droughts between championships in franchise history.

Edmonton back to the big game lost the 1977 Grey Cup to the Montreal Alouettes by a score of 41 to 6. However the arrival of head coach Hugh Campbell that season set the Eskimos on a historic course. A year later, the 1978 Commonwealth Games saw the opening of the club's new home at Commonwealth Stadium, which coincided with the arrival of quarterback Warren Moon, who was fresh off a Rose Bowl MVP with the University of Washington Huskies. The squad went 10-4-2 that season before

earning a measure of revenge for the previous year's lopsided Grey Cup embarrassment by defeating the Alouettes 20 to 13 in a championship rematch. It was the first of five consecutive titles under coach Campbell, as Edmonton defeated the Montreal Alouettes in 1979 (17 to 9), the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in 1980 (48 to 10), the Ottawa Rough Riders in 1981 (26 to 23) and the Toronto Argonauts in 1982 (32 to 16). This unprecedented string of victories, together with the Edmonton Oilers' championship run in the 1980s, contributed to the city's moniker as "Canada's City of Champions."

Coach Campbell left after the 1982 season with a coaching record of 81–22–5, taking the head coaching job with the Los Angeles Express (United States Football League) for a year before joining the NFL's Houston Oilers in 1984. Under Campbell, the Oilers won a bidding war for Warren Moon, paying the then-staggering price of \$6 million over five years for the Edmonton quarterback. Moon remains the only player to be enshrined in both the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

Former Edmonton quarterback Jackie Parker returned in 1983 to the team as head coach, serving in that capacity until health issues forced him to step down early in the 1987 season. Parker guided the team through a period of rebuilding, including a difficult roster transition after a host of retirements. Future Hall of

Famers Damon Allen, Matt Dunigan and Tracy Ham filled the quarterback void left by Warren Moon. The new roster included a fan favourite in dynamic return man Henry ('Gizmo') Williams, with his signature front-flip touchdown celebration. Aside from one season with the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles in 1989, "The Giz" remained with the Eskimos until 2000 in a Hall of Fame career that saw him leave the CFL as the top kick returner of all time.

Hugh Campbell returned to Canada in 1986 from the NFL, becoming Edmonton's general manager and eventually becoming president and CEO of the club. Under Campbell and head coaches Parker, Joe Faragalli, Ron Lancaster, Kay Stephenson and Don Matthews, the Eskimos played in five Grey Cup finals during this period, winning two (1987 and 1993). In 1986, Parker led Edmonton to its seventeenth Grey Cup appearance since 1949, resulting in a 39 to 15 loss to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. The following year, the team won the 1987 Grey Cup with a 38 to 36 victory over the Toronto Argonauts.

In 1989, the Eskimos established the high watermark with a CFL-best 16 to 2 regular-season record, only to fall on their face with a 32 to 21 to the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the West Division final. The Eskimos went on to play in three more Grey Cup finals in the 1990s, defeating the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 33 to 23 under Hall of Fame head coach Ron Lancaster in 1993 to

capture the club's 11th championship. Quarterback Damon Allen was named MVP of the game.

After the 2000 season, Henry ('Gizmo') Williams retired after setting more than twenty CFL records. The new millennium saw the Eskimos searching for a new face for the franchise, which arrived in 2002 from an unlikely source. Before joining the Eskimos, quarterback Ricky Ray was driving a truck for the Frito-Lay potato chip company, which led to the nickname "Frito Ray." In his first season, he started eleven games after taking over for the injured Jason Maas. The rookie quarterback helped an otherwise-veteran Edmonton squad reach the Grey Cup that year, only to fall 25 to 16 to the Montreal Alouettes.

Both teams met again for the 2003 final, with the Eskimos winning 34 to 22 to capture their first Grey Cup in a decade. Tom Higgins was named CFL Coach of the Year. The following season, Ray moved to the NFL and spent the 2004 season on the New York Jets practice roster. He returned to Edmonton in 2005 and once again took over for Maas, who led the way to a 9 to 9 record in 2004 to make the playoffs. With Ray back on centre and Danny Maciocia taking over as head coach from Higgins, the Eskimos made an improbable run through the 2005 playoffs that saw Maas come off the bench to relieve Ray in the Western semi-final and final. For the third time in four years, Edmonton faced Montreal in

the Grey Cup and won 38 to 35 in the second CFL championship game to go into overtime.

Following mass retirements across the offensive line, the Eskimos finished the 2006 season with a 7 to 11 record and ended up last in the West Division. Edmonton general manager Eric Tillman in December 2011 traded his face-of-the-franchise quarterback, Ray, to the Argonauts for quarterback Steven Jyles, kicker Grant Shaw and a 2012 first-round draft pick in a move that what was both highly publicized and criticized. Edmonton went on to make the playoffs that year by crossing over to the East Division with a 7 and 11 record, which set them up against Ray's Argos in the East Division semi-final. Eight days before the game, Tillman was fired and Edmonton ended up losing 42 to 26, while the Argos went on to win the Grey Cup.

Tillman was replaced as general manager by former Eskimos all-star receiver Ed Hervey, who became the club's head scout after retiring from the field following the 2006 season. Hervey's top priority was finding a starting quarterback, which he did when he acquired Mike Reilly from the BC Lions. The 2013 season saw the Eskimos finish 4 to 14, their worst record since the 1960s. Chris Jones was hired as head coach in 2014, which led to a dramatic turnaround that saw the Eskimos finish 12 to 6 and host their second home playoff game in ten years.

They returned to the Grey Cup in 2015 to defeat the Ottawa Redblacks by a score of 26 to 20, with Mike Reilly named the game's MVP. Eight days later, Chris Jones became general manager and head coach in Saskatchewan. Former Edmonton quarterback Jason Maas was named head coach in December 2015 and led the Eskimos to a 10 to 8 record and an appearance in the 2016 East Division final.

The Edmonton Eskimos finished the 2017 season in third place in 2017 and lost to the Calgary Stampeders in the Western Final. Quarterback Mike Reilly did win the MOP (most outstanding player) award at seasons end.

Interesting information and tid – bits on the Esks

Founded: 1949, although other teams named the Edmonton Eskimos existed 1895 to 1923 and 1929 to 1939. Formerly known as, the "Esquimaux" 1897 to 1910 and the "Elks" in 1922.

*Helmet design: Yellow background, with gold "EE" on a green oval.
Uniform colours: G Nicknames: Esks, Eskies and the Double-E*

Nicknames: Esks, Eskies, the Double-E; Mascots: Nanook; Uniform is green, gold and white. Past uniform colours: Blue and white (1938 to 1939) and black and yellow (1907 to 1937)

Fight Song: Eskimo Fight Song; Stadiums: Clarke Stadium (1949–1978) and The Brick Field at Commonwealth Stadium (1978–present)

Western Division 1st place : twenty-three

1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2015

Western Division Champions: twenty-three, 1952, 1954, 1955,

1956, 1960, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2015.

Grey Cup championships: fourteen

1954, 1955, 1956, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1987, 1993, 2003, 2005 and 2015. 2017 record – twelve wins and six losses

A special shout-out to long time “voice of the Esks” Bryan Hall and Terry Jones.
A tip of the hat to Cam Cole and all Edmonton media including Morley Scott



Here come the Eskimos Photo courtesy of CBC.ca

Sources for this chapter include archived copy, Wikipedia, Canadian encyclopedia and team sites are some of the sources used in this chapter



QB Mike Reilly lifts the Cup

Photo courtesy of Kingston Whig-Standard



Chapter Four

Best Damn Fans in Canada

Green is the Colour. Football is the Game. We're all together and
Winning is our aim. So cheer us on through the sun and rain.

Saskatchewan Roughriders is our name.

Let's show our pride in the Green & White. We will fight, Green &
White. Sing loud and clear till the game is won.

The best is yet to come.

Green is the Colour. Football is the Game. We're all together and
Winning is our aim. So cheer us on through the sun and rain.

Saskatchewan Roughriders is our name.

Here at Taylor Field we are Number one. We're the best; East or
West. We'll give our all till the game is done.

Stand up and sing everyone.... Hey!

Green is the Colour. Football is the Game. We're all together and
Winning is our aim. So cheer us on through the sun and rain.

Saskatchewan Roughriders is our name.

Many Canadian football fans consider the Saskatchewan
Roughriders (based in Regina) Canada's team. They play in

the Western Division of the Canadian Football League and the Roughriders were founded in 1910 as the Regina Rugby Club. Although they were not the first team to play football in Western Canada, the club has maintained an unbroken existence since their beginning. The Riders are the third-oldest professional gridiron football team playing today (only the Arizona Cardinals and Toronto Argonauts are older), and one of the oldest professional sports teams still in business in North America. Of these teams, the Roughriders are both the oldest still in existence that continuously has been based in Western Canada.

The Riders are also the North Americas oldest community-owned professional sports franchise, older than every American professional sports team outside baseball other than the aforementioned Cardinals (who, unlike the Roughriders, no longer play in their original city) and older than every Canadian sports team outside football except the Montreal Canadiens, who were founded about nine months prior to the Roughriders. Saskatchewan's team changed their name to the Regina Roughriders from the Regina Rugby Club in 1924 and finally to the current moniker in 1946. The Roughriders played their home games at historic Taylor Field from 1936 to 2016 and now play at the new Mosaic Stadium.

The team has a fan base all across Saskatchewan and Canada who are affectionately known as the Rider Nation. The

Riders play in the smallest market in the CFL and the second-smallest major-league market in North America (only Green Bay, Wisconsin, is smaller). They have finished in first place in the Western Division seven times and have won the Western championship a record twenty-eight times. They have won four Grey Cups and they have twenty players inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

The Riders' biggest rival is the hated Winnipeg Blue Bombers and games between the two teams are often sold out before the beginning of the season. The Roughriders Football Club and the city of Regina have hosted the Grey Cup three times, including a Roughrider win in the 101st Grey Cup. In July 2012, the Province of Saskatchewan announced that the Roughriders would have a new stadium that would be completed in time for the 2017 season and fact was ready several months before that. This allowed time for other events to be hosted and the lessons learned from this soft-opening to be applied in time for the 2017 CFL season.

On September 13, 1910, the team was founded as the Regina Rugby Club adopting the colours of gold and purple. The team played most of their home games at Park Hughes on 10th Avenue in Regina's north central section, which would remain their home base for over a century. They were also a founding member of the Saskatchewan Rugby Football Union as it was

organized on September 22 of that year. Regina played their first game against the Moose Jaw Tigers on October 1, 1910, at the Moose Jaw Baseball Grounds where they were defeated 16 to 6. For the 1911 season, the team changed their colours to blue and white to match the Regina Amateur Athletic Association and won their first SRFU championship, but lost in the first season of the Western Canada Rugby Football Union playoffs.

Again (in 1912) the club changed their colours to red and black and began an era of western football dominance. For every season of play in the SRFU, Regina won the league championship, exerting control over teams from Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, and other clubs in Saskatchewan. Beginning in the 1912 season, Regina won seven straight WCRFU titles, excluding 1917 and 1918 when World War I interrupted league play. In 1921, the western champion was invited to compete for the Grey Cup national championship for the first time, but it was the Edmonton Eskimos traveling east to play in the ninth Grey Cup as they not Regina won the West.

Regina returned to power in 1923 as they won their eighth western championship over Winnipeg and earned the right to compete in the national playoffs. The club was given a bye and advanced straight to the Grey Cup finals for the first time, but were horribly out-gunned and outmatched, losing 54 to 0 to Queen's University at Varsity Stadium in Toronto. This was, and

to this day, still is, the most lopsided defeat in Grey Cup history with the defending champion Queen's winning their third straight national championship. Following their Grey Cup loss, the club in 1924 changed their name to the Regina Roughriders while retaining the colours of red and black.

Canada's capital also had a team called the Ottawa Rough Riders, but the spelling was different and the two clubs played in different leagues, incidentally, both clubs shared the same colours of red and black then. The origin of the name has multiple theories, the most plausible of which describes how the North-West Mounted Police were called Roughriders because they broke wild horses that were then used by the force. Giving credence to this theory is that during this time, the team occasionally played at the RCMP barracks when the then-rudimentary facilities at Park Hughes were rendered unsuitable for play by inclement weather.

An alternative, discredited story states that the name was adopted from Theodore Roosevelt's cavalry contingent that was known as the Rough Riders, who fought in the Spanish–American War. It was believed that there were Canadian troops in the contingent who returned to Canada following the war. However, this story is more often associated with the Ottawa club. While it has been suggested that some of the troops may have eventually moved out West, the Roughriders did not adopt their name until

1924 by which time the Spanish-American War was (especially in Canada) barely a historical footnote compared to the then-much more recent (and much more climatic) First World War. Following World War I, any attempt to deliberately name a Canadian sports team in honour of a unit that participated in an earlier American war would have been extremely unpopular.

During the first two years after their name change, the Roughriders failed to reclaim their Western championship title, losing both times to teams from Winnipeg. The 1926 season marked the beginning of their next reign of dominance as the club matched their own WCRFU record with seven consecutive western championships from 1926 to 1932. With power-house players such as Canadian Football Hall of Famer Eddie James, the Roughriders were a perennial contender from the West, reaching the Grey Cup finals five consecutive years from 1928 to 1932, the second-longest streak in the championship's history. Unfortunately, Regina remained winless in the national championship, being outscored 102 to 15 in those Grey Cup games. The Roughriders won their last WCRFU title in 1934, representing the West for the seventh time in the 22nd Grey Cup, but lost to the Sarnia Imperials in that club's first Grey Cup win.

In 1936, Regina joined the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and Calgary Bronks as the founding franchises of the Western

Interprovincial Football Union, the highest level of Canadian football play in Western Canada. Also in 1936, the first permanent grandstand was built at Park Hughes and Park de Young (which eventually became Taylor Field), which combined with other upgrades allowed the club to play all of its home games at the facility for over eight decades.

The Roughriders became the first WIFU champions after they defeated the Blue Bombers and Bronks in the West Semi-Finals and West Finals respectively. However, due to a rules dispute with the Canadian Rugby Union over use of their five import players from the United States, Regina was barred from competing for the 24th Grey Cup. Winnipeg had won the Grey Cup championship one year earlier with seven imports and the move to prevent Regina from competing was seen as a reaction to the previous year's western win. While the Roughriders had planned on traveling east without the five ineligible players, the CRU remained steadfast in their decision to disallow the team from competition.

The next decade in the WIFU was not as successful as the first as the team did not win another Western Final as the Regina Roughriders, nor ever finish in first place in that time span. After qualifying for the playoffs in three of their next five seasons, play from 1942 to 1944 was interrupted due the World War II. While there was no regular season in 1945, the Roughriders did play the

newly named Calgary Stampeders in the West Semi-Finals, but lost the series two games to none.

With the folding of both clubs in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon, the Regina Roughriders became a provincially community-owned club (and has remained so since), and, consequently, changed their name to the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 1946. It is the first recorded instance of a major-league team in North America branding itself as a province wide team. Prior to the 1948 season, the Roughriders were in need of new uniforms as their red and black ones had become old and worn out. While visiting a surplus store in Chicago, executive member Jack Fyffe found a set of green and white uniforms and purchased them for the Roughriders. Green and white have remained as the team's primary colours to this day. The name change was made official on April 1, 1950.

Three years of first-round playoff exits and then finally a return to prominence in 1951 with the Riders winning their first WIFU regular season championship with an 8 to 6 record. Saskatchewan, led by quarterback Glenn Dobbs, defeated the Edmonton Eskimos in the West Final and advanced to the Grey Cup for the first time since 1934. In this game, they faced the Ottawa Rough Riders for the first time, marking the first Roughriders versus Rough Riders championship game in Canadian football history. Unfortunately, Saskatchewan still did not win

their first championship, as they were defeated by Ottawa 21 to 14 in the 39th Grey Cup.

Saskatchewan contended on and off in the 1950s, with four consecutive winning seasons and second-place regular season finishes from 1953 to 1956. Teams from this era featured standouts such as Frank Tripucka, Reggie Whitehouse, Ken Carpenter, Mike Cassidy, player-coach Frank Filchok and Cookie Gilchrist who was the first Roughrider player to rush for 1,000 yards in 1958. Even with that talent, they couldn't return to the Grey Cup as strong clubs fielded by either the Edmonton Eskimos and Winnipeg Blue Bombers ended their season in each of these years. Their strongest season was in 1956 when the Roughriders achieved a 10 to 6 record and won their first playoff series since 1951, only to lose to the Eskimos in the Western Finals.

Following their 1956 campaign, tragedy struck the Roughriders franchise when four members of the team were killed in a plane crash on December 9, 1956, while returning from the Canadian Football Council (CFC) All Star Game in Vancouver. Gordon Sturtridge, Mel Becket, Ray Syrnyk, and Mario DeMarco were killed when Flight 810 crashed into Slesse Mountain near Chilliwack, British Columbia. The team retired the numbers of the four players shortly after the tragedy. The following season, the

Roughriders finished with seven fewer wins and a last place finish in the WIFU.

Change came in heaps in 1958, as the Saskatchewan Roughriders became charter members of the newly-formed Canadian Football League in 1958, but also stability, as Ken Preston became the General Manager, a position he held for the next twenty years, arguably the most successful tenure in Roughrider history as the team only missed the playoffs five times, went to five Grey cups and won one in 1966. In the Roughriders' first season in the newly formed Canadian Football League, the team finished with a respectable 7–7–2 record and a third-place finish. However, the following season proved to be the worst in franchise history, as the team finished with just one win and fifteen losses under head coach Frank Tripucka, the third-worst winning percentage in CFL history. The following years featured similar results, with various head coaches, as the Roughriders missed the playoffs for three consecutive seasons, their worst such streak since joining the WIFU in 1936.

Following a 1962 season that saw the Roughriders return to the playoffs, the team made roster moves that would define a generation of football in Saskatchewan. In the off-season, the Roughriders signed fullback George Reed from Washington State to replace Fred Burket, who had been traded to the Alouettes. Then, prior to their season opening game of

the 1963 season, general manager Ken Preston acquired Ottawa Rough Riders quarterback and defensive back Ron Lancaster on July 30 in a straight cash deal. The duo contributed to a productive season for Saskatchewan as they finished with a 7–7–2 record and won a playoff series for the first time since 1956 before losing their first playoff match-up with the BC Lions. The Roughriders continued to make progress in the next two seasons, posting back-to-back winning records, but lost in the West Semi-Finals in both years.

In 1965 after one year as the offensive coordinator, Eagle Keys became the head coach of the Roughriders and guided them to an 8–7–1 record and an appearance in the western semi-final which they lost to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 15 to 9. Fullback George Reed finished the season with an amazing 1700 plus yards rushing. Before the 1966 season began, the team added the final pieces to the roster by signing stand-out defensive tackle Ed McQuarters who was a recent cut by the St. Louis Cardinals, safety and backup quarterback Bruce Bennett, defensive end Don Gerhardt and running back Paul Dudley from theStampeders.

During the 1966 season the Roughriders finally captured the Western Conference regular season title with a 9–6–1 record. This was the first time they had accomplished that feat since 1951. Ron Lancaster won the Jeff Nicklin Memorial Trophy as the Western Conference's most outstanding player

while George Reed, receiver Hugh Campbell and four other Riders were named league all-stars, the most from any team that year. Saskatchewan swept Winnipeg in the West Finals, winning two games to no losses, and qualified for the ninth Grey Cup final in franchise history. In the 54th Grey Cup, Saskatchewan once again faced the Ottawa Rough Riders in a rematch of the 1951 championship game. After the score was tied 14 to 14 at halftime, Saskatchewan scored fifteen fourth-quarter points to win the franchise's first Grey Cup championship 29 to 14 on November 26, 1966. Saskatchewan was the last of the original nine CFL franchises to win the Grey Cup, doing so in Vancouver at Empire Stadium. George Reed was the MVP with thirty-one rushes for one hundred and thirty-three yards with one rushing touchdown.

The Roughriders began the 1967 season as defending champions for the first time in franchise history. They finished in second place in the West with a franchise-best twelve and four record and advanced to Grey Cup final once again, but lost to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 24 to 1. The 1968 season saw the Roughriders finish with the best record in the league at 12–3–1, although they placed first in the west division, they lost both games of the western final series to the Calgary Stampeders by a combined score of 57 to 12. Besides the first place finish, another highlight of the season was coach Eagles Keys winning the Annis Stukus Trophy awarded to the coach of the year. The Roughriders

finished in first place in 1969 and defeated the Stampeders to qualify for another Grey Cup. In the rubber match against the Ottawa Rough Riders, Saskatchewan fell 29 to 11 in their third Grey Cup game in four years. The Roughriders won a franchise-best fourteen games in 1970, a record that stands to this day, but were upset in the West Finals by the Stampeders. Eagle Keys resigned during the following off-season, ending his career as the all-time leader in wins by a Saskatchewan Roughrider head coach with sixty-eight wins and four first-place finishes.



The great George Reed

Dave Skrien was hired as the next head coach of the Roughriders and they continued with their winning ways, namely

with an appearance in the 1972 Grey Cup, which yielded another Saskatchewan loss to Hamilton. For the 1973 season the Roughriders hired head coach John Payne. The Riders then had three consecutive second-place finishes and West Final losses to the Edmonton Eskimos, ending when George Reed retired after the 1975 season as the all-time leading rusher in all of professional football with 16,116 rushing yards. In 1976, the Roughriders recaptured first place in the West Division and defeated the Eskimos in the West Final, advancing to the Grey Cup to once again play the Ottawa Rough Riders. The Roughriders allowed a last-minute touchdown catch by Ottawa tight end Tony Gabriel to lose their fourth Grey Cup in ten years, ending one of the most bittersweet eras in Roughrider history.

Saskatchewan had qualified for the playoffs for fifteen consecutive seasons, tied for fourth-best in CFL history, and played in eleven consecutive Division Finals, which is a CFL record. They also posted the best regular season record in all of professional football over that time period, but only won one championship during that time.

After their loss in the 1976 Grey Cup game to the Ottawa Rough Riders, Coach John Payne left the team to become head coach of the Detroit Lions and Saskatchewan fell into a drought that was unheard of in the CFL. They posted an eight and eight record in 1977, but finished in fourth place. It was the start of an

eleven year playoff drought, the longest in CFL history. The Roughriders had several talented players during this era, including Joey Walters at receiver, Vince Goldsmith at defensive end, offensive lineman Roger Aldag from Gull Lake and Dave Ridgway, who became one of the greatest kickers in CFL history. However, in an era where the West was dominated by Edmonton, Winnipeg and (in the mid-1980s) the B.C. Lions, the Roughriders often found themselves in a losing battle for the last playoff spot.

Franchise quarterback Ron Lancaster retired after the 1978 season as the CFL's all-time passing leader in passing yards, completions and touchdown passes. Furthermore, he is the only Roughrider to win the CFL's Most Outstanding Player Award twice while playing with Saskatchewan. Playing without Lancaster behind center for the first time in sixteen seasons proved difficult as the team posted back-to-back 2 to 4 seasons in 1979 and 1980. Ironically, the head coach of those squads was none other than Lancaster himself. The Riders' only winning record during this time came in 1981 when they finished with a nine and seven record under Joe Faragalli, but it was only good enough for fourth place in a competitive West Division (the "crossover rule" had not yet been implemented) therefore, as in 1977, the Riders were denied a playoff spot despite the third place Eastern team having a worse record. During the following six seasons, the Roughriders never earned more than six wins in a

season, leaving them soundly out of the playoff picture. In 1985, the Roughriders introduced a new logo as part of the 75th anniversary of the inception of the team, adding black and silver to the team's colour scheme.

After a carousel of head coaches since John Payne's departure in 1977, the Roughriders hired John Gregory after the 1986 season. Gregory took over a team that had missed the playoffs for ten consecutive seasons. In 1987, his first season as Saskatchewan's head coach, the Roughriders finished 5 and 12. Gregory then led the Riders to an 11 and 7 record in 1988 and a playoff berth. He won the Annis Stukus Trophy as the league's coach of the year. The second place finish in 1988 finally ended the franchise's eleven year playoff drought. However, the Roughriders were relegated to second place because the Eskimos who had an identical record swept them in the regular season. On November 13, 1988 the Roughriders hosted a playoff game for the first time since 1976, but lost to the BC Lions in the Western Semi-Final by a score of forty-two to eighteen. However, it was a step in the right direction as the Roughriders learned how to win and gained valuable playoff experience that they would need for next season.

The Riders finished with a 9 and 9 record and a third-place finish in the 1989 season, but still qualified for the playoffs for a second consecutive season. They defeated the Calgary

Stampeders 33 to 26 in the West Semi-Finals in part because of delay run play to Brian Walling who ran 50 yards for a touchdown to make it 30 to 26 with 1:38 left to play. Ironically Walling had just been picked up by the Roughriders just weeks previously from the Edmonton Eskimos practice roster. In the West Final, Saskatchewan faced the powerhouse Edmonton Eskimos, a team that set (and still holds) a CFL record with sixteen regular season wins in one season. The Roughriders defeated the heavily favoured Eskimos to advance to the Grey Cup where they faced the Hamilton Tiger-Cats for the third time in franchise history. With a talented roster that included Kent Austin at quarterback, receivers Ray Elgaard, Donald Narcisse, Jeff Fairholm and James "Duke" Ellingson, and an outstanding offensive line featuring Roger Aldag, Vic Stevenson, Dan Payne and Bob Poley, the Roughriders found themselves in a game that featured extensive offensive prowess. With the score tied 40 to 40, placekicker Dave Ridgway kicked a thirty-five yard game-winning field goal to win the 77th Grey Cup for the Roughriders, with a play that has become simply known as "The Kick." It was the second championship for the franchise, following a twenty-three year drought and is considered the greatest Grey Cup game ever played.

Saskatchewan qualified for the playoffs in four of the next five seasons, including two seasons with winning records, but lost in the West Semi-Final each time to either the Calgary

Stampeders or Edmonton Eskimos. In 1995, Regina hosted the Grey Cup for the first time in league history, giving the Roughriders an opportunity to compete for the championship at home. Unfortunately, the Roughriders finished in sixth place in the newly named North Division, as part of the CFL's American expansion, and did not qualify for the playoffs.

The down but not out Roughriders didn't qualify again for the playoffs until 1997, when they did so with a losing record, which was their first since 1948. The team made the most of their opportunity as they defeated the Stampeders and Eskimos in the West Semi-Final and West Final, respectively, to advance to the 85th Grey Cup. Unfortunately, the upstart Roughriders fell to the Doug Flutie-led Toronto Argonauts 47 to 23 in the first ever Grey Cup match up between the two oldest franchises in the league. The Roughriders closed out the 20th century with two more losing seasons, failing to qualify for the playoffs in both 1998 and 1999.

Following the 1999 season, Roy Shivers, the former Director of Player Personnel for the Calgary Stampeders, assumed the duties of general manager of the Roughriders. Shivers then hired Danny Barrett as the team's head coach despite limited coaching experience. The Roughriders made football history by being the first professional team with a black general manager and head coach.

In what was described as a rebuilding process, the Roughriders began the Shivers and Barrett era with two consecutive last place finishes in 2000 and 2001, missing the playoffs in both years. In 2002, progress was being made as Saskatchewan made the playoffs for the first time since their run, with an 8 and 10 best record and a fourth-place finish. The team played in the East Semi-Final due to the crossover rule, playing in the eastern playoffs for the first time in their 90-year history, losing to their last playoff opponent, the Toronto Argonauts.

The 2003 season saw the Roughriders earn their first winning record since 1994, finishing 11 and 7 and in third place, building optimism in a year where the franchise was hosting their second ever Grey Cup game. While the team played their longtime rival, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, in the playoffs for the first time since 1975 and won, they lost the West Final to the eventual champion Edmonton Eskimos, missing a close chance to play in the Grey Cup at home.

After their strong 2003 campaign, the Roughriders were expected to build upon that success in 2004. While the team regressed slightly with a 9 and 9 record, they won the West Semi-Final over the Eskimos and advanced to the West Final for the second consecutive year to face the BC Lions. After Saskatchewan scored a late touchdown to take the lead, BC tied the game with a

late field goal, sending the game to overtime.

Saskatchewan placekicker uncharacteristically Paul (never miss) McCallum missed an eighteen yard field goal while BC kicker Duncan O'Mahoney landed a forty yarder to win the game for the Lions, adding to the frustration of the Roughrider fan base.

Prior to the 2005 season, quarterback Henry Burris signed as a free agent with Calgary, leaving the Roughriders with a smaller chance at progress. The team finished in fourth place with a 9 and 9 record and crossed over to the Eastern playoffs again, only to be defeated by the Montreal Alouettes in the first ever post-season meeting with that team. Feeling a greater need for progress, the pressure was on the Roughriders to perform in 2006 season. After Saskatchewan started the season 4 and 5, general manager Roy Shivers was fired on August 21, 2006. The Roughriders then hired Eric Tillman to take over and he elected not to renew Danny Barrett's contract at the end of the season, following a third consecutive 9 and 9 Season and a West Final loss to the Lions. While they did not win any championships, Shivers and Barrett restored a measure of respectability to the franchise and set the stage for things to come.

After contending on and off in the early part of the 21st century, the Roughriders hired 1989 Grey Cup hero Kent Austin as head coach and Ken Miller as offensive coordinator in the 2007 season. Despite a rookie head coach, the

team jumped out to a 7 and 2 start, which was their best start since 1976. They finished the season with a 12 and 6 record and brought along with it the Roughriders' first home playoff game since 1988, which became a 26 to 24 victory over the Calgary Stampeders. This was also their first home playoff win since 1976. The team then followed up with a 26 to 17 win at BC Place over the BC Lions in the West Division final to give the Roughriders a berth in their first Grey Cup final since 1997.

November 25, 2007, the Riders played the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the 95th Grey Cup. The Riders' traditional rivals had moved to the East Division the previous year following the demise of the Ottawa Renegades, and the 2007 championship game marked the first time that the two Labour Day Classic opponents played each other in a Grey Cup game. Saskatchewan won 23 to 19 in a game where James Johnson recorded a Grey Cup record three interceptions en route to being named Most Valuable Player of the 2007 Grey Cup. Fellow Roughrider Andy Fantuz was named the Canadian MVP in the game after recording seventy yards receiving and the game-winning touchdown.

A month and a half after capturing the 2007 Grey Cup, Austin stepped down as head coach to become the offensive coordinator at his alma mater University of Mississippi. In accepting this position in the NCAA, Austin turned down a very lucrative contract that the Riders had offered. On February 6, 2008,

Roughriders GM Eric Tillman announced that the new head coach would be Ken Miller. Miller was formerly the offensive coordinator under Austin. The team also traded former league MVP Kerry Joseph to the Toronto Argonauts, leaving the team without their Grey Cup-winning head coach and starting quarterback.

The 2008 season began with a 6 to 0 record with wins shared between three quarterbacks, including the season opening starter, Marcus Crandell. This was the team's best record since 1934, when they were still known as the Regina Roughriders. On August 24, 2008, the team's general manager, Eric Tillman, announced the acquisition of Quarterback Michael Bishop, the Toronto Argonauts backup quarterback at the time of the trade, who went 11 and 1 as a starter for the Argonauts in 2007. This was the end of Marcus Crandell's run with the Roughriders, as he was released four days later. After the 6 and 0 start, the Riders went on to finish the 2008 CFL Regular season with the same record they finished with in 2007, at 12 and 6. The Roughriders finished in second place in the CFL West Division and earned the right to host the CFL West Division Semi-Final for the second consecutive year. The Roughriders suffered a devastating (and humiliating) 33 to 2 loss to the BC Lions in the Western semi-final game, leading to Bishop's release shortly after the loss.

In 2009, the Roughriders were led by quarterback Darian Durant, who had seen his first significant playing time in 2008 and was named the opening day starter. Durant started all eighteen games for Saskatchewan and led the team to a 10–7–1 record and their first West Division regular season title since 1976. After defeating the Calgary Stampeders in the West Final, the team advanced to the 97th Grey Cup to face the Montreal Alouettes. After the Roughriders were leading 27 to 11 in the fourth quarter, Montreal stormed back to make the score 27 to 25 late in the fourth. Montreal kicker Damon Duval attempted a forty-three yard field goal and missed, but Saskatchewan had been called for a too-many-men penalty, advancing the placement ten yards. Duval did not miss a second time, scoring the three points to win the game 28 to 27 for the Alouettes and adding to the Roughriders' growing championship woes.

The Roughriders celebrated their one hundred year anniversary as a football club during the 2010 season, wearing retro-themed red and black uniforms based on the ones worn by the Regina Roughriders. The Roughriders finished second in the West with a 10 to 8 record and defeated the BC Lions in double overtime in the West Division Semi-Final. After defeating the Stampeders in the West Final for the second year in a row, the Roughriders faced the Alouettes in the 98th Grey Cup once again. Despite leading 11 to 8 at the half, the Roughriders faced a ten-

point deficit in the fourth quarter. The lead proved insurmountable, as Saskatchewan lost the game to Montreal for the second consecutive year by a score 21 to 18.

Following the Grey Cup loss, head coach Ken Miller resigned and became Vice President of Football operations. The club hired Greg Marshall as his replacement, but the 2011 season was one to forget, as the Roughriders finished last in the West at 5 and 13 and missed the playoffs. The Roughriders fired Marshall after a 1 and 7 start and had Miller step in as his replacement. The season was plagued by errors and mishaps, most of them self-inflicted as the team could not dig itself out of their early season hole. This was Ken Miller's last season with the Roughriders, as he retired shortly after the 2011 season.

On December 16, 2011 Corey Chamblin, who formerly served as the defensive coordinator for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, was named the new head coach of the Roughriders. The Roughriders signed two of the top Canadian players available in free agency in non-import offensive linemen Brendon LaBatte and Dominic Picard. However, they were not so fortunate with all-star linebacker Jerrell Freeman, who led the league in tackles in 2011 and departed for the NFL. The Roughriders also lost outstanding Canadian slot back Andy Fantuz, who led the league in receiving yards in 2010, as he signed as a free agent with Hamilton. Nonetheless, the team qualified for the playoffs after

missing out during the previous season. In 2012, Saskatchewan lost the Western Division Semi-Final game to the Calgary Stampeders in a close game, 36 to 30.

On January 24, 2013, the Riders traded Justin Harper and a fourth round 2014 picks to the BC Lions for six-time all-star Geroy Simon. Simon holds the record for most career receiving yards (16,352). Simon played and starred for the Lions from 2001 to 2012. The 2013 season started off spectacularly for the Roughriders, mainly for Darian Durant and Kory Sheets. The Roughriders went 8 and 1 in the first nine games and set a record for the best start in franchise history (their previous best was 7 and 1 during the 1970 season). Running back Kory Sheets had the best start for a running back in CFL history and Darian Durant had thrown only one interception while throwing twenty-one touchdowns.

The 2013 season ended with an 11 and 7 win to loss record, for second place in the West Division, behind Calgary. The team hosted its first playoff game since 2010 on November 10, the West Semi Finals against the BC Lions. The Roughriders won the game, 29 to 25, the first playoff win of Corey Chamblin's CFL head coaching career and the first since 2010 for the Roughriders, when quarterback Darian Durant put the team on his shoulders and rushed for forty-one yards. On Sunday, November 17, 2013, the Roughriders successfully defeated the Calgary Stampeders in

the Western Finals, the score being 35 to 13. This allowed the Saskatchewan Roughriders to advance to the 101st Grey Cup. A new state-of-the-art stadium opened in 2017 called Mosaic stadium and a return to the playoffs the same year (although with a loss in the semi-finals) bodes well for the future of Rider Nation.

Interesting information and tid-bits on the Roughriders

Founded: 1910

Formerly known as: Regina Rugby Club 1910 to 1923, Regina Roughriders 1924 to 1947

Helmet design: Green helmet/white mask with a white "S" with black trim and stalks of wheat on each side with a black background

Uniform colours: Green and white

Past uniform colours: Old gold and purple (1910), blue and white (1911), red and black (1912 to 1947)

Nicknames: Riders, the green and white

Mascot: Gainer the Gopher

Fight Song: "Green Is the Colour", "On Roughriders" and "Rider Pride"

Stadium: Mosaic Stadium Mascot: Gainer the gopher

Main rivals: Winnipeg Blue Bombers (see Labour Day Classic and Banjo Bowl), Edmonton Eskimos, Calgary Stampeders.

Western Division 1st Place: seven

1951, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1976, 2009

Western Division Championships: nineteen

*1923, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1934, 1951, 1966, 1967,
1969, 1972, 1976, 1989, 1997, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2013*

Grey Cup Championships: 4 - 1966, 1989, 2007, 2013

2017 regular season record: 10 wins, 8 losses

Website – www.riderville.com



Home of the Saskatchewan Roughriders

A special shout-out to the many media personalities (including Rod Petersen and Jamie Nye) in Saskatchewan who have promoted the Riders these past many years

Sources for this chapter include archived copy, Wikipedia, Canadian encyclopedia and team sites are some of the sources used in this chapter



Chapter Five

Bombs Away in Winnipeg

The Blue Bombers played their first home game at Investors Group Field on June 27, 2013, losing 38 to 33 to the Montreal Alouettes

The first football team to perform in Winnipeg was in 1879, and they were named the Winnipeg(s) Rugby Football Club. On June 10, 1930, they joined forces with all the other teams in the Manitoba Rugby Football Union creating the Winnipeg(s) Rugby Football Club, adopting the colours green and white. The Winnipeg(s) played their first game against St. John's Rugby Club on June 13, 1930, when St. John's won by a score of 7 to 3. In 1932, the Winnipeg(s) and St. John's merged into one team and adopted the colours blue and gold.

In 1935, before an exhibition game against North Dakota State (NDSU), Winnipeg Tribune sports writer Vince Leah decided

to borrow from Grantland Rice, who labelled Joe Louis as "The Brown Bomber". He called the team the "Blue Bombers of Western Football". Up to that point, the team had been called the Winnipeg(s). From that day forward, the team has been known as the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. In that same year, the Blue Bombers, Calgary Bronks, and Regina Roughriders formed the Western Interprovincial Football Union as the highest level of play in Western Canada.

Nineteen thirty-five was an historic year for the now named 'Bombers' as teams from the Western Canada had been to the Grey Cup game ten times since 1909, but they had always gone home empty-handed. It was those days the East was much more powerful, outscoring their opponents 236 to 29 in these games. On December 7, 1935, the Bombers got their first crack at winning the twenty-third Grey Cup, the game was held in Hamilton, with the home town Tigers being the opposition. It was a cold and rainy day at Hamilton Amateur Athletic Association Grounds that day and 6,405 fans were in attendance.

Winnipeg went ahead five to zero before many fans had even reached their seats. Hamilton player Jack Craig let the opening kickoff bounce to the turf while a Winnipeg player promptly recovered the ball at the Hamilton fifteen yard line. Winnipeg scored promptly on a Bob Fritz pass to Bud Marquardt to get an early lead. Scoring another touchdown on a Greg

Kabat catch in the end zone sent Winnipeg into the dressing room at halftime up 12 to 4. Their lead was soon cut to three points in the second half after Hamilton scored a touchdown of their own, helped by a blocked kick that placed the ball on the Winnipeg fifteen yard line.

After a Hamilton rouge, Winnipeg's Fritz Hanson caught a punt and after a few moves and a few missed tackles he was on his way to a seventy-eight yard touchdown, making the score 18 to 10. Hamilton would force a safety to bring themselves within six points but failed to crack the end zone, getting as far as the Winnipeg four-yard line. The final score was eighteen for the Bombers and twelve for Hamilton. With that, Winnipeg had become the first team from Western Canada to win the Grey Cup.

From 1936 to 1949, the Bombers won the right to compete for the Grey Cup in 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1943, and 1945. Of these appearances, Winnipeg won only twice, in 1939 over the Riders and again in their 1941 rematch.

Jack Jacobs, known as Indian Jack, was a Cree quarterback from Oklahoma. He came to the Bombers in 1950 after a successful career in the United States. He led the Bombers to two Grey Cup appearances, losing both, but his exciting style of play and extreme talent increased ticket sales and overall awareness and popularity of the club. The revenue the Bombers were getting from their newfound popularity was enough to convince them to

move from the small, outdated Osborne Stadium to the new Winnipeg Stadium (later known as Canad Inns Stadium). Jacobs was so well liked, the fans even referred to the new stadium as "The House that Jack Built". Jacobs retired in 1954 to become a talent scout for the team.

Jack Jacobs, in 1951, became the first professional football quarterback to throw for over 3,000 yards in a season throwing for 3,248. That year, he was also the first professional football quarterback to throw for at least thirty touchdowns, with thirty-three, bested the following season with thirty-four.

Bud Grant joined the team in 1953 after a two-year stint with the Philadelphia Eagles, as one of numerous NFL players lured to Canada during the first part of the decade for then-better salaries. After a four-year career as a receiver, then at the time called an offensive end, he accepted the position of head coach of the Bombers in 1957. Grant went on to coach the team for the next ten years before becoming the head coach of the NFL's Minnesota Vikings. In 1956, Labatt's Pilsener Lager which had a blue label was changed to Labatt Blue, in honour of the team.

During Grant's tenure as head coach, the Bombers welcomed the likes of Ken Ploen, Leo Lewis, Ernie Pitts, and Ed Kotowich to the team. The Bombers competed in six Grey Cup games during Grant's tenure, winning four (1958, 1959, 1961, and

1962). In 1961, the Bombers won 21 to 14 over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the first Grey Cup game to go into overtime. The Bombers and Ticats met again in the 1962 Grey Cup, with the game being postponed with 9 minutes and 29 seconds left in the fourth quarter due to zero visibility in the famous "Fog Bowl". The game resumed the next day with the Bombers winning 28 to 27.

During the second half of the 1960s, the Bombers' domination gave away to lean years, with four seasons of double digits heading the loss column. The team bounced back in the early 1970s with the likes of quarterback Don Jonas, running-back Mack Herron, wide receivers Jim Thorpe, and Bob LaRose. The team finished first in the Western Conference in 1972, the first time it had done so since 1962, however, the Bombers came up short in the Western Final against the Saskatchewan Roughriders. In the game, the Bombers squandered a thirteen point, third quarter lead en route to a heartbreaking 27 to 24 loss, with Saskatchewan kicker Jack Abendschan converting a short field goal attempt on the last play of the game to send the Riders to the 1972 Grey Cup against Hamilton. The 1972 season also marks the last time the team has finished first in the West. The team struggled for a few more seasons under Coaches Jim Spavital and Bud Riley before Ray Jauch was brought in as head coach before the 1978 season. Under Jauch, the Bombers became one of the stronger teams in the West, but usually behind Jauch's

former team, the powerhouse Edmonton Eskimos coached by Hugh Campbell.

Wide receiver Eugene Goodlow in 1981 became the first CFL player to reach the century mark in receptions in a season. Goodlow caught one-hundred passes for 1,494 yards and fourteen touchdowns. That season, the Bombers became one of the first teams to have three receivers with at least 1,000 yards in a season: Goodlow with 1,494, Joe Poplawski with 1,271, and Rick House with 1,102.

Cal Murphy was hired to be the new head coach of the Blue Bombers in 1983 and immediately, Murphy set a new tone with the Bombers by trading popular quarterback Dieter Brock to Hamilton in exchange for quarterback Tom Clements. Trading Brock turned out to be a wise decision, with Clements leading the Bombers to crushing victory in the 1984 Grey Cup, coincidentally over the Brock-led Tiger-Cats. This was Winnipeg's first Grey Cup in twenty-two years and their most recent appearance in the championship game as the Western representative. Murphy was named coach of the year in both 1983 and 1984.

In 1987, Murphy stepped down as head coach to become the team general manager, with assistant coach Mike Riley (son of former Winnipeg coach Bud Riley) taking over head-coaching duties. Then, just prior to the start of the 1987 season, the Montreal Alouettes packed it in. With the East Division suddenly

down to three teams compared to five in the West, the league moved the Blue Bombers to the East to balance the divisions.

The Blue Bombers quickly made an impact in the East, winning Grey Cups over their former division rivals B.C. and Edmonton in 1988 and 1990 respectively and garnering Riley the coach of the year award both championship seasons. After Riley left, Darryl Rogers and Urban Bowman each led the team for a season until 1993, when Murphy took over head-coaching duties again. Murphy went on to lead the team to a total of five Grey Cup appearances, winning, as a coach in 1984, and as a GM, in 1988 and 1990. He left the club after the 1996 season, having spent 14 years with the team. Later, he would coach the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 1999.

Winnipeg would play a total of eight consecutive seasons in the East before moving to the newly created North Division in 1995 during the CFL's expansion to the United States. With the end of the CFL's American experiment a year later, and the re-establishment of the Alouettes, the Blue Bombers would return to the re-constituted West Division. This arrangement would also last only one season, as Winnipeg returned to the East again for the 1997 season after the Ottawa Rough Riders ceased operations.

In November 1996, Cal Murphy left the Blue Bombers' organization after fourteen years. This was partly due to a 68 to 7

playoff thumping by the Edmonton Eskimos, and partly because the team had not had a winning record the previous two years, winning only seven games in 1995, and nine in 1996.

Jeff Reinebold was hired to replace Murphy as the team coach, and despite a huge amount of hype, and championship promises going into the 1997 season, he proved to be one of the least successful head coaches in team history. The Bombers won four games in 1997, and just three in 1998.

The few notable highlights from that era include Milt Stegall becoming an all-star in 1997, his first full year with the team, and scored what seemed like at least one long touchdown in every game as well as a 43 to 12 pounding of the eventual Western Division champion Saskatchewan Roughriders in the 1997 Labour Day Classic. In a dramatic win over the Roughriders at home in 1998, forgotten backup quarterback Troy Kopp led the second-half with a twenty point comeback. This was the "Guaranteed Win Day" that the club had been promoting all week, as well as the first win of the season, in week eleven.

The few memorable players on the team during that time included linebacker K.D. Williams, safety Tom Europe, running back and kick returner Eric Blount, and the great Milt Stegall.

Stegall joined the Bombers in 1995 after a three-year career returning kicks and seeing spot duty at receiver with the Cincinnati Bengals. He played in the Bombers' final six games

of the 1995 season, racking up 469 receiving yards. In 1997, Stegall set a new league record that still stands today for average gain per reception with 26.5 yards on sixty-one catches for 1616 yards, including fourteen touchdowns. Following a brief return to the NFL, that saw him on the verge of making the Green Bay Packers.

In 1999, the Bombers acquired Khari Jones from the BC Lions. Together, Stegall and Jones brought the Bombers back to prominence, with Jones being the CFL's most outstanding player in 2001, and Stegall getting the honour in 2002. During the 2006 Grey Cup, Khari Jones and Milt Stegall were voted and honored as the best QB/WR combo in CFL history. Charles Roberts joined them in 2001, a year which the Bombers went to the Grey Cup, which they eventually lost to the Calgary Stampeders. The following season, Winnipeg returned to the West Division following the establishment of the Ottawa Renegades. The team was a powerhouse during this period, being one of the best teams in the league from 2001 until 2003.

Midway through the 2004 season, Jones was traded to the Calgary Stampeders, with backup QB Kevin Glenn taking over the starting duties. Glenn led the team to two mediocre seasons after the trade. Prior to the 2006 season, the Renegades suspended operations and Winnipeg once again returned to the East Division.

With the offensive core of Stegall and Roberts still intact, Glenn led the Bombers back to respectability in 2006. The season included many highlights, but none as exciting as what is simply known as "The Play". On July 20, 2006, trailing the Edmonton Eskimos on the road 22 to 19, and facing third and long on their own ten yard line with four seconds left in the game, Milt Stegall caught a one-hundred yard touch-down pass from Kevin Glenn as time expired to win the game 25 to 22. It is considered by many as the greatest play in CFL history. Aided by the "miracle" catch, the Bombers ended up making their first playoff appearance in two years. Despite losing in the first round, optimism going into the 2007 was higher than ever.

The 2007 CFL season was in some ways the year of Milt Stegall; he broke the career CFL touchdown record and fell just short of overtaking the career receiving yards record held by Allen Pitts. The 2007 season could most likely be Stegall's last, as he was now thirty-seven years old and had been contemplating retirement for the previous two seasons.

The Grey Cup game in 2007 was played between the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and the Saskatchewan Roughriders, the first time the two prairie teams met for the championship. Winnipeg was defeated by the Saskatchewan Roughriders 23 to 19 in the Rogers Centre in Toronto. During the East division final win over the Toronto Argonauts, quarterback Kevin Glenn broke

his arm and Winnipeg was left with an inexperienced rookie to take his place for the championship game. Back-up quarterback Ryan Dinwiddie, in his first CFL start, did not fare well and threw one touchdown pass, fumbled once and threw three interceptions to Saskatchewan cornerback James Johnson. Johnson was later declared the game MVP. One of the picks was shown in the instant replay to have hit the ground before it was caught. Despite his rookie mistakes, Dinwiddie showed promise going into the 2008 season. He was released prior to the 2009 season.

It was announced on January 31, 2008 that Milt Stegall would indeed be returning for one more year for the 2008 season. He signed a one-year contract for \$200,000 on the basis of the fact his wife wanted to have their next child in Winnipeg, and the fact that they were in line to be a contender for the Grey Cup. He took a \$50,000 pay cut, and started the season 159 yards away from breaking Allen Pitts' all-time receiving yards record.

Free agents going into the 2008 season included star defensive end Tom Canada, OL's Dan Goodspeed, and Matt Sheridan. These players signed for less money from the Bombers than other teams were prepared to pay them, in hopes of a Grey Cup run in '08. Tom Canada, in particular, reportedly turned down a much higher contract offer from the Montreal Alouettes, to come back to Winnipeg.

The Bombers made a surprise trade when they sent all-star running back Charles Roberts to B.C. for Joe Smith on September 2, 2008. Then on September 8, 2008, they traded all-star defensive-end Tom Canada to Hamilton for Zeke Moreno. However on September 9, 2008, the trade was cancelled because Canada was injured and could not play for at least ten weeks. So, since they could not trade Canada, they sent over Corey Mace and a first-round pick for Moreno.

Following the 2008 season in which the Bombers were defeated in the division semifinals, Doug Berry (the head coach) was fired. Mike Kelly was chosen to replace him. At the end of the Cal Murphy era, Mike Kelly was the offensive coordinator and was passed over for the top job in favour of Jeff Reinebold. With Milt Stegall's early-season knee surgery and drop in production, it was once again speculated that Milt Stegall would retire.

The departure of Brendan Taman on January 13, 2009, was another sign that this era was coming to an end and a new one was beginning. On February 18, 2009, Milt Stegall did finally did retire from the CFL which formally ended the Milt Stegall era.

Coach Mike Kelly was fired by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers Board of Directors on December 17, 2009, after only one year of employment.

Paul LaPolice was introduced as the twenty-eighth head coach in 'Bombers history on February 5, 2010. The new coach

emphasized the idea of "team" and playing for the uniform. He also made it a point to talk about fixing problems rather than making excuses. The new paradigm was tested in the 2010 season in which the team finished 4 to 14 and missed the playoffs for the second straight year. Nine of those games were lost by four points or fewer, while ten were lost by a touchdown or less.

In 2011 the team was almost completely unchanged, save for a few losses to the NFL and a few gains from the draft. The Blue Bombers reversed their standings from last place in the East in 2010 to finishing in first place in the East Division with a 10 to 8 record. The team success hinged on a league-leading defence dubbed Swaggerville, which led them to their first division title in 10 years. The team advanced to the 99th Grey Cup after defeating Hamilton in the Eastern Final. However, they lost to the favoured BC Lions by a score of 34 to 23.

On August 9, 2013, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers announced that CEO Garth Buchko stepped down and General Manager Joe Mack was fired. The CFL returned to Ottawa in 2014 with the establishment of the Redblacks. Initially, the league planned to keep Winnipeg in the East, at least for the short term, due in part to the ongoing competitive dominance of the West. Despite this, Blue Bombers management lobbied heavily to return to the West Division and eventually the league relented. The Blue

Bombers finished last place in their first season back in the West, with a 7 to 11 record.



Investor's stadium, home to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers

After being named the acting CEO in August 2013 Wade Miller was announced as the CEO and President of the Club on November 12, 2013. The shakeup of the top brass in 2013 also led to Kyle Walters having to take over the acting GM duties, which were made officially his on November 26, 2013 when he was named the General Manager. On December 4, 2013, Mike O'Shea was hired by the Bombers.

After the Ottawa Redblacks joined the league in 2014, the Bombers found themselves back in the West Division, where they finished last. The team began to spark once again by 2016, winning seven games in a row mid-season and finishing the regular season with an 11 to 7 record in third place. However, they narrowly lost the West semi-final to the BC Lions 32 to 31.

The 2017 season was a good one for the Bombers as they finished second in the West but lost to the Edmonton Eskimos in the semi-finals.

Information and tid-bits of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers

Founded: 1930

Formerly known as: Winnipeg's 1930–1937

Helmet design: Gold background, with a white "W" and blue trim

Uniform colours: Blue, gold with white accents

Past uniform colours: Green and white 1930 to 1932

Nicknames: Bombers, Blue and Gold, Big Blue

Mascots: Buzz and Boomer

Fight Song: "Bombers Victory March" Credited to T.H Guild & J. Guild

Stadium: Osborne Stadium (1935–1952), Canad Inns

Stadium (1953–2012, known as Winnipeg Stadium prior to 2000), Investors Group Field (2013–present)

Local radio: 680 CJOB

Main rivals: Saskatchewan Roughriders (see Labour Day Classic and Banjo Bowl), Hamilton Tiger-Cats, a team they have played on numerous occasions for the Grey Cup, Toronto Argonauts, BC Lions, and other prairie city teams the Edmonton Eskimos and the Calgary Stampeders.

Western Division 1st place: 16—1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1947, 1950, 1952, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1972

*East Division 1st Place: seven
1987, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 2001, 2011*

*Western Division championships: thirteen
1936, 1939, 1941, 1947, 1950, 1952, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1972*

Eastern

*Division championships: seven
1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 2001, 2007, 2011*

*Grey Cup Championships: ten
1935, 1939, 1941, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1984, 1988, 1990*

Division history: Western Football Conference (1961–1979), West Division (1980–1986), East Division (1987–1994), North Division (1995), West Division (1996), East Division (1997–2001), West

Division (2002–2005), East Division (2006–2013), West Division (2014–present)

2017 regular season: twelve wins and six losses



Here comes the Winnipeg Blue Bombers

A big thanks to all the media in the 'Peg who promote football including Cactus
Jack Wells, Jack Matheson and Bob Irving

Sources for this chapter include, archived copy, Wikipedia and the Canadian Encyclopedia



Chapter Six

Toronto is a Tough Nut to Crack

Go Toronto Argos - go - go – go, pull together fight the foe- foe - foe. Scoring touchdowns for the blue on blue, the Argos will win for you! Full of fight and courage you can't stop, they pile up the points until they reach the top

Pull together 'til the Grey Cup's won

Go Argos go - go – go. Go Toronto Argos go - go - go

Pull together fight the foe - foe – foe

Scoring touchdowns for the blue on blue, the Argos will win for you, full of fight and courage you can't stop

They pile up the points until they reach the top

Pull together till the Grey Cup's won

Go Argos go Toronto go

(Toronto fight song)

It was 1873 and the founding of the Argonauts in Toronto with the name Argonauts being in continuous use ever since, which is a record in North American professional sports. The Argonauts claim to be the oldest professional football team in North America but this point is debatable as the Hamilton Tigers date back to 1869 but changed to Tiger-Cats in 1950.

The moniker Argonauts is derived from Greek mythology. According to legend, Jason and the Argonauts were a group of men who set out to find the Golden Fleece aboard the ship Argo sometime before the Trojan War. Given its nautical theme, the name Argonaut was used by a group of amateur rowers in Toronto in 1872. The Argonaut Rowing Club, which still exists today, went on to found the football club with the same name a year later. Given these roots, the team is often referred to as the 'boatmen'.

The Toronto rowing team, many who had tie-ins with English schools, adopted uniforms incorporating the light blue of Cambridge and the dark blue of Oxford Universities. In turn, the football team adopted the colours and the phrase "double blue". The team's other official colour is white. Its current helmet design features an Oxford blue background, with an Oxford blue and Cambridge blue round shield inscribed with a white, capital letter A. For most of the team's existence, the logo featured some type of a boat, often incorporating a football.

On October 20, 1873 the Toronto Mail newspaper printed, "On Sunday afternoon a game of football, Rugby rules, was played on the University ground, between the Argonauts, of Toronto, and the Hamilton club. After a most exciting contest, one goal was secured at five o'clock by the Toronto men, the ball being kicked through the Hamilton flags by Buchanan."

The first recorded game of what would become known as Canadian football was played in Toronto on November 9, 1861, featuring University of Toronto students. The game at the time was a modified version of English rugby and it gained popularity throughout the 1860s. Rugby itself was still an infant game having evolved out of association football (soccer) in the 1830s. Seeking a way to keep fit after summer, on October 4, 1871, the Argonaut Rowing Club formed a rugby-football team. The Argonauts Football Club would play their first game against Hamilton on October 18 of that year (a victory), which was the beginning of a long rivalry. Establishment of the football team was formalized on September 17, 1874, with a subscription fee of one dollar charged per player with H.T. Glazebrook serving as their first captain and head coach.

The football team played a handful of challenge games, one team inviting another to play, as an amateur squad against university and city teams every year throughout the 1870s. In 1883 the Toronto Football Club, other city teams from Ontario

and university squads from Toronto, Queens University and Royal Military College formed the Ontario Rugby Football Union (ORFU). It was the first rugby football organization with a league and playoff structure in North America. The Toronto Football Club was league champions in that first year. Starting in 1884 a Dominion Championship, a precursor to the Grey Cup was held, pitting the leaders of the country's two organized leagues, the ORFU and Quebec Rugby Football Union, against each other. This was organized nationally by the Canadian Rugby Union. In the first true national championship, the Montreal Football Club defeated the Toronto Football Club on November 5, 1884 by a score of 30 to 0. Argonauts would lose the Dominion Title in 1901 to Ottawa College.

Over the next thirty years from 1880 onwards, rule changes were incrementally introduced into the game, including the adoption of the line of scrimmage, scoring that began to resemble the modern version, and the down and yardage structure. Popular personalities of the era included player-coach Joe Wright Sr. who was one of the best all-around Canadian athletes at the turn of the century. One major outstanding issue within the CRU at the time was the role of professional versus amateur players. This dispute caused the Argonauts to withdraw from the league in 1903 and eventually led to the establishment of a new league, The Big Four or Interprovincial Rugby Football

League. Alongside the professionalism dispute, there was a serious disagreement over the adoption of the Burnside rules, with Ontario, Quebec, and the intercollegiate league often not in alignment. Amongst other critical innovations, the Burnside rules reduced the number of men per side to 12 and introduced the ten yards in three downs structure that is central to the modern game.

Seeking looser rules regarding the employment of professional players, Toronto and other cities split from the ORFU and formed the Interprovincial Rugby Football Union (IRFU) in 1907. These clubs were the vaunted 'Big Four', Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, and Montreal, who formed what would eventually become the Eastern Division of the Canadian Football League.

The IRFU continued under the larger auspices of the Canadian Rugby Union. Beginning in 1909, the CRU champion was awarded the Grey Cup, with the Big Four competing against university squads and eventually teams from Western Canada. The Argonauts first competed for the Cup in 1911, losing 14 to 7 to the University of Toronto in front of a then record 13,687 spectators at the newly opened Varsity Stadium. The team would claim their first championship in 1914, exacting revenge on U of T with a 14 to 2 victory. Their star runner and kicker in their first championship year was Jack O'Conner, who scored a league record 44 points.

Play was halted during World War I. The Argos again achieved success in the early 1920s on the back of one Canada's greatest ever sportsmen. Lionel Conacher, the 'Big Train,' led the team to two perfect 6 and 0 seasons in 1921 and 1922. In the first season he accounted for eighty-five of his team's 167 points, and fifteen of the points in the Grey Cup game, a 23 to 0 drubbing of the Edmonton Eskimos. This was the first east-west Grey Cup championship in Canada.

The 1921 Grey Cup victory was their last until 1933, at which point the Argonauts became the dominant team of an increasingly nationwide sport. They put together a number of Grey Cup dynasties in the 1930s and 1940s, winning eight of twenty Grey Cups between 1933 and 1952. The Winnipeg Blue Bombers were most often on the receiving end of Argo Grey Cup victories in this era. From 1933 to 1941 Lew Hayman coached the team with a still unparalleled winning ratio of 45–15–2. Their first back-to-back Grey Cups came in 1937 and 1938. This was also the era of the famed Stukus brothers, Annis, Bill, and Frank who were an all-purpose, all-world trio in the Argos' championship years.

A threat at quarterback, running back, defensive back, and kicker, Joe "King" Krol has been called the most versatile Argonaut ever to play the game. Joe "King" Krol and Royal Copeland, the so-called 'gold dust twins', were the best-known players of the 1940s. In an era where players still played multiple positions, they

were a threat in every capacity; running, passing, catching, kicking, and playing defence. Often connecting with each other for points, they led the Argos to a Grey Cup three peat between 1945 and 1947. The years 1949 and 1950 marked a watershed in Argonauts history as the team began large scale import of American players for the first time. The team also broke a cultural barrier in 1950 with the signing of their first black player, Ulysses "Crazy Legs" Curtis who would play five strong years with the team.

Frank Clair was brought in as coach in 1950 and left his mark on the revamped roster; he led the team to Grey Cup wins in 1950 and 1952. The first of these was a 13 to 0 victory over Winnipeg in the notorious Mud Bowl. A November snow storm followed by mild conditions turned Varsity Stadium into a bog and playing the game was close to impossible. At some time during this period, the phrase 'Argo Bounce' came to refer to the Argonauts' propensity to receive a lucky bounce of the football. The phrase may date to the Grey Cups of the 1930s, all of which featured improbable bounces and fumbles favouring the Argos. The slogan was popularized in print by Annis Stukus in the 1940s and is still used today.

The three decades after the 1952 Grey Cup victory have been called the Argonauts' Dark Ages. The team went thirty-one years between championship victories and nineteen without even

making an appearance in the final. Part of the reason was a salary cap introduced in 1953 that cost them many talented players. For the first time in decades, they were to be found at the bottom of the Eastern Division. The management style under new owner John Bassett was blamed as he allowed young talent to be traded or allowed to leave and the team could not form a nucleus of consistency. Coaches came and went rapidly. In 1958 the Argonauts became a founding member of the Canadian Football League and a year later found a new home at Exhibition Stadium.

The Argonauts did have some standout players in the 1950s and 1960s. The hero of the era was Dick Shatto, who played twelve seasons from 1954 to 1965. Listed as a running back, Shatto was a dual threat to run and receive and continues to hold the team regular season records for touchdowns (ninety-one) and total yards gained (6,958). Living in Toronto year round, Shatto set down deep roots in the city and would eventually serve as the Argonauts general manager. Another American, Tobin Rote, set numerous passing marks in three years at quarterback from 1960 to 1962. Known for his good living off the field, Rote still holds the Argos single game passing record with 524 yards against Montreal on August 19, 1960. A pillar on the offensive line was Danny Nykoluk at tackle that played for an unbelievable seventeen seasons from 1954 to 1971, including one stretch of twelve years

where he didn't miss a single game. Despite these veterans, the era was marked by losing seasons and high attrition on the roster.

By the 1960s, the annual (and often desperate) mid-season addition of American imports had become known as the "Argo airlift". Eventually, the team became competitive again, this time in the late sixties under head coach Leo Cahill. They scored a coup over the National Football League (NFL) with the signing of a young Joe Theismann (and other American stars) in 1971. The team also saw an attendance bounce, consistently selling out Exhibition Stadium. The Boatmen's best chance to end their Grey Cup drought came that year, when they faced the Calgary Stampeders in the 59th Grey Cup, the first to be played on artificial turf. In a defensive struggle at Vancouver's soggy Empire Stadium, a now infamous late fumble by Leon (X-Ray) McQuay and a possession changing kick out of bounds by Harry Abofs sealed a 14 to 11 Stampeder victory.

The 1970s were tumultuous for the team, with numerous hirings and firings of head coaches and consistent losing records. There were stellar players over this era, including all-stars on defence such as Jim Stillwagon, Jim Corrigan, and Granville (Granny) Liggins, but the team could not return to winning form. High-profile moves such as hiring Canadian football icon Russ Jackson as head coach in 1975 or signing running back superstar Anthony Davis the next year turned into busts.

Ironically, the Argos reached historic attendance highs in this losing decade with regular season average per game attendance reached 47,356 in 1976. The enlargement of Exhibition Stadium over 1975 and 1976 in anticipation of the Blue Jays expansion baseball team allowed for these massive crowds.

The Argos reached an all-time low in 1981 when they finished 2 and 14; this despite having such talented players as quarterback Condredge Holloway, running back Cedric Minter, and receiver Terry Greer. The team began the year 0 and 10 and there was talk of a 'perfect' losing season. The team had been inept so long by this point (twenty-nine seasons without a Grey Cup win) that the notion of an 'Argo Bounce' had become inverted. Now it was the unluckiest bounce in the world, the one that usually arose from the Argos' uncanny ability to lose critical games in the dying minutes by committing an improbable blunder.

However, with the 1982 season came the hiring of Bob O'Billovich as head coach and Mouse Davis as offensive coordinator. Davis implemented the run and shoot offense and the Argos enjoyed a turnaround, going 9–6–1 that year with Condredge Holloway the CFL's most outstanding player. The team ultimately fell short in their quest for a Grey Cup, losing 32 to 16 to the mighty Edmonton Eskimos in the final in front of a disappointed crowd at Exhibition Stadium. The 1983 season finally

brought the championship home. The Argos finished 12 and 4 and Terry Greer set a CFL record with 2,003 receiving yards. Joe Barnes and Condredge Holloway were a potent duo at quarterback. The Double Blue returned to the Grey Cup, this time facing the BC Lions at BC Place Stadium in Vancouver. Despite the hostile crowd, Toronto defeated BC 18 to 17 to win their first Grey Cup since 1952. The Argos were generally competitive for the remainder of the 1980s, thanks in large part to talented players such as Gill "The Thrill" Fenerty and Darrell K. Smith, but a return to the glory of 1983 proved elusive.

The 1989 season saw the Argonauts move into the Sky Dome, a multi-purpose downtown stadium with a retractable roof. It marked the beginning of an eventful few years. In 1990, one of the most beloved figures in Toronto sporting history emerged on the team: Michael (Pinball) Clemons set a CFL record for all-purpose yards with 3,300 in his first full year, a record he would break in 1997 with 3,840.

In 1991, Hollywood prestige arrived in the form of a new ownership trio. Bruce McNall, owner of the NHL's Los Angeles Kings, bought the team. One of his players, hockey great Wayne Gretzky, became a minority owner, as did Canadian-born comedian John Candy. The group stunned the league with the signing of Raghib (Rocket) Ismail for an unheard of \$18.2 million over four years. Ismail immediately impressed, particularly on

kickoff returns, and was named player of the game in the 1991 Grey Cup, which the Argos won 36 to 21 over the Calgary Stampeders. Clemons and quarterback Matt Dunigan (who played the final with a broken collarbone) were the other critical pieces to the championship.

Candy is best remembered for his emotional investment in the team and a team player award continues in his honour. Given McNall's indictment and Candy's early death, the era was tumultuous and the last in which the club regularly made front page headlines. However, the Argos slumped to 6 and 12 only a year later, beginning a slide that only accelerated when Dunigan and Ismail left after the season



John Candy and Wayne Gretzky were once part owners of the Argos' football team

The 1992 season was the first of four consecutive losing seasons. They made the playoffs in 1994 but they were promptly eliminated by the Baltimore Stallions in the division semifinals. Trouble also struck off the field with McNall being convicted of conspiracy and fraud at the end of 1993 and John Candy dying prematurely the next year. Attendance also began to slide in the mid-1990s, raising questions over the team's viability that persisted up their recent Grey Cup victory. The game average was just above 16,000 in 1994 and 1995, much less than half the team's 1970s peak.

The money losing team was sold to the Labatt Brewing Company through its TSN unit in 1994 for \$4.5 million. In 1995, Labatt was acquired by Interbrew with the Interbrew years bringing two championships. Interbrew soon lost interest in sports ownership and the team was sold again at the end of 1999 to New York businessman Sherwood Schwarz.

Championship material did eventually remerge in 1996. The team hired Don Matthews, who was fresh off a Grey Cup victory with the Baltimore Stallions, to be the team's new head coach and signed Doug Flutie, one of the greatest quarterbacks in CFL history, to a contract and surrounded him with quality personnel. The team included linebacker Mike O'Shea (now coach of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers), veteran wide receiver Paul

Masotti, and running back Robert Drummond. Derrell (Mookie) Mitchell was added at receiver in 1997. The team took the Grey Cup in both 1996 and 1997. Flutie would set team records for single season passing yards with more than 5,500 in each year and for touchdowns thrown with forty-seven in 1997, one less than his CFL record of forty-eight, before crossing the border to join the Buffalo Bills the next year. Masotti retired in 1999 as the team's all-time pass reception yardage leader. Clemons ended his own successful career in 2000 before returning to coach until 2007.

The years after their back-to-back championships saw a return to mediocrity for the Argos. Ticket sales remained flat, and there were changes in ownership. Gimmicks to attract fans were greeted with criticism. The Argos seemingly bottomed out in July 2003 when the CFL stripped control over the team from owner Sherwood Schwarz. The team had amassed debts of over twenty million, including \$17.4 owed to Schwarz himself.

New ownership under David Cynamon and Howard Sokolowski brought immediate dividends with another Grey Cup win in 2004. Veteran Damon Allen led the team to a 27 to 19 victory over the B.C. Lions, with Jon Avery a critical running threat. Allen would continue with the team until 2007, and retired with professional football's all-time leading passing yardage (72,381).

Argonauts saw winning seasons from 2005 to 2007 before bottoming out the next two years. They finished 2009 with just three wins. Critical players over this half decade included receiver Arland Bruce III, defensive star Byron Parker, and all-star punter Noel Prefontaine. The team generated some controversy in 2006 when they lured running back Ricky Williams from the NFL. Williams had repeatedly violated NFL drug policies and was under suspension for the year; he played just one season with the Argos.

The team again saw an ownership change in 2010, with construction magnate David Braley, who also owned the B.C. Lions, taking control. After breaking even in 2010 and going 6 and 12 in 2011, the Argonauts again acquired a championship nucleus in 2012. Ricky Ray was very good at quarterback while Chad Owens emerged as arguably the league's best special team's player. Owens broke Michael Clemons CFL record for all-purpose yards and won the CFL Most Outstanding Player award that year. The 2012 Grey Cup was played in Toronto and the team took their first championship victory in the city since 1952 with a 35 to 22 win over Calgary.

The team moved their practice facility to the former Don Bosco Catholic Secondary School in 2017, with a short-term lease of the facility from the Toronto Catholic District School Board. After years of being run on a shoestring budget by owner David

Braley and facing the prospect of being evicted out of its longtime home, Braley sold the club to a consortium, led by Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment chairman Larry Tanenbaum and BCE Inc. in a move which sealed the franchise's long term future.

The Argos moved out of the Rogers Centre and into BMO Field for the 2016 season and despite the initial hype of the team playing in the refurbished venue, the team finished at the bottom of the standings with a 5 to 13 record. The team would purge their front office by firing general manager Jim Barker on January 24, 2017. Head coach Scott Milanovich, who was facing an uncertain future with the team in the wake of Barker's firing, quit four days later accepting the quarterbacks coach position for the Jacksonville Jaguars under Doug Marrone.

The team looking to start fresh, both on and off the field, hired former Montreal Alouettes general manager Jim Popp and head coach Marc Trestman on February 28, 2017. Popp and Trestman won consecutive Grey Cup championships in 2009 and 2010. Popp, who was the master-mind of the Alouettes resurgence in the Montreal sports scene. Despite the team being active late in the free agency period and having mere months to assemble a roster and coaching staff, the team finished the year with a 9 and 9 record, which was good enough for first place in the East Division and a first round bye. The team capped off the season by winning their 17th championship in the 2017 Grey

Cup in a 27 to 24 win against Calgary that was played in a snow storm in Ottawa and featured Shania Twain arriving to the stage at half-time on a dog (Huskies) pulled sled.

The Toronto Argonauts currently lead the Canadian Football League in total wins and in winning percentage in the Grey Cup. The team's success is not merely an historical aberration, they have won seven of their ten appearances since the formation of the CFL, including their last six straight.

For the entire Grey Cup era there has been some form of playoffs leading up to the Grey Cup game. The twenty-three Toronto teams who have won a spot in the final would, in modern terms, be called Eastern Division Champions.

Going back to an earlier era, the Argonauts won the Ontario Rugby Football Union championship three times between 1883 and 1906, including the league's first two seasons, 1883 and 1884. Their last victory as ORFU members came in 1901. Given their losses in the Dominion Championship in 1884 and 1901, the Argonauts would not earn the title 'national champion' until their first Grey Cup win in 1914.

Toronto Argonauts' first home was Rosedale Field at Mount Pleasant Road and MacLennan Avenue near the city centre. The team suggests its capacity was 10,000 with 4,000 seats, though O'Leary and Parrish list smaller numbers, noting that a \$32,000 renovation in 1883 allowed for a capacity of

2,000. The field has historic significance as the site of the first Grey Cup game in 1909; the CFL lists the game's attendance as 3,807. Sources again differ on when the team permanently moved to Varsity Stadium on the grounds of the University of Toronto. The team gives dates of 1874 to 1897 and 1908 to 1915 at Rosedale, while other sources suggest the team had moved to Varsity by 1911. Varsity would become indelibly linked with the Argonauts and the early years of Canadian football; it was the home field of the great Argo dynasties of the 1930s and 1940s. For most of the Argos time at the stadium, its capacity was about 16,000, but this jumped above 20,000 with a renovation in 1950. Although it has not hosted a professional game since 1958, it still holds the record for hosting the most Grey Cups with 30.

In 1959 another place was now home with the renovation of the new Exhibition Stadium to accommodate Canadian football. Often remembered ruefully by Torontonians for its exposure to weather and poor sightlines, the stadium was nevertheless the site of the Argos' greatest attendance in the late 1960s and 1970s. Particularly brutal conditions at the 70th Grey Cup in 1982 paved the way for the construction of a domed stadium in Toronto.

Sky Dome (Rogers Centre since 2004) had provided the Argonauts a marquee venue from 1989 to 2015, but also been criticized for its football sightlines and atmosphere. Even crowds

of about 30,000 looked sparse in a stadium that seats up to 50,000 people. The domed environment does at least remove the elements and is an advantage to passers and comfortable for fans. Two critical opportunities to find a new home were missed in 2004 and 2005: plans for a revamped Varsity Stadium to accommodate CFL-sized crowds were thwarted by community opposition in 2004 and the Argonauts withdrew from an alternate plan at York University the following year.

It was announced in 2013 that the Rogers Centre's artificial turf would be replaced by natural grass within five years to better facilitate Toronto Blue Jays baseball. This will require the stadium's movable stands to be permanently locked into position for baseball, making it impossible to host CFL games. However, since this time, the stadium has retained its artificial turf surface, and it is unclear whether it will be replaced at all. The stadium issue generated significant press and raised concerns over the team's long-term viability given that the Argonauts losses have been estimated anywhere from two to six million dollars annually. While various stadium rumours swirled over the course of David Braley's tenure (including building a new facility) it became increasingly clear that a move to a renovated BMO Field was the only viable option.

The BMO Field move became finalized on May 20, 2015, concurrent with the announcement of the team's sale to a

consortium of MLSE shareholders Larry Tanenbaum and Bell Canada. The team moved following the completion of stadium renovations for the 2016 season. The \$120 million renovation plan had originally been announced in March 2014. The upgrades raise the stadium's seating capacity from 21,566 seats to 30,000 for soccer, with 25,000 seats in CFL configuration (however, due to space and safety issues, the end zones are only eighteen yards deep [as opposed to the standard 20 yards], with part of both end zones being covered in artificial turf, the remainder of the field has natural grass), and will be temporarily expandable with additional end zone seating to 40,000 for big events such as a Grey Cup. Following the demolition and reconstruction of the 5,000 seat Varsity Stadium at the University of Toronto, the Argos returned to the stadium, hosting preseason games from 2013 to 2015. The team also acquired a much-needed training facility in July 2014 when it was announced that MLSE had partnered with the Argonauts to expand KIA Training Ground, Toronto FC's new state-of-the-art academy and training facility.

For more than eight decades, the Toronto Argonauts Football Club was the sole property of its namesake rowing club. By the 1950s, the team's complex management structure made the arrangement increasingly awkward. Facing overdraft and with wealthy suitors knocking, the Argonaut rowers finally sold the team to a consortium led by John Bassett, Eric Cradock,

and Charlie Burns in 1957. Each held about twenty percent share in the company, with the balance made up by small investors who had some affinity with the club; the initial agreement called for a long-term debenture of \$400,000 to be set up that would sustain the rowing club in the absence of its football income. Bassett arranged a complete buyout of the other shareholders for \$2.31 million in 1971 through his holdings in Baton Broadcasting.

The Bassett years of the late 1950s to early 1970s were marked by mediocrity on the field but consistent success at the turnstiles. An issue that has become a perennial concern in the city also emerged at this time: the possibility of a National Football League team in Toronto. Various ideas were entertained by Bassett including moving the Argos to the NFL, bringing an American expansion team to the city (the Toronto Northmen of the WFL), or expanding the CFL itself in the opposite direction. Other team owners steadfastly opposed Bassett's moves and almost rescinded his franchise in 1974; angered, he sold the team for \$3.3 million to hotel magnate William R. Hodgson in the same year.

Hodgson sold to Carling O'Keefe in 1979, who had been minority owners since 1976. The brewing company's total investment in the team was \$5.8 million. At the time it was rapidly ramping up its sports sponsorship (it also owned the Quebec Nordiques before they moved from the World Hockey

Association to the NHL) and would become a huge benefactor to the CFL itself, inking television rights deals that would reach eleven million annually. The years following the Carling O'Keefe era was marked by increasingly short ownership stints. Canadian businessman Harry Ornest bought the team off Carling O'Keefe for five million dollars at the end of 1988. He then sold to the trio of McNall (sixty percent), Candy and Gretzky (twenty percent each) for the same amount in 1991.

Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment and its chairman and minority owner Larry Tanenbaum had emerged as serious suitors for the team. On May 20, 2015, it was announced that an agreement had been reached for Argonauts to be sold to Tanenbaum's Kilmer Sports and Bell Canada, who both own a stake in MLSE with Rogers Communications. Financial details were not disclosed. Despite its shared stake in MLSE, Rogers was not interested in having an ownership share in the Argonauts because it did not have any media relationships with the CFL (unlike Bell, whose TSN division holds the broadcast rights to the league). Argonauts Holdings Limited Partnership is a holding company which Bell and Kilmer each own fifty percent of.

The longest serving executive in the organization is Lew Hayman, who had a five decade career beginning in the 1930s as coach and administrator. A Jewish-American, Hayman served with both the Argos and Montreal Alouettes and has been called 'the

architect of Canadian football'. He was the team's first president and managing director at the insistence of Eric Cradock in 1957, and would continue in the former role until 1981. Ralph Sazio took over from Hayman and is another Hall Of Fame builder.

After relative stability at the senior executive level for three decades, there has been significant turnover in the positions since the 1990s. The team had eight general managers in eight years between 1996 and 2003. The current GM is Jim Popp who was appointed in February of 2017. Chris Rudge, former head of the Canadian Olympic Committee, took over as president and CEO from the beginning of 2012 to the end of 2015, at which time Copeland took over the reins. Fifty-five men have served as Toronto Argonauts head coach. The current coach, Marc Trestman, was appointed in 2017. He has succeeded in reviving a stalled offence and led the team to a Grey Cup victory in 2017.

The longest total tenure at head coach belongs to Bob O'Billovich who led the team for eleven years over three stints in the 1980s and early 90s. Other notable coaching careers include those of Joe Wright Sr. at the end of the nineteenth century.

The highest distinction the Toronto Argonauts can accord a player is to retire their number; just four players have received the honour. Players and management personnel may be separately inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. The All-Time Argos list does not extend back to before the Second War

era while the Hall of Fame does. Thus, for instance, Lionel Conacher is in the Hall but not listed as an All-Time Argo. Players may be honoured on an annual basis through the CFL awards. The most prestigious of these is the Most Outstanding Player Award, awarded since 1953. Six Argonauts have been recipients: Chad Owens (2012), Damon Allen (2005), Doug Flutie (1996 & 1997), Pinball Clemons (1990), Conredge Holloway, and Bill Symons (1968).

Interesting information and tid-bits on the Argonauts

Founded	October 4, 1873
Based in	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Home field	BMO Field (2016–present) Rogers Centre (1989–2015) Exhibition Stadium (1959–1988) Varsity Stadium (1916–1958) Varsity Athletic Grounds (1898–1907) Rosedale Field (1874–1897, 1908–1915)
Head coach	Marc Trestman
GM	Jim Popp
Owner(s)	Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment 2017 record – 9 wins and 9 loses
Colours	Cambridge Blue, Oxford Blue Website www.argonauts.ca
Nickname(s)	Argos, Boatmen, Double Blue, Scullers

Grey Cup wins: Seventeen -

1914, 1921, 1933, 1937, 1938, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1950, 1952, 1983, 1991,
1996, 1997, 2004, 2012, 2017



Argos celebrate a Grey Cup win

A big 'Thanks' to Mike Hogan and all the Media that has covered the Argonauts
over their history

*Sources used for this chapter included team archives, articles and
Wikipedia*



Chapter Seven

Did the Cats start it all?

According to the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, the words to this recitation were written on a football in 1921, with the face of a tiger drawn on it. The original words were a little different than today: "Oskee wa wa! Whisky wee wee! Holy mackinaw! Tigers! Eat 'em raw! Wow!" Over time, the chant became, "Oskee wee wee! Oskee wa wa! Holy mackinaw! Tigers! Eat 'em raw!"

On November 3, 1869 the Hamilton Football Club was put together. They played their very first game on December 18, 1869 against the thirteenth Battalion (now Royal Hamilton Light Infantry). Some of the first stories of football in Canada and Hamilton are a bit vague but by 1883 there are records of the Hamilton Tigers playing in the ORFU (Ontario Rugby Football Union) playoffs. There were no regular seasons then, just playoff rounds, to determine the league champions. In 1883, the Tigers lost to the Ottawa F.C. 14 to 9 in the semi-final. The first championship team in Hamilton football history came in 1890

when the Tigers beat Queen's University eight to six in the ORFU final. The ORFU began playing a regular season in 1898, and the Tigers finished second with a four and two record. The Tigers continued in the ORFU until 1907 when the IRFU (Interprovincial, Rugby Football Union) was formed. The IRFU consisted of the Tigers, Toronto Argonauts, Ottawa Rough Riders and the Montreal Winged Wheelers. The IRFU later became known as the Big Four and eventually, the IRFU became the East division of the modern CFL in the 1950s.

A co-existence held firm between the ORFU and the IRFU until 1960, when the ORFU disbanded. The ORFU had been excluded from the Grey Cup playoffs after 1954 and had become a development league for the IRFU since the end of World War II. For most of the years between the formation of the IRFU in 1907 and the amalgamation to form the Tiger-Cats in 1950, Hamilton tended to have two football clubs, one in the IRFU and one in the ORFU. The IRFU team was the Hamilton Tigers, except for a "hiccup" in the late 1940s.

The first of these football teams, called the Hamilton Alerts, sprung up in 1911 in the ORFU. The Alerts lasted only two seasons (1911-1912) but they won the Grey Cup in 1912 defeating the Toronto Argonauts. The *Alerts* gave way to a team under the name Hamilton Rowing Club from 1913 to 1915 who played in the ORFU. In the final pre-war season in 1915, the Hamilton Tigers

won the Grey Cup. At that time, the winning teams were responsible for engraving the Grey Cup which Earl Grey had donated in 1909. Before heading off to war, the Hamilton Tigers had the trophy engraved not just for their 1915 win but for their 1908 Dominion Championship. In essence, they awarded themselves the Grey Cup, one year before it even existed. The escapade escaped notice for many years as the Grey Cup was not the highly prized trophy it is today.

Hamilton did have a football team in 1916 as the Hamilton 205th Battalion played in a military league. The Tigers and the Hamilton Rowing Club returned in 1919 when the IRFU and ORFU resumed play. Things were rather unsettled for the second Hamilton team in the ORFU. After not playing for two years, the Hamilton Rowing Club returned from 1922 to 1925. In 1926, the team was called the Hamilton Tigers II. The Club got a slightly more dignified name in the Hamilton Tiger Cubs in 1927. The Tiger Cubs lasted from 1927 to 1936. The cat theme continued with the Hamilton Panthers in the ORFU for one season in 1937. There was no team in 1938 and 1939. In 1940 the name Hamilton Alerts was revived for one season for the Hamilton team in the ORFU.

With World War II in full swing in 1941, the Hamilton Tigers folded, largely because a number of players had gone into the armed services. In a ripple effect, the failure of the Tigers

caused the IRFU to be dissolved, and the ERFU (Eastern Rugby Football Union) to be formed. The ERFU consisted of the Toronto Argonauts, Ottawa Rough Riders, Montreal Bulldogs and Toronto Balmy Beach, the latter moving over from the ORFU. In Hamilton, the Hamilton Wildcats were formed to play in the ORFU. The Wildcats were given permission to use players from the Hamilton Tigers, but not the traditional black and yellow colours of the Tigers. The red and white Wildcats played in a three team ORFU with the Toronto Indians and the Kitchener Panthers.

The ERFU lasted only one season and that left only the ORFU for the duration of the war (1942-44). The ORFU consisted of some of its traditional teams such as Toronto Balmy Beach and some military teams such as the Toronto RCAF Hurricanes. The Hurricanes with a number of former IRFU / ORFU players won the Grey Cup in 1942, and the Wildcats won the Grey Cup in 1943. Officially, the team name for the 1943 champions was the Hamilton Flying Wildcats, as they were stocked by RCAF personal. The Flying Wildcats were led by Coach Brian Timmis and one of the greatest players in Canadian football history, Joe (King) Krol. In 1944, the Navy got bragging rights over the Air Force as the Montreal based Donnacona St. Hyacinthe Navy team beat the Flying Wildcats in the Grey Cup.

Things started to return to normal in 1945 when the IRFU and the Hamilton Tigers resumed play while the Wildcats (*sans*

the Flying) continued on the ORFU. In a strange twist, the Tigers and the Wildcats switched leagues in 1948 with the Tigers moving to the ORFU and the Wildcats to the IRFU. The switch was largely prompted by a dispute between the Tigers and the IRFU over the salary of Frank Filchock. In 1947, the Tigers signed Filchock, a star Quarterback, who had been suspended by the NFL over some (unproven) gambling issues. Filchock's high (for the times) \$7000 salary caused problems for the Tigers who wanted the other IRFU teams to help pay for it. The Tigers felt that the other IRFU teams were benefiting from the increased attendance that Filchock inspired, but the Tigers were prevented from benefiting because of their small stadium size. The other IRFU teams didn't agree, and refused to help pay Filchock's salary which prompted the Tigers to leave the IRFU and move to the ORFU which did agree to such a salary sharing proposal to help try and revive their flagging fortunes. Naturally, the Wildcats moved from the ORFU to the IRFU to replace them.

That switch lasted two years (1948-49). The Wildcats were not doing well in the IRFU, and the Tigers had lost Filchock to the Montreal Alouettes of the IRFU. The Tigers wanted back into the IRFU, the Wildcats didn't want to leave and the IRFU solution was to merge the two clubs and create the Tiger-Cats. With the Alouettes having been formed in 1946, and with the Toronto

Argonauts and Ottawa Rough Riders already in place, the modern CFL was complete.

If there is one word that characterized the early Tiger-Cat teams, it was "tough". Hamilton was the "Steel Town" and that was the way the city liked its football team to be. The early 1950s were good to Hamilton as the team finished first or second in every year from 1950 to 1953, winning their first Grey Cup in 1953. Big and tough Jim Trimble arrived on the scene in 1957 and took the Tiger-Cats to their second Grey Cup. For five of six years between 1957 and 1962, it was Hamilton and Winnipeg in the Grey Cup final. Unfortunately for Hamilton, Winnipeg won the last four of those meetings, after losing the initial one in 1957. During those years, the Tiger-Cats were led on offense by Bernie Faloney.

After the 1960 season, Hamilton attempted to trade Faloney to Montreal for Etcheverry, but the deal fell through when Etcheverry and later the courts declared his contract broken and he was off to the NFL. With Faloney still at the helm, the Tiger-Cats broke their losing streak in the Grey Cup with a win over BC in 1963. While Faloney led the offense, the defence was led by a pair of prototypical Tiger-Cat tough guys in John Barrow and Angelo Mosca. It was a hit, that some say was late, by Angelo Mosca on BC star running back Willie Fleming that put him out of the 1963 game. It is often credited as being the turning point in

that game. There was some revenge for the Lions in 1964 when they defeated the Tiger-Cats to win their first Grey Cup. The Tiger-Cats won two more Grey Cups in the 1960s, with wins in 1965 and 1967. The winning combination was a tough defence and a touch of offense brought by outstanding players like Garney Henley and Tommy Joe Coffey.

The 1970s brought Tony Gabriel, likely the best Tight End the CFL has ever seen and another Grey Cup win in 1972. In 1978, Toronto Maple Leafs owner, Harold Ballard assumed ownership of the Tiger Cats. Ballard claimed to be losing a million dollars a year. The Tiger-Cats contended on and off during the rest of the 1970s and 1980s, reaching the Grey Cup final in 1980 and winning the East Division by a mile in 1981 with an 11–4–1 record under head coach Frank Kush, but were stunned by the Ottawa Rough Riders, who finished a distant second at 5 and 11, in the East final. The Tabbies' defense was very stout, talented and hungry that decade, led by standouts Grover Covington, Ben Zambiasi, Howard Fields and Mitchell Price. They were complemented very well on offense with quarterbacks Tom Clements and Mike Kerrigan throwing to Rocky DiPietro and Tony Champion leading to three straight trips to the Grey Cup in 1984, 1985 and 1986, the latter resulting in winning the title over the Edmonton Eskimos by a score of 39 to 15. In 1986, Ballard publicly called the Tiger-Cats a bunch of overpaid losers. After the

Tiger-Cats beat the Toronto Argonauts in the 1986 Eastern Final, Ballard said “You guys may still be overpaid, but after today, no one can call you losers.” A few days later, the Tiger-Cats won the 1986 Grey Cup by beating the Edmonton Eskimos 39 to 15; Ballard said it was worth every penny.

Hamilton businessman David Braley bought the team in 1989, and he would eventually sell the team to a community based group in 1992 due to continued poor attendance. Hamilton returned to the Grey Cup in 1989, but was on the losing end of a 43 to 40 thriller to Saskatchewan.

The 1990s were marked by financial instability and constant struggles on the field. The quarterback position was a weak spot for the Ti-Cats as the first half of the decade had names like Don McPherson, Damon Allen, Timm Rosenbach, Matt Dunigan, Lee Saltz and Todd Dillon taking their turns at the pivot.

Despite the excellent play of Eastern All-Star Earl Winfield rewriting the team’s record books for pass catching, Hamilton still struggled to attract crowds to Ivor Wynne Stadium. It was not until 1998 with the arrival of head coach Ron Lancaster and the pitch-and-catch duo of Danny McManus and Darren Flutie plus the pass rush abilities of Joe Montford that led Hamilton back to the CFL's elite, reaching the Grey Cup finals in 1998 and winning the Cup the following year. However, the Ti-Cats would then suffer a slow decline. In 2000, Hamilton finished 9 and 9,

losing 4 of their last 5 games, as well as the East semi-final 24 to 22 to Winnipeg.

In 2001, Hamilton finished 11 and 7, and lost to Winnipeg in the playoffs for a second straight season, 28 to 13. In 2002, Hamilton finished 7 and 11 and missed the playoffs. The team would reach their lowest ebb in 2003, having a not only franchise-worst season, but the worst record in CFL history, finishing one and seventeen, with only a 27 to 24 overtime victory in week fourteen keeping the declawed Tiger-Cats from having an imperfect season.

Native Hamiltonian Bob Young had owned the Tiger-Cats since 2004 and although the team had resurgence in home attendance, corporate sponsorship plus a brand new "Tiger Vision" scoreboard at Ivor Wynne stadium, it had struggled with its on-field performance. Last place finishes both in 2005 (five and thirteen) and 2006 (four and fourteen), resulted in an overhaul of the coaching staff for 2007. The moves still did not immediately help, as the team continued to lag in last place in 2007 and 2008 despite numerous apparent upgrades.

In 2009, their fortunes turned around when they finished in second place in the East, qualifying for the playoffs for the first time in several years. However, they failed to win the Grey Cup, marking the 2000s as the first decade since the 1890s that Hamilton failed to win a national championship.

On August 31, 2011, the Tiger-Cats announced plans to close Ivor Wynne Stadium at the end of the 2012 season and begin play in the long planned Pan American Stadium in 2014. Throughout the 2013 season, they played their home games at Guelph University's stadium because the new stadium was still under construction. On November 24, 2013, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats lost to the Saskatchewan Roughriders 45 to 23 in the 101st Grey Cup at Mosaic Stadium at Taylor Field. The game had star appeal as actor Tom Hanks attended with comedian Martin Short, a Hamilton native. Early in the third quarter, Hanks was shown replacing a Tiger-Cats toque with a Riders hat, drawing a loud roar from the crowd. After construction of the new stadium fell behind schedule in 2014, the team moved the first few games of its 2014 season to Ron Joyce Stadium.

Tim Hortons Field opened in time for the 2014 Labour Day Classic, which coincided with the Tiger-Cats going on a long run that propelled the team from 1 and 6 prior to that game to 9 and 9. In a year when the East was particularly weak, this was enough to win the division and two further playoff wins, propelled the team to its second straight Grey Cup appearance, which would also be its second straight Grey Cup loss. Calgary Stampeders held off a late comeback effort from the Tiger-Cats to win 20 to 16. The team went undefeated at Tim Hortons Field in its inaugural season at the stadium.

The Tiger-Cats' logo was an exact reverse of the Princeton University Tigers athletic logo for many decades. The artwork for the original "leaping tiger" is claimed by Hamilton, having been designed by Jake Gaudaur, a former Tiger-Cat player, President, and then CFL Commissioner. Both logos have since been revised or replaced.

Since 1873, the arch-rivals of the Tiger-Cats have been the Toronto Argonauts. The first meeting between the two teams took place on October 18, 1873 at the University of Toronto where the Argonauts defeated the Hamilton Football Club. Hamilton and Toronto are merely fifty-one km apart along the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) highway and, for relatively brief periods of time, were the only CFL teams in Ontario as a result of the demise of the Ottawa Rough Riders in 1996 and the demise of the Ottawa Renegades in 2006, although Ottawa fielded a new team called the Ottawa Redblacks in 2014. In the Labour Day Classic match-ups since 1948, Hamilton has been victorious thirty-one times to Toronto's fifteen. Since 1996, the two teams have played the Labour Day Classic each year at Hamilton's Ivor Wynne Stadium, with the season and the 2013 season being recent exceptions. In 2014 and 2015, the Labour Day Classic continued the tradition, with the game being held at Hamilton's new stadium, Tim Hortons Field. As has been the case for several years, the two teams then have a rematch the following week at

Toronto's stadium, currently BMO Field. There have been seventeen playoff match-ups between the two teams, with Toronto being victorious ten times to Hamilton's seven. On November 17, 2013, the Tiger-Cats defeated the Argonauts 36 to 24 in the East Division Final game, which gave Hamilton a Grey Cup berth. On November 15, 2015, the Tiger-Cats defeated the Argonauts 25 to 22, to advance to the East Division Final against the Ottawa Redblacks.

Information and tid-bits on the Cats

Founded: 1950, a merger of the Hamilton Tigers and the Hamilton Wildcats, formerly known as, The Hamilton Tigers and Hamilton Wildcats.

Helmet design: Black background with a leaping tiger

Uniform colours: Black, Gold and White

Eastern regular season championships – twenty-two, 1950, 1952, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1970, 1972, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1998, 1999, 2014

Eastern Division championships - nineteen
1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1972, 1980, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1998, 1999, 2013, 2014
Grey Cups 1953, 1957, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1972, 1986, 1999

2017 Season Record: 6 wins and twelve loses



The Tiger Cats saluting their fans

To all Media who covered the Tiger-Cats football team, especially Drew Edwards and Marshall Ferguson- thank you for the excellent coverage.

Sources for this chapter include, Hamilton Tiger-Cat Alumni Association, various archives and Wikipedia



Chapter Eight

Was Calvino the best ever?

Football has a long and storied history in Montreal that goes all the way back to the 1850s. In 1946 football in Quebec under the name Alouettes, was cobbled together by Lew Hayman, whom would become a CFL Hall of Famer along with businessmen Eric Cradock and Léo Dandur. They named themselves after a work song, 'Alouette' which was about plucking the feathers from a skylark (bird), which had become a symbol of the Québécois. During the Second World War the RCAF's No. 425 (French Canadian) Bomber Squadron assumed the skylark as its badge and the motto "Je te plumerai" meaning "I shall pluck you".) Their first Grey Cup championship came in 1949, beating Calgary 28 to 15 and the team was led by quarterback Frank Filchock and running back Virgil Wagner.

Skipping ahead to the 1950s, they were a positive decade for the ALs, with quarterback Sam Etcheverry pitching the ball to John (Red) O'Quinn, (Prince) Hal Patterson, and with Pat Abbruzzi carrying the load. From 1954 to 1956, Montreal fielded a very potent offence and reached the Grey Cup in three straight years but questionable defensive plays led to defeat against the Edmonton Eskimos all three times.

In 1954 the 'Als' were purchased by Ted Workman and while the team continued to enjoy wins, that all changed at the end of the 1960 season. The team was shook down to their football boots by an announcement on November tenth, the trade of Hal Patterson and Sam Etcheverry to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats for Bernie Faloney and Dan Paquette. Workman had made the deal without consulting with his General Manager Perry Moss. The trade promptly fell apart because Etcheverry had recently signed a new contract that had a no-trade clause in it. Due to the mix-up the all-star quarterback was now a free agent. A new contract was reworked and Patterson was traded for Paquette. Sam Etcheverry went on to play in the NFL with the St. Louis Cardinals for two years (1961 and 1962) followed by the San Francisco 49ers in 1963. Faloney remained in Hamilton, and teamed with Patterson to form one of the most prolific quarterback and receiver combinations in CFL history.

This charade remains one of the most lopsided trades ever made in the Alouette's history and it ushered in a dark decade for the team. During that time, the Als failed to put together a single winning season. From 1968 to 1976 the team played in the Autostade Stadium, which had been built as a temporary stadium for Expo 67. The stadium's less-than-desirable location on Montreal's waterfront near the Victoria Bridge led to dismal attendance, putting more strain on the team's finances.

The bottom occurred in 1969, when they finished two and twelve. After that disastrous season, Workman sold the team to a true football man, Sam Berger who was a former part-owner of the Ottawa Rough Riders. Berger immediately made positive changes to the team. On December ninth, the Als announced that Sam Etcheverry was returning to the organization, this time as the team's new head coach. The Alouettes also unveiled new uniforms, their home jerseys were now predominantly green, with red and white trim. The white helmets with the red wings used during the 1960s disappeared, replaced by a white helmet with a stylized green and red bird's head that formed a lower-case 'a'. As many fans wanted, many new quality players were brought in and these changes paid immediate dividends. Although the team finished third in the East, they defeated the Toronto Argonauts and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the playoffs.

The 1970 Season finished on a high note. The Alouettes won the Grey Cup on November 28 at Toronto's Exhibition Stadium before a crowd of 32,669. Quarterback Sonny Wade who was named the game's most valuable player and who would soon become a fan favourite in Montreal, not unlike the status coach Etcheverry had enjoyed in the 1950s. Halfback Moses Denson, receivers Gary Lefebvre and Tom Pullen, along with kicker George Springate played the game of their career; the team defeated the Calgary Stampeders 23 to 10 for the city's first Grey Cup since 1949, also against the Stamps.

That Grey Cup win in 1970 would herald the beginning of arguably the greatest decade in franchise history. During Berger's tenure, the team played for six Grey Cups and won three. They finally moved out of the Autostade and into Olympic Stadium midway through the 1976 season and attendance went way up. In 1977, the team had a very successful year both on the field and at the box office, winning the Grey Cup at their home field before a Grey Cup record 68,318 fans. They also averaged 59,595 fans per game at the "Big O" during the regular season, a league record that still stands.

The success however ended with Berger's retirement in 1981. He sold the team to Vancouver businessman Nelson Skalbania. The flamboyant Skalbania set about signing two first-round picks from the 1981 National Football League draft plus NFL

name players such as Vince Ferragamo, James Scott, David Overstreet, Keith Gary and Billy (White Shoes) Johnson. Even with all that talent, the Alouettes suffered on the field, finishing with a 3 and 13 dismal record, while attendance plummeted to fewer than 20,000 per game. However, the East was so weak that year that they actually made the playoffs, finishing third in the East ahead of the 2 and 14 Toronto Argonauts. Hamilton was the only team to finish with a winning record. In the East semi-final, they put on a good show against the second-place Rough Riders before losing 20 to 16.

This would be the final game that the original Alouettes franchise would play. Press reports had Skalbania (late in 1981) selling the team to oil magnate Pat Bowlen, who would later go on and purchase the NFL's Denver Broncos. Later in 1981, NFL coach George Allen obtained an option to purchase fifty-one percent of the club, and was named Alouettes' president. While holding both the option and the post, Allen was surprised by Skalbania who had arranged a sale of the same controlling stake to Harry Ornest, who would later own the St. Louis Blues. Ornest however was reluctant to take control of the Alouettes as a result of the team's high level of debt and extensive commitments to high-profile stars. Allen left the club in late April after Skalbania was unable to resolve his 1981 debts. With the franchise in collapse, Berger tried to force Skalbania to relinquish the team to

him as payment for debt owed to Berger. Skalbania returned from a business trip to Hong Kong in late April and was able to regain control of the team. However, Skalbania's highly leveraged business interests collapsed a month later. Unable to meet his obligations, Skalbania was forced to return the team to the league on May 13.

May 14, 1982, a day after the original Alouettes franchise folded, Montreal businessman and Montreal Expos founder Charles Bronfman founded a new team under the name Montreal Concordes. This team inherited the Alouette's franchise history and its players.

The Concordes sported a 2 and 14 record in 1982 under head coach Joe Galat, the worst record in franchise history (percentage points below the 1969 Alouettes). The Concordes featured quarterback Luc Tousignant, the only Québécois quarterback to start a CFL game besides Gerry Dattilio. The club also featured star collegiate running back David Overstreet who rushed for 190 yards in six games before ending his season on the injured reserve list. The Concordes lost their last nine games of 1982. Other players on the club included quarterback Johnny Evans, quarterback Turner Gill, slot back Nick Arakgi, running back Lester Brown, wide receiver Brian DeRoo, local kick returner Denis Ferdinand, defensive tackle Glen Weir, safety Preston Young, defensive end Gordon Judges, kicker-punter Don Sweet

and linebacker William Hampton. The team gradually rebounded, making the East final in 1985.

The team in 1986 attempted to embrace its predecessor's history and regenerate flagging fan interest by rebranding itself the 'new' Montreal Alouettes. This rebranding would not prove to be successful either on or off the field. The team posted a 4 and 14 record, missing the playoffs in spite of once again finishing third in the East on account of the new 'cross-over rule' that the CFL had implemented for the 1986 season.

Off the field, financial losses mounted and the league's television sponsor (Carling O'Keefe brewery) dropping out prior to the 1987 season proved to be a death blow for the franchise. Bronfman made it clear he would not field a team for the 1987 season unless the club sold thousands of additional season tickets. Neither the necessary season ticket sales nor a viable ownership group willing to take the franchise off Bronfman's hands materialized. Relocation was not an option, although several Canadian cities had expressed interest in acquiring a CFL team, none had a stadium suitable for temporary use or a metropolitan area of suitable size. Also, at that time the CFL was lukewarm to the possibility of expanding or relocating to U.S. markets.

These 'new' Alouettes folded on June 24, 1987, just a day before the 1987 season started. So late did the Alouettes' demise

come that the June 28 Washington Post still announced an ESPN broadcast of an Alouettes versus Stampeders game, a game that never materialized. The team did play two preseason games on the road before folding, leaving the CFL with eight teams. To balance out the divisions, the most eastern West Division team, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, moved over to the East Division to take the Alouettes' place.

A football team in Baltimore was granted an expansion franchise for 1994 by the Canadian Football League. After the NFL's Indianapolis Colts moved from Baltimore in 1983, they blocked attempts to name the new team the Baltimore CFL Colts, owner Jim Speros eventually settled on Stallions as for a nickname. The Stallions were by far the most successful of the CFL's American teams, garnering persistent fan support in the Baltimore area and appearing in the Grey Cup in both its seasons (losing in 1994, winning in 1995). Only a week before the Stallions won the Grey Cup, Cleveland Browns owner Art Modell announced his intention to relocate his NFL club to Baltimore. Speros new that the Stallions could not begin to compete with an NFL team so he decided to move his team someplace else.

At one point, Speros was reported very close to moving the team to Houston, Texas. Although Houston at the time was still home to the NFL Oilers, fan support for that team had collapsed due their pending relocation to Nashville, so Speros had

reason to believe a CFL team there could repeat the success that had been enjoyed in Baltimore. In addition, a team in Houston would have been natural rivals for the San Antonio Texans, who were still planning to play the 1996 season provided at least one other U.S. team also survived. On the other hand, the proposed move to Houston was considered in some circles to be little more a ploy to try and win concessions from the NFL, which presumably would not have wanted to risk the embarrassment of having one of its teams outdrawn by a team from another league in the same city.

Under prodding from league commissioner and former Alouettes' running back Larry Smith, Speros began talks with Montreal. Smith had been looking for a way to return the CFL to Canada's second-largest market and, at the same time, find a way out of the failing American expansion. He believed that the defending Grey Cup champions would be a better vehicle for reviving football in Montreal than what would have effectively been an expansion team.

At a league meeting on February 2, 1996, Speros formally requested permission to move the Stallions to Montreal. The request was granted, officially ending the CFL's ill-timed American experiment. Talks had been so far advanced that at least one Baltimore outlet reported that the Stallions were moving to Montreal in January. According to one Canadian outlet, Speros

had already begun to decide whether to retain the Stallions moniker or revive the Alouettes name. He ultimately chose the latter course, surrendering the Stallions franchise and reconstituting his organisation as the third incarnation of the Alouettes. While Speros was able to reclaim the history of the 1946–86 Alouettes and Concordes franchise, he was not allowed to retain the history of the Stallions.

Bronfman had returned the Alouettes franchise to the CFL just days before the start of the 1987 season. Soon after the Stallions won the Grey Cup in 1995, Speros returned the Stallions franchise to the CFL and reconstituted his business in Montreal. As part of the deal, Speros was allowed to reclaim the dormant Alouettes franchise, along with its history and records. As a result, the Alouettes are officially regarded as having suspended operations from 1987 to 1995, while the Stallions' franchise is regarded as having been dissolved in 1995.

The Stallions players were released from their contracts but General Manager Jim Popp, who followed the team from Baltimore, was able to re-sign many of them. As with the other U.S.-based CFL teams, the Stallions had been exempt from CFL rules that mandated a certain quota of Canadian non-import players on team rosters. For this reason, an expansion draft was held to help stock the Alouettes with the required number of non-import players. Popp hired former Stallions assistant coach Bob

Price to be the new head coach of the Montreal Alouettes. As a result, the Alouettes were able to overcome a slow start to finish with their first winning record since 1979. They defeated the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the East semi-final before being spanked by the Argos 43 to 7 in the East Final.

Speros sold the team to developer and investor Robert Wetenhall in 1997, who still owns the team today. Smith stepped down as league commissioner and became president of the Alouettes. Bob Price left the Alouettes to head south and coach in the NCAA with Popp hiring former B.C. Lions head coach and Concordes defensive line coach Dave Ritchie as his successor. The team had a quick start, and eventually made it back to the East Final, where they lost to Doug Flutie's Argos on a last second touchdown pass thrown by Flutie.

This 'new' revived Alouettes franchise played their first two seasons at Olympic Stadium, but attendance in the cavernous domed stadium in the beginning was not good. The future of the franchise was very much in doubt until a twist of fate revitalized the floundering club once again. When a scheduled November 1997 U2 concert at Olympic Stadium conflicted with an unexpected home playoff game against the Lions (due to the CFL's 'cross-over' playoff format), the team decided to move the game to Molson Stadium, where they had played from 1954 to 1967. Interest in the team picked up and the game was sold out,

prompting the team to relocate permanently to the smaller venue beginning with the 1998 season. At the time of the Alouettes' return to Molson, the stadium's capacity was 20,202; an expansion completed prior to the 2010 season brought the current capacity to 25,012. Prior to every Sunday home game, the club plays 'Sunday Bloody Sunday' over the PA system in tribute to the unintended role U2 played in saving the franchise. The team did not completely abandon the Olympic Stadium, from 2001 to 2009; the Alouettes hosted one regular-season game per year as well as any home playoff games at the much larger stadium. Since the expansion of Molson Stadium, the team only uses the 'Big O' for playoff games.

The on field fortunes for the Alouettes started to change during the 1998 season, when they acquired a young free agent quarterback from the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Anthony Calvillo. They also drafted Ben Cahoon, Tracy Ham and Mike Pringle and this led the team to second-place finish. After a good season, the Als suffered a last-second loss to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the East Final.

The Alouettes finally broke through in 1999, under new head coach Charlie Taaffe, winning their first division title since 1979. They lost a tough close East final to the Tiger-Cats, 27 to 26.

Tracy Ham retired after the 1999 season, and Anthony Calvillo took over as the full-time starter, he led the team to their

first Grey Cup final since 1979, losing to BC, in a very hard fought game they came within a missed two point convert of sending the game into overtime. After the season Charlie Taaffe resigned to become the head coach of the Maryland Terrapins.

New coach Rod Rust started the next season at 9 at 2, but after Calvillo separated his shoulder, the team started struggling and after losing all their remaining games, GM Jim Popp fired Rust. Popp then led them himself into the playoffs, where they lost to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, putting an exclamation mark on a disappointing season.

The Alouettes signed winning Coach Don Matthews in the off-season to lead the team forward in the future. Matthews brought them all the way back in 2002 from a terrible past season, finishing with the best record in the CFL and winning their first Grey Cup since 1977 by defeating one of their oldest rivals and Matthews' former team, the Edmonton Eskimos, 25 to 16.

Alouettes had the most wins in the CFL during the 2004 season at 14 and 4 and they looked like a sure bet for a Grey Cup. In the East Final, Anthony Calvillo got hurt and was replaced by backup Ted White, and the Toronto Argonauts rallied to defeat the Alouettes, 26 to 18.

During the off-season, all time CFL rusher Mike Pringle signed a one-day contract so he could retire as a member of the Montreal Alouettes. The team went onto participate in the first

Grey Cup overtime game in almost fifty years with the Edmonton Eskimos defeating them, 38 to 35.

During the 2006 season, coach Don Matthews quit near the end of the season because of health reasons and Jim Popp once again took over for the rest of the season leading the team to the Grey Cup, where they lost 25 to 14 to the B.C Lions.

Popp stayed on to coach the team during the 2007 year and the team suffered its first losing season since coming back to Montreal in 1996, with an 8 and 10 record. Anthony Calvillo left the team near the end of the season to be with his wife who was sick. The team lost the East Semi-Final, 22 to 20, to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers who had backup quarterback Marcus Brady behind center.

With Montreal hosting the 2008 Grey Cup, the Alouettes hired an experienced NFL assistant in Marc Trestman, and helped lead them to an 11 and 7 record and a berth in the Grey Cup against the visiting Calgary Stampeders led by Henry Burris. The Stampeders defeated the hometown Montreal Alouettes, 22 to 14, in front of over 66,000 fans.

The 2009 season was a record breaking season for the Montreal Alouettes. They were a CFL best 15 and 3 during the season and their defence was stellar as they allowed only 324 points, second least in an eighteen game season. Marc Trestman won the coach of the year, after leading them to a 28 to 27

comeback Grey Cup victory, in part thanks to Anthony Calvillo, Ben Cahoon, and Jamel Richardson. The Alouettes trailed the Saskatchewan Roughriders, 27 to 11, with eight minutes to play. The game came down to the foot of field goal kicker Damon Duval, who after missing a forty-three-yard field on the last play, got a second chance, when the Roughriders were called for having too many players on the field. This resulted in a ten-yard penalty, so now Duval was kicking from the thirty-three yard line. Duval did not miss the kick, this time he nailed it, giving Montreal an impossible Grey Cup victory, after they had trailed for the entire game. This win broke a streak of four straight losses in Grey Cups and caused the province of Saskatchewan to go into collective mourning.

Montreal went 12 and 6 in 2010 and became the first team since the 1997 Toronto Argonauts to repeat as Grey Cup Champions. They played against the Saskatchewan Roughriders for the second straight year, and won the game, 21 to 18, repeating as champions.

Anthony Calvillo's 2011 season broke numerous records, all against the Argonauts. During their first meeting Calvillo broke the CFL all time touchdown passes record of 394 TD passes on a pass to Eric Deslauriers. Damon Allen was at the game and personally congratulated him on breaking his record. He tied Allen's record in Regina the week before with the only touchdown

pass ever caught by Tim Maypray. During the team's second meeting he broke the completions record with a completion to Brandon London. In the team's third meeting, Anthony Calvillo became pro football's all-time leading passer, on a Jamel Richardson touchdown pass to end the third quarter. The play was stopped as his family joined him along with Mark Cohan for a special on field presentation and video tribute. NFL greats Warren Moon and Dan Marino, ESPN's Chris Berman, and Damon Allen each sent video messages congratulating him on breaking the record. Calvillo was presented with a special plaque, with the number 72382, the new pro football all-time yardage mark. The team however lost an overtime thriller in the East Semi-Final at the Olympic Stadium 52 to 4 to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Next year was another fine season for the Alouettes, but after finishing 11 and 7, they lost the East final to the Toronto Argonauts after Brian Bratton dropped a game-tying touchdown pass from Calvillo with a minute left in the game, giving Toronto a 27 to 20 win. Marc Trestman left the Alouettes before the 2013 season for the NFL, becoming the head coach of the Chicago Bears. Jim Popp went looking for a new coach, but he chose an inexperienced coach in Dan Hawkins who had no pro-football experience. After changing the playbook, and upsetting a lot of the players, especially Anthony Calvillo, Popp fired Hawkins, and coached the team for the rest of the year. Calvillo suffered a

season-ending concussion in Saskatchewan on a hit by Ricky Foley. Jim Popp went looking for a quarterback for the future, and it looked like he found it, in Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith.

Both Tanner Marsh and Josh Neiswander led the Alouettes to comeback wins during the year, but when Troy Smith took over, he looked more poised and comfortable than the others. The team had an 8 and 10 record, and still made the playoffs for an eighteenth straight year with Anthony Calvillo announcing his retirement on January 21, after a 20-year career. On February 24, 2014, the Alouettes named former Edmonton Eskimos and Calgary Stampeders coach Tom Higgins as the twenty-first head coach in franchise history. Higgins had coached the Eskimos against the Alouettes in both the 90th and 91st Grey Cup games.

The Alouettes went through five different quarterbacks in 2015 before trading for veteran Kevin Glenn. By that time the quarterback shuffle had taken its toll on the team and they finished the year with a 6 and 12 record and missed the playoffs for the first time since 1986. The Alouettes became the first CFL team to exploit social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter in their marketing campaigns, remaining the league leader in technology-based marketing.

Since their return to the CFL in 1996, the Alouettes have appeared in the Grey Cup eight times, all between 2000 and 2010, with three Grey Cup wins. They most recently won back-to-back

Grey Cup championships (2009 and 2010) both against the Saskatchewan Roughriders, including a 'comeback classic' in 2009. On May 22, 2015, Michael Sam signed a two-year contract with the Alouettes that made him the first openly gay player in the CFL's history. Sam left the team after dressing for one game. On August 21, 2015, owner Robert Wettenhall announced he has relieved Tom Higgins of his Head Coaching responsibilities and that General Manager Jim Popp would take over the duties of Head Coach at this time. On September 19, 2016, Popp was relieved of his coaching duties, while remaining GM and he named Jacques Chapdelaine as Interim Head Coach, becoming the first Quebec-born head coach in Alouettes' history. He was named the permanent coach on December 13, 2016. After a 3 to 8 start to the 2017 season, Chapdelaine was fired on September 13, 2017.

Interesting information and tid-bits on the Alouettes

Founded: The original Montreal club was founded on April 8, 1872. The original club was renamed as the Montreal Alouettes (skylarks or larks in English translation) in 1946. They played the 1994 and 1995 seasons with much of the now defunct Baltimore Stallions 1995 roster.

Helmet Design: Silver background with a blue "A" and a charging skylark (*Alouettes*) holding a football.

Uniform Colours: Blue, red, silver, white, and black. **Home Stadium:** The Alouettes play at Percival Molson Memorial

Stadium for the regular season, while they play at Olympic Stadium for playoff games.

East Division Regular Season Championships: fifteen
1946, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1974, 1977, 1979, 1999,
2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012

Grey Cup Appearances: Eighteen

1949 (won), 1954 (lost), 1955 (lost), 1956 (lost), 1970(won)
1974 (won), 1975 (lost), 1977 (won), 1978 (lost), 1979
(lost), 2000 (lost), 2002 (won), 2003 (lost), 2005 (lost),
2006 (lost), 2008 (lost), 2009 (won), 2010 (won) - 2017
season wins three wins and fifteen losses



The Alouettes offence takes a snap

A tip-of-the-hat to Montreal and Quebec's football media

Sources include various team & media archives and web sites



Chapter Nine

They Came Back From the Dead

When the Ottawa Redblacks score a touchdown at TD Place, the Algonquin Logger sports team goes to work. The sounds of chainsaws fill the air as Ottawa newest football tradition begins to take shape, the cutting of a Redblacks wood cookie from a log.

Ottawa football (rugby) has its share of ups and downs over the decades but they date all the way back to the 1800s, with various amateur and professional teams playing under the Ottawa Football Club (1876–97), the Ottawa Rough Riders (1898–1924) and the Senators (1925–30) umbrella. The Senators in 1931 resumed the Rough Riders name, and the team enjoyed many winning seasons until disbanding after the 1996 Grey Cup. Another CFL team, the Ottawa Renegades, played from 2002 to 2005 but folded in 2006.

Playing out of Ottawa, Ontario the Rough Riders were founded in 1876 and were formerly one of the oldest and longest lived professional sports teams in North America. They were dominant in the 1960s and 1970s, an era in which they won five Grey Cups. The team's fortunes turned to the worse in the 1980s and 1990s and they finally ceased as a football team following the 1996 season. Five years later, a brand new CFL team known as the Ottawa Renegades was founded, though in 2006 they also suspended operations. The Ottawa Redblacks, who own the Rough Riders intellectual properties, joined the league in 2014.

September 20, 1876 was the beginning of the Ottawa Football Club and they won the first game they played on September 23 against the Aylmer Club at Jacques-Cartier Square. The team's colours were cerise, grey, and navy blue. The club adopted the name Ottawa Rough Riders on September 9, 1898 and changed its team colours to red and black. Since then, red and black have been Ottawa's traditional sporting colours. A few historians years ay the name was derived from logging with the team basing its colours on Teddy Roosevelt's regiment in the Spanish–American War. From 1925 to 1930he team changed its nickname to Ottawa Senators.

The Ottawa Rough Riders played in the same league as the Saskatchewan Roughriders, confusing many, and attracting laughter as the CFL was a small league and two teams had the

same name. For a long period of time, both teams also shared the same colours of red and black. The teams had historically belonged to separate leagues ('unions'), which were not truly merged until the late 1950s when the CFL was formed. They were allowed to keep their long-standing names and on four occasions, the two teams met head to head in the Grey Cup.

It was 1898 when Ottawa got its first Canadian championship, the team (Ottawa Football Club) transferred from the Quebec Union to the Ontario League that season. The Riders beat the Hamilton Tigers 15 to 8 for the Ontario championship, then defeated Toronto Varsity, the Inter-collegiate champions 7 to 3 and went onto defeat Ottawa College 11 to 1 to and hoisted the Canadian championship. In those days, athletes played in multiple sports and the Riders had athletes famous in other sports, such as Harvey Pulford and Frank McGee. The Riders and Ottawa College were the Canadian champions for the next several years, with the Riders defeating Brockville 17 to 10 in 1900, and defeating Ottawa College 5 to 0 in 1902, College being the 1901 Canadian champions. Moving back to the Quebec Union they won the 1903 Quebec championship. In 1905, Ottawa won the Quebec title, only to lose a close game to the Toronto Varsity team 11 to 9 in the Canadian championship.

In 1907 the club absorbed the Ottawa St. Pats and the Riders would win the IRFU championship in 1909 over the

Hamilton Tigers, but lose in the Canadian final in Toronto to Toronto Varsity. During the decline of the Riders, another Ottawa team, Ottawa St. Brigids, was on an ascent. St. Brigids, which played in the Ottawa City league, and later the Ontario league, was developing top talent. In 1923, St. Brigids and the Riders merged, with St. Brigids manager Jim McCaffery becoming the manager of the Riders. McCaffery would be a member of the Riders executive for several decades. The team won the Grey Cup in 1925 and 1926, a time when they were known as the Ottawa Senators. In 1925, Ottawa defeated three-time defending champion Queen's in the Eastern semi-final. Ottawa then defeated Winnipeg 24 to 1 in the championship, held in Ottawa, and defeated Toronto Varsity 10 to 7 in Toronto in 1926. The Riders were led by players such as Eddie Emerson, Joe Tubman, Joe Miller, Jess Ketchum, Jack Pritchard, Harold Starr and Don Young.

The Riders went into another decline after the championships. Yet another Ottawa team, the Ottawa Rangers, was developing talent and enjoying success. The Riders absorbed the Rangers in 1933, getting Rangers stars Andy Tommy, Arnie Morrison and 'Fat' Quinn. That same year the Riders added more talent, bringing in American imports 'Windy' O'Neil and Lorne Johnson. In 1935, the Riders added an American, Roy Berry, who would be mysterious about his origins. The Riders defeated the

Toronto Argonauts in the final two games of the Big Four schedule to deny Toronto the Big Four championship, and the Argonauts protested that Berry was not who he said he was. In fact, it turned out that Berry was Bohn Hilliard who had played professional baseball, making him ineligible for Canadian football, and he had kept his identity a secret from Ottawa officials.

The Riders won the Big Four title in 1936 defeating the Hamilton Tigers 3, to 2. The team went to the Eastern final against the Sarnia Imperials and lost 26 to 20 on a frozen battle held at Toronto's Varsity Stadium. Since there was no western challenge that year, the Imperials became Canadian champions. The Riders would next win the Big Four and Eastern title in 1939, but lose to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 8 to 7 in the Grey Cup game, held in Ottawa. In 1940, the Ottawa team would win the Big Four and Eastern titles, defeating Toronto Balmy Beach. The win over Balmy Beach carried the Canadian title, as the West refused to abide by the Canadian Rugby Union code.

The Riders won the 1942 ERFU title over the Argonauts, but lost (again) to the Blue Bombers in the Canadian final, 18 to 16 at Varsity Stadium. The ERFU folded and the Riders continued in the Ottawa City league until 1945 when the Big Four was restarted. During the Riders' time in the Ottawa City league, another team from Ottawa, the Trojans won the Ontario title, and in 1948 the Trojans were absorbed into the Riders.

Ottawa hosted the New York Giants in exhibition games, with the Giants winning both times, and NFL-CFL matches would not be attempted again until 1959. In the first season of the CFL, the Ottawa Rough Riders and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats made history when they played the first regular season CFL game at Philadelphia's Franklin Field on August 23, 1958. Hamilton defeated Ottawa, 13 to 7. The Toronto Argonauts played the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in Buffalo in 1951, the Argonauts would later face the Calgary Stampeders in another exhibition game in Portland, Oregon in 1992, and several CFL games with at least one Canadian team occurred in the United States during the CFL USA era.

The 1960s and 1970s were the glory years for the Rough Riders. With coach and general manager Frank Clair at the helm along with players Russ Jackson, Whit Tucker, Ron Stewart, Tom Clements, and Tony Gabriel, the Riders were one of the CFL's best teams, winning the Grey Cup five times in that span and including their last victory in 1976, where Tony Gabriel made the game-winning touchdown catch in the end zone in a 23 to 20 win over the Saskatchewan Roughriders. The Rough Riders' very last appearance in the Grey Cup game was 1981 against the heavily favoured Edmonton Eskimos. The game started out as a shocker when the Riders jumped out to a 20 to 1 halftime lead over the Eskimos. But a controversial double interference call against

Riders receiver Tony Gabriel late in the game proved to be costly, as the Eskimos, led by backup quarterback Tom Wilkinson, came from behind to beat the Riders 26 to 23 on a game-winning field goal by the 'Esk's sure footed kicker Dave Cutler.

Most of the 1980s and 1990s, despite having two even records (8 and 8 in 1983 and 9 and 9 in 1992), the Riders struggled with losing seasons, poor ownership, mismanagement, and decreased fan support.

In 1988, Jo-Anne Polak was named the co-General Manager of the Rough Riders. She became the first woman in CFL history to be appointed to an executive post, and the first female General Manager of any professional sports franchise in North America. Three years later, the team would be purchased by Detroit businessman Bernard Gliberman and his son Lonie Gliberman, who would serve as team president, for one dollar. The team changed its logo from a simple block 'R' to a double flaming red and silver 'RR', and added silver to their traditional red and black colours.

1992 was an okay year but in 1993 the bottom fell out when the Glibermans began making noise about moving the Rough Riders to the United States. The CFL, obviously, did not take kindly to Gliberman's suggestion, but allowed him to split the Rough Riders into American and Canadian halves. The American half became an expansion franchise known as

the Shreveport Pirates under Gliberman's ownership. The Canadian half retained the Rough Riders name, colours and history under the ownership of modern Ottawa Senators co-founder Bruce Firestone. For the 1994 season the team unveiled its final logo design with the team colours changing from black, silver, and red, to dark navy, red, and gold. The colour changes proved to be unpopular as the team dropped dark navy in favour of a return to black for the 1996 season. Despite the ownership changes, neither Ottawa nor Shreveport had successful on or off the field teams. In 1995, after a lengthy bankruptcy process, the Riders were purchased by Chicago businessman and minor league sports entrepreneur Horn Chen, who did not attend a single Ottawa game. In the dispersal draft of Las Vegas Posse players, Ottawa management drafted Derrell Robertson, who had died the previous December. Following the 1996 season, years of poor ownership and mismanagement took a toll on the Rough Riders franchise that ultimately led to its folding after a 120 year existence.

Ottawa lived without CFL football for the next five years until 2002, when the city once again regained a CFL team; this one was called the Renegades. Although there was sentiment toward resurrecting the Rough Riders name, Chen expected payment for the rights to it; the new franchise declined the request, and went

with a 'fresh' name for the new team. This team also faced problems and ceasing play after the 2005 CFL season.

In 2008, Jeff Hunt (with partners Roger Greenberg, John Pugh, John Ruddy and Bill Shenkman) under the name Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group acquired the Ottawa CFL franchise rights with the intent of relaunching professional football in Ottawa. He also acquired the Rough Riders intellectual properties from Chen. Because the Saskatchewan Roughriders enforced their trademark on the Rough Riders name, Hunt's franchise was required to choose a new name. It took the field in 2014 as the Ottawa Redblacks. At present, the CFL does not acknowledge the Redblacks (or for that matter, the Renegades) as the Rough Riders' successor in the same way it considers all three iterations of the Montreal Alouettes to be one franchise.

Although they could not use the Rough Riders nickname, the Redblacks do pay homage to the Rough Riders. The Redblacks' primary logo is a stylized version of the block 'R' used by the Rough Riders from 1975 to 1991. In the Redblacks' first home game, they retired the ten player numbers that the Rough Riders had retired.

The plans for the new team involved a major redevelopment of Lansdowne Park and Frank Clair Stadium, where earlier Ottawa teams had played. In 2012, the Ottawa City

Council approved the OSEG's \$300 million redevelopment plan. The forty-eight acre Lansdowne Park was rebuilt as sports, retail and entertainment destination, while the renamed TD Place Stadium, home of the new football and soccer teams, was rebuilt with 24,656 seats.

In 2013, the Redblacks appointed general manager Marcel Desjardins and head coach Rick Campbell and, soon after, signed starting quarterback Henry Burris.

Redblacks played their inaugural regular-season game on 3 July 2014 in Winnipeg, losing 36 to 28. Their first home game followed on July 18th against the Toronto Argonauts before a sellout crowd at TD Place Stadium, where the Redblacks posted their first win - 18 to 17. Sellout attendance continued for the next two seasons, with crowds averaging more than 24,000 fans at home games.

This new Ottawa team won only two games in 2014, both at home, and finished last in the league with a 2 and 16 win to loss record. The team scored 278 points and twenty-seven touchdowns and earned 5,400 net yards, 1,484 of them rushing. Chevon Walker was the team's leading rusher, and Marcus Henry was the leading receiver.

Things started to turn around for the Redblacks during their second season, when they won twelve regular-season games, scoring 464 points and finishing first in the East Division.

Highlights of 2015 included the unusual relocation of the October game from Toronto to Ottawa due to the Pan American Games in Toronto. Four Redblacks receivers finished the season with over 1,000 yards, and the team led the CFL with 5,816 passing yards and sixty-one sacks. Jeremiah Johnson was the team's leading rusher with 448 yards, and Chris Williams was the leading receiver. Henry Burris, Jon Gott and Abdul Kanneh were named CFL 2015 All-Stars, and several other players were East Division All-Stars.

On November 22nd, the Redblacks defeated the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the 2015 East Division playoff final in Ottawa. Ottawa clinched the win with a thrilling play that became known as 'the Miracle on Bank Street.' Late in the game, on a vital second down with twenty-five yards to go, Burris threw a forty-two yard pass to wide receiver Greg Ellingson, who ran it into the end zone for a touchdown (ninety-three yards in total). With a final score of 35 to 28, the Redblacks became the CFL East Division champions in just their second year of operation. The following week, on November 29th, the Redblacks contested their first Grey Cup game, losing 26 to 20 to the Edmonton Eskimos. An Ottawa team hadn't played in the Grey Cup since the Ottawa Rough Riders in 1981.

At the 2015 year-end CFL Awards, Redblacks head coach Rick Campbell was named the CFL's Coach of the Year. Burris was

named Most Outstanding Player, receiver Brad Sinopoli was named Most Outstanding Canadian, and Sir Vincent Rogers was named Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman.

In 2016 the Redblacks began their season with three wins and one tie over the first four games. Their season opener was played on June 25th in a Grey Cup rematch in Edmonton, with Ottawa winning 45 to 37 in overtime. The acquisition of backup quarterback Trevor Harris proved significant when Burris injured his hand and Harris took over with great success for several games. When Harris himself was injured, the recovered Burris returned for the remainder of the season.

At seasons end, the Redblacks had recorded eight wins, nine losses and one tie, enough for first place in the East Division, having scored 486 points with a net offence of 7,466 yards. Four receivers, Greg Ellingson, Chris Williams, Ernest Jackson and Brad Sinopoli attained 1,000-yard seasons in two successive years, which was a CFL record. Mossis Madu was the team's top rusher, and Damaso Munoz was the leading tackler.

A rare play-off crossover game against the West Division's Edmonton Eskimos was played at TD Place Stadium in Ottawa on 20 November in a snowstorm. Edmonton had crossed over to the East Division for the playoffs and defeated the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the semi-final. Crossover games happen when the fourth-place team in one division ends the season with more points than

the other division's third-place team. In such a case, the team with the higher points crosses over to the other division, replacing the third-place team and playing the second-place team in the playoff semi-final. The Redblacks defeated Edmonton 35 to 23, advancing to the Grey Cup game for the second straight year.

The 104th Grey Cup was played on 27 November 2016 in Toronto. It was a David-meets-Goliath contest, pitting the Redblacks against the heavily favoured Calgary Stampeders. Defying expectations, the underdog Redblacks won in overtime (only the third time a Grey Cup game has gone into overtime) by a score of 39 to 33. It was Ottawa's first Grey Cup win since 1976. For the 2017 season see the separate chapter towards the end of this book

Interesting information & tid-bits on Ottawa Rough Riders

Founded: 1876 and folded in 1996

Formerly known as the Ottawa Football Club (1876 to 1897) and the Ottawa Senators (1925 to 1930)

Nickname: The Red and Black (French: Le Rouge et Noir)

Home stadium: Frank Clair Stadium, formerly called Lansdowne Park until 1993

Uniform colours: Red, black, and white

Helmet design: Black background with a face of a Rough Rider with a log driver's (Rough Rider's) pike

Ontario Rugby Football Union regular season championships: three, 1898, 1900, 1902

Quebec Rugby Football Union regular season championships: one in 1905 Eastern regular season championships: nineteen 1908, 1925, 1926, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1945, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1978

Championship Canadian Dominion Football appearances: four 1898 (won) ,1900 (won), 1902 (won),1905 (lost) Grey Cup finals appearances: fifteen; 1925 (won), 1926 (won), 1936 (lost), 1939 (lost), 1940 (won), 1941 (lost), 1948 (lost), 1951 (won), 1960 (won), 1966 (lost), 1968 (won), 1969 (won), 1973 (won), 1976 (won), 1981 (lost)

Interesting information & tid-bits on Ottawa Redblacks

Inaugural Season: 2014

Helmet design: Black background with a saw blade featuring an italicized Rough Riders-style "R" in the forefront

Uniform colours: red, black and white

Stadiums: TD Place Stadium

Eastern regular season championships: two, 2015, 2016

Grey Cup final appearances: two, 2015, 2016

Grey Cup Wins: one, 2016

Main Rivals: Montreal Alouettes (see Labour Day Classic), Toronto Argonauts

2017 Regular Season Record: 8 wins, 9 losses and 1 tie



The Redblacks football team in action

Tip of the Biltmore to all Ottawa football media including Ernie Calcutt and Jeff Avery

*Sources used for this chapter are, team and media archives,
Canadian football league facts, figures and records,
Canadian Encyclopedia and many archives*



Chapter Ten

Is Football Finally Coming To Halifax?

The Atlantic Schooners are the only professional sports team to be awarded a franchise and never play a single game.....

Thus their motto - Still Un-Defeated

May 13, 1982 was the day that the Maritime Professional Football Club Ltd. was granted a provisional expansion franchise by the Canadian Football League's board of governors. The team was to pay a \$1.5 million expansion fee to the league by May the first, 1983 and could begin play in 1984 if a suitable thirty thousand seat stadium could be built in time for the league opener that year. Ownership was led by John Donoval, a Mississauga, Ontario truck executive, and J. I. Albrecht, former general manager of the Montreal Alouettes. Before the franchise was officially awarded, Albrecht, who was working as a football consultant for Donoval, planned on hiring Acadia Axemen

head coach John Huard as the Schooners' first head coach. As expected, Huard was named as head coach on the same day that the franchise was awarded. Scotia industrialist, Robert Burns Cameron joined the ownership group on August 30, 1982.

On the third of November 1982, the team name Atlantic Schooners was officially announced by Albrecht at a press conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It was selected based on a study followed by a name-the-team contest in which "schooner" was the winning selection. Other names that were considered by Donoval were Atlantic Windjammers and Atlantic Storm. The goal was to have a team that would represent each of the four Atlantic Provinces and become a regional team. The logo was a stylized "A" in the shape of a schooner that rode on four waves, each representing the four Atlantic provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland. The team colours were silver, maritime blue, nautical brass, and white.

The plan was to have an expansion draft to be held following the 1983 CFL season where, initially, a maximum of thirty-eight players from the existing nine member clubs would be used to form a roster. The actual formula was approved on November 24, 1982 by the CFL governors. Each of the nine existing clubs would be able to protect ten imports and ten non-imports from their final rosters from the 1983 season. The Schooners football team would then select two imports and two

non-imports from each team for a maximum of thirty-six players. Each team would be allowed to protect one quarterback and the Schooners could draft a maximum of two in total. The draft would have taken place in January 1984.

The Schooners proposed home would be a 34,000-seat stadium located on leased land in the city of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, said to be built at a cost of \$6 million in 1984 dollars. When the franchise was awarded, it was still being debated between the Mayors of Halifax and Dartmouth where the new stadium should be built as both wanted the team in their respective cities. However, neither the provincial or federal government were willing to contribute to the funding of the stadium. As described by Senator Ray Perrault, Minister of State for fitness and amateur sport, federal funds were only made available when a city was hosting an international event, such as the Olympic Games or Commonwealth Games. The Premier of Nova Scotia, John Buchanan, also stated that no provincial funding would be made available in any circumstance. The ownership group had gone ahead and purchased a scoreboard from the New England Patriots' Sullivan Stadium for use in their new stadium.

The Schooners were unable to meet the deadlines set by the league, including the deadline for a financing plan for the new stadium so on June 16, 1983 the Maritime Professional Football

Club Ltd. withdrew their application for a franchise and refunded season ticket deposits. The ownership group's withdrawal came one day before the league deadline because Donoval believed that a withdrawal rather than league rejection would make re-applying for a franchise easier.

In November 2017, the Schooners name and logo was linked to a new attempt at CFL expansion to Halifax. The bid is headed by Anthony LeBlanc, former CEO of the NHL's Arizona Coyotes. The CFL confirmed that they received a 'very credible' pitch from the group. Public consultations have shown popularity for the new team to adopt the Schooners name and on December 12, 2017 the organization Maritime Football Limited re-registered the Atlantic Schooners trademark. Again, a stadium for the team is the main issue. The trademark was formalized on Dec. first and gives the proponents the sole right to use of the team name on a long list of souvenirs and others items, ranging from licence-plate holders to golf umbrellas and even Christmas ornaments.

According to online records, is wholesale and retail sales of sporting goods, athletic and casual clothing, and novelty items; online retail sale of sporting goods, athletic and casual clothing and novelty items. Anthony Leblanc, who is part of the group trying to bring a team to Halifax, told TSN the trademark was registered "just for safety, just in case we want that name," but there's still a long way to go before a name is selected.

"We're going through the process now of testing certain names in the market by doing some polling," he told TSN. "What I'd like to do is a name-the-team contest where everyone can be engaged. But based on the feedback I'm hearing today it's going to be tough to go with anything but Schooners because that seems to be about five to one in favour." LeBlanc, a New Brunswick native who is former president and CEO of the NHL's Arizona Coyotes, is listed as president and CEO of newly registered Maritime Football Ltd., the company that applied for the trademark. Gary Drummond, the Coyotes' former president of hockey operations, is listed as the vice-president and a director of the proposed franchise. LeBlanc and Drummond left the Coyotes when the team went through a front-office makeover in June.

Halifax's own Bruce Bowser, president of AMJ Campbell Van Lines, is reported to be part of the business group. The trademark documents also deal with copyright protection relating to "broadcasting and re-broadcasting of football games through television, streaming services, satellite, radio and the internet."

The Canadian Football League currently has nine teams, five in the West division and four in the East division. It was revealed just prior to the Grey Cup game in Ottawa that the investor group had met with Halifax council to discuss a franchise coming to the city. Canadian beer giant Labatt, which makes Schooner beer, has not been involved with Maritime Football

Ltd.'s trademark process, but said it could become a partner down the road if the franchise takes flight. "If a team came, and they had a stadium to play in, our likely approach would be to try and secure pouring rights in the building," said Wade Keller, the Atlantic Canada director of corporate affairs for Labatt Breweries of Canada. "We could sponsor certain events at games, or even an entire game, but we leave team ownership to others."

This chapter uses sources from archives, Wikipedia, TSN and CBC News



CFL commissioner Randy Ambrosie, centre, meets with Maritime fans during the Atlantic Schooners Down East Kitchen Party in late 2017 in Ottawa. Pic is Devin Heroux of CBC Sports

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA	Div.	Stk.
Y–Calgary Stampede	18	13	4	1	27	523	349	7–3	L3
X–Winnipeg Blue Bombers	18	12	6	0	24	554	492	6–4	W1
X–Edmonton Eskimos	18	12	6	0	24	510	495	5–5	W5
X–Saskatchewan Roughriders	18	10	8	0	20	510	430	4–6	L1
BC Lions	18	7	11	0	14	469	501	3–7	L1
Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA	Div.	Stk.
Y–Toronto Argonauts	18	9	9	0	18	482	456	6–2	W2
X–Ottawa Redblacks	18	8	9	1	17	495	452	5–3	W3
Hamilton Tiger-Cats	18	6	12	0	12	443	545	4–4	W1
Montreal Alouettes	18	3	15	0	6	314	580	1–7	L11

How all the CFL teams finished in the 2017 season

Chapter Eleven

The 2017 Canadian Football Season

Two thousand and seventeen was the sixty-fourth season of contemporary Canadian professional football (officially, it was the sixtieth) and although things started slow, they ended up very well indeed. The regular season began on June 22 and concluded on November 4. The playoffs commenced on November 12 and concluded on November 26 with the Toronto Argonauts defeating the Calgary Stampeders to win the 105th Grey Cup.

The Canadian Football Hall of Fame game took place on September 15, 2017, with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats hosting the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Kelvin Anderson, Anthony Calvillo, Mike O'Shea, and Geroy Simon were inducted as players while Stan Schwartz and Brian Towriss joined as builders. O'Shea, the head coach of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers (whose team had a bye that week) played four seasons with the Tiger-Cats. Calvillo is the quarterbacks coach for the Alouettes, whose team plays two days after the Hall of Fame game, also played for three years

with the Tiger-Cats. Simon spent one year with the Roughriders and won the Grey Cup with the team that year.

Spending ninety-five years at the site of their old stadium, Mosaic Stadium at Taylor Field, the Saskatchewan Roughriders moved into a brand new facility, also called Mosaic Stadium, for the 2017 season. The stadium has a fixed seating capacity of approximately 33,000 that is expandable to 40,000 for special events like the Grey Cup. The design of the stadium was unveiled on May 22, 2014 with the official ground-breaking ceremony being held on June 16, 2014. Mosaic Stadium was declared substantially completed on August 31, 2016 and a test event featuring a football game between the Regina Rams and Saskatchewan Huskies was held on the first of October 2016. The stadium was built for approximately \$278 million with the city of Regina providing \$73 million, the Saskatchewan provincial government providing a grant of \$80 million and a loan of \$100 million, and the Roughriders paying the rest. Unlike stadium delays in Winnipeg and Hamilton, Saskatchewan opened their new stadium on time, hosting the Bombers in the second week of the season.

Around mid-June, the CFL announced a new international streaming service branded as CFL International. The new service would expand coverage around the world to new markets including mainland Europe, Asia and Africa, totalling over 130 new

countries. TSN retains the CFL broadcast rights in Canada, BT Sports in the United Kingdom, ESPN in the United States, South America, Australia and portions of both Southeast Asia and Africa. CFL International is provided via Yare Media Group Inc. and is available in three different package options. In April the Board of Governors and Jeffrey Orridge agreed to part ways, effective June 30, 2017. Orridge had been the commissioner of the league since April 2015 after taking over from Mark Cohon who served for eight years from 2007 through to 2014. On June 15, 2017 the CFL announced that June 15 would be Orridge's last day in office. Jim Lawson, the league's Chairman of the Board of Governors, assumed the duties of commissioner until a suitable replacement was found.

On July 4, 2017, former CFL offensive lineman Randy Ambrosie assumed the position of commissioner in July. Ambrosie played with the Calgary Stampeders, Toronto Argonauts and Edmonton Eskimos from 1985 to 1993, also, Ambrosie is the first commissioner to have played in the league since Larry Smith left the position in 1996.

After six seasons as the general manager of the Argonauts and compiling a 49 to 59 record in that time span, Jim Barker was fired on January 24, 2017. On February 28, 2017 the Argos announced Jim Popp as their new general manager. Popp had

been the GM of the Montreal Alouettes since the mid-1990s and led the team to three Grey Cup championships.

In April the Eskimos held a press conference to announce the firing of general manager Ed Hervey. According to reports the decision was made in large part because of a contract dispute and philosophical differences regarding increasing the media and fan accessibility of the team. Hervey had been the GM since the 2013 CFL season, and had led the team to a record of 40 and 32 during that time, including winning the 103rd Grey Cup. Also in April the Eskimos named thirty-seven year old Brock Sunderland as their new GM. Sunderland had been the assistant GM of the Ottawa Redblacks since their inaugural season in 2013.

After a 3 and 8 start to the season the Alouettes announced that they had dismissed Chapdelaine and defensive coordinator Noel Thorpe. General Manager Kavis Reed would serve as the interim head coach until the end of the season. Reed was the head-coach of the Edmonton Eskimos for three seasons (2011 to 2013), winning 22 games and losing 32.

In January Scott Milanovich resigned from his position as the head coach of the Toronto Argonauts and later that day became the quarterbacks coach for the Jacksonville Jaguars of the NFL. Scott Milanovich had been the head coach of the Argos for five seasons starting in 2012, leading the club to a record of 4 and 47 during his tenure. Milanovich guided the Argos to victory

in the 100th Grey Cup, his first season as head coach. The Argos announced Marc Trestman as their new head coach in February. Trestman was the head coach of the Montreal Alouettes from 2008 through 2012, with a record of 59 and 31. Midway through the 2017 season, Kent Austin stepped down as the head coach of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats (remaining with the team as vice president of football operations), and named June Jones his successor. Austin was in his fifth season as the Ti-Cats head coach, but started the season 0 and 8. During his tenure the Hamilton the Tiger-Cats won thirty-six games and lost forty-four, they also lost in consecutive Grey Cups (2013 & 2014). Jones had only been with the Ti-Cats for a little over three weeks at the time of his appointment to head coach, and his only other CFL coaching experience was with the Ottawa Rough Riders as their offensive coordinator in 1986.

The CFL announced in May it would be renewing and expanding the officiating partnership as it enters into its second year of existence. Six NFL officials (two more than in 2016) would work as part of CFL crews during CFL preseason and regular-season games in June and July, prior to the start of the NFL season. Additionally, six CFL officials (three more than in 2016) would attend the NFL's Officiating Development Program.

In March the CFL's Rules Committee submitted a variety of rule changes to the Board of Governors, to be implemented for

the 2017 season. The proposed changes focus on improving game flow and increasing player safety. The proposals are to be reviewed by the CFL's Board of Governors.

Coaches would no longer be allowed to challenge a play following a TV commercial timeout. The coach would have to throw his challenge flag within the first 30 seconds of the TV break.

Limiting the types of actions which coaches can challenge with regards to 'roughing the passer' penalties and hits on quarterbacks when they are running with the ball. Change all ten yard illegal low block penalties to fifteen yards unnecessary roughness penalties.

Prevent the return team on a kicking play from putting a player on the field a split second prior to the snap and trying to hide him so he can receive a lateral pass from the kick returner. This sort of play would be subject to a ten yard penalty.

Increasing the duties of the video official in the Command Centre so they can correct errors when: A flag to be thrown for a line of scrimmage penalty (offside or procedure)

A flag to be thrown for an unnecessary roughness penalty following a play and the video official sees other unnecessary roughness infractions

A call for illegal contact on a receiver should be changed to defensive pass interference because the ball had been thrown

The replay official can only a change a call where there is clear and indisputable evidence that it is wrong, rather than attempt to officiate plays to ensure they are correct.

TSN will go to commercial on every challenge it can. It is estimated that eighty percent of challenges will now be done during a commercial, up from twenty percent last season.

Retaining the mid-season rule change from last season in which if a team makes its first coach's challenge of the game and does not win that challenge, the team losses a timeout.

In August, new Commissioner Randy Ambrosie announced that coaches would only be able to challenge once per game, instead of twice. This change came in response to the fans growing displeasure over the frequency and inconsistency of coaches challenges. The hope is that by only being able to challenge once per game teams will have to save their challenge for more egregious mistakes.

The CFL and CFLPA made two major announcements in September to address player safety. The first being the immediate end of fully padded-practices during the season. Under the previous rules each team was allowed to have seventeen padded practices over the course of the season. Also, it was announced

that starting in 2018, seasons would now be twenty-one weeks in length, one week longer than the 2017 season. This will allow more time between games for players to recover, and help alleviate scheduling issues in a nine-team league.

In May, the league launched its 'Bring It In/*Tous Ensemble*' advertising campaign, designed to diversify its fan base and attract more women and younger fans. In August, the league launched a suite of T-shirts with the moniker "Diversity is Strength" in response to the riots in Charlottesville, Virginia. The backs of the shirts had the last names of dozens of former and present CFL players from varying ethnic backgrounds. The shirts were originally planned to have been released in the fall, with the league moving the launch up to respond to the events in Charlottesville.

CFL All-Stars for 2017

Offence

QB – Mike Reilly, Edmonton Eskimos

RB – Andrew Harris, Winnipeg Blue Bombers

R – S. J. Green, Toronto Eskimos

R – Greg Ellingson, Ottawa Redblacks

R – Bryan Burnham, BC Lions

R – Duron Carter, Saskatchewan Roughriders

OT – Stanley Bryant, Winnipeg Blue bombers

OT – Chris Van Zeyl, Toronto Argonauts

OG – Brendon LaBatte, Saskatchewan Roughriders

OG – Matt O'Donnell, Edmonton Eskimos

C – Sean McEwen, Toronto Argonauts Defence

DT – Micah Johnson, Calgary Stampeders
DT – Almondo Sewell, Edmonton Eskimos
DE – Charleston Hughes, Calgary Stampeders
DE – Willie Jefferson, Saskatchewan Roughriders
LB – Alex Singleton, Calgary Stampeders
LB – Solomon Elimimian, BC Lions
CLB – Kenny Ladler, Edmonton Eskimos
CB – Ciente Evans, Calgary Stampeders
CB – Chris Randle, Winnipeg Blue Bombers
HB – Ed Gainey, Saskatchewan Roughriders
HB – T.J. Heath, Winnipeg Blue Bombers
S – Taylor Loffler, Winnipeg Blue Bombers
Special teams
K – Rene Paredes, Calgary Stampeders
P – Ty Long, BC Lions
ST – Roy Finch, Calgary Stampeders

2017 CFL Awards

CFL's Most Outstanding Player Award–Mike Reilly (QB),
Edmonton Eskimos
CFL's Most Outstanding Canadian Award–
Andrew Harris (RB),Winnipeg Blue Bombers
CFL's Most Outstanding Defensive Player Award –
Alex Singleton (LB), Calgary Stampeders
CFL's Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman Award –
Stanley Bryant, (OT), Winnipeg Blue Bombers
CFL's Most Outstanding Rookie Award–James Wilder Jr.
(RB),Toronto Argonauts
John Agro Special Teams Award – Roy Finch (KR),
Calgary Stampeders
Tom Pate Memorial Award – Adarius Bowman (WR),
Edmonton Eskimos
Jake Gaudaur Veterans' Trophy – Luc Brodeur-
Jourdain (C), Montreal Alouettes

Annis Stukus Trophy – Marc Trestman, Toronto Argonauts
Commissioner's Award – Rick Sowieta
Hugh Campbell Distinguished Leadership Award – Paul Graham

The Grey Cup game in Ottawa although played in a blizzard was a television gold mine. Toronto won the opening coin toss and opted to defer to the second half. Calgary chose to receive the ball to start the game. The game was played in snowy conditions, with snow beginning to fall prior to kickoff and persisting throughout the game. Neither team was capable of sustaining a drive down the field throughout much of the first quarter until eleven minutes into the game, when Stampeders quarterback Mitchell connected with Kamar Jorden to score the game's first touchdown, and the only score of the first quarter. Calgary missed the subsequent attempt at a two-point conversion to put themselves up 6 to 0.

The Argos started the second quarter off with a bang as DeVier Posey caught a pass from Toronto quarterback Ricky Ray at the team's forty-four yard line and ran the ball down the field for a 100 yard touchdown to tie the game at 6 to 6 after an unsuccessful convert. It was the longest touchdown pass in Grey Cup history. Calgary would respond five minutes later with a touchdown by running back Jerome Messam and a successful two-point convert to put themselves up by eight. While the Argos would not score again in the second quarter, they did receive two points thanks to a safety by Calgary punter Rob Maver, who

kicked the football out of the back of the end zone after a fumbled snap during a punt attempt. Rene Paredes would kick a field goal with five seconds left in the quarter to put the Stampeders up 17 to 8 at half time. The half-time show saw Shania Twain arriving to the outdoor (and snowy) stage in a sleigh that was pulled by Huskies.

Toronto opened the scoring in the second half four minutes into the third quarter with a two yard touchdown by running back James Wilder Jr. and a successful two-point conversion to bring the score to 17 to 16. Jerome Messam would find the end zone again for the Stampeders roughly five minutes later to put the Stampeders up 24 to 16 alongside a successful conversion by Parades. The Stampeders would protect this lead into the fourth quarter and appeared on their way to victory until the Argonaut Cassius Vaughn capitalized on a fumble at his team's nine-yard line and returned the ball for a Grey Cup record setting 109 yards for a touchdown, followed by a two-point convert by Declan Cross to tie the game up 24 to 24 with under five minutes to play in regulation.

With fifty-three seconds left in the game, Argos kicker Lirim Hajrullahu kicked the team's lone field goal to put Toronto up 27 to 24. Calgary made it to the rezone on their final drive of the game, but Argo Matt Black clinched the game for his

team after intercepting a potential touchdown-pass from Mitchell on Calgary's final play of the game.

As the year 2017 came to a close a multitude of changes happened in the CFL. Lions boss Wally Buono gave up his General Managers hat and Ed Hervey was brought aboard to fill that spot. Hervey immediately went to work by letting go of coaches and trading a CFL star. Giving their walking papers was offensive coordinator Khari Jones and Marcello Simmons and Robin Ross. Hervey then brought in Tory Hunter from Edmonton as Director of Player Personnel and Development and Jarious Jackson as offensive coordinator. Hervey then sent receiver Chris Williams to Montreal for defensive end Gabe Knapton.

Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment, which already owns the Maple Leafs, Marlies, Raptors and Toronto FC, added the CFL's Argonauts to its portfolio in mid-December with MLSE announcing it had an agreement to buy the Grey Cup champions.

There was already some cross-ownership. The Argos at that time was owned by two-thirds of the MLSE triumvirate, Chairman Larry Tanenbaum's holding company, the Kilmer Group, and Bell Canada. In bringing the Argos fully into the MLSE fold, Rogers Communications will officially join its two MLSE partners as part of the CFL team's ownership.

Montreal added a new coach, Mike Sherman who was head coach of the Green Bay Packers from 2000 to 2005. Just

after Christmas the Canadian Football League said former NFL quarterback Johnny Manziel was approved to sign a 2018 contract. Manziel's CFL rights are owned by the Hamilton.

A special thank-you to Chris O'Leary of CFL.ca, Dan Ralph, Steve Simmons and Damien Cox



People loved the 105th Grey Cup played in the snow
Pictures from CFL.ca web-site

Sources for this chapter include thestar.com, ESPN, various web-sites including Wikipedia



This Nov. 19, 1995 file photo has Baltimore Stallions QB Tracy Ham (right) moving in the pocket during the Grey Cup against the Calgary Stampeders.

Pic by Dave Olecko at Postmedia Network

Chapter Twelve

The ill-fated US Expansion

The CFL in their infinite wisdom decided to add a further audience through expansion to the United States from 1993 to 1995. The first US team, the Sacramento Gold Miners, joined the league in 1993. The league expanded to four American teams in 1994 and five in 1995. In the latter year, the teams were aligned into a new South Division. These three years saw many franchise moving, folding and ownership problems on both sides of the American and Canadian border.

The Stallions from Baltimore became the only American-based team to win the Cup championship and they did so in 1995. With the exception of Baltimore, the other US teams consistently lost money. Games played in the United States by its American teams averaged 10,000 to 15,000 in paid attendance, while the Stallions ranged from 30,000 to 37,000. At the time, the CFL was a gate-driven league. Television was secondary. Tension also arose

between the American and Canadian owners over rule changes, scheduling, import rules, and even the name of the league itself. Facing these difficulties, in 1996 the league went back to fielding only Canadian teams.

Expansion was not the CFL's only attempt at penetrating the American market as eleven neutral-site CFL games (including exhibition games) have been held in the United States, while National Football League (NFL) teams have been invited northward for interleague play. The CFL has also attempted to find a television audience in the United States, most notably during an NFL players' strike in 1982 and more recently on ESPN.

Given the green light from the owners, CFL Commissioner Larry Smith began the task of expanding the league across the border, beginning with a June 1992 exhibition game between the Argos andStampeders in Portland, Oregon. A total of 15,362 attended, close to the averages later American teams would post. Portland was seriously considered for a franchise, but investors failed to emerge. The expansion announcement prompted numerous applications from a wide variety of American cities. By the end of the expansion era, twenty-two cities were reported to have been considered for teams.

The World League of American Football, an attempt by the NFL to create a spring league in major markets without NFL teams, suspended its North American operations after its 1992

season. WLAF owners Fred Anderson of the Sacramento Surge and Larry J. Benson of the San Antonio Riders applied to join the CFL as the Sacramento Gold Miners and San Antonio Texans, respectively.

The league approved both franchises by a vote of 7 to 1 on January 13, 1993, with only Winnipeg dissenting. League owners also decided not to apply the requirement of twenty non-import Canadian-raised players to the American squads, fearing that the requirement would be a violation of US employment laws.

However, the experiment started on a sour note when an ownership dispute forced Benson to pull San Antonio out on the same evening the franchise was to be formally introduced. Anderson decided to continue with the venture after Benson's withdrawal, but made clear that he did not want to be the only American franchise after 1993.

The Gold Miners were placed in the very strong West Division and finished last with a record of 6 to 12. The Gold Miners played at Hornet Stadium, located on the campus of Sacramento State University and averaged around 17,000 fans per game, selling 9,000 season tickets.

In response to a massive disparity between the East and West Divisions, it was decided in the middle of the season to grant the fourth place Western team a playoff berth. There was speculation this was done in part to ensure Sacramento remained

in playoff contention as long as possible and at the insistence of Calgary's owner, who preferred the revenue of two playoff games for his first place Stampeders over a first-round bye. Memorial Stadium in Baltimore was home to the Baltimore Stallions, easily the most successful CFL expansion team in the United States. They averaged more than 30,000 fans each of their two years.

The Gold Miners in 1994 were joined by three other American teams: the Las Vegas Posse, the Baltimore CFL Colts and the Shreveport Pirates. On television ESPN and its subsidiary ESPN2 picked up some games alongside the usual broadcasting by TSN and CBC in Canada. Shreveport and Baltimore were placed in the Eastern Division, while Sacramento and Las Vegas wound up in the west. The playoffs were expanded again to eight teams (four per division).

Baltimore CFL Colts were making headlines before even playing a down. Owned by Jim Speros, the team was marketed as a revival of the Baltimore Colts NFL franchise, who had left the city ten years earlier and had also played at Memorial Stadium.

The team's embrace of the Colts' history gained an instant following in Baltimore and headlines in the national sports media, although an injunction obtained shortly before the team's first game, forced the league to refer to the team as the Baltimore CFLers or Baltimore Football Club. Since Memorial Stadium had originally been built to accommodate baseball's Baltimore

Orioles as well as football, its playing surface was large enough to accommodate a full-size Canadian field.

Baltimore was far and away the most successful of any American CFL team on the field and off, averaging crowds of over 37,000 their first year. Knowing that Canadian football was considerably different from the American game, Speros stocked the Stallions mostly with CFL veterans. As coach, he brought in legendary Don Matthews, who had already played in two Grey Cups and won one. The result was a team that eventually finished second in the East with a 12 to 6 record and became the first American team to qualify for the playoffs. They advanced all the way to the Grey Cup. In a thrilling match played in BC Place, the BC Lions defeated the Stallions on a last second field goal. Perhaps most remarkably, the Stallions were reported to have turned a profit in their first year.

Many legal troubles were left over in wake of the expansion collapse. Louisiana courts eventually ordered the Gliebertmans to repay Shreveport US \$1 million with interest; the dispute centered over whether the city had agreed to share losses or simply lent money to the ownership group. Art Williams enraged after discovering some American owners had received discounts and extended payment periods on their franchise fees, threatened litigation and at first refused to honor the balance of

1994 Regular Season Attendance Figures			
Team	Average	High	Low
Baltimore CFL Colts	37,347	42,116	31,172
Las Vegas Posse	9,527	14,432	2,350
Sacramento Gold Miners	14,226	17,192	12,633
Shreveport Pirates	17,871	32,011	12,465
Canadian average	22,740	51,180	

Matt Dunigan's sizable contract before the matter was dragged through court. The expansion fees themselves were a significant legacy of the expansion effort. CFL Commissioner Smith claimed the \$14 to \$15 million US that was brought in saved the league. A more modest assessment suggests expansion saved theStampeders and Tiger-Cats, both teams that were undeniably in distress during this period and that the other Canadian teams were able to maintain a semblance of stability.

Tension had also arisen between the American owners and the Canadian teams. As early as the 1994 Grey Cup, the American owners, led by Speros in Baltimore, was calling for numerous changes to accommodate the American teams and their potential fans. The American owners proposed that the end zones to be reduced fifteen yards in length, that the Grey Cup be played earlier in the year, that player quotas be removed for all teams,

and that a name change be considered. By 1995, Mad Dogs' coach Pepper Rodgers was openly disparaging Canadian rules and even Canadian teams. Officials of the new American teams found that the Canadian clubs were hesitant to accommodate the new American audience. The Canadian owners refused to make any major changes to the rules, the schedule, or the name of the league; the only accommodation for American teams was to allow smaller field sizes in American stadiums that could not fit a regulation CFL field. But when the league terminated every other U.S. franchise in 1996, the Stallions simply moved north to Montreal whose once-beloved Alouettes had folded nine years earlier. The ALS made the playoffs nineteen straight times after their revival; a streak that included three Grey Cup titles.

The fallout from the U.S. years had other upsides. Expansion created more roster spots, and some players who broke out on American teams stuck around. Two of them, onetime Posse quarterback Anthony Calvillo and Stallions running back Mike Pringle starred together in Montreal en route to the Hall of Fame.

Canadian players, meanwhile, got the chance to prove themselves against purportedly superior competition. "We undersell our Canadian talent. We've still got that old inferiority complex," Cosentino said. Even though U.S. teams were allowed

to fill their lineups with American players, “no Canadian team was embarrassed at all.”

Nor were they corrupted by foreign ideals. Along with changing the field dimensions and the name of the league, American owners wanted to delay the Grey Cup game until December in deference to U.S. Thanksgiving. Some called for the addition of a fourth down. That none of those revisions are on the books today shows how the CFL is still distinctly of this country.

“Anybody who ever played, or anyone who ever got involved with administration or ownership, we’re all custodians of a great Canadian game,” Smith said. “Once you’ve been part of that experience, it never leaves you.”

Debates over rules and schedules might have been solvable had the league achieved economic stability but losses amongst American teams were drastic and widespread. The ten million estimated loss in Birmingham was the most substantial, followed by four to six million estimated for Anderson's Texans. Memphis and Shreveport losses were estimated at about three million apiece. The Baltimore losses were comparatively modest at one to one and half million, but hurt the league given the prestige of their franchise. The post-expansion financial crisis would eventually elicit a response from the NFL. By the end of 1996, speculation was rampant that if the NFL placed a franchise in Toronto, it would mean the end of the CFL.

World Wrestling Federation chairman Vince McMahon, in 1999 was offered the chance to buy the Toronto Argonauts, and countered with a proposal to buy the entire league and have it migrate south, which of course the owners refused. McMahon would instead partner with NBC to create the XFL, which would place teams in Birmingham, Las Vegas, and Memphis at the same stadiums as their respective CFL franchises previously played. Following massive losses, NBC and the WWF shut down the XFL after one year (although as the year 2018 began, rumours about McMahon starting up a new XFL began surfacing). In fact, as this book was publishing, McMahon indeed did announce the return of the league in 2020 with eight teams. The effect this will have on the CFL is yet to be determined.

In the 2000s, the CFL re-gained relative stability mostly thanks to enforcement of a salary cap, stricter standards of ownership, and increasingly lucrative television contracts negotiated with Canadian networks (especially TSN).

Pics are courtesy of a CFL web-site; sources for this chapter include team and CFL archives, media stories, Nick Faris & Wikipedia



Doug Flutie during his days with the Stampede

Chapter Thirteen

The Best Player Ever to Play Three Down Football

It started on November 23, 1984 when a smallish quarterback playing for Boston College threw ‘the pass’ and from then-on, Flutie magic began. Doug Flutie first rose to celebrity status during his college football career at Boston College where he received the Heisman Trophy and the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award in 1984. His ‘Hail Flutie’ touchdown pass in a game against Miami is considered among the greatest moments in college football and American sports history. Flutie was selected as the 285th pick in the eleventh round of the 1985 NFL Draft by the Los Angeles Rams, making him the lowest drafted Heisman Award winner. Flutie played that year for the New Jersey Generals of the upstart USFL, having already signed a five-year \$5 million contract with them prior to being drafted by the Rams. In

1986, he signed with the NFL's Chicago Bears, and later played for the New England Patriots, becoming their starting quarterback in 1988 but the 'magic' seemed to have left him.

Flutie, with much fan-fare, signed with the BC Lions of the CFL in 1990 and in 1991 threw for a record 6,619 yards. He played briefly with his brother Darren, a wide receiver, before being traded to the Calgary Stampeders, whom he led to victory in the 1992 Grey Cup. In 1994, he threw a record forty-eight touchdown passes. Flutie played for the Stampeders until 1996, when he signed with the Toronto Argonauts, leading them to back-to-back Grey Cup victories in 1996 and 1997. Flutie was named the CFL's Most Outstanding Player a record six times, and was named the MVP in all three of his Grey Cup victories. Whatever team Flutie played for Canada resulted in a love-in between his fans and him.

In 1998 he returned to the NFL in 1998 with the Buffalo Bills, where he earned Pro Bowl and NFL Comeback Player of the Year honors. He played for the San Diego Chargers from 2001 to 2004 and finished his career as a member of the New England Patriots in 2005. In 2006, he was ranked number one in a list of the top fifty CFL players. He was named to the College Football Hall of Fame and Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.

After retiring from football in 2006, Flutie served as a college football analyst for ESPN and ABC. In 2009, he joined

Versus as a broadcaster for League games. Since 2011, he has worked for NBC Sports and NBCSN and in 2014 became the color commentator for Notre Dame Football on NBC.

Despite his successful college achievements, Flutie was considered too small to play professional American football was. When asked on television, can a guy who's five-foot-nine, one hundred and seventy-five pounds make it in the pros, he answered "Yes, he can. But it's a matter of ability and not size. I feel I can play..."

Flutie was seen as a saviour for the USFL, which was desperate for a star to reinvigorate the league as it was in terrible financial straits. Meanwhile, the Buffalo Bills, who had the first pick of the 1985 NFL Draft, still had the rights to Jim Kelly (who had earlier spurned them to go to the USFL) also had concerns about Flutie's height. He was selected by the USFL's New Jersey Generals (owned by Donald Trump) in the 1985 territorial draft, which took place in January, months before the 1985 NFL Draft. Flutie went through negotiations with Trump and agreed on a deal that would make him the highest paid pro football player and highest paid rookie in any sport with \$7 million over 5 years and was officially signed on February 4, 1985. Having already signed with the USFL, Flutie was not selected in the NFL Draft until the eleventh-round and the 285th overall pick by the Los Angeles Rams.

Flutie entered the USFL with much hype and fanfare. However, many began to wonder if the scouts who said Flutie could not compete on the pro level were right. In February 1985, Flutie made his USFL debut against the Orlando Renegades. His debut was not impressive, as his first two professional passes were intercepted by Renegades line backer Jeff Gabrielsen. The only two touchdowns that New Jersey scored came from turnovers by Orlando quarterback Jerry Golsteyn. By the time Flutie's debut was over, he completed only seven of eighteen passes, for a total of 174 yards, while running for 51 yards. Flutie completed 134 of 281 passes for 2,109 yards and thirteen touchdowns with the Generals in 1985 in fifteen games. He suffered an injury late in the season that saw him turn over the reins to reserve quarterback Ron Reeves. The Generals went on to sport an 11 and 7 record and a second place finish in the USFL's Eastern Conference. In October, 1986, Flutie had his rights traded to the Chicago Bears in exchange for draft picks. Flutie would later make his debut on the 1986 Chicago Bears, appearing in four games.

Flutie was then traded to the New England Patriots at the start of the 1987 NFL season, a season which saw the NFL Players Association go on strike, and NFL games subsequently being played by replacement players. Flutie crossed the picket lines in order to play for the Patriots, and charges of being a scab dogged

him thereafter. Flutie would remain with the Patriots from 1987 to 1989 He left to play in the Canadian Football League.

Flutie plied his trade in the CFL for eight years. He is considered as one of the greatest quarterbacks ever to play Canadian football. In 1990, he signed with the BC Lions for a two-year contract reportedly worth \$350,000 a season. At the time he was the highest paid player in the CFL. Flutie struggled in his first season, which would be his only losing season in the CFL. Over the next seven years he would go 99 and 27 as a starter. In his second season, he threw for a record 6,619 yards on 466 completions. Flutie was rewarded with a reported million-dollar salary with the Calgary Stampeders after the Lions released him due to financial problems the Leos were experiencing.

Flutie won his first Grey Cup in 1992 with the Stampeders and was named the Grey Cup MVP. During his last years in Calgary, Flutie's backup was Jeff Garcia, who later went on to start for the NFL's San Francisco 49ers. Flutie won two more Grey Cups (1996 and 1997), this time with the Toronto Argonauts. Prior to his final two Grey Cup victories with the Argonauts, Flutie was hampered by public opinion, supported by the media, that he was a quarterback who could not win in cold weather. In both 1993 and 1994, the Stampeders had the best record in the league, but lost the Western Final each year at home in freezing conditions.

He first refusing to wear gloves in cold temperatures although in later years Flutie adapted to throwing with gloves in bad weather.

His career CFL statistics include 41,355 passing yards and 270 touchdowns. He holds the professional football record of 6,619 yards passing in a single season. He led the league in passing five times in only eight seasons. He once held four of the CFL's top five highest single-season completion marks, including a record 466 in 1991 which was surpassed by Ricky Ray in 2005. His forty-eight touchdown passes in 1994 remains a CFL record. He earned three Grey Cup MVP awards, and was named the CFL's Most Outstanding Player a record six times (1991–1994, and 1996–1997). He passed for 5,000+ yards six times in his career and remains the only player in pro football history to pass for 6,000+ yards in a season twice in his career.

On November 17, 2006, Flutie was named the greatest Canadian Football League player of all time from a top fifty list of CFL players conducted by TSN. In 2007, he was named to Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, the first non-Canadian to be inducted.

The Buffalo Bills' then-pro personnel director A.J. Smith convinced the organization that Flutie would be a great asset to the team, and the Bills signed him in the 1998 offseason. The Bills' attempt at making Todd Collins their starting quarterback was a failure, and Flutie was one of two other quarterbacks, the other being Rob Johnson. In his first action with the Bills, Flutie entered

for an injured Johnson and passed for two TDs while leading a fourth-quarter comeback against the Indianapolis Colts on October 11, 1998. The following week, Doug Flutie made his first NFL start since October 15, 1989, against the unbeaten Jacksonville Jaguars. The nine-year gap between starts for a quarterback in the NFL is the third-longest in duration behind Tommy Maddox (December 12, 1992 to October 6, 2002) and the man Flutie replaced, Todd Collins (December 14, 1997 to December 16, 2007). Flutie was the hero of the Bills' victory as he scored the winning touchdown against the Jaguars by rolling out on a bootleg and into the end zone on a fourth-down play in the waning seconds. The Bills' success continued with Flutie at the helm; his record as a starter that season was 8 wins and 3 losses. Flutie was selected to play in the 1998 Pro Bowl, and is currently the shortest quarterback to make the Pro Bowl since 1970.

Flutie guided the Bills to a 10 to 5 record in 1999 but, in a controversial decision, was replaced by Johnson for the playoffs by Coach Wade Phillips, who later said he had been ordered by Bills owner Ralph Wilson to do so. The Bills lost 22 to 16 to the eventual AFC Champion Tennessee Titans. The following season, Flutie was named the Bills' backup and only played late in games or when Johnson was injured, which was often. In fact, during the season, Flutie had a 4 and 1 record as a starter, in comparison to Johnson's 4 and 7. In a December 24, 2000 game against the

Seattle Seahawks, Flutie achieved a perfect passer rating, completing 20 of 25 passes for 366 yards and three touchdowns. Following the 2000 season, Bills President Tom Donahoe and head coach Gregg Williams decided to keep Johnson as the starter and cut Flutie.

Flutie signed in 2001 with the San Diego Chargers, who had gone 1 and 15 in 2000. In 2003, Flutie replaced a struggling Drew Bree's when the Chargers were 1 and 7. The 41-year-old Flutie became the oldest player to score two rushing touchdowns in a game, the first player over 40 to accomplish that feat. He also became the oldest AFC Offensive Player of the Week, winning the award for the fourth time. On January 2, 2005, the season finale of the 2004 season, Flutie broke Jerry Rice's record set two weeks prior, to become the oldest player ever to score a touchdown, at the age 42 years and 71 days.

Flutie surprised many when he signed with the New England Patriots instead of the New York Giants. He became the backup behind Tom Brady and played several times at the end of games to take a few snaps. Flutie has a 37 and 28 Record as an NFL starter, including a 22 and 9 Record in home games.

Referring to his time in the Canadian Football League (and, presumably, to the quarterback's relatively diminutive stature), television football commentator John Madden once said, "Inch for inch, Flutie in his prime was the best QB of his generation."

In a December 26, 2005 game against the New York Jets, Flutie was sent in late in the game. The Jets also sent in their back-up quarterback, Vinny Testaverde. This was the first time in NFL history that two quarterbacks over the age of 40 competed against each other (Testaverde was 42, Flutie was 43). This was the final nationally televised Monday Night Football game on ABC before its move to ESPN.

During the Patriots' regular-season finale against the Miami Dolphins on January 1, 2006, Flutie successfully drop kicked a football for an extra point, something that had not been done in a regular-season NFL game since 1941. It was Flutie's first kick attempt in the NFL, and earned him that week's title of AFC Special Teams Player of the Week. Patriots head coach Bill Belichick, known for his knowledge of the history of the game, made comments that suggested that the play was a retirement present of sorts for his veteran quarterback. On May 15, 2006, Flutie announced his decision to "hang up his helmet" at the age of 43 and retire. Flutie has the most rushing yards (212), and the most rushing touchdowns (four), for any player after turning forty years old.

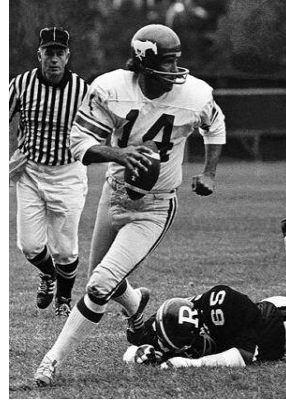
Because of injuries with the Toronto Argonauts, Flutie was contemplating a temporary comeback with the team in July of 2006. Flutie did not plan to play long-term, for he had planned on doing college football commentary on ESPN in the coming

season. On August 18, 2006, a story was published on CFL.ca examining this topic in-depth. Flutie was pondering a return to Canadian Football because of his relationship with Argonauts head coach and former running back Pinball Clemons, and the desire to "say goodbye to the CFL". According to the report, Flutie was poised to return to Toronto on July 22, after their victory over the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the injury to backup quarterback Spergon Wynn. Unfortunately Douglas Flutie chose to remain in retirement and Canada did not get the chance to say 'goodbye' to their favourite football player.

☐☐☐

*Many archived, team sources and New Media
were used for this chapter*

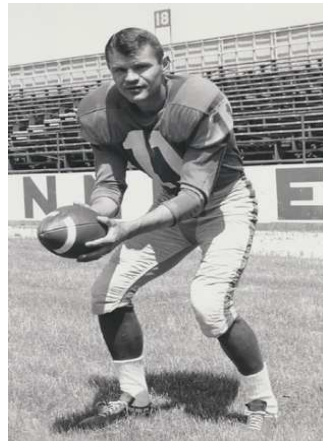
Canadian Football Quarterback Legends



B.C. Lions, Joe Kapp, pic from B.C. Hall of Fame and Calgary's Peter Liske from CFL Scrapbook



Esk's great, Jackie Parker
Pic courtesy of PNG Merlin Archives



Bombers QB Kenny Ploen
Picture courtesy CFL Hall of Fame



Ron Lancaster (#23)
Pic from archives



Ti-Cats Bernie Faloney
pic from CFL Hall of Fame



Argo Joe (King) Kroll
Archive pic



Montreal's Sam Etcheverry
Archive pic



*Ottawa Rough Rider Russ Jackson
Is he the best ever Canadian Quarterback to play three down football?*

Picture is from archives

Chapter Fourteen

The Future of Canadian Football

The future of football in North America will be discussed in depth in this chapter using many media and medical sources and will touch on everything from helmetless football, professional flag-football, concussions and what the game might look like in the near and long future.

We start with a small article that 3-Down staff wrote just before Christmas 2017 about the up-coming football year (2018). The Canadian Football League season will be spread over an additional week next year in an effort to promote player safety. The league announced its schedule on Thursday, two months earlier than last year. The season kicks off a week earlier on June 14, when the Winnipeg Blue Bombers host Edmonton.

The schedule stretches the regular-season over twenty-one weeks rather than twenty to reduce the number of short turnarounds. No team will have to play three games in eleven

days, something that had been part of every schedule dating back to 2005. The number of games to be played on less than a full week's rest has been cut to forty-four, down from fifty-one last year and fifty-four the year before. The number of games played on five days rest has been cut from twenty-one last year to fifteen this year, a twenty-nine per cent decrease. And every team will get three bye weeks instead of two, reducing the number of consecutive weeks a team must play.

The Toronto Argonauts kick off their Grey Cup title defence on June 15 in Saskatchewan, and then return home to raise their championship banner on June 23 when they host Calgary in a Grey Cup rematch. Rounding out opening weekend is a double header on June 16 that has Hamilton visiting Calgary and Montreal travelling to Vancouver to battle the B.C. Lions.

CFL commissioner Randy Ambrosie said the early release of the schedule was in response to fans. "For years, our fans have asked to have the schedule released as early as possible, preferably in time to consider buying season tickets as gifts for family and friends," Ambrosie said in a statement. "We are pleased today to deliver on that request. Not only is this schedule out two months earlier than last year's, it promises a season that starts a little sooner and will deliver all the excitement Canadians have come to expect from the CFL." The schedule will conclude with the 106th Grey Cup in Edmonton on Nov. twenty-fifth.

Going back a couple of years a David P. Wood's story in the Score in 2015 talked about the state of football in the US (and this may apply to football in Canada also) twenty years from then. "Players must submit to cognition tests before the season and regularly throughout the year. In the event their tests reveal cognitive impairment, they are not permitted to play. Many careers are shortened as a result of the stringent new rules, but it's a necessary consequence in a league that can no longer allow its players to do significant long-term damage to their bodies.

Torn ACLs and Achilles tendons, once sure fire season-ending injuries, can be healed within weeks thanks to improvements in surgical technology, synthetic grafts, and rehabilitation strategies. The injured reserve list, now a seldom-used last resort for teams, is a lonely place. The advent of robotic surgery, which allows for microscopic incisions and perfectly precise actions within the body, coupled with major advancements in tissue regeneration and production, is responsible for the new medical reality. Upon injury, a replacement ligament perfectly suited to the injured player's body is grown in a lab and surgically implanted within days.

The NFL's softened stance on allowing the use of growth hormones and similar drugs as part of rehabilitation programs shortens recovery times. Performance-enhancers have shed the stigma of the steroid era and entered a new phase of acceptance.

Studies show the newest designer PEDs can be used without side effects as part of a standard postoperative plan. Players still tear ligaments at roughly the same rate as in decades prior, but they no longer fear the grueling rehabilitation process associated with such an injury.

The NFL stadium of 2035 is much smaller and more akin to a television studio than the cavernous structures erected decades ago. The advent of ultra-high definition television and virtual reality has improved the home viewing experience to the point where the vast majority of fans prefer to watch football from the comfortable confines of their living rooms. In some cities, only a few thousand die-hard fans still attend games in person. Stadium construction changes to meet this new reality as intimate venues become en vogue.

Fewer fans attending games in person isn't necessarily a bad thing, as it allows the NFL to shift its focus to optimizing the game experience for home audiences both in North America and worldwide. Home viewers are granted greater access than ever before, with cameras placed on the sidelines and even in locker rooms. No longer must one imagine what it's like to be a star quarterback; every player's uniform is outfitted with an Omni-directional camera that allows viewers to experience the game from a first-person point of view via virtual reality headsets.

Expansion to Europe hasn't been without its difficulties, but the NFL acknowledges it cannot compete with soccer and basketball on a global scale without much deeper penetration into new markets. It's a big risk, but the league has no choice but to continue expanding.

Another American story that appeared in Sports Illustrated could again hold true in Canada. Six of SI's finest football minds, senior writers Greg Bishop, Michael Rosenberg and Jenny Vrentas, staff writer Emily Kaplan, deputy managing editor Jon Wertheim and SI.com special project editor Ben Eagle, got together to talk about what the sport and the league will look like in fifty years. The topics ranged from possible rule and gameplay changes to intergalactic expansion, and everything in between. As with all predictions, there were disagreements. But the consensus was, come time for Super Bowl one-hundred in the year 2066, football will likely bear little resemblance to the sport we now know.

Think of it like boxing, the sport still exists. But the athletes come from a much narrower band of the population than they did a half century ago. Families will undertake a risk/reward analysis. For some, the rewards will outweigh the risk. For increasingly more, they won't. Essentially this is a meta-game between the financial rewards (which grow each season) and health factors (which also grow each season).

Michael Rosenberg: I think Roger Goodell just read “Think of it like boxing” and vomited. The NFL can’t afford to be marginalized in any way, the way boxing is. And while the league is clearly in no danger of that now, I think part of Goodell’s challenge is to make sure the NFL remains wildly popular (and profitable) while it becomes safer. The league has to find that sweet spot: How can it remain beloved while also becoming safer? I don’t think the public is quite as addicted to the violence as people think. The most popular players are the guys who never hit anybody (quarterbacks). But through some combination of safer equipment and rules changes, the game has to become safer, if not actually safe.

Emily Kaplan: I tend to agree with Jon here in that the demographics won’t resemble what they look like today. Just as the league eyes international expansion, scouts will broaden their scope. I think we are not far off from seeing the NFL tapping into South America, Asia, Africa and every continent for talent. In 2066, more countries will begin playing football, perhaps coinciding with a decline in participation among American youth. That said, with a broader range of athletes to choose from, I don’t see NFL teams settling for athletes that are slower or slimmer.

Ben Eagle: If you’re a top athlete in 2066, why would you play football? Basketball and soccer are considerably safer sports and, at present, more lucrative (a trend certain to continue as

each sport gains a larger international and domestic foothold). LeBron James played wide receiver for two years in high school and then hung up the cleats for good. Expect this to be commonplace among the athletic elite in fifty years (if not sooner).

Greg Bishop: I think some of this comes down to how soon they can get a test for CTE for the living. Then, the question is: Would players take that test? Would they want to know if they had brain damage? If they did know, would they retire? The more information they have, the more I think some of them (most) will stop playing. So that will narrow the demographic pool for sure. It'll be like heavyweights in boxing in particular. They're still big. They're just usually not that skilled.

Jenny Vrentas: I think the physical attributes of football players fifty years down the line depend on how the game evolves in the name of player safety. Rule changes may de-emphasize attributes like being able to plow through other players. In an extreme case, we'd see the game morph into a seven on seven format that emphasizes skill and speed, and would account for declining participation numbers. But I don't think we'll see a change that extreme in the next fifty years.

Seems like everyone is in agreement that there will be some, possibly drastic changes to the sport in an attempt to make

it safer in the next fifty years. Any predictions on what those changes could be? Will the actual gameplay look the same?

Bishop: Fifty years? I think you'll see a ton of changes. Football will more resemble, as Jenny predicted, what we now call seven on seven drills than the game Lombardi coached. The emphasis will be on statistics, and legalized betting on football, and that will be driven by a game that's basically one team passing and the other team trying to defend passes. You'll also see equipment upgrades, particularly with helmets, and you'll see kids waiting to play tackle football until a later age, as mandated by law.

Rosenberg: I think it has to start with the helmets. You want to protect the egg, start with the shell. Kaplan: In 2066 we could have helmet-less football. Researchers at the University of New Hampshire are already testing the effectiveness of helmet-less tackling techniques, and I think their findings could make landmark changes to the game. At the very least, we'll see teams adopt more rugby-style tackling approaches.

Wertheim: There is a huge incentive for innovative technology. The rewards coming to whoever devises the equivalent of the airbag will be monstrous. Others made the same point, but, yes, it starts with the helmet. Reducing or eliminating kickoffs or limiting running plays may or may not reduce head injuries. A lot of this will come down to economics, liability and

risk management. I spoke recently to an insurance executive who worries that football programs, Pop Warner and high school, but even some D-I programs, simply won't be able to cover insurance premiums.

Vrentas: A few things I've heard discussed: Eliminating the three-point stance, and instead having linemen squatting at the line of scrimmage, to stop the constant clashing of helmets in the trenches and reduce sub-concussive hits. Getting rid of kickoffs and penalizing any player who lowers his head before making contact, regardless of if they are offensive or defensive or where they are on the field. Something once talked about was field expansion, with the idea that a bigger field would spread out the game and reduce big collisions, but I could see that going either way, with players also possibly having more time to wind up, as happens on kickoffs. Eagle: Field expansion seems like the most impactful and realistic changes. The width would tilt the game in favor of faster players who can operate in space while deemphasizing the brutal play between the tackles. While Jenny makes a good point about wind-up time, I think these hits would be few and far between considering how spread out defenses would be on a wider field. It's an idea that could make the game safer and more exciting to watch.

Bishop: The NFL will expand wherever it can, as soon as possible. I haven't met one player, or executive, though, who

seems in favor of it, who'd want to play in London for a season. So that will slow the train a little bit. That said, the NFL will have a team in London in our lifetime and probably elsewhere, which will only make expense accounting that much more difficult.

Wertheim: In the early '90s, the NBA swore up and down that there would be a team in Europe by decade's end. Then they learned more about the complications—time zones, jetlag, currency issues, and revenue splits, players unwilling to live abroad. (Note how many NBA players resisted Vancouver, a Hall of Fame city an hour from the U.S. border.) Because of the weekly games, the NFL is well-positioned. Already, of course, there are NFL games in London and owners (Shahid Khan, Stan Kroenke, etc.) with sports properties overseas. It's an obvious step, what does any brand do when it wants to grow beyond the domestic market?

Vrentas: Let's not rule out the fact that in fifty years, air travel could be exponentially faster than it is now. It may not take six hours to fly from New York to London. Maybe it only takes three. The NFL is pushing for expansion for a simple business reason: There is a ceiling on how much any business can grow domestically, and they want to tap into an international market. We will certainly continue to see an expanded international presence, with the league now also reaching tentacles into Mexico and Germany, for example. The logistical hurdles to

having an international football league will not be the same in fifty years as they are now. But a big determinant of how far the NFL can expand is whether or not the game maintains its popularity among the next generation of parents and kids amid the heightened awareness of health and safety concerns. Nothing has burst the bubble, to this point.

Rosenberg: I think, with overseas expansion, there are two sides of this wall ... the revenue side and the production side. The NFL obviously thinks the revenue streams of being overseas are impressive, and I have no reason to doubt them. But as far as producing a team ... how do you sign free agents to live over there? How does a team spend eight weeks on another continent, and travel in the playoffs? Right now it's not realistic. But by 2066, it could happen, and Emily will be the only one of us alive to see it.

Kaplan: Piggy-backing off Michael here, I do think there are significant logistical issues to hash out, beginning with the most basic: personnel. How do you add player's mid-season? How do you snatch a guy on the waivers on Monday, approve his Visa by Wednesday, have him practicing by Friday and suit him up on Sunday? The only way this would work is if the international teams have a home base in the states.

Rosenberg: I think the NFL could solve the visa problem by buying England and giving it to the United States. Give me one

reason this can't happen. We can't rule that out. Goodell could pull it off. On that note, will Goodell still be in charge? Will he freeze himself so he can continue to run the NFL forever? But really, what will the job of commissioner look like? Will the powers of the office continue to grow? Will the players' union push back and diminish the powers of the office?

Wertheim: As a hypothetical shareholder in the NFL, have you realized value under the leadership? If the answer is yes, you're probably in no great rush to undertake an executive shake-up. For all the PR blunders and slings and arrows he takes (which is part of the job description), as long as franchise values and TV deals and pretty much all financial indication arrows point upward, it's hard to talk seriously about a replacement for Goodell. What does the office look like in fifty years? A lot of that depends on how collective bargaining goes. A lot depends on the media landscape.

Bishop: I think the sentiment against Goodell has never been stronger. But I agree with Jon that what really matters is how much money he stuffs into the owners' pockets, how big their valuations grow. That train doesn't seem to be slowing anytime soon. I do think, though, that he'll lose some of his absolute power. I think you'll see a change in the discipline system, for instance, with an independent committee or person to handle appeals. Stuff like that.

Eagle: How does the commissioner not lose power? Just look at Deflate gate and Judge Richard Berman ruling that Goodell acted beyond his scope of power in upholding Tom Brady's suspension. While Berman's decision is still being appealed, the issues with the current consolidation of power are pretty clear. The NFL commissioner (whoever it may be in 2066) can still run a very profitable business while deferring to a neutral committee on issues of appeals and such.

Vrentas: The goodwill Goodell built up from making the owners a lot of money did start to erode within the last year over the mishandling of the off-the-field crises and Deflate gate. But the NFL rode out the storm and hasn't been any worse for the wear.

Rosenberg: Goodell is very good at increasing revenue. But it's also worth noting that A) nobody likes being embarrassed, but rich people really don't like being embarrassed, and B) Roger Goodell is not the only person alive who can help the NFL grow revenue. He's not selling canned worms in ketchup. He has a very popular product. So if he keeps having public missteps, at some point owners will say enough is enough ... especially the owners who bought into the league most recently, because they paid a premium for their teams.

Bishop: I vote Rosenberg for commissioner. He's already wildly popular in New England. Let's go back to the play on the

field for a second—I want predictions on weird, little changes we may see. What ya got?

Wertheim: Simply for the anachronistic value, I want to keep first-down chains and the coin toss. All these questions are interrelated. Changes and innovations in media, technology, safety, etc. will be brought to bear. Official challenges will be resolved more quickly in the future. How's that for a bold prediction?

Rosenberg: The coin flip is a great question. We've got iPads on the sidelines, coaches talking to quarterbacks in the huddle wirelessly, and yet we still stick with the coin. Also, those first-down chains are ridiculous, especially since everybody knows in New England the chain is just nine-and-a-half yards long.

Bishop: Instead of a coin flip, there should be a designated Wonderlic test at midfield. Each team can pick the other team's test taker. Also, players will be able to see those yellow lines from TV on the field, through holograms. The position of fullback will no longer exist. And reporters will be banned from the stadium, unless they work for Derek Jeter or the team.

Kaplan: First off, no more referees blowing whistles to call subjective penalties on men clashing their bodies against each other? They are going to be obsolete. Master of Officiating Dean Blandino (he will still be in office, but now have that glorious title) will oversee all decisions from a swanky jet plane he flies across

the world every Sunday, randomly hovering over stadiums as he sees fit. He will have an army of officials, maybe they can hang on the jet with him, but they'll probably watch from the press box, or maybe New York, monitoring games on broadcast and making the calls from there.

Rosenberg: I'm really curious about the pace of the game. There is such a clear strategic advantage to speeding it up, and one could argue that makes for a more entertaining product ... but the two biggest issues facing the game right now are probably player safety and officiating, and speeding the game up is a detriment to both. Officials need time to get calls right, and everybody needs to be able to check on players between plays. I think the obvious answer is to do whatever is most profitable.

Vrentas: I'd assume fans will be watching games from a perspective as if they were on the field, via helmet cams, or some tricked-out Google Glass-type thing, or virtual reality. I can see a trend toward smaller stadiums, or games played in non-traditional venues like city plazas. Concussions will be diagnosed on the sideline with the speed and reliability of a rapid strep test. And there will be no judgment calls if a player made a first down or crossed the goal line, there will be technology for that.

So we have been operating under the assumption that football will still be around in fifty years. Anyone want to argue

the other side of this? Will there ever be a time that the sport ceases to exist and, if so, what will be the ultimate downfall?

Bishop: One thing I wonder about is what happens when it's not just a handful of retired players dying, or committing suicide? What happens when it's hundreds of guys, and it's happening every day, all the time? Will that turn off sponsors? Or people who watch football? I think it will have an impact that we don't see coming yet.

This year's Grey Cup was a great scene in the snow, but a blizzard isn't conducive to good business around the game. Many CFL teams look at hosting a Grey Cup as a revenue generator, and revenues would be significantly bigger if more than the hard-core football fan could enjoy it without braving the elements.

Don't be surprised if the league announces a plan to move up both the regular-season start date and the Grey Cup in future seasons. More games in the summer months in general would mean more walk-up ticket revenue and more television content. It also would mean fewer games head to head with the NFL, which is good for both Canadian broadcasters and the NFL Network, which has struck up a deal to broadcast the league's games. The last 365 days in football has been full of politics, protests and pending lawsuits. The next year in football will have some off-field

decisions that impact the future of the sport on field for years to come.

Donnovan Bennett of Sports net at the end of 2017 wrote his bold predictions based alone on educated guesses of what will transpire in the world of football in 2018.

The CFL will move up the Grey Cup date as this year's Grey Cup was a great scene in the snow, but a blizzard isn't conducive to good business around the game. Many CFL teams look at hosting a Grey Cup as a revenue generator, and revenues would be significantly bigger if more than the hard-core football fan could enjoy it without braving the elements.

Don't be surprised if the league announces a plan to move up both the regular-season start date and the Grey Cup in future seasons. More games in the summer months in general would mean more walk-up ticket revenue and more television content. It also would mean fewer games head to head with the NFL, which is good for both Canadian broadcasters and the NFL Network, which has struck up a deal to broadcast the league's games.

Secondly, the NFL will cancel the Pro Bowl. When is the last time you watched one? Who was the last team to win one? My point exactly. Nobody watches it. Nobody even gambles on it. At a time when we want to expose football players to less unnecessary contact it is hard to justify laying an added exhibition

game nobody cares about. There is no benefit, so any cost is too much.

Thirdly, Johnny Manziel will play for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. You love who you love. June Jones and the Tiger-Cats have been infatuated with Money Manziel for quite some time. Despite the way Jeremiah Masoli played to end the year, the job will be Manziel's to lose in camp. That is, assuming Manziel stays out of trouble. The CFL said that it would approve a Manziel signing should the Tiger-Cats make their move.

Fourthly, Atlantic Canada will be granted a CFL team as they have long been desirous of a professional football team and next year they'll get one. Initially it will be on a conditional basis pending a stadium, but there is too much momentum for this not to get completed. Evidence of that momentum include an ownership group with both deep pockets and the Atlantic Schooners trademark has been rubber stamped by the CFL board of governors. The politicians from the region traveled to the Grey Cup to do due diligence and the fan base have already been coming to the Grey Cup year after year. There will be football in Atlantic Canada before there is hockey in Seattle.

Also, a record number of QB's will be taken in the first round of the NFL draft. The Browns, Giants, Cardinals, Broncos, Jets and Bills are all in desperate need of a quarterback, and other teams may be looking at succession plans for aging veterans.

Meanwhile, this draft is shaping up as one of the stronger QB classes in recent memory — Sam Darnold, Josh Rosen, Josh Allen, Lamar Jackson, Baker Mayfield and Mason Rudolph all look like franchise quarterbacks.

And lastly, the Toronto Argonauts will break even. The sale of the Argonauts to MLSE is the biggest news for the CFL in recent memory. It will take deep investment to reverse the erosion of the double-blue brand, but right off the bat the new organizational structure will save them money. Synergies in marketing and sponsorships will help the team leverage MLSE's other entities. They'll also benefit immediately from their newly preferred status at BMO Field as all but two of their home games will be on Saturdays. This is the boldest of predictions since most CFL teams lose money, but most teams don't have two telecom giants backing them. Another area that may come true (it is a study stage now) is sensors on football pads and helmets that if they feel a hurt-able hit will flash a light on and the referee would have no choice but to send the player off the field for further evaluation.

In a Globe and Mail story in their January 5th 2018 issue, Jeffrey Scott Delaney who is an associate professor and research director at the department of emergency medicine at McGill University Health Centre wrote that health-care professionals and researchers who deal with patients on a day-to-day basis know

that changing human behaviour can be a difficult task. You might expect, if you explain how dangerous behaviour can result in immediate, and possibly long-term, negative effects, most people would decide to stop such behaviour. Unfortunately, this is often not the case. Many Canadians still make the decision to drink and drive, or text and drive or consume a diet high in fat and calories. These are only a few examples of behaviour that continues despite the potential negative consequences. This type of behaviour is also seen in athletes with concussions.

The Research Institute at the McGill University Health Centre published a study in 2017 titled "Why Professional Football Players Chose Not to Reveal Their Concussion Symptoms during a Practice or Game". We examined 454 CFL players and planned and completed the study in conjunction with the CFL league office and the CFL Players Association (CFLPA).

Our research revealed that around twenty-five per cent of football players believed they had suffered a concussion while playing football during the 2015-16 seasons. Unfortunately, around eighty per cent of these athletes decided not to seek medical attention for a concussion at least once during 2015-16.

Common reasons for deciding not to seek medical attention included fear of letting the team down by being removed from the game and not feeling the concussion was serious enough to be a danger to their health. In September 2017

Wallace Matthews wrote, “but there is a relatively new entrant in the debate over whether pro football is, or should be, “going soft” in regards to better protecting its players. The overwhelming evidence that, even more than in boxing, brain injury, or Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, is an almost guaranteed after effect of a career in the National (or Canadian) Football League.

A story appeared in the Hamilton Spectator (also thestar.com) about a study by Dr. Luciano Minuzzi. Part of this well written in debt article by Steve Buist says. Luciano Minuzzi had finished his very precise and very complicated analyses of brain scans from dozens of retired CFL football players and healthy volunteer subjects. Now it was time to look at the results.

As Minuzzi performed his calculations, he was blind to the subject’s identity, a key part of the scientific process. He didn’t know if he was examining the brain of a retired player or a control subject. For each of the subjects, Minuzzi was analyzing the thickness of the brain’s cortex, the thin outer shell of the cerebrum where the bodies of billions and billions of nerve cells reside. It’s also the part of the brain that smacks the inside of the skull during a concussion.

When the results were unlocked and Minuzzi was able to compare the retired players to the controls, he was stunned. Everywhere he looked, it seemed, the cortex of the players, on average, was significantly thinner than it was for the controls —

whether it was the top of the brain, the front, the back, the sides and even the inner surfaces down the middle. A thinning of the cortex is important because it suggests a substantial loss of nerve cells, supporting cells or both.

What was the doctor's first reaction? "When I saw the images, I thought that must be wrong," said Minuzzi, a brain imaging expert and a clinical psychiatrist at McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare. "I must have done something wrong. So I did it again." Minuzzi went back and re-analyzed each subject four times because he couldn't believe what he was seeing. Each time, his results were confirmed. On average, about 65 per cent of the cerebral cortex showed significant thinning in the CFL players. That's a staggering amount of damage that has accumulated in the players over time.

By comparison, Minuzzi said when he analyzes patients suffering some types of brain disorders; there might be five per cent of the cortex which shows significant thinning. Minuzzi said the cortical thinning experienced by the players are "very, very strong results that we were not expecting." "It's almost like seeing the brains of much older people," said Minuzzi. "They are not matching in terms of age. "I was shocked," he added. "There's something really serious happening."

Minuzzi is part of the research team for the Spectator's CFL concussion project, a unique collaboration between the

newspaper and six researchers from McMaster University. The project, which took more than two years to complete, involved comprehensive testing of twenty-two retired CFL players and another twenty healthy men of similar ages with no history of concussions who acted as control subjects.

Using a variety of sophisticated tests, the goal of the project was to examine the long-term effects of concussions and repeated hits to the head suffered by former football players. The dramatic amounts of cortical thinning weren't the only horrifying results to emerge. The retired players also underwent electroencephalogram (EEG) testing to measure the strength of the brain's electrical activity as they paid attention to different stimuli, again compared to healthy volunteers. In some cases, the EEG results from players were no different than the results that would be seen in some types of coma patients.

The findings are almost hard to believe, said John Connolly, a McMaster professor and the Senator William McMaster Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience, who specializes in EEG analysis and concussions. "In the coma patient, you can understand it, the person has had a catastrophic brain injury of some description," said Connolly, a member of the project's research team. "But these men we tested are living their lives, they probably drove themselves here, some of them are running

businesses. “I’m not suggesting they’re in a coma, quite the contrary,” he added. “They came in; we chatted to all of them.

“Are there ways they’re getting around this? I think there must be. There must be some way they’re compensating for what amounts to a really disastrous attentional problem.” The disturbing differences found between the players and controls throughout the various forms of testing suggest strong evidence of a link to football with repeated hits to the head and long-term effects on the brain. The findings raise very serious concerns about the future health prospects of former football players. “It seems that their brains are already very fragile,” said Minuzzi.

“The saddest part of this is that if the cortical thinning has been caused by neuronal loss, once those cells are dead, they are dead,” he added. “It’s not something where we can do physiotherapy and recover, like a muscle can be increased with exercise. I’ve never seen a study that’s done what you’ve done,” said Robyn Wishart, a Vancouver-based lawyer who specializes in the litigation of brain trauma cases involving athletes. “It’s mind-blowing what your images show.” Wishart has launched two separate lawsuits against the CFL on behalf of more than 200 former players who allege the league’s negligence caused them to suffer brain injuries.

The project’s findings raise grave questions about the safety of a dangerous sport that is popular precisely because of its

violent nature. “The players are getting stronger and faster and that’s just adding to this issue,” said Bob Macoritti, a study participant who played six seasons, mostly with Saskatchewan, in the mid to late 1970s. “You can’t get stronger, faster and heavier and not have more damaging collisions.” The research results, Wishart said, will help parents better understand the risks of the sport for their children.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a method of using very strong magnetic fields to generate highly-detailed images of organs and tissues. It’s particularly well-suited to looking at the brain. MRI can show in real time which areas of the brain are activated, and how much activation is taking place in those areas, during the resting state or when tasks are being performed during the scans. One main use of MRI scans is to look at so-called “white matter tracts” in the brain.

These are the various bundles of nerve fibres, much like electrical cables, that join different areas of the brain and distribute the signals between nerve cells. Some of these tracts join the two halves of the cerebrum through a broad C-shaped band in the centre called the corpus callosum, and some of the tracts join together different areas within each half of the cerebrum. Damage to these bundles could interfere with brain function or processing speed.

Four different types of analyses were applied to the MRI data and each analysis looks at different measures of the structural integrity of the nerve fibres that connect various areas of the brain. The MRI analyses showed significant differences between the retired players on average and the controls in a number of white matter tracts across the cerebrum. The testing showed 95 per cent of the players had decreased activity in a part of the prefrontal cortex believed to be associated with decision-making.

Some of the players are in their 40s, Minuzzi said, but “they have the brain of an eighty year-old, maybe ninety year-old.” The images from the players and the thinning of the cortex, he added, were “compatible to someone very old or someone with a neurodegenerative disorder. “Something really wrong is happening here,” he said. “It’s impossible to fake this. This is an objective measure of the thickness of your brain.”

Altogether, the results showed, on average, that about twenty per cent of the mass of the cerebral cortex has been lost in the retired CFL players compared to the controls, which is a stunning amount of damage. “These results are clearly an indication of the trauma that can happen from this game, no question about that,” said Don Bowman, a defensive back who played for Winnipeg and Hamilton in the mid to late 1970s. “Where we go with this, I don’t know.

“There are guys making an awful lot of money playing this sport and perhaps that’s worth it,” Bowman added. “It wasn’t so much that way back when we were playing.” Bob MacDonald, an offensive lineman with Calgary and Hamilton in the early 1990s, admits he now wonders, “What have I done?” “My job was to smash guys as hard as I can,” said MacDonald, now a teacher at Salt fleet Secondary School. “So I never really gave it that much thought for a long time. “When I was growing up, I never thought about impact and inertia and the brain flipping and flopping,” he said. “You just think ‘I’m wearing equipment, I’m safe.’”

A recent Boston University study of the brains of one hundred and eleven former NFL players found evidence of CTE in all but one of them. And Thursday's news that Aaron Hernandez had severe CTE in his mid-twenties once again brought concussions to the forefront of football discussions. Like the question of whether or not steroids improve the performance of Major League Baseball players, it is no longer a matter of debate. Playing football at the professional level causes brain damage, period.

But there is another question to be pondered: Aside from the players, does anyone really care? Although NFL TV ratings have been tanking the past few years, a trend that continued through week one of the 2017 season, shows that it is attributable more to the changing viewing habits of millennials and younger

viewers, many of whom are known to prefer watching non-traditional sports to mainstream sports and television programs. There is little to no evidence that the NFL has lost any popularity due to squeamishness on the part of the public, or moral or ethical objections to watching a sport in which brain damage is an almost unavoidable by-product.

The fact is, people don't seem to care if a large number of retired players show signs of early dementia, or if the autopsies of deceased NFLer's reveal evidence of CTE in virtually all of their brains, or if a non-marquee player like Chris Borland, the 49ers linebacker who retired after one season in the league, decide that playing the game is no longer worth the risk.

The hard truth is if a Tom Brady or a Peyton Manning showed signs of brain damage while still active, it might make a difference. The operative word being - "might."

But the likelihood is the game would continue to thrive is because there are always going to be young men willing to risk their health and future for the chance of wealth and fame. And as long as economic conditions dictate that risk-taking can be lucrative, people who think it is their best or sometimes only, alternative are going to play football, become professional boxers, or enter the military. So the real question is not, "What can be done about it?" but "Where is it going?" The answer, most likely, is nowhere.

An excellent article on football's past, which already resonates, come from a Mike Beemish article published in a 2014 Vancouver Sun issue. "But Munsey, a former Minnesota Golden Gopher, who played on two Rose Bowl's champions, was driven into retirement three years later because of injuries and weight issues. In 2002, he died of a heart attack at age sixty. Fouts, a three-time CFL all-star, died a year later at sixty-nine. They are among nine players from the '64 team who were not around when thirteen of the remaining Lions, now in the winter of their years, gathered for a fiftieth anniversary reunion, before the Lions' September home game against the Toronto Argonauts.

All of the coaching staff, head Coach Dave Skrien and assistants Jim Champion and Dick Johnston are now gone, along with equipment manager Bob Ackles, who later rose to team president. The baker's dozen of old Lions who appeared at an autograph session on the BC Place Stadium plaza is partly explained by roster size. Just thirty players, the roster limit at the time, participated in the '64 Grey Cup game (CFL teams dress forty-four players in 2014). Distance, disabilities and dementia precluded others from attending the September get-together.

"Nine are dead, and a couple of others are in nursing homes," explained seventy-six year-old Jim Carphin, a former tight end. "Neal Beaumont (a defensive back) had spinal surgery and couldn't make it". Was it an old football injury?

Carphin, who went on to become a prominent Vancouver lawyer, famously caught a touchdown pass from backup quarterback Peter Ohler in the '64 game. Ohler calmly picked up a botched hold on a field-goal attempt and, jumping up, fired an end-zone pass to Carphin, who turned his back just in time to have the ball settle into his arms, leaving the Tiger-Cats in a state of shock and despair. Ohler went into the fine arts business after football, but he admitted to memory loss, chronic migraines and “suicide headaches” in an interview with The Vancouver Sun several years ago. He suspected he was suffering from the after- It is good to have a rich past. It is good to have a championship game that wasn't born as a marketing concept or invented in a boardroom. It is good to have a sport that, beginning with its very origins, is rooted in its homeland.

But for the Canadian Football League, that vast and colourful history can sometimes also be a straightjacket into the future. Once upon a time, schoolchildren snuck transistor radios into classrooms to listen to World Series games, but who pretends it's like that now? Once upon a time, the world came to a standstill when the heavyweight boxing title was on the line. Once upon a time, the Grey Cup game was a cultural given, an undeniable fact of Canadian life, a moment when house parties were held and colours were worn, when the country's football

loyalties could be divided down the middle and everyone had a rooting interest.

Exactly when that stopped being universally true, when the larger sports marketplace fragmented and CFL hotbeds became more isolated, is hard to pinpoint exactly, but it happened. And while there's no arguing the fact that the Grey Cup still matters, that it still draws a huge television audience, that it still attracts fans who might not watch another game all season, perhaps it's time to stop looking at it as a touchstone, to stop making every Grey Cup week a time to find nostalgia and comfort in how some things never change or find panic in how they're all coming apart and see it for what it is in the twenty-first century.

One of the people who best understands this is the new commissioner of the CFL, Randy Ambrosie, who in less than a year on the job has shown himself to be exactly the kind of sleeves-rolled-up visionary that the game has so desperately needed. Ambrosie is from Winnipeg and played in the league, so is absolutely conversant in both its history and lore and its on-field product. He has already shown a willingness to buck conventional wisdom and to improvise. Ambrosie won the love of CFL fans this season (2017) for making some common-sense tweaks to the rules mid-season. At a time when the influence of two of the league's long-time power brokers, B.C. Lions owner David Braley

and Montreal Alouettes owner Robert Wettenhall, is waning, the new commissioner may have more of an opportunity than his predecessors to actually set the league's course.

Beyond that, he may succeed because he has a contemporary approach to the business challenge that lies ahead. He is not the curator of the Museum of Canadian Football. He understands that no one buys tickets out of a feeling of obligation. The CFL is but one sports-entertainment option in a marketplace full of them, where pretty much every game from every league anywhere on the planet is available in Halifax or Hamilton or Regina at the push of a button, and it is competing for attention in a world where attending live sporting events, whatever the game, is more than ever a take-it-or-leave-it proposition (consider all those empty seats in NFL and CFL stadiums).

The much smaller, much more contained world in which the Grey Cup evolved into its mythic form is long gone. To compete, the CFL doesn't have to chuck all those memories of 'fog Bowl' and 'Mud Bowl' and horses in hotel lobbies, but it does have to get beyond the comfortable assumption that that's enough.

The league is remarkably strong in the province of Saskatchewan, if the publicly owned Roughriders were for sale to a private owner, they'd most likely be worth more than the rest of

the teams in the league combined. The teams in Alberta and in Winnipeg are solid and its newest franchise in Ottawa, under the guidance of owner Jeff Hunt, is a model of how you can return to a market that already has an NHL team, in which CFL teams twice died before, and build something fresh and vibrant with a new, younger fan base.

The flip side, of course, is the country's three major markets. The Lions desperately need new ownership. The Alouettes are no longer in fashion. The Tiger-Cats have a chance in a city that's feeling its oats right now, but have had a hard trouble getting out of their own way. And the Argonauts, who did bring the old mug back to Toronto on Sunday, despite the move to BMO Field, despite wealthy, stable ownership, have fallen out of the city's larger sports conversation, now fifth in the pecking order behind the Leafs, Blue Jays, Raptors and Toronto FC. Maybe you can quibble about the last one, pointing to national television ratings, but as a sniff test, consider who the bigger star in Toronto is, Ricky Ray or Sebastian Giovinco?

It has certainly been worse, way worse. There were moments in the not-so-distant past when tumbling dominoes threatened to take the whole league down. That's not the case now, but neither are there quick fixes in the offing. Pretending, for instance, that winning this Grey Cup will put the Argos back on

the local map, following a season in which they played to crowds of family and friends, is pure magical thinking.

The first step, though, is to get past the long-held notion that because of its origins, because of its past, supporting the CFL is a patriotic duty. Definitely keep the horse. Don't hesitate to invoke the ghosts of Jackie Parker and Bernie Faloney (and this weekend, maybe even Leon McQuay). Enjoy the Spirit of Edmonton and Riderville. Dream that somebody might build a stadium so that Atlantic Canada can, for the first time, be invited to the party. And then take a clear-eyed look around, understand the game for what it is not what it was, and get on with business.

Sources used in this chapter were all named including Mcleans.ca



The Hall of Fame for Canadian football

Chapter Fifteen

Yes, we too have a Hall of Fame

The home of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame is in Hamilton, Ontario and indorses major achievements in Canadian football. It is maintained by the Canadian Football League and includes displays about the Canadian Football League, Canadian University Football and Canadian Junior Football history and is a not-for-profit corporation.

Previously the Hall had a central feature in the middle portion of the museum where inducted members, each with a metal bust depicting their head, were displayed prior to the physical building being closed. There were also featured displays that highlighted each Canadian Football League team's history and an interactive field goal kicking exhibit. The CFHOF is currently changing to a de-centralized model, which does not include a main museum building.

Once a year the CFL season, the Hall-of-Fame holds the induction ceremony of former players. Included in the "Hall of

Fame Weekend" is a regular season game, usually (but not always) affiliated with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. Traditionally, the inducted players will come to the Hall and make an acceptance speech in front of the building where their newly sculpted bust is unveiled. A player must be retired from the game for at least three years before being eligible for consideration. A Hall of Fame voting committee is composed of sports writers, selected CFL executives and inducted members.

The Canadian Hall of Fame officially opened on November 28, 1972. It is located in downtown Hamilton, beside the former Hamilton City Hall and Family Courts Building, which is inside the former Andrew Carnegie library on Main Street, between Bay Street and MacNab Street. The Canadian Hall of Fame was awarded to the City of Hamilton in June 1963 following the invitation of Mayor Lloyd Douglas Jackson. The Hamilton Parks Board offered a space near Civic Stadium. Ivan Miller, former sports editor of The Spectator, was named the first curator. Soon after, the Board of Education purchased the land and building. The Hall moved to this location in 1972 and closed on September 19, 2015. In 2015, responsibility for the museum moved from the City of Hamilton to the CFL.

The old Canadian Hall of Fame building is easily identified by the slightly-larger-than-life metal sculpture Touchdown, featuring a successful receiver being tackled. As of the 2016 class,

the Canadian Football Hall of Fame has honoured 283 players and builders. Charter membership to the Hall began in June 1963. The Hall of Fame also has a Football Reporters of Canada wing dedicated to reporters.

The Canadian Football Hall of Fame's old museum building is currently closed to the public as it transitions from a stand-alone facility. A permanent display will be opened at Tim Hortons Field, accessible during Hamilton Tiger-Cats home games, and other times the stadium is open to the public. The CFHOF is also building travelling displays for different CFL team home fields, the Grey Cup, and other events.

Who is in the Canadian Hall of Fame? Here they are (in alphabetical order).

- Jack Abendschan – player (K/OG), 2012 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1965–75).
- Bob Ackles – builder, 2002 (BC Lions as general manager 1975–86, president 2002–2008, and other duties since 1954).
- Junior Ah You – player (DE), 1997 (Montreal Alouettes 1972–81).
- Roger Aldag – player (C/OG), 2002 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1976–91).
- Damon Allen – player (QB), 2012 (Edmonton Eskimos 1985–88, 1993–94; Ottawa Rough Riders 1989–

91; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1992; Memphis Mad Dogs 1995; BC Lions 1996–2002; Toronto Argonauts 2003–2007).

- Tony Anselmo – builder, 2009 (Calgary Stampeders as manager and other tasks since 1973).
- Ron Atchison – player (C/MG/DT), 1978 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1952–68).
- Len Back – builder, 1971 (Hamilton Tigers as manager 1928–40, 1945–49; Hamilton Flying Wildcats as manager 1941–43; Hamilton Tiger-Cats as manager 1950–80).
- Byron Bailey – player (FB/DB), 1975 (BC Lions 1954–64).
- R. Harold Bailey – builder, 1965 (ORFU president 1941; CRU president 1942–45).
- Bill Baker – player (DE), 1994 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1968–73, 1977–78; BC Lions 1974–76).
- Harold Ballard – builder, 1987 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats as owner and president 1978–89).
- Donald Barker – builder, 1999 (for his role in developing league officiating since the 1960s).
- John Barrow – player (OT/DT), 1976 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1957–70; Toronto Argonauts as General Manager 1971–75).
- Danny Bass – player (LB), 2000 (Toronto Argonauts 1980; Calgary Stampeders 1981–83; Edmonton Eskimos 1984–91).

- Harry Batstone – player (HB), 1963 (Toronto Argonauts 1919–21; Queen's University 1922–28, later as coach 1929–31).
- Greg Battle – player (LB), 2007 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1987–93, 1997–98; Las Vegas Posse/Ottawa Rough Riders 1994; Memphis Mad Dogs 1995; Saskatchewan Roughriders 1996).
- Ormond Beach – player (LB), 1963 (Sarnia Imperials 1934–37).
- Al Benecick – player (OG/OT), 1996 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1959–68; Edmonton Eskimos 1969).*
- Paul Bennett – player (DB), 2002 (Toronto Argonauts 1977–79; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1980–83; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1985–87).
- Sam Berger – builder, 1993 (Ottawa Rough Riders as director, president, a part owner 1930s–1969; Montreal Alouettes as owner and president 1969–81; Canadian Football League president 1964, 1971).
- John Bonk – player (C), 2008 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1972–73; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1973–1985).
- Ab Box – player (HB/P), 1965 (Toronto Balmy Beach Beachers 1930–31, 1935–38; Toronto Argonauts 1932–34).
- David Braley – builder, 2012 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats as owner 1987–90; BC Lions as owner 1997–present; Interim CFL commissioner 2002; Toronto Argonauts as owner 2010–present).

- Joe Breen – player, 1963 (University of Toronto 1914–15, 1919–20; Toronto Parkdale Canoe Club 1921–23; Toronto Argonauts 1924–25); University of Western Ontario 1929–34 as coach.
- Johnny Bright – player (RB), 1970 (Calgary Stampeders 1952–54; Edmonton Eskimos 1954–64).
- Dieter Brock – player (QB), 1995 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1974–83; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1983–84).
- Tom Brook – builder, 1975 (Calgary Stampeders as club organizer and president 1948–51, director 1956–58).
- Doug Brown – player (DT), 2016 (Calgary Stampeders 1997; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 2001-11).
- D. Wes Brown – builder, 1963 (Ottawa Rough Riders 40-year executive beginning in 1936, holding the roles of director, treasurer, secretary, and other duties).
- Tom Brown – player (LB/MG), 1984 (BC Lions 1961–67).
- Less Browne – player (DB), 2002 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1984–88; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1989–91; Ottawa Rough Riders 1992; BC Lions 1993–94).
- Wally Buono – builder, 2014 (Calgary Stampeders as head coach 1990–2002; BC Lions as head coach 2003–11 and 2016-present).
- Willie Burden – player (RB), 2001 (Calgary Stampeders 1974–81).
- Ben Cahoon – player (WR), 2014 (Montreal Alouettes 1998–2010).

- Bob Cameron – player (P), 2010 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1980–2002).
- Hugh Campbell – builder, 2000 (Saskatchewan Roughriders as player 1963–68, 1969; Edmonton Eskimos as head coach 1977–82, General manager 1986–97, president and CEO 1998–2006).
- Jerry Campbell – player (LB), 1996 (Calgary Stampeders 1966–68, 1976; Ottawa Rough Riders 1968–75).
- Tom Casey – player (RB), 1964 (Hamilton Wildcats 1949; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1950–54, 1956).
- Ken Charlton – player (RB/FW), 1992 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1941, 1948–54; Winnipeg RCAF Bombers 1942; Regina All-Services Roughriders 1943; Ottawa Rough Riders 1945–47).
- Arthur Chipman – builder, 1969 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers as president 1944–48; WIFU president 1949 and CRU president 1952).
- Frank Clair – builder, 1981 (Toronto Argonauts as head coach 1950–54; Ottawa Rough Riders as head coach 1956–69, general manager 1970–78).
- Bill Clarke – player (OT/DT), 1996 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1951–64).
- Tom Clements – player (QB), 1994 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1975–78; Saskatchewan Roughriders 1979; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1979, 1981–83; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1983–87).
- Mike "Pinball" Clemons – player (RB/KR), 2008 (Toronto Argonauts 1989–2000).

- Tommy Joe Coffey – player (WR/K), 1977 (Edmonton Eskimos 1959–60, 1962–66; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1967–72; Toronto Argonauts 1973).
- Lionel Conacher – player (K/R), 1963 (Toronto Toronto's (ORFU) 1920; Toronto Argonauts 1921–22; Toronto Crosse & Blackwell Chefs 1934).
- Peter Connellan – builder, 2012 (Calgary Dinos as head coach 1977–95).
- Rod Connop – player (OL), 2005 (Edmonton Eskimos 1982–97).
- Ralph Cooper – builder, 1992 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats organized the Hamilton merger in 1950, and as president 1950–52; various other roles within the league until the 1970s).
- Royal Copeland – player (HB/DB), 1988 (HMCS York Navy 1944; Toronto Argonauts 1945–49, 1952–56; Calgary Stampeders 1950–51).
- Jim Corrigall – player (DE), 1990 (Toronto Argonauts 1970–81).
- Bruce Coulter – builder, 1997 (McGill University as head coach 1958–61; various directorial-ships/presidencies with Canadian university sports).
- Grover Covington – player (DE), 2000 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1981–91).
- Ernie Cox – player (C), 1963 (Hamilton Tigers 1921–31).
- Ross Craig – player (RB), 1964 (Hamilton Alerts 1911–12; Hamilton Tigers 1913–15, 1919–20).

- Hec Crighton – builder, 1985 (served on CRU rules committee in 1947; instrumental in creation of university championship game).
- Carl Cronin – player (QB/LB/K), 1967 (Winnipeg 'Pegs 1932–33; Calgary Bronks 1935–39 as coach).
- Andrew Currie – builder, 1974 (officiating and rules committee 1935–70).
- Gord Currie – builder, 2005 (amateur football coach, notably with the Regina Rams 1965–76).
- Bernie Custis – builder, 1998 (amateur and college football coach 1958–88, notably with McMaster in the 1980s).
- Dave Cutler – player (K), 1998 (Edmonton Eskimos 1969–84).
- Wes Cutler – player (T/E/R), 1968 (University of Toronto 1931–32; Toronto Argonauts 1933–38).
- Peter Dalla Riva – player (TE), 1993 (Montreal Alouettes 1968–81).
- Andrew P. Davies – builder, 1969 (Ottawa Rough Riders as player/coach 1920s, executive officer, and team physician until 1948).*
- John DeGruchy – builder, 1963 (president of the CRU 1925, 1930, 1935; president of the ORFU for 25 years).
- Rocky DiPietro – player (SB/WR), 1997 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1978–91).
- George Dixon – player (RB), 1974 (Montreal Alouettes 1959–65).

- Paul Dojack – builder, 1978 (30 years of officiating in the west; officiating supervisor in 1971–72).
- Eck Duggan – builder, 1981 (Calgary Bronks as player 1936; Edmonton Eskimos player 1927–32, executive 1949–60).
- Seppi DuMoulin – builder, 1963 (Hamilton Tigers as player 1894–1906 and later as team president; Winnipeg Blue Bombers honorary coach 1919; later president of WCRFU, ORFU, and IRFU; instrumental in development of football in west during 1900–1920).
- Matt Dunigan – player (QB), 2006 (Edmonton Eskimos 1983–87; BC Lions 1988–89; Toronto Argonauts 1990–91; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1992–94; Birmingham Barracudas 1995; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1996; Calgary Stampeders 2004 as coach/GM).
- Ray Elgaard – player (SB), 2002 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1983–96).
- Abe Eliowitz – player (QB/P), 1969 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1933–35; Montreal Indians 1936–37).
- Eddie Emerson – player (C/FB/LB), 1963 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1912–15, 1919–35, 1937, as team president 1930–31, 1947–51).*
- Ron Estay – player (DE), 2003 (BC Lions 1972–73; Edmonton Eskimos 1973–82).
- Sam Etcheverry – player (QB), 1969 (Montreal Alouettes 1952–60).

- Terry Evanshen – player (WR), 1984 (Montreal Alouettes 1965, 1970–73; Calgary Stampeders 1966–69; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1974–77; Toronto Argonauts 1978).
- Bernie Faloney – player (QB), 1974 (Edmonton Eskimos 1954; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1957–64; Montreal Alouettes 1965–66; BC Lions 1967).
- Cap Fear – player (OW), 1967 (Toronto Argonauts 1919–25; Montreal AAA Winged Wheelers 1927; Hamilton Tigers 1928–32).
- Dave Fennell – player (DT), 1990 (Edmonton Eskimos 1974–83).
- Johnny Ferraro – player (P/K/QB/FB), 1966 (Hamilton Tigers 1934–35; Montreal Indians 1936–37, 1940; Montreal Nationals (ORFU 1938–39).
- Dan Ferrone – player (OG), 2013 (Toronto Argonauts 1981–88, 1990–92; Calgary Stampeders 1989).
- Norm Fieldgate – player (DE/OE/LB/DB), 1979 (BC Lions 1954–67).
- Willie Fleming – player (RB), 1982 (BC Lions 1959–66).
- Darren Flutie – player (WR), 2007 (BC Lions 1991–96; Edmonton Eskimos 1996–97; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1998–2002).
- Doug Flutie – player (QB), 2008 (BC Lions 1990–91; Calgary Stampeders 1992–95; Toronto Argonauts 1996–1997).
- Chris Flynn – player (QB), 2011 (Saint Mary's Huskies 1987–1990).

- Sidney Forster – builder, 2001 (instrumental in amateur football, notably the Northern Football Conference as coach and president).*
- William C. Foulds – builder, 1963 (University of Toronto as player 1908–10; Toronto Argonauts as head coach 1911, 1914–15; various positions in CRU).
- Gino Fracas – builder, 2011 (University of Alberta as head coach 1963–66; University of Windsor as head coach 1968–87).*
- Bill Frank – player (OT/DT), 2001 (BC Lions 1962–64; Toronto Argonauts 1965–68; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1968–76).*
- Brian Fryer – player (WR), 2013 (University of Alberta 1972–1975, Edmonton Eskimos 1978–85; Ottawa Rough Riders 1985).
- Greg B. Fulton – builder, 1995 (major statistician for the CFL from 1966–73 and a member of rules committee).
- Tony Gabriel – player (TE), 1984 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1971–74; Ottawa Rough Riders 1975–81).
- Gene Gaines – player (HB), 1994 (Montreal Alouettes 1961, 1970–76; Ottawa Rough Riders 1962–1969).
- Hugh Gall – player (HB/K), 1963 (University of Toronto 1908–12, 1914 as coach; Toronto Parkdale Canoe Club 1913).
- Jake Gaudaur – builder, 1984 (Hamilton Tigers and Hamilton Tiger-Cats as player 1940, 1948–53, director 1952–53, president 1954–55, general manager 1956–67; Toronto

Argonauts as player 1941; Toronto RCAF Hurricanes as player 1942; Toronto Indians as player 1945–46; Montreal Alouettes as player 1947; CFL commissioner 1968–84).

- Ed George – player (OL), 2005 (Montreal Alouettes 1970–74; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1978–80).
- Frank M. Gibson – builder, 1996 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats as organizing the merger in 1950 and serving in various executive roles until 1983).
- Tony Golab – player (RB/FW), 1964 (Sarnia Imperials 1938; Ottawa Rough Riders 1939–41, 1945–50; Ottawa RCAF Uplands 1942).
- Miles Gorrell – player (OT), 2013 (Calgary Stampeders 1978–82; Ottawa Rough Riders 1982; Montreal Concordes 1982–85; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1985–91, 1996; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1992–95).
- Bud Grant – builder, 1983 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers as player 1953–56, later as head coach 1957–66). As of 2010, the only coach to be a member of both the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame (NFL).
- Tommy Grant – player (RB), 1995 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1956–68; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1969).
- Herb Gray – player (DE/OG), 1983 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1956–65).
- Albert Grey, 4th Earl Grey – builder, 1963 (for donating the Grey Cup trophy in 1909).*
- Dean Griffing – player (C), 1965 (Regina Roughriders 1936–43, later as team manager 1953–57; Toronto

Balmy Beach Beachers 1944; Calgary Stampeders 1945–47, also as coach/part owner).

- Harry Crawford Griffith – builder, 1966 (University of Toronto as player/head coach 1908–10; president of the CRU 1913 and later served on rules committee).*
- Sydney Halter – builder, 1966 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers as executive 1934–53; first commissioner of the CFL 1958–66).
- Tracy Ham – player (QB), 2010 (Edmonton Eskimos 1987–92; Toronto Argonauts 1993; Baltimore Stallions 1994–95; Montreal Alouettes 1996–99).
- Frank Hannibal – builder, 1963 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers as president 1934–36, 1941, instrumental in bringing the Grey Cup west for the first time).
- Fritz Hanson – player (RB), 1963 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1935–46; Calgary Stampeders 1947–48).*
- Rodney Harding – player (DT), 2016 (Toronto Argonauts 1985–94; Memphis Mad Dogs 1995; Calgary Stampeders 1996).
- Dickie Harris – player (DB), 1998 (Montreal Alouettes 1972–80; Montreal Concordes 1982).
- Wayne Harris – player (LB), 1976 (Calgary Stampeders 1961–72).
- Herm Harrison – player (LB/TE), 1993 (Calgary Stampeders 1964–72).*

- Larry Haylor – builder, 2014 (University of Saskatchewan as coach 1971–73; University of Western Ontario as coach 1984–2006).
- Lew Hayman – builder, 1975 (Toronto Argonauts as coach 1932–40, later as executive 1955–83; Toronto RCAF Hurricanes as coach 1941–45; Montreal Alouettes as club organizer, coach, GM, and part owner 1946–54).
- John Helton – player (DE/DT), 1985 (Calgary Stampeders 1969–78; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1979–82).
- Ed Henick – builder, 2003 (amateur football coach, promoter, and organizer, notably with Saskatoon Hilltops 1947–1964).
- Garney Henley – player (DB/WR), 1979 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1960–75).
- Larry Highbaugh – player (DB), 2004 (BC Lions 1971–72; Edmonton Eskimos 1972–83).
- Tom Hinton – player (G), 1991 (BC Lions 1958–66).
- Condredge Holloway – player (QB), 1998 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1975–80; Toronto Argonauts 1981–86; BC Lions 1987).
- Dick Huffman – player (OT/DT), 1987 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1951–55; Calgary Stampeders 1956–57).
- Billy Hughes – builder, 1974 (Montreal AAA Winged Wheelers as coach 1919–22; Queen's University as coach 1922–26; Ottawa Rough Riders as coach 1935–36; Lachine RCAF Manning Pool (QRFU) as coach 1942–43).
- Jake Ireland – builder, 2013 (Referee 1979–2008).

- Bob Isbister – player (FW), 1965 (Hamilton Tigers 1906–15, 1919).
- Russ Jackson – player (QB), 1973 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1958–69; Toronto Argonauts 1975–76 as coach).
- Jack Jacobs – player (QB), 1963 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1950–54).
- Eddie James – player (FW), 1963 (Regina Roughriders 1920s–1930s; Regina Pats 1928; Winnipeg St. John's 1930, 1932; Winnipeg 'Pegs 1935).
- Gerry James – player (RB), 1981 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1952–55, 1957–62; Saskatchewan Roughriders 1964).
- Alondra Johnson – player (LB), 2009 (BC Lions 1989–90; Calgary Stampeders 1991–2003; Saskatchewan Roughriders 2004).
- Tyrone Jones – player (LB), 2012 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1983–87, 1989–1991; Saskatchewan Roughriders 1992; BC Lions 1993).
- Bobby Jurasin – player (DE), 2006 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1986–1997; Toronto Argonauts 1998).
- Greg Kabat – player (FW/G/QB), 1996 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1933–1940; Vancouver Grizzlies, 1941 as player/coach).
- Joe Kapp – player (QB), 1984 (Calgary Stampeders 1959–61; BC Lions 1961–66).
- Jerry Keeling – player (DB/QB), 1989 (Calgary Stampeders 1961–72; Ottawa Rough Riders 1973–75; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1975).

- Brian Kelly – player (WR), 1991 (Edmonton Eskimos 1979–87).
 - Ellison Kelly – player (G/T/DE/LB), 1992 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1960–70; Toronto Argonauts 1971–72).
 - Danny Kepley – player (LB), 1996 (Edmonton Eskimos 1975–84).
 - Eagle Keys – builder, 1990 (Montreal Alouettes as player 1949–51; Edmonton Eskimos as player 1952–54 and as coach 1959–63; Saskatchewan Roughriders as coach 1965–70; BC Lions as coach 1971–75).
 - Norm Kimball – builder, 1991 (Edmonton Eskimos as president and COO 1961–1985; Montreal Alouettes as partial owner 1986–87).
 - Tuffy Knight – builder, 2007 (Wilfrid Laurier University as coach 1966–83; Toronto Argonauts as Director of Player Personnel 1984–88; University of Waterloo as coach 1988–97).
 - Bob Kramer – builder, 1987 (Saskatchewan Roughriders as president 1951–53, 1961–65; president WIFU 1960).*
 - Joe Krol – player (RB/QB), 1963 (Hamilton Flying Wildcats 1942–44; Toronto Argonauts 1945–52, 1955)
 - Norman Kwong – player (RB), 1969 (Calgary Stampeders 1948–50; Edmonton Eskimos 1951–60).
- Éric Lapointe – player (RB), 2012 (Mount Allison University 1995–98).

- Ron Lancaster – player (QB), 1982 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1960–62; Saskatchewan Roughriders 1963–78, later as coach 1979–80; Edmonton Eskimos as coach 1991–97; Hamilton Tiger-Cats as coach 1998–2003, 2006).
- Smirle Lawson – player (RB), 1963 (University of Toronto 1908–10; Toronto Argonauts 1911–14).
- Pep Leadley – player (RB/K), 1963 (Hamilton Tigers 1919–20, 1926–30; Queen's University 1921–25).
- Les Lear – player (OL/DL), 1974 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1938–41; Winnipeg RCAF Bombers 1942–43; Calgary Stampeders as player/coach 1948).
- Ken Lehmann – player (LB), 2011 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1964–71; BC Lions 1972).
- Leo Lewis – player (RB), 1973 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1955–66).
- Moe Lieberman – builder, 1973 (University of Alberta as player 1915; Edmonton Eskimos as player 1921–22, manager 1922, director 1930s, and club organizer and director 1949–57).
- Don Loney – builder, 2013 (St. Francis Xavier University as coach 1957–73).
- Neil Lumsden – player (RB), 2014 (University of Ottawa 1972–75; Toronto Argonauts 1976–78; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1978–79; Edmonton Eskimos 1980–85).
- Earl Lunsford – player (FB), 1983 (Calgary Stampeders 1956, 1959–63).

- Marv Luster – player (OE/DB), 1990 (Montreal Alouettes 1961–64, 1973–74; Toronto Argonauts 1964–72).
- Don Luzzi – player (OT/DT), 1985 (Calgary Stampeders 1958–69).
- Gene Makowsky – player (OT), 2015 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1995–2011).
- Don Matthews – builder, 2011 (Edmonton Eskimos as assistant coach 1977–82; BC Lions as head coach 1983–87; Toronto Argonauts as head coach 1990, 1996–98, 2008; Saskatchewan Roughriders as head coach, 1991–93; Baltimore Stallions as head coach 1994–95; Edmonton Eskimos as head coach 1999–2000; Montreal Alouettes as head coach 2002–06).
- Harry McBrien – builder, 1978 (for officiating and rules committee; CRU executive 1951–1966; Grey Cup coordinator 1958–68).
- Jimmy McCaffrey – builder, 1967 (Ottawa Rough Riders as manager 1923–59; president IRFU and CRU).
- Dave McCann – builder, 1966 (Ottawa Rough Riders as player 1907–15, coach 1925–27; CRU president 1927, rules committee until 1958).*
- Chester McCance – player (K/E), 1976 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1937–41, 1945; Winnipeg RCAF Bombers 1942–43; Montreal Alouettes 1946–50).
- Don McDonald – builder, 2016 (administrator of minor football in Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon Hilltops).

- Frank McGill – player (QB), 1965 (McGill University 1910s; Montreal AAA Winged Wheelers 1910s–1920s).*
- George McGowan – player (WR), 2003 (Edmonton Eskimos 1971–78).
- Danny McManus – player (QB), 2011 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1990–92; BC Lions 1993–95; Edmonton Eskimos 1996–97; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1998–2005; Calgary Stampeders 2006).
- Donald McNaughton – builder, 1994 (coordinated the Schenley Awards, 1963–88).
- Don McPherson – builder, 1983 (Saskatchewan Roughriders as president 1956–57; BC Lions chaired the reorganization committee 1962).
- Ed McQuarters – player (DT), 1988 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1966–74).
- Johnny Metras – builder, 1980 (St. Michael's College (ORFU) as player 1933–34; University of Western Ontario as assistant coach 1935–38, head coach 1939–69, and other roles).
- Rollie Miles – player (RB/DB/LB), 1980 (Edmonton Eskimos 1951–61).
- Jim Mills – player (OT), 2009 (BC Lions 1986–93/95; Ottawa Rough Riders 1994).
- Derrell Mitchell – player (WR), 2016 (Toronto Argonauts 1997–03; Edmonton Eskimos 2004–06; Toronto Argonauts 2007).

- Percival Molson – player (RB/K), 1963 (McGill University 1898–1901; Montreal AAA Winged Wheelers 1902–06).
- Joe Montford – player (DE), 2011 (Shreveport Pirates 1995; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1996–2001, 2003–04; Toronto Argonauts 2002; Edmonton Eskimos 2005–2006).
- Ken Montgomery – builder, 1970 (Edmonton Eskimos as president 1952–54; president CRU and WIFU).
- Warren Moon – player (QB), 2001 (Edmonton Eskimos 1978–83). As of 2010, the only player to be a member of both the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame (NFL).
- Frank Morris – player (OG/DT), 1983 (HMCS York Navy 1942; HMCS Stadacona Navy 1943–44; Toronto Argonauts 1945–49; Edmonton Eskimos 1950–58).
- Teddy Morris – player and builder, 1964 (Toronto Argonauts 1931–39, later as assistant coach 1940–41, head coach 1945–49; HMCS York Navy as coach 1942–44).
- Angelo Mosca – player (DT/OT/MG), 1987 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1958–59, 1962–72; Ottawa Rough Riders 1960–61; Montreal Alouettes 1962).
- Cal Murphy – builder, 2004 (BC Lions as assistant coach 1972–75, head coach 1975–76; Montreal Alouettes as assistant coach 1977; Edmonton Eskimos as assistant coach 1978–82; Winnipeg Blue Bombers as head coach, GM, 1983–96; Saskatchewan Roughriders as head coach 1999).
- James Murphy – player (WR), 2000 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1983–90).

- Don Narcisse – player (WR), 2010 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1987–99).
- Roger Nelson – player (OT/DT/OG/OT), 1985 (Edmonton Eskimos 1954, 1956–67).
- Ray Nettles – player (LB), 2005 (BC Lions 1972–77; Toronto Argonauts 1977; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1978; Ottawa Rough Riders 1979; Calgary Stampeders 1980).
- Peter Neumann – player (DE), 1979 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1951–64).
- Jack Newton – builder, 1964 (University of Toronto player/captain 1907–09; Toronto Argonauts player/coach 1912; Sarnia Imperials coach 1919–29).
- Red O'Quinn – player (E), 1981 (Montreal Alouettes 1952–59, later as general manager; Ottawa Rough Riders as general manager).
- Uzooma Okeke – player (OT), 2014 (Shreveport Pirates 1994-1995; Ottawa Rough Riders 1996; Montreal Alouettes 1997–2010).
- Tony Pajaczkowski – player (DE/G), 1988 (Calgary Stampeders 1955–65; Montreal Alouettes 1966–67).
- Jackie Parker – player (QB/HB/WR/K/P), 1971 (Edmonton Eskimos 1954–62; Toronto Argonauts 1963–65; BC Lions 1968).
- James Parker – player (LB/DE), 2001 (Edmonton Eskimos 1980–83; BC Lions 1984–89; Toronto Argonauts 1990–91).

- Lui Passaglia – player (K/P), 2004 (BC Lions 1976–2000).
- Hal Patterson – player (OE/DB), 1971 (Montreal Alouettes 1954–60; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1961–67).
- Elfrid Payton – player (DE), 2010 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1991–93, 2000, 2004; Shreveport Pirates 1994; Baltimore Stallions 1994–95; Montreal Alouettes 1996–99; Toronto Argonauts 2001; Edmonton Eskimos 2002–03).
- Gordon Perry – player (RB), 1970 (Montreal AAA Winged Wheelers 1928–34).
- Norm Perry – player (RB), 1963 (Sarnia Imperials 1928–35).
- Rudy Phillips – player (OG), 2009 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1981–84; Edmonton Eskimos 1986–87; Calgary Stampeders 1988).
- Joe Pistilli – builder, 2010 (Quebec Junior Football League as manager and other tasks 1967–present).
- Allen Pitts – player (WR), 2006 (Calgary Stampeders 1990–2000).
- Willie Pless – player (LB), 2005 (Toronto Argonauts 1986–89; BC Lions 1990; Edmonton Eskimos 1991–98; Saskatchewan Roughriders 1999).
- Ken Ploen – player (QB/DB), 1975 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1957–67).
- Joe Poplawski – player (SB), 1998 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1978–86).

- Ken Preston – builder, 1990 (Queen's University as player 1936–39; Winnipeg Blue Bombers as player 1941–42; Ottawa Rough Riders as player 1945; Saskatchewan Roughriders as player 1940, 1943, player/coach 1946–48, and general manager 1958–78).
- Mike Pringle – player (RB), 2008 (Edmonton Eskimos 1992, 2003–04; Sacramento Gold Miners 1993; Baltimore Stallions 1994–95; Montreal Alouettes 1996–2002).
- Silver Quilty – player (FW), 1966 (University of Ottawa 1907–1912; Ottawa Rough Riders 1913; McGill University 1914).
- Moe Racine – player (OT/K), 2014 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1958–74).
- Dave Raimey – player (RB/KR), 2000 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1965–68; Toronto Argonauts 1969–74).
- Russ Rebholz – player (RB/QB), 1963 (Winnipeg St. John's 1932; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1933–38).
- George Reed – player (RB), 1979 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1963–75).
- Ted Reeve – player, 1963 (Toronto Argonauts 1923; Toronto Balmy Beach Beachers 1924–30, later as coach 1945–46; Queen's University as coach 1933–38; Montreal Royals as coach 1939; Toronto Beaches Indians as coach, 1948).
- Dave Ridgway – player (K), 2003 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1982–95).
- Frank Rigney – player (OT), 1984 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1958–67).

- Al Ritchie – builder, 1963 (Saskatchewan Roughriders as manager 1921–28 and coach 1930–32, 1935, 1942).
- Charles Roberts – player (RB), 2014 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 2001–08; BC Lions 2008).
- Larry Robinson – player (DB/K/R), 1998 (Calgary Stampeders 1961–75).
- Rocco Romano – player (OG), 2007 (Calgary Stampeders 1987, 1992–2000; Toronto Argonauts 1988; Ottawa Rough Riders 1989; BC Lions 1990–91).
- Mike Rodden – builder, 1964 (Queen's University as player 1910–13, coach 1916; McGill University as player 1914; Toronto Parkdale Canoe Club as player 1915, coach 1921–22; Toronto Argonauts as player 1919–20, coach 1920, 1926; Toronto Balmy Beach Beachers as coach 1924; Hamilton Tigers as coach 1927–30, 1937).
- Paul Rowe – player (RB), 1964 (Calgary Bronks 1938–40; Calgary Stampeders 1945–50).
- Martin Ruby – player (OT/DT), 1974 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1951–57).
- Jeff Russel – player (RB), 1963 (Royal Military College of Canada 1917–20; McGill University 1920–22; Montreal AAA Winged Wheelers 1922–25).
- Joe Ryan – builder, 1968 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers as manager 1931–41).
- Ralph Sazio – builder, 1988 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats as player 1950–53, head coach 1963–67, general manager 1968–75,

1980, president 1973–77, vice-president of football operations 1978–80; Toronto Argonauts as president 1981–90).

- Tom Scott – player (SB), 1998 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1974–77; Edmonton Eskimos 1978–83; Calgary Stampeders 1984).

- Vince Scott – player (DG), 1982 (Hamilton Wildcats 1949; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1950, 1952–62).

- Dick Shatto – player (FB/HB/SB/F), 1975 (Toronto Argonauts 1954–65).

- Frank "Shag" Shaughnessy – builder, 1963 (McGill University as coach 1912–28).

- Tom Shepherd – builder, 2008 (Saskatchewan Roughriders as president 1966–present).

- Hap Shouldice – builder, 1977 (mostly for contributions to league rules and officiating including the CFL's first director of officiating in 1972).

- Geroy Simon – player (WR), 2017 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1999–2000, BC Lions 2001–2012, Saskatchewan Roughriders 2013)

- Ben Simpson – player (HB/K), 1963 (Queen's University 1899–1903; Hamilton Tigers 1904–10).

- Bob Simpson – player (FW/RB/DB), 1976 (Windsor Rockets 1949; Ottawa Rough Riders 1950–62).

- Jimmie Simpson – builder, 1985 (Hamilton Tigers as player 1928–38; Hamilton Flying Wildcats as player 1943–44; Hamilton Tiger-Cats as trainer 1953–74; also for officiating 1945–56).*

- Karl Slocomb – builder, 1989 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers as executive 1940s–1950s, president 1953; later as president of WIFU 1956 and CRU 1960).
- Victor Spencer – builder, 2006 (Hamilton Tigers as player BC Lions as club organizer, director, and executive in the 1950s, serving other roles since then).
- David Sprague – player (RB/DT), 1963 (Hamilton Tigers 1930–32; Ottawa Rough Riders 1933–40).
- Harry Spring – builder, 1976 (Meraloma Club (BCRFU) as president 1937; BC Lions as treasurer 1955–56, vice-president 1957, and president 1958–59).*
- Milt Stegall – player (SB), 2012 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1995–2008).
- Art Stevenson – player (RB/QB/K), 1969 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1937–41).
- Ron Stewart – player (RB), 1977 (Queen's University 1953–57; Ottawa Rough Riders 1958–70).
- Bummer Stirling – player (K/RB), 1966 (Sarnia Imperials 1929–38).
- Annis Stukus – builder, 1974 (Toronto Argonauts as player 1935–41; Toronto Oakwood Indians as player/coach 1942; Toronto Balmy Beach Beachers as player 1943; HMCS York Navy Bulldogs as player 1944; Toronto Indians as player 1945–46; Edmonton Eskimos as player 1949–50, coach/general manager 1949–51; BC Lions as coach/general manager 1954–55).

- Don Sutherin – player (DB/K), 1992 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1958, 1960–66; Ottawa Rough Riders 1967–69; Toronto Argonauts 1970).
- Bill Symons – player (HB), 1997 (BC Lions 1966; Toronto Argonauts 1967–73).
- Piffles Taylor – builder, 1963. (University of Toronto as player pre-WWI; Regina Roughriders as player 1914–16, 1919–20, later as president 1934–36; Regina Boat Club as player 1920–21 and coach 1922–23; later president of WIFU and CRU).*Dave Thelen – player (RB), 1989 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1958–64; Toronto Argonauts 1965–66).
- Brian Timmis – player (OT), 1963 (Ottawa Seconds (QRFU) 1919; Regina Roughriders 1920–22; Ottawa Rough Riders 1923; Hamilton Tigers 1924–38).
- Frank Tindall – builder, 1984 (Toronto Argonauts as player 1933–34; Queen's University as coach 1939–75).
- Buddy Tinsley – player (OT/DT), 1982 (Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1950–60).*
- Andy Tommy – player (FW/HB), 1989 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1933–41, 1946–47; Toronto Argonauts 1945).
- Herb Trawick – player (OT), 1975 (Montreal Alouettes 1946–57).
- Joe Tubman – player (HB/K), 1968 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1919–31).
- Whit Tucker – player (HB/F), 1993 (University of Western Ontario 1960–61; Ottawa Rough Riders 1962–70).

- Ted Urness – player (G/T/C), 1989 (Saskatchewan Roughriders 1961–70).
- Kaye Vaughan – player (OG/OT/DT), 1978 (Ottawa Rough Riders 1953–64).
- Terry Vaughn – player (SB/WR), 2011 (Calgary Stampeders 1995–98; Edmonton Eskimos 1999–2004; Montreal Alouettes 2005; Hamilton Tiger-Cats 2006).
- Pierre Vercheval – player (OG), 2007 (Edmonton Eskimos 1988–92; Toronto Argonauts 1993–97; Montreal Alouettes 1998–2001).
- Virgil Wagner – player (RB/HB), 1980 (Montreal Alouettes 1946–54).
- Chris Walby – player (OT), 2003 (Montreal Alouettes 1981; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1981–96).
- Clair Warner – builder, 1965 (Saskatchewan Roughriders as player 1924–32, executive 1934–70, president 1941).
- Bert Warwick – builder, 1964 (Winnipeg St. John's as player; Winnipeg Blue Bombers as coach 1945, executive; later as executive of CRU/CFL).
- Glen Weir – player (DT), 2009 (Montreal Alouettes 1972–1981; Montreal Concordes 1982–84).
- Huck Welch – player (RB/K), 1964 (Hamilton Tigers 1928–29, 1935–37); Montreal AAA Winged Wheelers 1930–34).

- James West – player (LB), 2016 (Calgary Stampede 1982–84; Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1985–92; BC Lions 1993).
- Tom Wilkinson – player (QB), 1987 (Toronto Argonauts 1967–70; BC Lions 1971; Edmonton Eskimos 1972–81).
- Gizmo Williams – player (KR/WR), 2006 (Edmonton Eskimos 1986–2000).
- Al Wilson – player (OL), 1997 (BC Lions 1972–86).
- Seymour Wilson – builder, 1984 (Hamilton Tigers as player 1930–37; officiating 1938–70).
- Earl Winfield – player (WR/KR), 2013 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1987–97).
- Harvey Wylie – player (DB/KR), 1980 (Calgary Stampede 1956–64).
- Jim Young – player (WR), 1991 (Queen's University 1961–63; BC Lions 1967–79).
- Dan Yochum – player (OT), 2004 (Montreal Alouettes 1972–1980 and Edmonton Eskimos 1980).
- Bill Zock – player (G/T), 1984 (Toronto Argonauts 1937–41; Toronto Balmy Beach Beachers 1942–44; Edmonton Eskimos 1951–54).
- Ben Zambiasi – player (LB), 2004 (Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1978–87; Toronto Argonauts 1988).

There is also a wing of the Hall of Fame dedicated to reporters (media).

- Ernie Afaganis, 1988
- Arthur "Tony" Allen, 1981
- Perc Allen, 1991
- Ralph Allen, 1990
- John Badham, 1995
- Mike Beamish, 2014
- Eric Bishop, 1987
- Bob Bratina, 1998
- Rheaume "Rocky" Brisebois, 1982
- Stephen Brunt, 2007
- Austin "Dink" Carroll, 1986
- Tom Casey, 2004
- Rick Cluff, 1999
- Cam Cole, 2002
- James Coleman, 1980
- Jim Cox, 1997
- Gordon Craig, 1996
- Chris Cuthbert, 2014
- Darrell Davis, 2006
- Vern DeGeer, 1981
- Dave Dryburgh, 1981
- Pierre Dufault, 2001

- Milt Dunnell, 1986
- Johnny Esaw, 1984
- Trent Frayne, 1987
- R.J. "Bob" Frewin, 1990
- Kent "Cookie" Gilchrist, 2005
- Bill Good, Sr., 1982
- Bryan Hall, 1989
- Bob Hanley, 1992
- Bob Hughes, 1990
- Jim Hunt, 1987
- Gorde Hunter, 1983
- Bob Irving, 1997
- Dale Isaac, 2003
- Mal Isaac, 2003
- Terry Jones, 2002
- Jim Kearney, 1993
- Graham Kelly, 2002
- George Kent, 1988
- Terry Kielty, 1991
- Eddie MacCabe, 1985
- Al Maki, 2006
- Pat Marsden, 1989

- Norm Marshall, 1989
- Peter Martin, 2000
- Jack Matheson, 1986
- Rick Matsumoto, 1994
- Al McCann, 1993
- J. P. McConnell, 1996
- Wes McKnight, 1985
- Paul McLean, 2009
- Tom "Scotty" Melville, 1988
- Ivan Miller, 1979
- Steve Milton, 2012
- Bob Moir, 1985
- Dave Naylor, 2015
- Ken Newans, 1991
- Andy O'Brien, 1980
- Basil "Baz" O'Meara, 1979
- Joe Pascucci, 2015
- H.L. "Hal" Pawson, 1983
- Bob Picken, 1992
- Jim Proudfoot, 1992
- Tony Proudfoot, 2008
- Pierre Proulx, 1985

- Gillis Purcell, 1987
- Dan Ralph, 2012
- Ted Reeve, 1979
- Al "Rocky" Ruckaber, 2005
- Lloyd Saunders, 1986
- Bill Selnes, 2013
- Fred "Scooter" Sgambati, 1989
- Hal "Siggy" Sigurdson, 1994
- Doug Smith, 1983
- Maurice "Smitty" Smith, 1982
- Mark Stephen, 2013
- Bill Stephenson, 1988
- Annis Stukus, 1980
- Jack Sullivan, 1994
- Erwin Swangard, 1984
- Ed Tait, 2011
- Jim Taylor, 1989
- Lowell Ullrich, 2014
- Henry Viney, 1980
- Gord Walker, 1982
- Hal Walker, 1979
- Jack Wells, 1981

- John Wells, 1995
- Bill Westwick, 1984
- Brian Williams, 2010
- Don Wittman, 1990
- Herb Zurkowsky, 2008

According to the Canadian football Hall of Fame web-site, the Canadian Football Hall of Fame has closed its doors to the public until further notice.

To connect with the Canadian Football Hall Of Fame, contact: Mark DeNobile, Executive Director of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and Museum

Telephone: 905-528-7566

Fax: 905-528-9781

E-mail: mark@cfhof.ca

Sources for this chapter include the Canadian Hall of Fame web-site, Wikipedia and various archives

Chapter Sixteen

A ‘New’ Form of Football

Fantasy Football, betting on football and e-sports have become a mainstay of social activity and an integral part of the Canadian and American sports culture. These are games within a game. As far as Fantasy Football is concerned, it forms a ‘virtual’ reality game of which the participants serve as the General Managers of ‘virtual’ professional gridiron football teams. The players choose their team rosters by participating in a mock draft in which players of a real football league are available. Points are compiled on the actual performances of football players in real game competitions.

Fantasy Football mostly involves the National Football League, Canadian Football League or College football. According to the media reports, approximately forty-one million people play fantasy sports every year with an average age of thirty-four. Eighteen per cent of the market is held by teens, an important demographic because over eighty per cent of all users say they

are likely to continue playing for at least the next decade and more than forty per cent say they will play for life. Eighty per cent of all team managers are male almost ninety per cent of them being white. The economic impacts of Fantasy Football are vast in number and value. Most of the impacts are positive on the economy overall, but there are some relatively minor drawbacks. Growth rates in Fantasy Football showed no signs of slowing down over the past few years. While team managers are drawn to this new form of football, they can get started and play for free. They are still likely to spend dollars on this complementary industry.

There are two styles of Fantasy Football:

Traditional, which is mostly run by amateurs and in which the competition can run either for an entire season or many seasons if it is a keeper league, or daily, an accelerated version in which the contests are conducted over shorter periods, such as a week or a single day.

Daily Fantasy Football is owned by commercial internet companies who charge a percentage of each betting pool. In the US, the two giants of this form of gaming are FanDuel and DraftKings. Modern Fantasy Football can be traced back to the late Wilfred "Bill the Gill" Winkenbach, an Oakland area businessman and a limited partner in the Oakland Raiders. In a New York hotel room during a 1962 Raiders eastern cross-country

trip, Winkenbach, along with Raiders Public Relations man Bill Tunnel and Tribune reporter Scotty Stirling, developed a system of organization and a rulebook, which would eventually be the basis of modern Fantasy Football.

The inaugural league was called the GOPPPL (Greater Oakland Professional Pigskin Prognosticators League), and the first draft took place in the rumpus room of Winkenbach's home in Oakland, California in August 1963. The league consisted of eight members, made up of administrative affiliates of the AFL, pro football journalists, or someone who had purchased or sold ten season tickets for the Raiders' 1963 season. Each roster consisted of the following in the GOPPPL: two quarterbacks, four halfbacks, two fullbacks, four offensive ends, two kick/punt returners, two field goal kickers, two defensive backs/linebackers and two defensive linemen. The current GOPPPL roster now includes: two quarterbacks, four halfbacks, six wide receivers/tight ends, two kickers, two defensive backs, one return team, and a bonus pick for any position.

In 1969, Andy Mousalimas, an original creator of GOPPPL and participant in the inaugural draft, brought the game to his sports bar, the King's X in Oakland, California where he added another couple of leagues. When the patrons of other Oakland and San Francisco bars visited for trivia contests they soon learned of Fantasy Football and passed the word about it. Due to

the time consuming nature of the game's scoring it was difficult to pick up and spread slowly across the country.

The Indoor Football League (IFL) began in Cleveland, Ohio in the fall of 1980 by a group of six students at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Charter members Tom Spear and Jeff Kornreich came up with the idea of forming a league after reading a short article by Glenn Ferry in the September 1980 issue of Inside Sports magazine. The history of the league has been documented in a video produced by the Fantasy Sports Network in their series "Out of My League."

In 1985, The Grandstand Sports Services launched the first nationally available Fantasy Football leagues online through Q-Link (later America Online). Between 1985 and 1996, the Grandstand continued to improve on the game and the technology by being the first to offer automated drafting, real-time scoring, real-time trading and transactions and continuous leagues.

The first national Fantasy Football competition, Pigskin Playoff, was developed in 1989 by Lee Marc, Robert Barbieri and Brad Wendkos of Phoneworks who teamed with a West Coast Ad Agency (Wakeman & deForest) to launch the game in 1990 in a number of newspapers throughout the country including the Detroit Free Press, Los Angeles Times, Arizona Republic, Press

Democrat. Archives of Pigskin Playoff are available online and in most public libraries.

Pigskin Playoff is what current Daily Fantasy Sports are modeled after in that it was the first game to allow significantly large numbers of participants to compete against one another for prizes and more importantly converted football statistics into a simple scoring system. Participants created a team of NFL player's, earned stats for those players based on actual performance, traded those players on a daily basis, and accrued points in an effort to compete against one another to win prizes.

In 1997, CBS launched the beta version of the first publicly available free Fantasy Football website. The game immediately became widely popular. Within three years, all major sports media websites launched competing fantasy football hosting websites. The NFL released their official game in 2010, NFL.com Fantasy Football, further driving industry growth. Fantasy Football is now the single most important marketing tool for the NFL. Today, it is estimated over twenty million people compete in public and private leagues online nationally.

In 2009, a fantasy football-based sitcom, the League, was created by the husband-and-wife team of Jeff Schaffer (Curb Your Enthusiasm, Seinfeld) and Jackie Marcus Schaffer (Disturbia, EuroTrip), who serve as executive producers and directors. The series is produced by FX Productions.

In 2017, Fantasy Football analytics have taken on a larger role than could ever be expected. The science at which predictions are made and the correlation they have with the future results are at an all-time high. There are many companies spending millions of dollars per year on top talent in the world of analytics. The result has paid heavy dividends to those companies making the best hiring decisions as they've in turn received billions in advertisement revenue.

There are many different methods of organizing Fantasy Football leagues, some of which may be combined. The two most popular league types are head-to-head and total points. In head-to-head leagues, a fantasy team matches up against a different fantasy team from the league each week. The team that receives the most points of the two receives a win for that week. Points are dictated by the scoring system that is either standard set by the website or custom set by the league.

A team's total is the sum of all players' points that were placed in a starting slot by the team owner for the day they were playing (as opposed to being on the bench, in which any points gained would not count). Teams with the best win-loss record advance to the playoffs. If two teams have the same record, tiebreakers are employed, based on league preference.

- Total points leagues are leagues in which teams accumulate points on an ongoing basis. The league standings are determined by the teams' total points.
- All play leagues are leagues in which all teams play each other each week. For example, if there are fourteen teams in the league, the top scoring team that week would post a 13 and 0 Record, with the second highest scoring team posting a 1 and 1 record and so on.
- A Keeper style league allows teams to keep set number players from one year to the next.
- A Salary cap league is a particular type of fantasy league which adds another factor of realism similar to the NFL: the salary cap. Each player has an associated salary and the total spent on all the players on a team has a maximum - the "salary cap."
- In Auction leagues, a team is composed of players who are bought auction-style during the draft, as opposed to using traditional snake drafts that are common in Fantasy Football.
- In Dynasty leagues, a team keeps all players from year to year and replenishes rosters through rookie drafts. Dynasty leagues are enhanced versions of keeper leagues.

- In Two quarterback leagues, a team has the ability to start two quarterbacks in their weekly lineup. This changes the value of the quarterback position, as it doubles the number of quarterbacks able to start in any given week. However, in any format the number of quarterbacks who can start is determined by the league commissioner.
- In Empire leagues, teams compete in a dynasty-format and prizes are offered for league winners. A special side-pot is created from entry fees each year. Once an owner wins the league two years in a row, the Empire pot goes to that owner, and the league starts over.
- SuperFlex Leagues are leagues in which teams can start a QB in the flex position. Generally, a superflex position is added in addition to traditional roster spots such as a flex position. Often, defenses and kickers are removed from these league formats.
- IDP or Individual Defensive Player leagues are leagues where teams draft individual defensive players in addition to offensive players, as opposed to drafting an NFL team's defense.
- Pirate Leagues are leagues where a winning team gets to choose a player from his opponent's roster.

- Daily fantasy sports is like traditional fantasy sports where players draft a team of real world athletes who then score fantasy points according to set scoring rules. However, instead of being stuck with the same team through a whole season, daily fantasy sports contests last just one day (or in the case of NFL, one weekend). Users can play head-to-head or in larger field tournaments. Both cash leagues and free contests are available for play.

Each year, Fantasy Football leagues have a draft (note: in dynasty leagues, this normally consists of NFL rookies only), where each team drafts NFL players. These players are kept unless they are traded or dropped, whereby they enter a pool of unowned players that any team may claim. In most leagues, no player may be owned by more than one team, although some leagues do allow for this. There are essentially two types of drafts. In a traditional "serpentine" or "snake" draft, owners take turns drafting players in a "snake" method, i.e. the owner who picks first in the odd rounds picks last in the even rounds, in the interests of fairness.

In an auction draft, each owner has an imaginary budget which he must use to purchase all his players in an auction format. Owners take turns nominating players for open bid. The owner who bids the highest on each player receives that player, reducing their remaining budget accordingly. Auction drafts are

viewed as the more fair method since every owner begins on equal ground. A few leagues use a hybrid of the two styles, selecting a portion of their roster via auction, with the remainder selected through a serpentine method.

The most commonly used strategies are value-based drafting and opinion-based drafting. Value base drafting entails projecting the total fantasy point value for each player in the draft and then figuring their value with respect to other players at their position, while standard opinion-based drafting requires ranking each player based on your opinion of worth, or other people's opinion of said player's worth.

Drafts can be conducted in "live" or "auto" formats. Live drafts involve players utilizing real-time strategy and reactionary measures to acquire specific available players. Auto-drafts use preliminary draft rankings set by each team to automate the draft cycle and establish the teams. Live drafts are often preferred to automated ones as they are believed to require more skill.

The location of Fantasy Football drafts depends on the geographic location of each team manager. With the rise of the internet, all providers have made online drafting an option for leagues in which the managers are too far away to meet up in person. Other leagues make a tradition of meeting up to draft, and in some leagues, manager's travel cross-country to attend annual league drafts. Group drafts, conducted in-person, are

typically scheduled many weeks in advance. Common locations include boardrooms, offices, bars, or dining establishments. Once the league is full with team owners, the order of the draft numbers should be initiated by either a random in-person or computer-based draft order, or, in a keeper or dynasty league, the draft order runs in reverse order of the previous year's standings.

Each team is allowed a pre-determined number of players on its roster, as well as a specified number at each position that can or must be used in each game the "starters". Owners for each team then determine each week which players will start (within the rules) and which will be "benched". Just like in real football, bench players can become starters for various reasons: due to other players' injury, poor performance, or if another player's team has a bye that week.

Each week, owners choose their starters for a game before a certain deadline. Whether to sit or start a player is usually based on strategic considerations including the player's past and expected performance, defensive match ups, and the team he is playing that week and so on.

Each team owner must designate which players from the team roster will be starters each week - i.e. the only players who will "score" any points. The following example is similar to many common formats required for a starting lineup:

- 1 Quarterback (QB)

- 2 Running Backs (RB)
- 2 Wide Receivers (WR)
- 1 Flex RB/WR/TEs (RB/WR/TE)
- 1 Tight End (TE)
- 1 Placekicker (K)
- 1 Team Defense/Special Teams (D/ST)
- 6 Bench (BN)

There are many variants on this. Some leagues use individual defensive players (IDPs) and in some cases, a punter instead of or in addition to a combined Team Defense/Special Teams. Some other leagues use separate Defense and Special Teams. Another variant is the "flex" position, which can be filled by a player in one of several positions. Flex positions are often limited to "WR/TE", "RB/WR", or "RB/WR/TE". Traditionally, this flex was required to be an RB, WR, or TE; however, some leagues allow any position to fill this flex slot as an "OP" (any player who plays a position on offense). Some leagues also have a two-quarterback requirement for a starting lineup, providing yet another twist into the complexity of different scoring systems and lineups. You may not have more than two people from the same team on your roster.

League managers earn their team points based on their starting players' performances in weekly NFL games. Players accumulate points based purely on their statistical output. For example, a touchdown might be worth six points while each yard passed, rushed, or carried may be worth a certain number of points, and so on. In most cases, players earn points for passing, rushing, and receiving yards.

Although kickers can theoretically score points through touchdowns or yards rushed and received, they accumulate most of their points through field goals and extra points. The team defense and special teams position earns points through defensive plays (such as turnovers, quarterback sacks, safeties, and blocked kicks) and by limiting the offensive points of the opposing teams. Also, whereas points are awarded to players for positive plays, points are taken away from players for negative plays such as turnovers or missed kicks.

The standard scoring system comprises a well-respected baseline of statistic/point-value pairs designed to promote balance across the various fantasy positions. This is the typical scoring configuration chosen by first time commissioners because it is a very basic points system which is fair and intuitive for fantasy novices.

A typical standard scoring format would look very similar to this, although there may be slight discrepancies in points

awarded to kickers (depending on your league host's scoring limitations):

- 1 point for 25 passing yards
- 1 point for 10 rushing yards
- 1 point for ten receiving yards
- 6 points for a touchdown
- 4 points for a passing touchdown
- 2 points for every interception thrown or fumble
- 1 point for each extra point made
- 3 points for each zero to thirty-nine yard field goal, four points for each forty to forty-nine yard field goal, five points for each fifty plus yard field goal
- 2 points per turnover gained by defense
- 1 point per sack by the defense
- 2 points for a safety by defense
- 6 points for each touchdown scored by defense
- 2 points for each blocked kick

Points-per-reception leagues were created as an effort to make wide receivers and tight ends more relevant to fantasy scoring. In this alternate scoring system, fractional or full points are awarded for every reception tallied by a player. This changes

the value of players in standard scoring systems as running backs catch many passes become more valuable, those who catch fewer are less valuable, and so on. Certain leagues vary the points respective positions earn for receptions.

Another scoring system counts only touchdowns, touchdown passes, and field goals for points. Many of the first leagues were pure-scoring leagues as this provided for easier tracking of team points throughout the season. As the game matured and moved online, it became easier to track yardage and more sophisticated scoring configurations were adopted.

An alternate scoring format is the "pure yardage" league, in which touchdowns are ignored, and each player's passing, rushing and receiving yards are totaled. Some yardage leagues also convert defensive stats into yards (example, fifty yards for an interception, twenty yards for a sack), whether for a team's defense, or individual players.

An alternative method for scoring defense is Individual defensive players or IDP. The main difference being, that players typically draft anywhere from three to seven individual defensive players as opposed to just one team defense. Sometimes there are required positions to fill like two Linebackers, two Defensive Backs and two Defensive Linemen and sometimes it's just five defensive players of any position you choose. There are many different ways to draft IDPs and many have found this makes the

part of the fantasy draft more exciting. For instance, instead of drafting a fifth wide receiver in the sixteenth round that will typically be on your bench or dropped part way through the season, you are instead drafting a "full-time" starting defensive player that can help you win your league.

Some leagues allow bonuses to be awarded to players for exceptionally good performances, like a QB throwing for over three-hundred yards. Running backs or wide receivers could similarly be awarded a performance bonus based on accumulating more than one-hundred yards on the ground or through the air. Kickers could even be awarded for long field goals, generally fifty yards or longer.

In many Fantasy Football leagues, a player that receives a lot of points in one week may save them to use in a future fantasy game. Specific rules vary from league to league. This ruling has many variations, as does the scoring systems of Fantasy Football leagues, but the ruling that is considered to be "standard" is defined as follows: Any team that scores in excess of 140 points in any one week is eligible for the rollover rule; provided they won the match-up for that week; and with the score of 140 points would have still won the match-up for the week. If the previous is true than the rollover ruling applies, which states; "any team eligible for the rule may use the points earned in excess of 140 on

any future match-up for the remainder of the season”, with the following provisions attached.

The team electing to use rollover points must make it publicly known to all other teams, twenty-four hours prior to the kickoff of the first game, that they will be using the points that week; rollover points cannot be used for post-season games; rollover points must be used completely and cannot be broken up over multiple weeks, i.e. if a team has five rollover points they must be used on one week, not one point per week for five weeks; rollover points must be used in the current season; if rollover points have not been used and a team is eligible for additional from another week the points will be added and can only be used in one week.

Many leagues are composed of friends, family, co-workers and even strangers. They are there to prove which one of them is the greatest couch coach. Millions upon millions of dollars are won and lost each year in fantasy league betting. Some leagues are managed by players in the leagues while other leagues are run by independent businesses. The Federal government has determined that fantasy league gambling is not a "game of chance" and as such is not illegal; however, alterations to the rules can cause a fantasy league to skew too far into chance and lose federal protection. At the state level, many states, including Arizona, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana and Vermont have banned

certain activities related to Fantasy Football, such as collection of league fees and payout of winnings, when done so online. Florida has an outright ban on all Fantasy Football, though how the ban is enforced appears to be unclear.

Some Fantasy Football leagues wager things other than money, such as the loser of the league has to get a tattoo, and that tattoo has to be of what the winner of the league wants. The only thing that the loser gets any say in is the location of the tattoo. The owners of the teams have to sign a contract before the season to agree to the punishment if they lose. Other high-stakes leagues offer prizes of US\$250,000 to the ultimate champion.

There are a few dynasty leagues that follow the NFL's roster model and score all possible NFL players at all individual positions. Offensive linemen (OL) are scored by total yards and points minus sacks given up. Fullbacks are partially scored as offensive linemen because of their blocking duties. Kick and punt returners are scored by yardage and touchdowns. Punters are scored by net average and punts inside the twenty yard line.

One of the largest sources of revenue in Fantasy Football is ad revenue. Driven mostly by sports sites, revenue generated by ads on Fantasy Football programming is estimated at two to five billion dollars annually. Ad rates vary greatly, and many content providers aren't willing to give specific details on what they

charge, but sites can charge an estimated two to ten dollars per thousand page views. The advertising revenue can be especially lucrative because fantasy team managers are such heavy internet users. They create, on average, four times more page views than those that don't play fantasy sports. Advertising isn't limited to just sports sites and television. Demand for Fantasy Football information has spread to mobile applications, which carry banner ads at the bottom or top of each screen.

Additionally, their team managers pour money into the industry themselves. Many fantasy leagues require an entry fee, which are used to fund prizes for the league winners. These fees and their resulting payoffs are typically small, and represent more of a transfer of wealth between players than contributions to the overall economy. However, team managers are also more likely to spend on other industries. When compared to non-fantasy sports fans, team managers are significantly more likely to purchase alcohol, airline tickets, and sports magazines. They are also more likely to purchase fast food and soft drinks.

It has also created several complementary and derivative industries. Team managers will spend on subscription-based information sites such as rotoworld.com, draftsharks.com and Football Guys to gain an informational advantage. Fantasy leagues may also engage services to make their things run smoothly and settle disputes. Leagues may deposit collected fees with Fantasy

Football specific escrow companies, and settle disputes regarding trades or scoring by using lawyer-run Fantasy Football arbitration websites for a flat fee per resolution.

The excitement of drafting a team each year has led to a new derivative of day or week leagues, which offer the opportunity to draft a new team and play a single game each week. It has also worked its way into pop culture with an estimated \$1.67 billion contributed to the economy as of 2012. TV sitcoms about groups of friends playing each other in Fantasy Football, cable networks dedicating blocks of programming specifically to them, twenty-four hours a day, satellite radio channels reporting fantasy news and services designed to provide team managers with alerts about their player's status to their phones.

The rise of popularity of Fantasy Football has led to the growth of companies such as Fanduel and Draftkings. Draftkings has reported in net \$304 million in entry fees in 2014. This rise has also been coupled with a rise of interest in applying higher level mathematics and computer science into the fantasy industry. Scientists with advanced degrees in mathematics, statistics, and computer science apply algorithms, optimizations, and advanced statistics in order to hypothesize the best lineup and create the best outcome. This has led to companies exclusively with this purpose in mind, specializing in this sports analytics.

The explosive popularity of fantasy sports, coupled with the availability of venues showcasing numerous live football games via satellite, has had significant effects on football viewing and rooting habits among participants. Fantasy sports players watch more game telecasts buy more tickets and spend money at stadiums at a much higher rate than general sports fans. For example, fifty-five percent of fantasy sports players report watching more sports on television since they started playing fantasy sports.

Fantasy participants also are reported to attend 0.22 to 0.57 more NFL games in person per season. The NFL entered into a reported five-year, \$600 million deal in 2006 with Sprint that was driven at least in part because of fantasy sports, allowing subscribers to draft and monitor their teams with their cellphones. Many sports and football-related sports news shows discuss fantasy-related topics. Besides the fictional *The League*, multiple TV programs that focus on fantasy football news exist; examples include ESPN's Fantasy Football Now and CBS's Fantasy Football Today.

The way a fantasy owner watches a game is greatly affected if a player on their team is playing. An owner will root for specific things to happen in order for their player(s) to score points. For example, someone who has a running back will root for a goal line situation or for the team the running back plays for

to be up by a significant number of points. If the running back's team is on the goal line, then a running play is more likely to be called. If the running back's team is up by a significant number of points, his team will call more running plays in order to run out the clock. The more running plays called, the more points for that running back. Different scenarios will provide certain players an opportunity to score points for fantasy owners.

Critics charge that because of the varying interests, some fantasy owners may instead support the players on their fantasy rosters in any one game rather than supporting a favorite team. Players are mixed on the impact of the effects of fantasy football on fans' habits and preferences. Retired NFL QB Jake Plummer told ESPN "I think it's ruined the game", and retired New York Giants RB Tiki Barber said about fantasy fans, "there's an incongruity in the wants". However, former Washington Redskins tight end Chris Cooley plays in four fantasy football leagues himself, and former Indianapolis Colts linebacker Cato June benched New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady from his fantasy team to avoid a conflict of interest when the two teams played in November 2006. Fans frequently ask players on their fantasy rosters to score more often; Peyton Manning reported that only autograph requests exceeded fan requests for "more fantasy touchdowns" from him. Fans often seek inside information on injuries and future stars from coaches, and players

have been known to receive harsh criticism from fans in response to unsatisfactory fantasy football performances.

In 2011, the NFL directed teams to show fantasy statistics during games on the stadium video boards. In fact, NFL executives have recognized the importance of fantasy football's success to the NFL overall. One of the primary effects on spectatorship includes fans tracking injuries of NFL players throughout the season in order to better manage their starting line ups. Critics charge this translates into fantasy fans becoming more concerned with whether an injury will bench a player, rather than the nature, extent or seriousness of the injury, or sympathy toward the player. For strategy reasons, many teams refuse to disclose the seriousness of a player's injury until game time. This frustrates many fantasy owners trying to determine whether to start or bench a player whose participation is listed as "questionable" or "probable".

Despite all of the beneficial impacts to the economy that fantasy football provides, there are some concerns about potential economic drawbacks. The addictive nature and widespread popularity of fantasy football, combined with the relative ease of obtaining information about a manager's team has led to many hours of lost productivity at work. A rough calculation based estimates regarding the average amount of time team managers spend on their teams, combined with the number

of team managers and their average wages puts the estimated impact at about \$6 billion in wasted productivity. However, the study admits to being non-scientific and that its estimates are rough.

Additionally, managers are often concerned with performance and disappointed when their team does not do well. Smack talk happens between team managers which may inhibit live interaction between co-workers. One example is the institution of the Rodriguez Line, where a team which frequently scores less than optimal points is openly mocked as having a sub-par team. Furthermore, it reports that managers tend to view the impact as a minor distraction. In a poll conducted for the same study asking managers to rate the impact of fantasy football on their workplace from one to ten, about seventy per cent reported a four or lower.

Less than eight per cent reported a seven or eight with not one (zero) reporting a nine or ten. Additionally, employers can even take advantage of fantasy football by embracing it and starting sanctioned work leagues. This may increase employee morale and loyalty, improving retention rates. This study also reported forty per cent of respondents considered fantasy football a positive influence in the workplace, with one in five also saying they have made valuable business contacts through fantasy football.

The status of fantasy sports in Canada is currently undetermined, and will remain so unless and until a Canadian law enforcement agency determines to initiate a prosecution relating to fantasy sports activities. Should that occur, the defence will be tasked with establishing that the fantasy sports activity in question is a game and not betting, and a game of skill alone, involving no systematic resort to chance. The evidence for this, and the strength of the defence's legal analysis, will bear heavily upon the conclusions drawn by a court.

If Fantasy Football is growing (and it is), it pales in revenue to what is been bet on football in North America. A CBC article by Jamie Strashin in 2016 said, while the Canadian government does little, if anything, to address online sports betting, its neighbour to the south has made efforts to curb what has grown into a multi-billion-dollar business.

The United States tackled the issue a decade ago, during the online poker boom, after casino operators in Nevada, the only state where full sports betting is legal, realized how much revenue they were losing to offshore gambling websites. Under intense lobbying from the gaming industry, Congress acted quickly and in 2006 passed the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act (UIGEA), which made it illegal to accept payments connected to betting over the internet in states where gambling is prohibited.

"Congress said, hey, you offshore operators, your business is illegal, you are violating federal laws. But these operators put their thumbs and fingers on their nose and waved at the United States," says Dan Etna, co-chair of the Sports Law Group at Herrick Feinstein in New York City.

That's why Congress made sure the law targeted businesses they could actually control the banks and other companies who facilitate payments between online betting sites and their customers. They would go after PayPal, or if you were making a payment through Chase Manhattan or TD Bank in the United States, whoever was providing a funds transfer from your account to this offshore website was violating federal law," Etna explains. That's how Congress [policed] the offshore sites, by crimping something they had domestic control over.

Etna acknowledges this hasn't eliminated Americans' ability to partake in online gambling, which the law does not say is a crime from the bettors' perspective (like in Canada, no American gambler has ever been prosecuted for placing an offshore bet). Many offshore sites stopped taking U.S. customers, but others carried on, and savvy gamblers can employ workarounds like proxy servers and certain third-party payment companies that allow bettors to top up their online accounts by acting as middle men between customers and their banks. In other words, there are ways around the law. Acknowledging this reality, there is a

push within the United States to expand the boundaries of full legalized sports betting beyond Nevada. Limited forms of sports gambling are legal in Delaware and Montana, which offer games operated by the state lottery.

In 2014, New Jersey passed a law that would allow sports betting within the state's border, an effort to bolster the flagging casino and horse racing industries there. The move challenged a 1992 federal statute that prohibits state-sponsored sports betting except in Nevada, Oregon, Delaware and Montana, which were grandfathered in. In an op-ed in the New York Times, Commissioner Adam Silver called for a "different approach" to sports gambling. Silver pointed to the estimated \$400 billion US being wagered illegally on sports in the United States every year, saying "there is an obvious appetite for a safe and legal way to bet on sports." Silver called on Congress to "adopt a federal framework that allows states to authorize betting on professional sports, subject to strict regulatory requirements and technological safeguards."

Such an appetite for change does not exist in Canada, where an estimated four billion dollars per year is being bet through offshore sports books. In Ottawa, a private members bill sponsored by NDP MP Brain Masse that would allow betting on single games was introduced. Several provinces currently allow sports gambling through their lottery companies, but bettors are

limited to parlays, where they must correctly predict the outcomes of multiple games. The provincial lotteries also offer poorer payouts on those parlays than bettors can get with offshore websites. "Just modernize it and move it towards a regulated market, Masse says o that this offshore betting activity is actually translated back to the taxpayer." "Nobody wants to be out front saying we need to expand gaming," says Toronto lawyer Michael Lipton.

But there is a way forward, says Lipton, and it starts with offering a better product to bettors. "The way they have to do this is to say we need to protect the public, we need to gain more revenue, and the way to do that is to step in and regulate single-game sports bets. The provincial lottery corporations, as long as they have a monopoly, at least make them competitive because right now they can't compete against offshore sports books."

Another option, Lipton says, is to end the provincial lottery monopoly and introduce a licensing system in which private betting companies can operate and be regulated by the government. A system like this currently exists in the U.K., where betting is widely accepted and readily available at brick-and-mortar private retail outlets. But in Canada, nothing seems to move quickly when it comes to gambling. While authorities and regulators continue, after two decades, to wrestle with how to

handle the billions of dollars being bet through offshore sports books, other challenges have emerged.

The rising popularity of so-called "daily fantasy sports" sites like DraftKings and FanDuel, where users wager and can win money based on their ability to predict the performances of individual players, has many asking whether this activity is a form of sports gambling. The growing industry has seized on a loophole in the UIGEA that deems fantasy sports a "game of skill," not of chance. When the act was passed in 2006, lawmakers wanted to allow fantasy sports games to continue to operate as most were relatively low-stakes, season-long games played among friends. They couldn't, or at least didn't, foresee the creation of the multi-billion-dollar daily fantasy business.

In the U.S., some states have declared daily fantasy a form of gambling and deemed it illegal. Both DraftKings and FanDuel, the industry leaders, agreed to stop operating paid contests in New York under pressure from the state. Other states, like Virginia, have moved to regulate the activity and collect revenue. "Right now, daily fantasy sports are all over the place. It's like whack-a-mole where you think you've got one state figured out and then the next state does something contrary," says Etna. "So you end up with this patchwork quilt, it's legal, it's illegal, it's legal but only with certain conditions."

But at least U.S. lawmakers are paying attention, trying to figure out an emerging trend. In Canada, much like with offshore sports gambling, there has been no move to do anything about daily fantasy sports, even as it explodes in popularity. For many pushing for change on the Canadian sports gambling landscape, it's another missed opportunity.

On the BCLC web-site, in-part they state, the world is changing fast. So is the definition of entertainment. Many players today like having the option to play online and to enjoy the virtual version of their favourite games while connecting with players in B.C. and across the country. Thanks to PlayNow.com, you have a safe, secure and legal way to play online and feel good about the benefits BCLC delivers to all British Columbians.

We have been offering players options to play their favourite games online since 2004. When you log on to the site you'll notice the easy-to-use gaming platform with attractive graphics and realistic gameplay for an experience that's second to none. Play lottery, sports... We have more than 190,000 British Columbians currently registered and playing over 100 games.

On the Manitoba liquor and lotteries web-site, they are promoting gambling on football. In September of 2017 they stated, "National Football League action kicks off this week and signals the return of the most popular sports betting events on

PlayNow.com. The NFL is king on the gambling site with its games seeing more betting in Manitoba than any other sports league.

Last NFL season, the average amount wagered on an NFL game through PlayNow.com was approximately nineteen dollars per bet.

The biggest NFL game of all, the Super Bowl, continued its run in 2017 as the largest sports betting event on PlayNow.com, taking in approximately \$57,000 in wagers. While NFL games remain the most popular betting options, Manitobans are growing more enthusiastic about wagering on local football too. The number of Manitobans betting on the Canadian Football League has increased thirty-five per cent over last season. This is likely due to the performance of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Adding to the excitement this CFL season, PlayNow members who bet on any Bomber game are also entered in a contest to win ten times their amount wagered. One Manitoban racked up \$500 in winnings by betting on Blue.

PlayNow.com is Manitoba's only legal, regulated gambling website, operated by Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries. For more information on NFL and CFL betting and on the Win ten Times Your Wager contest, visit PlayNow.com".

And it's not just provincial governments getting in on the action, in fact they only did so when they saw how much money was being made online through private sportsbooks. According to

canadasportsbetting.ca, 'If there's one thing that's true about Canadians, it's that we are some of the most devoted sports fans in the world. Where else can a team that comes that comes in last like the Maple Leafs sell out every game?

While NHL pro hockey and minor league hockey get most of the Canadian sports bettors focus, betting on CFL football can earn smart punters a lot of cash.

Canadian Football League Grey Cup Championship odds are a hot ticket on wagering boards at the top sportsbooks recommended here at Canada Sports Betting. Preceding National Football League action, CFL Week 1 regular season contests begin in the middle of June and run through the Grey Cup Final that plays out in late November. The lines change often, so check back anytime for updated CFL odds.

See a team opening hot and staying on fire? How about a CFL squad that's underrated during the preseason? If so, this is the best time of the year to bet on the Grey Cup Champion. Whether you like a squad that is posted as an upper favorite, or an undeserved longshot, get in on CFL futures odds now as the lines will change often during the journey to the 106th Grey Cup Championship.

Canadianbettingsites.net states, its popularity (CFL football) as a sport in Canada is immense, second only to the National Hockey League when it comes to home grown sport. It

receives television coverage from TSN, RSN and ESPN and with this level of popularity comes an interest not just in the competitive aspects of the sport, but also in the betting opportunities football presents to gamblers. From June until November gamblers have the chance to enjoy a bet on just about every aspect of the sport.

The prevalence of online bookmaking sites means it is now easier than ever to have a punt on football. Thanks to the rather complicated nature of Canadian gambling laws, most of these sites operate offshore meaning betting on football is legal and Canadians can enjoy a bet without fear of legal recourse. Almost all sites accept Canadian customers and will welcome Canadian Dollars (CAD)".

Of course Las Vegas is still the quintessential city to place a bet on Canadian (and US) football. Most casinos have a sportsbook, (an area to bet, watch and drink) where you can gamble on football without all the encumbrances that Canadian Provincial sites have.

Another up and coming (actually its time is now) is what is the younger generation refer to as e-sports. Although these so called kids are not major CFL followers, in the future they may be. A CNBC story by Luke Graham in 2016 said that betting on computer game competitions, or e-sports, is set to generate significant revenues for gambling operators, according to industry

experts. E-sports itself is already a huge industry. The sector generated global revenue of \$325 million in 2015 from media rights, merchandising, ticket sales and advertising, according to market researchers Newzoo.

And as the sport continues to grow in popularity, attention is turning towards betting on the outcomes of competitions. Betting on computer game competitions, or e-sports, is set to generate significant revenues for gambling operators, according to industry experts. It already is a huge industry. The sector generated global revenue of \$325 million in 2015 from media rights, merchandising, ticket sales and advertising, according to market researchers Newzoo. And as the sport continues to grow in popularity, attention is turning towards betting on the outcomes of competitions.

Fans are projected to bet around \$23.5 billion on e-sports by 2020, according to market research by Eilers. From this betting pool, operators would generate \$1.8 billion in revenue. Online betting company Bwin has already noticed the increasing popularity of e-sports betting.

In March, the company reported, that based on the pace of turnover for e-sports betting, it is expected more bets would be made on an upcoming tournament for the video game "League of Legends" than on who would win this year's European football Champions League. "E-sports has matured over the past few years

to the point that it is now on par with some of the leading major sports in terms of viewership, following and interest," said Alex Igelman, managing director of Gaming Research Partners, in a report.

"Many of the world's leading bookmakers regularly take bets on numerous e-sports matches and although in its infancy, the betting volume already exceeds that of golf, tennis and rugby and is rapidly growing," he added." However, there are several obstacles before operators can capitalise on this new area of gaming and gambling.

"At present, some of the key markets for e-sports are Asia and North America, two regions that have prohibitive regulation on betting (although less so in Canada) and from which many firms will not take bets/customers," explained Lorien Pilling, research director of Global Betting and Gaming Consultants, to CNBC via email. Pilling was also skeptical of horseracing and sports bettors would convert to betting on e-sports, meaning operators would have to advertise to a completely different audience. "Sportsbooks will need to engender a betting interest in e-sports' core audience, which is perhaps not immediately identifiable as a sports betting one," he explained. "But attracting a new audience is no bad thing for a sportsbook."

More importantly, e-sports may struggle to expand beyond its core audience of video game fans. "The key issue with

broadening e-sports appeal is that the very things that make it exciting to current audiences may very well be off-putting for many other audiences," Steve Bailey, senior games analyst for IHS Technology, told CNBC via email. "The tournament-like pitch of excitement is driven by combative, reflex-dependent showdowns. Ditto the culture of controversy and stardom that surrounds it all."

Despite these obstacles, experts remained optimistic about e-sports potential as a betting vertical. "There is no reason why e-sports should not become a meaningful and profitable part of a sportsbook's portfolio," said Pilling. "E-sports tournaments are competitive, exciting, fast-paced events, with a live crowd creating atmosphere, just as at a 'traditional' sports event like a football match."

Football now is not just about what the final score is. It is also about gambling, gaming, social experiences and maybe most of all, just having a good time in what has become a rather dower world. There is even a Canadian football video game. In a story in the National Post by Gerry Moddejonge, he wrote. Fans of the Canadian Football League finally have the video game they've always wanted. Kind of... Oh, it's all there. From three downs and 110 yards to the waggle and, yes, even the ability to pull off a kick-it-in, kick-it-out of the end zone should the scenario arise.

Nine teams from stadiums in their proper Canadian cities, with players represented by three-dimensional graphics created through motion-capture technology. What more could joystick jockeys looking to get their fix of the Canadian gridiron game want? As attendance is down in many markets, it becomes more and more difficult to capture the attention of younger audiences with the world at their fingertips. Only the CFL has not got behind this project. So, instead of the Edmonton Eskimos playing at Commonwealth Stadium, for instance, Canadian Football '17 features a team in green and gold called the Edmonton Rhinos who play in a kind of familiar setting.

Sources for this chapter include gaming web-sites, PlayNow, whoswholegal.com, Wikipedia and listed sources

Chapter Seventeen

Football in Canada is Cool

Football in Canada is not just about the CFL, it usually starts with youngsters in a Pop Warner type program, or flag football (through organizations like Football Canada), then moves on to high school (SSC) and then to University.

High school football is real football played by teams in the United States and Canada. It ranks among the most popular interscholastic sports in both countries. In Ontario, high schools play in bowl games similar to college football in the United States. Until 2012, the games were determined by geographical location as opposed to a team's record. There were five bowl games for five different geographical regions; the Northern Bowl, the Golden Horseshoe Bowl, the National Capital Bowl, the Western Bowl and the Metro Bowl. For instance, the National Capital Bowl champion is determined through contests between teams from the Bay of Quinte, Simcoe County, Kawartha Lakes, Ottawa Valley and East Ontario. East Ontario or EOSSAA (Eastern Ontario Secondary

School Athletic Association) champion is determined by the champions from divisions within itself such as KASSAA (Kingston Area Secondary School Athletic Association).

Since 2013, the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations has held an annual bowl game series at Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton, Ontario featuring random pairings between the champions of the OFSAA's eighteen member associations. Since 2015, the festival has featured nine bowls with one of two associations drawn to compete one year, and the other automatically competing in that bowl game in the following year. The remaining nine associations are drawn by lottery to determine their pairing.

Other provinces typically divide schools by size and hold playoffs in a similar manner to those contested in US states. According to the CFC web-site the top high school teams in 2017 ranked (first to sixth) as follows. Thomas More Knights, Seminaire Saint-Francois Blizzard, Harry Ainlay Titans, Holy Names Knights, St. Paul's Crusaders and New Westminster Hyacks

The Canadian Junior Football League (CJFL), formed May 8, 1974 is a national amateur Canadian football league consisting of eighteen teams playing in six provinces across Canada. The teams compete annually for the Canadian Bowl. Many CJFL players moved on to professional football careers in the Canadian Football League (CFL) and elsewhere.

The CJFL's formal mission statement is that the Canadian Junior Football League provides the opportunity for young men aged 17 to 22 to participate in highly competitive post-high school football that is unique in Canada. The goal of the league is to foster community involvement and yield a positive environment by teaching discipline, perseverance and cooperation. The benefits of the league are strong camaraderie, national competition and life-long friends. A handful of standout players are typically signed directly to CFL rosters each season, while U Sports permits up to two years of play in leagues such as the CJFL before a player begins to lose eligibility.

The nine team Quebec Junior Football League was formerly part of the CJFL, but eventually withdrew and now operates independently. Meanwhile, The Ontario Football Conference (OFC) consists of two divisions: Varsity Division (ages 11 to 19) and Junior Division (ages 17 to 24). While the Junior Division remains affiliated to the CJFL and its teams compete for the Canadian Bowl, the Varsity Division is operated solely by the OFC

Canadian University football on the other-hand is the top level of amateur play of three-down football in Canada and operates under the umbrella of U Sports (formerly Canadian Interuniversity Sport). Twenty-seven teams from Canadian universities are divided into four athletic conferences, drawing

from the four regional associations of U Sports: Canada West Universities Athletic Association, Ontario University Athletics, Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec, and Atlantic University Sport. At the end of every season, the champions of each conference advance to semi-final bowl games; the winners of these meet in the Vanier Cup national championship.

The origins of North American football can be traced here, where the first documented game was played at University College at the University of Toronto in 1861. A number of U Sports programs have been in existence since the origins of the sport. It is from these Canadian universities that the game now known as Canadian football began. In 1874, McGill University (Montreal) challenged Harvard University (Cambridge, Massachusetts) to a series of games.

The Grey Cup, the championship trophy of the professional Canadian Football League (CFL) since its founding in the 1950s, was originally contested by teams from the University of Toronto and Queen's University and other amateur teams since 1909. Many U Sports players have gone on to professional careers in the CFL and elsewhere; a number are drafted annually in the Canadian College Draft. In 2015, there were a record 199 CIS alumni on CFL rosters, including 136 on active rosters, forty-one on injured lists, twenty on practice rosters, one on suspended lists and one on disabled lists.

The regular season is eight to ten weeks long, depending on the conference, and, as of 2017, opens on the last Friday of August. Teams play eight regular season games and regular season games are in-conference with exhibition (pre-season) games being played between conferences. Throughout the season, there are featured homecoming and rivalry games in most regions. Following the conclusion of the regular season, the Hec Crighton Trophy is awarded annually to the Most Valuable Player of U Sports football.

After the regular season, single elimination playoff games are held between the top teams in each conference to determine conference champions. In the Canada West and Quebec conferences, the top four teams qualify for the playoffs, while in the Atlantic conference the top three teams qualify. In Ontario, the top six teams qualify with the top two teams receiving playoff byes to the next round. Because the OUA teams have conference playoffs that last three weeks instead of two, the first round of the post-season in the OUA occurs during the same week that each of the other three conferences are playing their last regular season games. Each conference has its own championship trophy; the Hardy Trophy in the West, the Yates Cup in Ontario, the Dunsmore Cup in Quebec and the Jewett Trophy in the Atlantic conference. The conference champions proceed to national semi-final bowl games: the Mitchell Bowl and the Uteck

Bowl. The participant conferences of each bowl are determined several years in advance on a rotating basis.

Sources for this chapter include SSC, CJFL's web-site and Wikipedia

Chapter Eighteen

Musings, Thoughts and This ‘n That

In this chapter we will present what CFL insiders have and are saying about the state of football in Canada. In June 2017, Donovan Bennett at sportsnet.ca wrote that for much of his life he felt like a CFL evangelist, a missionary trying to speak the gospel of Canadian football. But it turns out, that despite how it may often feel, a majority of Canadians are actually already on his side. In the next eleven paragraphs, Bennett wrote.

According to results in the recently conducted Canada Project Survey, sixty-three per cent of respondents said the CFL is an integral part of Canada’s sporting identity. Among immigrants that number is as high as sixty-eight per cent, which to me means it is not just solely based on Canadian nostalgia. In the same survey, football also finished as the second-most-popular sport to watch with friends, behind only hockey.

There appears to be a generation gap. Less than half of millennials (forty-nine per cent) said the CFL was an integral part of our identity, compared to seventy-four per cent of boomers

and fifty-nine per cent of Gen Xers. And if I'm being honest, many of my sports-fan friends profess allegiance to the NFL, not in concert with the CFL, but instead of it. I acknowledge I'm biased. I grew up with the league. The saddest day of my childhood was when my mother withheld tickets to the CFL East Division Final between the Alouettes and the Argonauts because I forgot to bring home a textbook that I needed in order to study for a test. Best believe I never made the same mistake again.

People, who have played in, coached in, covered and purchased season tickets for the CFL were at my wedding. Argos cat calls were answered by Hamilton Tiger-Cat Oskee wee-wee chants. I was even forced to wear a Hamilton Tiger-Cats hat during the proceedings by my father-in-law in exchange for his daughter's hand in marriage. I'm abnormally connected to the CFL, especially considering I'm a millennial, which makes me an anomaly. But it shouldn't.

There is nothing wrong with the NFL game. I love it. I just watch it knowing that much of what I see on Sundays has a precedent in the Canadian game. The current replay and challenge system in the NFL, plus the end-zone celebration rules, were adopted based on a framework that previously worked in the CFL. The zone running scheme you hear so much about, the spread offences you track via your fantasy team —

those all have roots in the Canadian game. Black quarterbacks?
Yeah, we were the first to do that, too.

I'd argue there is no single sports institution more Canadian than the CFL. The league itself has existed since 1958, but the Grey Cup has been awarded nearly every year since 1909. When our population was much smaller in the early days of the now-famous trophy, title games could draw in excess of 10,000 fans. The Alouettes averaged over 59,000 in attendance in 1977 when they went to Olympic Stadium after the Montreal Olympics. Saskatchewan was three and fifteen two years ago and they led the CFL in attendance. Toronto may not be as invested in the CFL as other cities, but don't let that fool you, the game moves the needle elsewhere.

A recent IMI brand study found the CFL to be the third biggest sports brand in Canada with one in two Canadians following the league at some level. In the NFL, most of the teams were formed in the same way: They got a franchise granted by the league for a fee. The only two teams like that in the CFL are the BC Lions and the Ottawa Redblacks, the latest to enter the league. The rest were already part of the community by the time they joined the CFL. They grew from high school and junior football teams to become amateur club teams and then eventually paid players. Our professional teams pre-date the American pro game and the NFL. The Saskatchewan Roughriders, then the Regina

Roughriders, date back to 1910. What's more, many of the teams remain community-owned.

Bob Young doesn't call himself an owner: His official title in the organizational chart of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats is Caretaker. That's a cultural clue as to what that team means. He's taking care of a tradition that he feels in some way created him and defines the community he enjoys.

According to results in the recently conducted Canada Project survey, sixty-three per cent of respondents said the CFL is an integral part of Canada's sporting identity. Among immigrants that number is as high as sixty-eight per cent, which to me means it is not just solely based on Canadian nostalgia. In the same survey, football also finished as the second-most-popular sport to watch with friends, behind only hockey.

I'm also not buying the idea that the NFL is a better product; the best football game I saw last year was the Grey Cup. But, by the same token, I reject the notion that we have to choose one or the other. Nobody ever says, "In order to appreciate Drake, you can't like Kendrick Lamar" or vice versa. Yet that's what happens so often these days with the two largest North American football leagues in this country, with the CFL often on the losing end.

Look at the return of CFL football in Montreal, for example. There is a direct correlation to the popularity of football

in Quebec at the high school, CEGEP, and U Sports levels to the Alouettes coming back to the province. French-speaking schools like Laval, Montreal and Sherbrooke investing in football all followed the popularity of the Al's, and those three teams now make up half of the most dominant conference on the collegiate level. The halo effect has impacted thousands of French-speaking kids who have since garnered scholarships, gone on to university, and lived vastly different lives because of the program's existence. Plain and simple, the CFL has an impact on people. It's important to people. It's important to me.

I love unlimited backfield motion. I love hot tubs in the end zone. I love unabashed end-zone celebrations. I love Pinball Clemons. I love fans with melons on their heads. I love players in the community that are actually part of the community. I love that Grey Cup Week isn't corporate, its parties and the Calgary Stampeders giving away free pancakes. I love a wider field and bigger end zones. And yes, I do like the rouge. And most of all I love a league where "O Canada" is the only pre-game anthem.

In November 2017 Rick Salutin through thestar.com wrote, Canadian football is remarkably Canadian, despite all those U.S. players. Like Sunday's Grey Cup game in the snow, on the same weekend that many Canadians observed Black Friday — a totally U.S. appendage to their Thanksgiving. If we're going to do Black Friday, can we at least do it in October? But Canadian football

remains clearly ours. It has a bigger field and fewer downs, therefore more risk-taking. I like the sloppy human look of CFL players versus the smooth Lego figure look of NFLer's. They play with military precision, against a kind of 'Everybody goes long' quality in Canadian football.

Now, U.S. football is in trouble, partly due to the concussion issue (NFL television ratings were down 9.7 percent in the 2017 season). Even players don't want their kids to play. Plus, the rage of some white fans at the kneeling protest of black players has exposed a deep social rift. The gladiators are fighting back and everyone's angry. We don't have that problem here. Sunday's Grey Cup started by acknowledging Aboriginal rights to the field they were playing on.

Unfortunately, CFL commissioner Randy Ambrosie screwed up the week before the game by downplaying the concussion problem, though it might all be moot. Football may vanish, as Bob Costas says. But if some version of it survives, in highly modified form, I hope it's Canadian, even if that means, more U.S. players fleeing north for refuge, like characters from the Handmaid's Tale."

Back in late 2015 Mike Abou-Mechrek in a story in the leaderpost.com wrote, CFL coaches' and general managers' contracts are guaranteed. So if a coach signs, say, a three-year deal, the CFL team is on the hook to pay his salary for that

duration, regardless of whether his services are retained for the full term.

On the other hand, the terms of players' contracts do not need to be honoured by the club. The team is not liable for any salary or bonus money that has yet to be paid out if a player is released. Typically, a player's salary is divided into eighteen equal, taxable parts and is payable following each of the eighteen regular-season games. Therefore, if a player practises all week but is cut before the game, the team doesn't owe that player for that week of work. The uncertainty with salaries may not seem quite fair to the players or their families, but those are the rules of the game.

Although player contracts run from February to February, any money paid to a player counts toward the salary cap in the calendar year in which the payments are made. So for example, if a player received a \$60,000 in-season salary in, say 2013, and also received a \$100,000 bonus on, say Jan. 1. 2014, \$60,000 would count toward the 2013 cap and \$100,000 would count against 2014, regardless of whether that player played a down of football for that team during the 2014 season.

It may not seem fair to the players or their families, but it's what's needed to move the franchise forward, and it's what football players sign up for. It's a beautiful game, but a horrid business. On the same vain, in 2015 University of Lethbridge

sociologist Dr. Reg Bibby released the results of his survey and it was good news for the Canadian Football League. Bibby and Vision Critical contacted more than 4,000 Canadians and 4,000 Americans regarding their interest in select professional sports and the Canadian Football League is continuing to trend upwards.

The survey found that twenty-six per cent of people across Canada follow the CFL very closely or fairly closely, a figure that is slightly higher than interest in the National Football League (twenty-three per cent) and trails only the National Hockey League (forty-six per cent). Interest in Major League baseball checks in fourth at twenty-two per cent, followed by the National Basketball Association (twelve per cent) and Major League Soccer coming in at nine per cent (although soccer has increased in support over the last two years).

“Despite the massive exposure that other sports and leagues receive from both sides of the border, the CFL has been able to hold its own – something of a cultural miracle,” says Bibby in a Project Canada Surveys news release. “Many other corporate and cultural things Canadian have not been able to withstand the might of American competition.”

Over the past twenty-five years, Canadian interest in the CFL has increased substantially, from sixteen to twenty-six per cent since 1990. What was most surprising to Bibby was the twin survey conducted south of the border that showed CFL interest

was also growing rapidly in the United States, and specifically in the younger fan demographic.

The U.S. survey found that ten per cent of Americans say they are following the CFL, and that is led by twenty-two per cent of adults under the age of thirty-five. Only about five per cent of Americans over thirty-five consider themselves as followers of the CFL. Bibby credits the rise of the Internet. “The league is finally visible,” he says. “For the first time in history, Americans who want to follow many of their favourite college players who are playing in Canada can readily do so by going online.” Bibby went on to say that the findings show the CFL continues to know considerable vitality and that further exposure can only create greater opportunity for growth. “The league is now on the verge of an unexpected and extraordinary opportunity to increase its brand exposure well beyond Canada.”

At the beginning of 2018 the CFL had 271,755 Twitter followers along with many new, internet media outlets, including 3DownNation with most teams having their own “new-media” bloggers. Yes, Virginia, the CFL is indeed alive and well – sort of.

All sources used in this chapter were named at the beginning of their contribution. Thank you for your thoughts and views.

Chapter Nineteen

Canadian Football & This Author

This author has spent six decades following Canadian football, especially his beloved B.C. Lions, and has been ‘possessed’ about it. So Turcotte thought it appropriate to write a book about this “other love” of his – football.

In 1954 when Turcotte was just four years old he won an Al Pollard (a B.C. Lions player) colouring contest which featured a trip to Calgary with the team as first prize. The promotion was sponsored by a Western Canadian department store chain – Woodward’s. Turcotte’s father worked at the downtown Vancouver store at that time and folklore has it that Turcotte did not actually colour anything. But he triumphed (maybe) and was off to Calgary wearing a BC Lions Indian sweater, as it was referred to way back then, and now is referred to as a Cowichan sweater. The sweater, more of a coat, was popular with curlers at

the time and was knitted by Turcotte's mother using a pattern purchased from the same Woodward's store that sponsored the contest. From that time on, Turcotte was hooked on Canadian football. Five years later he could be found after a Lions' practice, standing near the showers (located at the edge of the dressing room) inside old Empire stadium, collecting autographs from Lions players (many who were in a state of nakedness). This author was oblivious to the player's lack of dress, he just had to have the player's john-henry on the scrap of paper that he shoved towards his idols, and the showers seemed as good a place as any.

Going to players homes on Vancouver's North Shore was a staple of young Turcotte's weekends. He would knock on their door and ask for an autographed picture, which the player (or his wife) always gave him. A rocket radio at bed-time was another part of Turcotte's young life, as he would listen to the second half of the football game and the full post-game show before falling asleep. In his nineteenth year he also assisted former Lions Coach Annis Stukus take a run at provincial politics in North Vancouver by trying to secure the youth vote.

A few decades later, Turcotte and his son Rick could be found at Lions practices on a regular basis and were in the press box one year on behalf of the author's "Valley Voice" entertainment newspaper that was distributed throughout the Fraser Valley (just outside of Vancouver). Due to the Turcottes'

loud cheering at one game, (one could not be a homer, at least not a noisy one in the press box), they got the boot and had to leave the building. As an adult, Turcotte attended most Lions home games and went to a few Grey-Cup games including the 1991 Grey-Cup in Winnipeg. Although he was there and had tickets to go, it was so cold outside that he went to a Grey Cup party at the Fort Garry hotel instead. “Best damn Grey Cup ever, even if I had to cheer for Calgary”, Turcotte has said many times over.

The most breath-taking play ever witnessed by Turcotte (and his son) transpired when Lions defensive back Joe Fourqurean came out of nowhere to jump high and with the tip of his fingers knock down a sure-fire touch down from quarter back Dieter Brock to a Winnipeg Blue Bombers receiver that would have won the game for the Bombers. Instead, the Leos prevailed (33 to 32) and it happened to be the 1977 Western Semi-Final. Turcotte’s all-time favourite football player is a Canadian who was both the kicker-punter and quarterback at North Delta Secondary School (just outside of Vancouver) and played in the NFL – Mitch Berger. Lui Passaglia is a very close second.

Many of the family events with the Turcotte ‘clan’ involved the B.C. Lions (going to games and watching them on television) but ‘bad times’ occasionally raised its ugly head when it came to football. At the author’s Mt. Baker ski cabin, located in

Washington State, one evening, (about twenty-two years ago, listening to the Lions lose yet another game with his friend Andrew Blair, Turcotte kicked at a full case of beer that was outside on the patio. Every can exploded and drained. Alas, a Lions' loss and no beer, what could have been worse?

Another painful night occurred after Lui Passaglia kicked the winning field goal to win the 1992 Grey Cup game. Turcotte and his friend celebrated the victory, apparently too loud once again and this time there were plenty of beverages available. A couple of hours later his very short marriage, at that time, came to an abrupt but mutually agreeable end.

Turcotte has owned and published nine newspapers, seven magazines and five books. His company The Boundary Creek Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd. was established in 1896 and is the publisher of this book on the history of three down football in Canada. He and his wife, (now of twenty-three years, reside in the Okanagan of British Columbia and Turcotte was, is and always will be, an aficionado of the CFL and football in general.

Epilogue

The principal reason for this book, on three down football, is that for more than one-hundred and thirty years there has been a common thread winding through Canadians and their very own brand of football. Although at times the CFL has been seen as more like a freak show from a Barnum and Bailey Circus, for the most part it has been an essential and affirmative part of Canada's conscience. It has bent but never has it broken.

Today football in Canada is changing from a pure spectator sport to one that interacts using the latest in computer technology. Due to smartphones and tablet's use of applications, sports media (especially football) has taken off and has become accessible from almost anywhere at any time. Not only can fans check the scores on different apps such as TSN, Sportsnet, ESPN and sports talk radio shows, but people can use social media apps to find out different scores. These apps give score updates, rosters, game schedules, injury updates, and much more right

when it happens. People can get real time results right from their phone. They do not need to be at the game, or right by their television, to see how their favorite team is doing. Now people can stream games right from their phone.

This type of fast, easy information is very important to sports fans. As stated in Time magazine, “Enthusiastic fans are eager for updates on their favorite teams and the opportunity to rant about what went wrong in the playoffs or why their coach should be fired”. Many people want to discuss matters about sports, teams and games, and this article shows that with the sports apps, the news can be found at a moment’s notice.

Thanks to the smartphone, a fan no longer has to wait for scores or search the web for information on players. All the information is available at the palm of their hand. Sports apps do not always have to be about giving scores, as some applications include workout helpers, rule books, and even games. The rule books are important, because it spreads the knowledge about the game, and it can get people interested in new games. The games apps are a good way of teaching people how the game is played, and can give players a bigger interest in a specific sport.

Smartphones can not only be used just for scores, they can also help athletes become known and recruited. These days most everything is caught on camera, and that includes great plays made by athletes. Once a video is taken it will be spread through

the social media sites in no time. Today, one can even watch four NFL television football games at once on your big screen TV, providing you have the “right box”.

In conclusion football in Canada should always look back at its history but at the same time it must move forward using social media interaction including cell phones and things like ‘First & Ten’, (the computer system that generates and displays a yellow first down line during a live broadcast), as yet another tool in its box of tricks.

The identity of Canadians, the CFL and football, in general are of one to thrive, flourish, march forward and create a better future for all. Whether it’s on a playground, grass field or large stadium, may they all take that next step together and stride boldly onward.

Canadian football (French: Football canadien) is a sport played in Canada in which two teams of twelve players each compete for territorial control of a field of play 110 yards (101 m) long and 65 yards (59 m) wide attempting to advance a pointed spiral shaped ball into the opposing team's scoring area (end zone).

Eastern Conference CFL Announcers

Team	Play-by-play	Analyst	Sideline	Flagship Station
Hamilton	Marshall Ferguson	John Salavantis	Matt Holmes	TSN 1150
Montreal	Rick Moffat	Davis Sanchez		TSN 690
	Pierre Vézina	Bruno Heppell		98.5 FM
Ottawa	A.J. Jakubec	Jeff Avery		TSN 1200
	Marc Legault	Denis Piché		CKOF 104.7 FM
Toronto	Mike Hogan	Jeff Johnson		TSN 1050

Western Conference CFL Announcers

Team	Play-by-play	Analyst	Sideline	Flagship Station
BC	Bob Marjanovich	Giulio Caravatta		TSN 1040
Calgary	Mark Stephen	Greg Peterson	Scott Deibert, Rocco Romano, or Scott Coe	News & Talk 700
Edmonton	Morley Scott	Dave Campbell		630 CHED
Saskatchewan	Rod Pedersen	Luc Mullinder	Michael Ball (home games only)	620 CKRM
Winnipeg	Bob Irving	D. Brown		680 CJOB

Television CFL Announcers

Play-by-play	Analyst	Sideline	Network
Chris Cuthbert	Glen Sutor	Sara Orlesky (Friday Night Football) Various (All other games)	TSN
Rod Black	Duane Forde	Various	TSN
Gord Miller	Matt Dunigan	Various	TSN
David Arsenaault	Pierre Vercheval	Didier Orméjuste	RDS

Play-by-play TSN media:

- John Wells: 1987 - 2004 (lead play-by-play announcer), 2005 (secondary play-by-play announcer)
- Chris Cuthbert: 2005 - present (lead play-by-play announcer)
- Rod Black: 2002, 2005 - present (secondary play-by-play announcer)
- Glen Sutor: 2002
- Gord Miller: 1995 - 1998, 2009 - present (secondary play-by-play announcer)

- Rod Smith: 1998 - 1999, 2012 - 2013 (secondary play-by-play announcer)
- Dave Randorf: 1999 - 2000 (secondary play-by-play announcer)
- Farhan Lalji: 2011 - present
- Matt Devlin: 2012 - present (secondary play-by-play announcer)

Colour commentator

- Leif Pettersen: 1987 - 1997 (lead colour commentator), 1998, 2005–2006 (secondary colour commentator)
- Glen Suitor: 1995 - 1997 (secondary colour commentator), 1998 - present (lead colour commentator)
- David Archer: 1997 (lead colour commentator)
- Matt Dunigan: 1999, 2009 - present (secondary colour commentator)
- Danny McManus: 2007 (secondary colour)
- Duane Forde: 2008 - present (secondary colour commentator)

Studio hosts

- Vic Rauter: 1987 - 1991
- Gord Miller: 1992 - 1993
- Rod Smith: 1994, 1997, 2014 - present
- Darren Dutchyshen: 1995 - 1996
- James Duthie: 1998 - 2000, 2014 - present
- Dave Randorf: 2001 - 2013
- Jock Climie: 2012 & 2014 (Substitute)
- Bob O'Billovich: 1996 - 1997
- Less Browne: 1996 - 1997
- Marty York: 1996 - 1997
- Chris Schultz: 1998 – present
- Eric Tillman: 1998, 2000 - 2001

- Matt Dunigan: 1999 - 2003, 2005 - present
- Jock Climie: 2002 - present
- Milt Stegall: 2009 - present (occasional)
- Paul LaPolice: 2012 - 2015 and Doug Brown: 2012

-30-