

THE ONTARIO RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION: 1883-1906

By Robert Sproule

Introduction

There are several reasons why the Ontario Rugby Football Union was important in the development of Canadian football from its infant days in the early 1880's through the era of pre-professionalism and the forward pass.

The ORFU consisted of teams from every corner of Ontario: Kingston and Ottawa in the east, Toronto, Peterboro and Hamilton in the center, and London, Strathroy, Sarnia, and Stratford in the southwest. This was in contrast to the Quebec Rugby Football Union, the "other" league of eastern Canada. With the exception of two Ottawa teams and a third team from Brockville, the QRFU was more or less confined to the Montreal city area.

Two teams that dominated the QRFU at the turn of the century, Ottawa City (now Ottawa Rough Riders) and Ottawa College, were from the Ontario Union. They had both won championships there before switching to the Quebec league. Ottawa College in particular had demonstrated the superiority of the university game against the city clubs by first winning five consecutive ORFU titles and then another four straight in the QRFU, including eight championships in an eleven-year span. The superiority of the city teams did not begin to emerge until 1935, when Hamilton defeated Queens in a challenge for the Dominion final.

The ORFU produced three great football dynasties that dominated much of the sport – Ottawa College, 1885-89, Hamilton Tigers, 1903-06 and, outside the scope of this article, Sarnia Imperials 1929-39.

It was the Ontario union that produced such stars as Rupert Muntz and Hugh Smith of the Argos, Edmond Senkler and Pope from Osgoode Hall, Rayside, Kenny and the McGee brothers from Ottawa, and finally the great Art Moore, Sepi DuMoulin and Ben Simpson from the famed Hamilton Tigers. These players captured the imagination of the fans with their spectacular feats on the playing fields of Canada.

The Quebec senior teams, it should be noted, were the most strictly amateur of any of the teams in Canada. By comparison, it was the ORFU that was lax on "professionalism." This situation caused much finger-pointing and strict efforts to curb its growth.

And finally, it was the Ontario union that was most productive of rules changes and innovative play. The Quebecers were die-hard traditionalists and were content to play the game as their fathers before them had. Radical changes in Ontario to improve and open up the play resulted in the famous Burnside Rules. The ORFU, of the five senior unions at the time, alone accepted them, promoted them and finally established their advantages for both the fan and the player.

In January, 1883 a handful of sports gentlemen wanted to organize the game into a peaceful form of recreation, not aware of the seed their convictions had planted nor of the direction of its growth.

The Beginning

On Saturday night January 6, 1883 a meeting of delegates from the different rugby football clubs in the province was held at Thomas' Chop House, Toronto. The gathering was held for the purpose of forming an Ontario Rugby Football Union in order to organize the many teams into scheduled matches to determine a true provincial winner.

For the past decade or so, these teams had played each other simply for the enjoyment of the sport, but, as it was gaining in popularity with both players and fans, it was now time to form a league and offer a Challenge Cup.

The game adopted by the ORFU under President W.H. Merritt was the scrimmage style, with players lined up beside and across from one another. The moment the ball was placed on the ground, the teams rushed together, each trying to heel the oval back to a teammate who in turn passed to another. As there

was no system of downs or yards to gain in order to keep possession, the sport was one of running with or kicking the ball, thus producing a wide open style of play. (See Coffin Corner, Mar. 1982, Vol. 4, No. 3.)

Players were still 15 aside. In fact, the only major change was the introduction of a scoring system, similar to the one the Americans were using at the same time. Trys (touchdowns) were four points, as were goals-from-trys (converts), flying, free and penalty kicks. Goals-from-the-field (field goals) were six points and all kicks into the end zone were one point.

The flying kick is best illustrated by stating that the quarterback, upon receiving the ball from the scrimmage, would pass it low over the ground just in front of a runner. As the ball bounced upward, he would attempt to kick it through the uprights for four points. Upon receiving a punt, the player would make his mark on the ground and make a fair catch. If near the goal, he would attempt to place it over the bar for a free kick and four points. A penalty kick was similar but awarded due to an infraction.

Because of the large number of teams involved (16), a Tie Schedule was used. This meant that the clubs were divided into three districts and played off until only one team was left per district. The leagues consisted of both city teams and university and college clubs. A match had to be won by at least two points or it was considered a tie.

1883: The Argonauts

In the eastern district, Queens and the Royal Military College exchanged goals-from-field, but a try by Renton won it for the students, 10-8 over the soldiers. In turn, Ottawa limited Queens to two kicks and won their district 18-2.

In the central district, the Toronto Argonauts defeated Peterboro 30-7 and set a record for most points. University of Toronto (Varsity) controlled Toronto College University 26-3 and Upper Canada College (UCC) got past Trinity College 9-4. The Argonauts then won their area by wins of 9-4 over UCC and 24-1 over Varsity.

The Hamilton Tigers finally won their district, but only after waiting to see who the opposition would be. Chatham defaulted to Windsor and Guelph defaulted to Ontario Agricultural College. London won over Windsor by default and the Tigers set a record by blasting OAC 34-0. And finally, Hamilton defeated London 17-3.

In the next tie match, Ottawa City proved to be too strong for the Tabbies as they stopped them 14-9, and thus won the right to challenge the Argonauts for the ORFU Cup at the Capital. Both teams were evenly matched and Ottawa went ahead 2-0. Argos ran the ball over and were up 4-2 at half time. Ottawa scored twice more and seemed to control the game 7-5, but, with only minutes remaining, Toronto scored a questionable try and won the first Challenge Cup 9-7.

At the Annual Meeting, Ottawa protested the match, claiming that as the officials were all from the Toronto area, the game should be declared void. The Membership voted against the protest but stated that in the future, the Executive would reserve the right to select the officials for the final Tie Match, but not ones from the competing teams.

1884: The City Teams

The 1884 season opened with Toronto defeating Peterboro 27-8 on the strength of MacLennan's record three goals-from-trys. Varsity limited UCC to a rouge and won 7-1. The Argonauts went on to win their district with a 24-0 shutout over Varsity.

Queens finally scored a try to win over RMC 4-0. They won another match by default from Ottawa College. In their next game they led Ottawa City 7-4 at the half only to fall behind 18-7 to the Capital City Boys.

Strathroy surprised London 20-2 and Guelph defaulted to Hamilton in the West. Both Hamilton and Strathroy were scoreless at the half but the Tigers rallied and won 6-4. Toronto proved to be too strong for the Tigers and won easily 24-4. They were ready to battle Ottawa City again only to have the Capital team inform the Argos they would default due to injuries they had suffered in the game against Queens. Thus Toronto won its second ORFU Cup.

This year the Canadian Rugby Football Union, the governing body of football in Canada, decided to arrange a match between the Ontario and Quebec winners to declare a Dominion champion. On the University Lawns at Toronto on Thanksgiving Day, November 5, Montreal FC engaged the Argos for the title. For the first several minutes the teams battled in the winglines until finally Montreal kicked over for a 1-0 score. Shortly, they scored again, and again. At the half they had a commanding 14-0 lead. The Argos were able to play even with the visitors' line but they couldn't control the speedy halfbacks, who kept scoring at will. The Argos were given a demonstration of superior (lateral) passing and were no doubt surprised by the sharp Montreal game. When time was called, the Quebec team was ahead 30-0. Thus they became the CRFU's first Canadian champions. (See Coffin Corner, May 1982, v. 4, No. 5.)

1884 Scoring Leaders:

1. MacLennon, Argos – 6 goals-from-tries, 2 goals-from-field: 36 points.
2. Morphy, Argos – 5 tries, 6 singles: 26 points.
3. Van Kaoghnet, Argos – 3 tries: 12 points.
4. Seybold, Ottawa City – 1 try, 1 goal-from-try, 3 singles: 11 points.
5. Hamilton, Queens – 1 try, 2 singles: 6 points.

1885: The College Game

There were only four teams in each district this year at the start of the season. While London was shutting out Strathroy 18-0, Hamilton was on a record scoring spree over St. Catharines 52-0! In their game with London, the Tigers were ahead 11-0 at the half but the Kickers scored three tries and rouges to shock the Steeltowners 15-11 and win the West.

The Argos stopped Peterboro for the third straight year 10-0, only to be knocked out by a surprising UCC team 11-6. That game was too much for the College kids as they defaulted their next match to Varsity, who suddenly found themselves the Central winners without having played a game.

Queens defaulted to Ottawa City, who in turn shut out London 38-0. Ottawa College defeated RMC 14-4 and then handled Varsity 19-2, thereby putting the two Ottawa teams into the final Tie Match. And the collegiates seemed to have no problem with the city boys as they captured the Cup 21-3.

Because of the many differences in rules between the Ontario and Quebec Unions, the CRFU scheduled a Championship match in which the competing teams were made up of players from the many clubs in their respective unions. On November 12 on the University Lawn, Toronto, the Quebec mixed team scored three first-half rouges to defeat the Ontario combination 3-0. The game was decided in favor of Quebec, but as the rules stated that at least four rouges were needed to win, the match was declared a draw.

1885 Scoring Leaders:

1. Massey, London – 2 goals-from-tries, 5 singles: 13 points.
2. Muntz, Argos – 2 goals-from-field: 12 points.
3. Toothe, London – 2 tries: 8 points.
4. Smith, Argos – 1 try: 4 points.
5. Baxter, UCC – 1 try: 4 points.

1886: Ottawa College

ORFU teams were now divided into the City and the College Groups. The Argonauts proved to be the strongest of all the city teams and swept through all opposition with considerable ease. First Hamilton fell 22-0. Then, with Saunders scoring a record 20 points, the Argos set a team record for points by blasting Peterboro 68-6. Ottawa City held Toronto to an 8-6 halftime lead but finally lost 12-7. And with the thumping of London 24-7, the Boatmen were city winners and awaited the results of the university teams.

Since there were only two college teams, Varsity and Ottawa College, the ORFU decided that the victor had to win by at least four points. Both teams put up defensive struggles, and by the end OC was only ahead 2-0. In overtime, Varsity scored two kicks and tied the score. Darkness soon fell and the match ended a draw. Ottawa was not too ready to replay as the first game had taken its toll in players. But when

Varsity said it was willing to play the Argos for the Cup, Ottawa insisted on a rematch. They scored on a fumble and then ran up another 8 points in the first half. Neither team scored in the second half and OC won their group 12-0.

The final match was at Ottawa between the all-powerful Argonauts and a team of students that had played two hard-fought defensive games. Somehow, in spite of the ensuing snowstorm, these students rose to the occasion and dominated Toronto. They managed to shut down the Argo play and held Saunders and Muntz to short gains, scored 13 points and then defended against any rally to capture the Cup with a shutout.

1886 Scoring Leaders:

1. Saunders, Argos – 1 try, 5 goals-from-tries, 3 goals-from-field, 4 singles: 46 points (record).
2. Muntz, Argos – 5 tries: 20 points.
3. Cartwright, Argos – 3 tries: 12 points.
4. Hume, Argos – 3 tries: 12 points.
5. Riley, OC – 1 try, 6 singles: 10 points.

1887: End of the Tie Series

While London was holding Stratford to a kick and overpowering them 36-1, Toronto and Hamilton were engaged in their usual tight defensive game. They were tied at 5 when Toronto kicked over the line. A Tiger player held the ball and was ready to concede a single when Argos' Boyd grabbed the ball and touched it down. The official awarded the score and Toronto won 9-5.

Hamilton protested the score successfully and the game was ordered replayed. The struggle was hard-fought and both teams tried to control the ball as much as possible. Each scored two tries, but two rouges by Gord Watson proved the margin of victory. Hamilton won 10-8. London played Sarnia and finally defeated them 10-4. Kingston held Peterboro off the scoreboard until the last few minutes and won 14-4, only to have Ottawa City turn the tables on them and win 10-1. Hamilton and London battled the first half but the Tigers rallied and won 13-7. Three tries in the second period gave Hamilton the City Group title 13-1.

In the College Group, RMC defaulted to Ottawa College. Varsity had a 9-8 lead over Queens at the end of play but the rules required a two-point margin. In overtime, Varsity won 10-8. Ottawa College scored a try in the first half, another try and a rouge in the second half, and held on to defeat Varsity 9-0 to capture the College Group.

The final tie match was a battle between the winglines of each team. Hamilton had the heavier team, but the students were better kickers. A rouge put them ahead 1-0 and two more kicks over the line forced the Tigers to safety touch for a 5-0 OC score. Finally the students proved too fast and scored two rouges and two tries. They won 15-0 to capture their third ORFU Cup.

The third ORFU Championship was played at McGill's field at Montreal. The students scored two tries and a safety touch and went on to defeat the Quebec RFU team 10-5 to claim the Canadian title.

1887 Scoring Leaders:

1. Frazer, London – 1 try, 2 goals-from-tries, 2 goals-from-field, 3 singles: 27 points.
2. Brazan, London – 2 tries: 8 points.
3. Martin, Ham. – 1 try, 1 goal-from-try: 8 points.
4. R. Watson, Ham. – 2 tries: 8 points.
5. G. Watson, Ham. – 1 try, 3 singles: 7 points.

1888: The Challenge Series

After Ottawa College's third consecutive title, the ORFU awarded them the cup, provided they defended it against all challenges. Ottawa City offered to play them but lost all their games against the Students. However, in western Ontario several teams were playing off to determine the right to challenge the Ottawa team. Hugh Smith scored 19 points including a record 7 singles as Toronto blasted Upper Canada College 35-1. Hamilton found London a bit of a problem, but an onside kick gave them the game

8-1. Then the Argonauts were completely shut down as the Tigers held them off the scoreboard until near the end of the contest and won 12-4.

Hamilton and UCC played scoreless in the first half, and in spite of a rain storm failed to stop the Watson Brothers en route to a 23-0 Tiger victory. In their return match with the London Kickers, Hamilton played well enough to win the contest 12-0. Against Strathroy, Hamilton outkicked them and took the game 16-2. They were declared winners of the West.

In the ORFU Championship game it was again Hamilton and the Ottawa Students. They played in a sea of mud from the rains. With Lord Stanley (of Hockey fame) viewing the struggle, neither team could mount much of an attack. Hamilton limited the students to a rouge and a safety in the first half. R. Watson scored for the Tigers but that was all of Hamilton's scoring as Ottawa kicked five times over the line to produce three rouges and two safeties and another ORFU Cup 10-1.

1888 Scoring Leaders:

1. Smith, Argos – 3 goals-from-tries, 7 singles: 19 points.
2. Logie, Ham. – 4 tries, 1 single: 17 points.
3. McGivern, Ham. – 2 tries, 2 goals-from-tries: 16 points.
4. G. Watson, Ham. – 10 singles: 10 points.
5. Muntz, Argos – 2 tries: 8 points.

1889: Argo Killers

The season started off with the city teams winning by big scores. First, the Argonauts thumped UCC 43-0, with Muntz rushing for a record 3 tries. Then Hamilton blasted them 45-3 and Fritz Martin equalled Muntz's record. Toronto, with Smith scoring 21 points, took Stratford 45-0 and then shocked Hamilton 46-0 with Smith scoring a record 24 points and Muntz another three tries.

Ottawa College accepted two challenges from Queens and suddenly found themselves behind 5-2 at half time. They were still behind late in the game when McDonald scored on a fumble and Ottawa won 11-9. In the second game, Ottawa fell behind 9-0, but they soon settled down and rallied to overcome Queens 11-9, thereby winning the College Group.

The first Championship game was at Ottawa. The Argos scored quickly on two rouges. Two converted tries and a single gave the students a comfortable 13-2 lead that they never gave up; they went on to defeat the Argos 17-2. Then the problems began as a result of the scheduling.

What actually happened was this: the Argos' 46-0 win over Hamilton was on October 19 and the game with Ottawa was on October 26. The two games between Queens and Ottawa occurred in the first two weeks of November. Thus, the second challenge with Toronto was set for Kingston November 16. But OC was not willing to play the Argos again, as they had already defeated them once and Queens twice, and therefore had successfully defended their Cup. Besides, all their matches were played at Ottawa and they felt it unnecessary to travel out of town to defend it again. When the ORFU Executive tried to pressure them to complete the series, they countered by stating that they were willing to retire from play and return the Cup to the league. The Union accepted the trophy and declared Toronto the winners, only to be informed by the Rowing Club that they didn't want the Cup unless they actually won it on the field of play. After a special meeting the trustees had no choice but to return the silverware to Ottawa College for the fifth straight time.

1889 Scoring Leaders:

1. Smith, Argos – 2 tries, 8 goals-from-tries, 13 singles: 53 points (record).
2. Muntz, Argos – 6 tries: 24 points.
3. Guillet, OC – 4 goals-from-tries, 8 singles: 16 points (24 points).*
4. Gale, Argos – 4 tries: 16 points.
5. Morris, Ham. – 2 tries, 1 goal-from-try: 12 points.

*Note: Goals-from-tries in college games were worth two points rather than four.

1890: The Return of the Tigers

Two new things occurred in the new season. First, the scoring value of goals-from-tries was dropped to two points from four. This change had been tried out in the college games of the previous year. Second, since Ottawa College had dropped out of competition, all the college teams were scheduled with the city teams.

Toronto and Hamilton played their annual "Battle of the Wingline" and the Tigers managed to outscore the Argos 8-5. Stratford woke up in the second half and defeated London 12-0, only to encounter a revived Hamilton team who thrashed them on the muddy field 40-1. Saunders was the hero of the contest, scoring a try, 2 goals-from-tries, another 2 from the field and 6 singles to equal the record of 24 points. Ed Senkler, who would later gain fame as the ORFU's career scoring leader, scored all of Varsity's points; but Queens was simply too powerful, as they won 29-5.

On a neutral field in Toronto, Queens and Hamilton engaged in the Final Tie Match for the Challenge Cup in front of 3,000 fans. Queens went ahead 2-0 only to have the Tigers score a try and a goal to lead 6-2. Both teams traded singles and Hamilton was ahead at the intermission. Queens managed another single. That was the end of the scoring and almost the end of the game, except that the referee called time before it was actually up. Apparently the match started late and at 5:30 p.m. the referee, E.A. Griffin, signaled time on account of darkness.

Queens objected to the referee's decision. The Protest Committee favored them and ordered a replay. Hamilton informed the Committee that they did not recognize their findings and still would not play, stating that the referee, an elected official of ORFU, called the match with Hamilton leading in points. Several days later, the Committee met again and disallowed Queens' protest. They awarded the cup to Hamilton, but still ordered another match "for the honor that Hamilton holds." Again at Rosedale Field the teams battled each other, with Queens ahead 2-0 at the half. The Tigers scored two tries early in the second half, held Queens to a last minute score, and won 8-6.

1890 Scoring Leaders:

1. Saunders, Ham. – 1 try, 4 goals-from-tries, 2 goals-from-the-field, 8 singles: 30 points.
2. Parkyn, Queens – 1 goal-from-try, 7 singles: 9 points.
3. Echlin, Queens – 2 tries: 8 points.
4. Farrell, Queens – 2 tries: 8 points.
5. Boyd, Argos – 5 singles: 5 points.

1891: The Lawyers from Osgoode Hall

Matches were now won by a majority of points in two-game series for the first round of play. The newly formed Osgoode Hall Football Club made short work of Ottawa City, 30-3 in the first game and with Ed Senkler scoring 22 points in the second match, they took the capital team 42-0 in the series. Hamilton was just as strong as the last year, as the Watson Brothers – Gord and Rupert – crushed the Argonauts 39-10 and 28-8! London was not prepared for Stratford and they lost badly 8-2, but they learned their lesson and surprised the visitors 28-5 in the second game to win their series.

In their playdown with Hamilton, London could do nothing right and the Tigers could do no wrong as the Tabbies ran up the biggest score and shutout in ORFU history, scoring 11 tries and 12 singles as well as running for high chunks of real estate. Rupert Watson gained over 150 yards on runs and scored three times to help his team to a 69-0 blasting of the Kickers.

Right from the opening kick, the Tigers' running gave them good field position and allowed them to kick for a surprising 4-0 lead over the Osgoode Hallers by half time. An unexpected punt return for a score and two rouges put the Lawyers ahead. Then their passing combination plays started working for them as they routed Hamilton 28-4 for the Challenge Cup. Senkler gained 195 yards from runs.

On December 19, 1891, the Canadian Rugby [Football] Union was formed to replace the old CRFU that had lasted from 1882 to 1887. This new body became the governing body of Canadian football until the formation of the CFL in 1967. The rules that the CRU adopted were those of the Ontario Union, not the Quebec league.

1891 Scoring Leaders:

1. Senkler, Osgoode – 5 trys, 2 goals-from-field: 30 points.
2. R. Watson, Ham. – 4 trys, 1 goal-from-field, 7 singles: 28 points.
3. Southam, Ham. – 2 trys, 15 singles (record): 23 points.
4. Barker, Ham. – 1 try, 6 goals-from-trys: 16 points.
5. Bruce, Ham. – 3 trys: 12 points.

Problems with officiating prompted the ORFU to appoint a second game official. Henceforth the referee was directed to watch the ball while the new official, the umpire, was to follow the players.

1892: CRU Championship Game

In their series with the University of Toronto, the Argonauts held off a strong Varsity rally late in the match to win the first game 19-8. But in the second game they had to come from behind to overtake the students 12-5, capturing the series.

Petrolea postponed their match with London due to rain. When they rescheduled the game in midweek, London was just too strong and thrashed them 38-0. The defeat was enough to force them to default their second game to the Kickers.

With Ambey scoring a record 25 points, Hamilton totally destroyed Stratford with a record shutout 71-0. They too won their second match by default.

Osgoode Hall had just as much fun with Trinity, as they ripped all over their weak line en route to a 51-1 knockout. They also won their return match by default.

Queens and RMC had no high-scoring games, as both teams were evenly matched. They both struggled in the first contest until Queens managed to win it 9-6. In the return game they lost 5-3 but managed to win enough points to take the series.

The spectators were expecting a great game with Hamilton and London as they both came off with high-scoring victories, but somehow the Kickers fell to pieces and the Tigers glided to an easy 34-0 win.

Ottawa College decided to return to play and again challenge for the ORFU Cup, but they were quickly ousted by the Argonauts 34-5. Osgoode took no chances with a strong Queens wingline and quickly built up a 24-6 intermission lead and won it 29-9.

Hamilton and Toronto battled all up and down the field, kicked over the line and made great runs from scrimmage, but neither side could score in the first period. Finally, the Tigers scored on a short run and stopped the Argos 5-1.

Osgoode Hall and Hamilton returned for the final Tie Match in early November. The Lawyers were simply too strong for the Tigers. Powered by Ed Senkler's record 4 trys, they limited the Tabbies to scoring kicks en route to a 30-14 victory.

In the first Canadian championship title match under the rules of the CRU, Osgoode was pitted against the Quebec winners, Montreal Football Club. Under uncertain weather conditions (6 inches of snow on the ground with a -35° temperature) Osgoode made the better gains with their passing combinations and individual effort. Montreal made several spurts that kept them on the defense and they were simply unable to add onto their score. When the final whistle was blown, the Hallers had set a record for points in an all-Dominion final: 45-5! (See Coffin Corner, June 1982.)

1892 Scoring Leaders:

1. Senkler, Osgoode – 6 trys, 10 singles: 34 points.
2. Southam, Ham. – 4 trys, 14 singles: 30 points.
3. Parkyn, Argos – 1 try, 5 goals-from-trys, 1 free kick, 7 singles: 25 points.
4. Ambey, Ham. – 5 goals-from-trys, 3 goals-from-field: 25 points.
5. Pope, Osgoode – 1 try, 7 goals-from-trys, 1 penalty kick: 22 points.

1893: Queens University

Captain Billy Wood scored 14 points and the Argos dominated Ottawa City 32-1 in the first match. In the second game Wood kicked all of Toronto's points, and although Ottawa won 14-12, the Argos took the series.

Ottawa College ran up 23 points in the first half, limited Queens to kicks, and won 23-13. In the return match both teams played evenly in the first period, but the dam broke in the second period and Queens took the game 34-3 and the series.

Surprisingly, RMC led Osgoode Hall 11-9 at the intermission but failed to stem the tide and the Hallers roared back 39-11 and 30-10 to take the series.

In the Toronto-Osgoode game, both clubs scored by runs, onside kicks, kickoff returns and rouges. When it was finally over, the Hallers had outlasted the Scullers for a 34-28 win. In the second contest, the Argos overcame a stubborn defense and got past Osgoode on two last-minute trys for a 21-13 victory.

Neither team wanted to play in the rain and the mud, but the game was scheduled and finally Hamilton and Trinity College went at it. The Tigers scored twice before the half and led 8-0. At this point both captains agreed to end the game due to weather, but Trinity claimed a draw while the Tabbies claimed the match. Finally, Trinity withdrew from the field and from further play. The ORFU Executive awarded the score, the default and the series to Hamilton.

Queens had no problem with Varsity and handled them 27-7. The return match was scheduled for 11 in the morning, and although they lost the game, Queens took the series by a total of 33-22.

Hamilton was looking for another Challenge Cup appearance but first they had to get past Queens. They took an 8-0 lead only to have the students narrow it to 9-6 by the rest period. Queens went ahead and the Tigers made it close 15-13 but failed to add on to their score while Queens scored two trys, converted them both and won 27-13.

The Argos held Queens to two short scoring runs but were outkicked as the students rushed ahead 17-0 at the half. Toronto tried to come back, but managed only three singles. The college kids took the game 28-3. The second match was no better for the Argos as the students enjoyed a superior kicking game, leading 15-0 at the half. Queens took the ORFU Cup 27-1.

At the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association grounds, Queens and the Montreal Club entered the second CRU Championship contest in front of 3,500 screaming fans. Fine passing and good play selection that gave results allowed Queens to score almost at will. Montreal failed to gain at important times and were easily defeated by Queens 29-11.

Problems over the length of games forced the ORFU to declare that all matches would consist of two periods of 45 minutes each.

Eighteen ninety-three was a special year for Ed Senkler of Osgoode Hall, as he became the all-time career scoring leader with seventeen trys and 94 points. His teammate, H.C. Pope, was the career convert leader with 17 goals-from-trys.

1893 Scoring Leaders:

1. McRae, Queens – 3 trys, 6 goals-from-trys, 1 goal-from-field, 1 free kick, 16 singles: 49 points.
2. Wood, Argos – 3 trys, 3 goals-from-trys, 1 free kick, 16 singles: 38 points.
3. Pope, Osgoode – 4 trys, 8 goals-from-trys: 32 points.
4. Farrell, Queens – 1 try, 23 singles (record): 27 points.
5. Fox, Queens – 6 trys: 24 points.

1894: The 90-minute Games

Six teams were entered into the ORFU this year. No sooner had play started than RMC defaulted both their matches to the defending champions, Queens University. In the other college game, Osgoode

battled Varsity in the first half but took command in the second half and won convincingly 29-8. In the return contest, Varsity shut down Osgoode to one try and won, but lost the series 33-27 on the round.

The only city-team game was Hamilton and the Argos, and they fought another tooth-and-claw battle. Runs by each side gave the Tigers a slim 8-6 lead at the half but they finally woke up and defeated the Boatmen 25-10. In spite of the rain at Hamilton, George Harvey's kicking was really all the Tigers needed as they dominated the Argonauts 29-5 and won the series.

The Tiger Wingmen proved too strong and too fast for the Osgoode passing plays, as they were held to short gains and found themselves at the short end of an 11-4 score. Hamilton's kicking game was superior in the second match and they outscored the Hallers 22-11. The victory put them in the championship series with Queens. Ed Senkler now became the first ORFU player to score over one hundred career points.

The two powers in the Union met at Kingston. Queens scored first on a fumble. Then Harvey made a free kick and the score was tied 4-all. McCammon scored another try and the students were ahead by 4 at the whistle. A converted try made the score 14-4 for Queens but Hamilton came back and narrowed the contest to 14-10. McRae and Farrell scored and the students took the first game 19-10. The final match was simply who could outkick who. Both clubs punted well, but Queens was able to put the ball over the line and keep it there. Except for one try, all of their points were from the foot and they won 14-2 over the Tigers.

The CRU Dominion final was at Rosedale Field, Toronto between the Ottawa College team, who had joined the QRFU and won the championship there, and the students from Kingston. Queens went ahead 3-0 early in the game, only to have Ottawa pull up 5-3 at the intermission. They added another single after the rest period and finally Queens went ahead on a try by Kennedy 7-6. But the lead was too slim as Ottawa kicked a rouge to tie it and finally a touch-in-goal to win 8-7.

At their Annual Meeting, the ORFU lowered the value of the free kick from 4 to 2 points.

1894 Scoring Leaders:

1. Harvey, Ham. – 1 try, 2 goals-from-tries, 1 goal-from-field, 6 free kicks (record), 12 singles: 49 points.
2. Gilmour, UT – 1 try, 2 goals-from-tries, 1 penalty kick, 9 singles: 21 points.
3. Senkler, Osgoode – 3 tries, 2 singles: 14 points.
4. Smellie, Osgoode – 2 tries, 3 goals-from-tries: 14 points.
5. Martin, Osgoode – 2 tries: 8 points.

1895: The College Teams

Because of a dispute over rules and that ugly head known as professionalism, the Argonaut Football Club withdrew from the Ontario Union and were replaced by the Toronto Athletic Club Lornes who fielded a senior team with many of the Argo players on its roster.

Hamilton wasn't quite ready for them and were surprised to find themselves on the wrong side of an 18-17 score. They didn't take the TAC's too lightly in the second series game. They battled over the field and managed only a safety in the first half. However they prevailed and won 15-0.

The 48th Highlanders decided to enter the Union but were scheduled against the Osgoode Club for their first and only game of the season. Seventeen tries were scored by 13 different players and the Hallers had a record scoring spree, 80-1! The 48th understandably defaulted their second game.

Queens took a good lead over RMC at the half but allowed the student soldiers to tie it 17-all before they took charge and finally won 28-17. RMC surprised Queens by scoring the only point of the first half and completely controlling the ball. But Queens turned the tables and thrashed the soldiers 22-1 to take the series.

In their battle in their first series match the Hallers seemed to take control of Queens and were up 15-4 when, little by little, Queens gained the momentum and managed to tie the score 15-all. Taking no chances in the second game, they ran up the score, limited Osgoode to three singles and a safety touch and won the game 21-5.

In the other series, Varsity, who had a bye in the first round, played at Hamilton. Both teams traded singles, kicks, trys and penalties until at full time, Varsity had outlasted the Tigers 16-13. The return match at Toronto was a kicking game and the Tigers seemed to have control and were leading 15-1 when they fumbled at the wrong time. Varsity turned the loose balls into scores and although they lost 15-14, they had the round and advanced against Queens.

It was another kicker's game for both of the college teams until well into the last half, when Varsity scored three trys and won the opening match, 19-2. In the rain and mud, Varsity scored on a fumble and two kicks to lead 7-0. McRae put on a one-man show and kept punting the ball over the line in succession, hoping his Queens team would score on a loose ball, but the Varsity backs kept conceding rouges until time was called. Queens won it 12-7 but couldn't overcome the Varsity edge in the first game. They lost the series and the Cup to the Toronto students.

In the CRU Dominion final, Montreal FC won their union and played Varsity for the Dominion championship. The game bogged down to a stalemate until Savage punted over the line, giving the Montrealers a 1-0 score at the half. Varsity came back, ran off some long runs and overpowered the Quebec team in the second half 10-5, thereby capturing the championship of all Canada.

In their annual meeting, the CRU stated that all playing fields must be 110 yards by 65 yards and that all matches be played in two halves of 40 minutes each, rather than 45.

Senkler became the career try leader with 22 and the career scoring leader with 119 points.

1895 Scoring Leaders:

1. McRae, Queens – 1 try, 6 goals-from-trys, 1 penalty kick, 22 singles: 40 points.
2. Harvey, Ham. – 1 goal-from-try, 3 goals-from-field, 8 singles: 25 points.
3. Gilmour, Osgoode – 2 trys, 7 goals-from-trys: 22 points.
4. Kingstone, UT – 4 trys, 1 goal-from-try: 18 points.
5. Barr, UT – 3 trys, 5 singles: 17 points.

1896: The End of the College Game

The season opened with the TAC Lornes coming from behind to overcome an 11-3 Hamilton lead and edge the Tigers 17-11. In the second match, the Tigers failed to hold the Lornes as they kicked two rouges to go ahead 2-1. Then Cartwright scored four times on short runs and TAC knocked the Steeltowners out of the season 18-1.

Trinity defeated RMC 9-2, but then they defaulted the return match and the series to the soldier students. Queens still had the best of the opening round of play; Kingston defaulted both matches while Varsity had a bye.

Queens and Varsity managed to tie their match 2-all at intermission and then started exchanging trys until Varsity outlasted Queens 18-16. The return match was a little tighter as the clubs tried to outkick each other. Finally, Varsity pushed the oval over the line twice and took the contest 13-1.

Lornes found RMC a stronger team than they expected and the soldiers outplayed them en route to a 18-8 victory. But back at Kingston, Toronto's superior scrimmage line started opening holes for the runners and TAC scored 8 trys on the way to 42-1 destruction of the military school.

Toronto knew Varsity was tough and that they had played a hard series against Queens, but the Lornes were shocked at the speed and power of the Varsity line. Varsity jumped into an early 19-6 halftime lead. It seemed there was nothing TAC could do to stop the students, who continued to score with ease and finally upset the Athletic Boys 43-6. Even in the final game for the ORFU Cup, TAC failed to slow the students as both teams traded scores right to the intermission. At half time the Lornes led by one point, 15-14. The second half was all defense as neither side was ready to let the other mount any sort of an attack. Toronto managed a rouge but Varsity came back with an onside kick and took the tight game and the Cup 18-16.

In the Dominion title game, the winners were both Ontario teams, with Varsity from the ORFU and Ottawa College from the QRFU. Chaucer Elliot scored first for Varsity and then Ottawa ran up 11 points before the half. Ottawa added another single and held Varsity to a try before winning the contest 12-8.

The CRU in its Annual meeting decided that all matches were to be 35 minutes per half. In order to control any form of professionalism, they clarified the definition of an amateur for all football games.

It should also be noted that at this time the sport had gained so much in popularity that many newspapers in the major cities were making a concerted attempt to offer detailed coverages of these city-vs.-college team games, even writing play-by-play accounts of the movement of the ball from one player to another.

1896 Scoring Leaders:

1. Male, TAC – 3 trys, 2 goals-from-trys, 1 penalty kick, 2 singles: 22 points.
2. Cartwright, TAC – 4 trys, 1 penalty kick, 1 single: 21 points.
3. Whitehead, TAC – 4 trys, 4 singles: 20 points.
4. Elliot, UT – 2 trys, 6 goals-from-trys: 20 points.
5. Hobbs, UT – 3 trys, 1 single: 13 points.

1897: Hamilton Tigers

The season opened with just five teams in the union. The first match pitted TAC against Varsity. Both clubs started off with strong kicking games to get on the scoreboard. By the half, on the strength of onside kicks, the Lornes were ahead 15-11. Then Varsity started to make mistakes, much to the pleasure of the Athletic club, who promptly scored twice more. TAC won the first round, 23-11. The return contest proved to be much more of a battle. By late in the game, Varsity had scored 7 points and were starting to add on in an attempt to win the series. TAC's wingline started to control the students and take the offensive from them. A try and three rouges by Jack Gilmour tied the match, and the series went to the Lornes.

Queens and Osgoode engaged into a real battle of the scrimmage line. Almost all the running plays were kept to short gains and the teams resorted to punting, hoping to take advantage of mistakes. The Hallers managed a rouge but Queens fought tooth and nail and outlasted them to win 5-1. McMurrick scored two trys and the Lawyers took an 8-2 advantage in the second game. When Queens tried to press, Cosby, with his brilliant kicking, kept them at bay and Osgoode won the game 17-2, to take the series.

TAC and the Tigers were off to a good start and the Lornes took the Hamiltonians by surprise by scoring quickly and posting a 7-0 score. The Tigers fought back but were still behind 7-5 at the half. A fumble return gave them the lead and then they simply ran at the Lornes, scoring 3 times on the ground and overpowering them 25-7. The second game was simply a replay of the first in that TAC jumped out to a 6-0 lead before the Tigers took control of the play and finally scored just before the intermission. If the running game worked for them in the first game, why wouldn't it work again? And it did as Fox, with his record equalling 4 trys, led the attack and the Tigers knocked the Lornes out 22-10.

The final Tie Series came down to Hamilton and Osgoode. The latter were looking for their third ORFU Challenge Cup and hoping to regain a bit of lost prestige, having been knocked out of play in 1893, '94, and '95 and failing to field a team in '96. Neither team could mount much of an attack as the other shut down the running and always returned the kicks for good gains. Twice the Tigers managed to make a kick over the line count and they took a 2-0 lead at the half. The Hallers were able to advance up the field just enough for Parmenter to kick over and finally tie the score at 2-all. Then a penalty against Hamilton gave the Lawyers a penalty kick, which Parmenter made to win the first match 6-2.

Two punts over the line gave the Hallers a quick 2-0 lead and a fumble and a safety touch put them up 8-0 at the half. Then the momentum favored the Tigers. When the Hallers were expecting a run, Hamilton kicked. When they were expecting a kick, the Tigers ran, and the play worked so well that in short order they had tied the score at eight. Jack Counsell became the hero of the game as his running and kicking confused Osgoode. Several of his kicks forced the Hallers to rouge and once he faked the kick and ran over for a try. When the final whistle came, the Tigers had outplayed the Toronto team 16-8 and won the Cup.

The Dominion final at Montreal on November 25 was between the Tigers, who were ready to prove that they were indeed the Canadian champs, and Ottawa College, winners again of the Quebec Union. There always had been a feud between the universities, who played the purist's game, and the so-called "city teams" with their professional players and training staff, and this championship was going to prove once and for all who had the better theories of play.

The students scored first, two tries and a conversion, to lead 10-0. The Tigers came back with a try and two kicks by Counsell to narrow the score to 10-6. They were beginning to press, but Eddie Murphy's 50-yard dash for a major just before the half gave the Ottawans a 14-6 advantage before the whistle.

Hamilton tried to come back in the second half, but the students controlled the line and the running. The Tigers did manage two more rouges and a safety touch, but couldn't gain. Ottawa College won its second consecutive CRU Championship 14-10.

The formation of the Intercollegiate Union (CIRFU) by teams in Ontario and Quebec was in defense of the growing power of the city football clubs. They were so concerned by the rough, tough and bigger "professional" city organizations that the college union were convinced that only they were saving the life of football as a true amateur and gentlemanly sport. According to the colleges, the provincial unions seemed more interested in gate receipts to pay their "pros" – still disguised as official amateurs – than in the thrill of the game itself.

Granted the competition was getting bigger and better and perhaps rougher. Nevertheless, it was a milestone in Canadian football history, as for the first time several university teams formed their own union and restricted play amongst themselves. Thus they were free of any city influence and were still able to remain in good standing with the Amateur Athletic Association of Canada. And to prove that their style of play was still superior to that of outside clubs, the CIRFU applied to the CRU for the right to challenge for the Dominion final. They were accepted.

The main problems of the ORFU at its annual meetings were not over amateurism or professionalism, but rather, over the yearly fees the clubs were required to pay the Union. After much bickering and discussion, a new fee schedule was arrived at. The ORFU was to start the upcoming season with a balance of \$642, an incredible amount of money considering the first year's balance was \$43.22.

TAC, Varsity and Queens dropped out of the Union. Ottawa City, now known as the Rough Riders, rejoined the Union, as did the Toronto Argonauts. The ORFU embarked on a six-game schedule in which all clubs played each other home-and-home. The CRU declared it was no longer required to touch the ball down to score, just to have possession of it upon crossing the goal line. Flying kicks were no longer scoring plays, and the length of each half would be 30 minutes of play.

1897 Scoring Leaders:

1. Fox, Ham. – 6 tries, 1 goal-from-try: 26 points.
2. Gilmour, UT – 2 goals-from-field, 1 penalty kick, 6 singles: 18 points.
3. DuMoulin, Ham. – 3 tries: 12 points.
4. Counsell, Ham – 1 try, 8 singles: 12 points.
5. Blackwood, UT – 1 try, 4 singles: 8 points.

1898: The Rough Riders

Defending ORFU champ Hamilton found the Argos weak in the opening match of the new season. They ran all over them in the first half, scoring 4 tries and converting 3 of them. Argos finally scored on a fumble return but by then the Tigers had the game wrapped up 24-4.

Osgoode still had dreams of another championship and were somewhat unprepared for the Rough Riders. Under the guidance of Captain Kenny, who scored three times, Ottawa blew the Hallers out of the field 27-3. The Lawyers took revenge for their poor showing with Ottawa and completely outplayed the Argos. They ran at will, including a 50 yard run by Parmenter, and stopped the Double Blue 19-0.

Both undefeated, Hamilton and the Riders met at the Capital. The Tigers, although not outplayed, found out how strong the home team was. Kenny scored twice and the Roughies won the tight contest 9-1.

Toronto tried to slow Ottawa down in their first meeting and held them to a 4-1 lead at the half. The Riders came back in the second half and outscored the Boatmen 18-1 to remain undefeated.

Two rouges and a converted try put the Hallers ahead of the Tigers at the rest break 8-0. Hamilton scored twice to tie it and then scored a rouge to take the lead. Tracey's run late in the game gave them the hard-earned win 13-8. The win put them in second place.

In their second meeting, Osgoode jumped into a strong lead over the Argos, only to have them narrow the score 11-8 on a fumble return towards the end of the match. Toronto failed to increase the score and their porous defense conceded another score to Osgoode, who won 17-8.

In the return game at Hamilton, the Tigers had a chance to tie Ottawa if they won, but the Riders scored three times in the first 30 minutes and took the game at the final whistle 15-8. They were still undefeated.

The Argos knew that the season was going to be a long one, and playing the undefeated Riders next was only going to make it that much longer and tougher. In the first few minutes the Riders went ahead 12-0, and for all practical purposes the game was already won. The Argos managed a single, only to have the Roughies score again. Toronto scored just before half time but Ottawa controlled the game 22-6. Rayside, the Rider Wingman, was called into the backfield, where he scored 20 points that afternoon as the Rough Riders gave the Argos one of the worst defeats in their history, 48-6!

While Ottawa was enjoying the Argos, Hamilton and Osgoode were battling it out for second place. The Hallers scored first and Hamilton tied it. Both clubs continued to trade points until at the half Osgoode led by two, 11-9. They scored another rouge, but the Tigers scored another 8 to win second place 17-12.

In the snow at the Bloor grounds, the Argos tried to avert a losing season to Hamilton but the Tigers somehow were able to scrimmage better and fumble less. Toronto failed to overcome a slim 4-0 lead at the half and their frequent fumbles gave the ball to Hamilton, who scored two more tries and won 14-0.

It was the last match of the season and the question was how well could Osgoode hold the scoring might of Ottawa. The Hallers expected defeat but tried to keep the score within reason. This was one of the better newspaper coverages of a game, in such detail that the first few scores are worth noting. The game was delayed for some 35 minutes as the field wasn't half cleared of snow. Once the snow-cleaners were finished and hustled off unceremoniously, the game commenced.

The Ottawans, having won the toss, played east and their opponents faced the sun. Gleeson drove the ball to Ottawa's 20 yard line and F. McGee returned it to Osgoode's centre half, and another exchange of punts between these two halves left it at touch at centre. Jory and Kennedy (for Ottawa) made ten yards for the Ottawans and then Gleeson blocked a kick. From the following scrimmage, Southam punted and the Ottawa wings getting under the leather, kept it on the move until Shore got over for the try. Rayside kicked the goal. Ottawa 4, Osgoode 0.

Play was around the centre for two minutes after the kick-off, and then Southam gained 20 yards by a left-foot punt. Gleeson caught the ball and ran ten yards. He passed back to his left half-back, but the legalite wasn't there, and Kenny dribbled to Osgoode's five yard mark. There, Reid secured the leather and kicked into touch for a gain of five yards. A scrimmage followed the throw-out and, Kenny, receiving the ball, passed to Frank McGee. Frank tossed to Southam and the latter covered ten yards to Osgoode goal line. Rayside converted the try by a pretty kick. Ottawa 12, Osgoode 0.

And the scoring continued until Perry, the referee, called time with Ottawa winning 53-1. In all, the Riders had 45 runs from scrimmage and gained 640 yards: McGee 121 yards, Southam 110, Pulford 109 and Beaulieu another 140. Probably the last score of the day was the most exciting. Osgoode kicked off to Frank McGee on his 30, he returned it 25 yards and passed to Kennedy, who went 10 yards and then lateraled to Pulford, who completed the distance for the score.

A week later Ottawa played Varsity, the college champs, for a berth in the CRU final. The students fought the Riders and held on to a 3-0 halftime lead. But Ottawa were the champs and had gone six game undefeated; when play resumed they took control, dominated Varsity's line, and defeated them 7-3. This caused so much concern that the College Union, feeling unfairly challenged by near-professionals, resigned from the CRU with "deep regret".

This left the Riders and the Quebec winners, Ottawa College, to play for the Dominion Title. It was a tough battle, as the collegiates were looking for their third CRU Championship but the Riders had other plans. A fumble return by Young got the Riders on the board and a rouge made it 5-0 at the rest. OC managed a rouge but Powers' 35-yard run and the convert made it 11-1, and the Riders claimed the Canadian championship.

1898 Scoring Leaders:

1. Rayside, Ott. – 3 trys, 15 goals-from-trys (record): 42 points.
2. Kenny, Ott. – 8 trys (record): 32 points.
3. Young, Ott. – 4 trys, 1 single: 17 points.
4. Wylie, Ham. – 2 trys, 4 goals-from-trys, 1 single: 17 points.
5. Southam, Ott. – 3 trys, 4 singles: 16 points.

1899: The Granite Club

Osgoode Hall had had enough of the city teams and withdrew from the ORFU. They were replaced by the Kingston Granites, who opened the new season by shocking the Ottawa Rough Riders 11-4, scoring all their points in the first half and then holding the Riders to one try.

The Argonauts started to get some quality players and in their first meeting with the Tigers they overcame a deficit, scored twice on fumble returns, and won 11-6.

The Riders re-found their running game and scored 6 trys while holding the Argos to a goal-from-field. They coasted to a 28-5 victory.

McRae scored twice over the line and the Granites outplayed the weak Tigers and shut them out, 13-0. Against the Argos, they put their season high points on the board and stopped the Scullers 26-6.

At the Capital, neither team could establish much of an exciting game to the spectators and the contest bogged down to a stalemate. Suddenly, Lafleur broke loose from scrimmage and rambled 25 yards for the only score as the Riders beat Hamilton 4-0.

Toronto would win only two games all year, and both were against Hamilton. In the rematch, Hardisty kicked 4 rouges for a slim lead. When the Tigers fumbled the ball twice, the Argos turned them into scores and won 12-0.

The battle for first place was scheduled for the capital. A Rider win would not only tie them with Kingston, but also place them in first, should they outscore them by a good margin. It was indeed a defensive struggle; at the half it was 4-3 Ottawa. A fumble return for a score broke the game open and Ottawa scored repeatedly to win the contest and first place, 17-3.

They increased their hold on first place by defeating the Argos 15-8, but Kingston kept pace by limiting Hamilton to 2 rouges as they won 11-2.

At Toronto, Hardisty broke off an 85-yard run to put the Argos ahead 9-4, but Kingston couldn't afford to take chances. They shut down Hardisty's running and kicking as they rebounded to win 16-9. Down the lakeshore at Hamilton, the Tigers were looking for their first win of the year as they appeared to control the Riders, taking a comfortable margin at half time. Ottawa failed to find their running game but their defense played a superb match. Time and time again, Southam kicked over the line and the fast wings forced Hamilton to rouge. The Tigers tried kicking but Ottawa managed to make nice returns. At the final call, they still had first place 8-5 but were tied with Kingston, as both teams had 5 wins and 1 loss.

At a neutral field in Toronto, Dalton and Hamilton ran for first half trys and Kingston held off the Rider rally and captured the ORFU Cup 8-0. There was no CRU championship match this year, as the College Union were not members, and although Ottawa College, Quebec winners, were willing, Kingston was not. And so the nineteenth century closed without a national champion.

1899 Scoring Leaders:

1. Hamilton, King. – 3 trys, 1 goal-from-try, 14 singles: 28 points.

2. Dalton, King. – 4 trys, 1 single: 17 points.
3. Southam, Ott. – 2 trys, 1 penalty kick, 6 singles: 16 points.
4. Hardisty, Argos – 2 trys, 1 penalty kick, 6 singles: 16 points.
5. McGee, Ott. – 3 trys, 1 single: 13 points.

1900: The New Century

Kingston continued their domination of the Rough Riders from where they left off at the end of 1899 by outscoring them 3-1 in the opening game of the year. And Argos controlled the Tigers as their kicking game gave them field position en route to a 21-1 victory.

Hamilton proved to be the weakest of all the teams. As Ottawa began to play up to their potential, looking forward to another meeting with the Granites after blasting the Tigers 36-3, they noticed that the Argos were the threat as they tore apart the Kingston wingline 14-1.

The game for first place was at the Capital and both Toronto and Ottawa were ready for war. The clubs were evenly matched and at the half it was 6-4 for the Double Blue (Argonauts). In the second half Ottawa scored but the Scullers couldn't gain. When the game was called, Ottawa had won 15-8.

Perhaps Kingston felt that the Tigers were so weak they didn't have to prepare for them. In any case, they were surprised to find that the Tigers were hungry and the hunt was them. Hamilton outplayed and outkicked the Granites as they won their only game, 14-0.

In turn, the Tigers were not ready for the Argos, who were looking to their rematch with Ottawa. Toronto made it 20-0 before Hamilton got on the board and then eased to a 27-12 victory.

The Riders took revenge for their earlier loss to the Granites and simply overpowered them during the course of the game, winning 33-7.

On Monday, October 23, Hamilton informed the ORFU that they were withdrawing from the union, citing the "continued employment of Toronto officials in the past two Tiger-Argonaut games" and, the Hamilton Executive said, in all other home games over the years as well. This meant that the upcoming Hamilton vs. Ottawa game would be cancelled. Two days later, the ORFU thought they had resolved the matter by referring it to the Annual Meeting at the end of the season and as such refused to accept the Tigers' resignation. Too late cried Ottawa, as they had accepted the Hamilton decision and had scheduled an exhibition match with McGill University. All that really happened was that the Tigers defaulted their October 27 game to the Riders.

Argos and Kingston still played their match, and it was another battle as both clubs struggled for position to score. Kingston secured a try and then another while holding the Scullers to just three singles. Toronto made it close with "Pussy" Darling's 60 yard run after the intermission but Kingston held on for a 9-7 win.

No doubt Hamilton was just going through the motions when they completed the season against Kingston with little gusto. The Granites broke Sherwood for an 85-yard run, Elliot converted and they gave up an easy safety touch to the Tigers for a 6-2 victory.

The last game was between Toronto and Ottawa. If the Rowers won they would force a playoff with the Riders for the ORFU title. Ottawa thought they had the match when Eddie Murphy crossed the line. All the Argos could do was a single late in the game but somehow Parmenter was pushed over and the Boatmen won 5-4 and tied the Riders; both teams had 4 wins, 2 losses.

In the first half of the subsequent playoff, Ottawa scored three trys to Toronto's one and lead 14-4. The Argos opened the last frame with a kicking game and scored a rouge and three safety touches to narrow the game to 14-11. But they couldn't contain the Roughies, who went on to capture the Cup 20-12.

The CRU final was between Ottawa and the Brockville club, mighty winners of the Quebec Union. They were mighty indeed, as they were undefeated and had shocked Ottawa College 45-0 in one game and then blasted the Montreal Football Club 61-0 in another, thus averaging 28 points a game.

For the first part of the game Ottawa was enjoying Brockville's style of play, as the Quebec team continued to fumble badly and too often. The Riders scored twice on fumble returns and built up a 17-0 score before the visitors settled down, only to fall short 17-10 to the Rough Riders.

The ORFU settled the Hamilton Question at their Annual Meeting by declaring that all future matches shall be supervised by one referee and one umpire not related to either participating team. And to ensure that "professionalism" was checked, all players were required to sign an affidavit stating that they were amateurs in good standing.

The CRU, in its meeting, clearly stated that linesmen must stop "grappling" with one another and block with the body only and, in order that the game be scrimmaged correctly, decreed that the "ball must be placed dead on the ground and not further back than on a line with the front foot of any of the scrimmages."

1900 Scoring Leaders:

1. Darling, Argos – 2 trys, 3 goals-from-trys, 1 goal-from-field, 1 free kick, 6 singles: 27 points.
2. Murphy, Ott. – 6 trys: 24 points.
3. McGee, Ott. – 3 trys, 5 singles: 17 points.
4. Rayside, Ott. – 1 try, 6 goals-from-trys: 16 points.
5. Elliot, King. – 2 trys, 2 goals-from-trys, 1 single: 13 points.

1901: The Return of the Argos

In 1900 the Argonauts proved they were ready to challenge for the ORFU Cup, and this year they were ready to win the whole bundle. In their first match of the season they allowed Hamilton to lead 6-0, and still playing a defensive game, took them 8-6.

Kingston tried to postpone their opening match with Ottawa as they kept saying that they were simply not ready: not enough players and too few practice sessions. But the Riders insisted and the Granites proved they weren't ready by allowing Ottawa to score at will. In spite of the rain, 10 trys were secured and the Capital City team shut out Kingston 51-0!

It would seem that the Granites were ready to play against the Argos, as the Scullers found them extremely tough. The game became stalemated and there was no score at the half. Toronto failed to mount any kind of attack, while Kingston was able to slip the ball over the line twice and won 2-0. But the return game was a completely different story. Toronto placed the Granites on the defense right from the start and turned their mistakes into scores. It wasn't until the dying moments of the game that Kingston got a rouge as the Double Blue overpowered them 23-1.

In their two back to back games with Hamilton, Ottawa outplayed them in the first contest and won 22-6, and managed to build up a good lead and then hold off a Tiger rally to take the second match 19-12.

The Argos were ready for Ottawa and although they fumbled and the Riders turned it into a score, Toronto took command of the game and went ahead. The Riders managed another try but it was too late and the Rowers took first place 13-10.

Kingston and Hamilton played a tough and often brutal game, but it took a goal-from-the-field by McSwayne to give the 7-5 win to the Tigers. Hamilton scored all their points in the first half against Toronto but a fumble allowed the Argos to tie and then go ahead to take the second game 19-8.

Ottawa found that Kingston was a much better team than in their first match and realized that they were in for a long afternoon. Both clubs played a kicking game but the Riders outscored the Granites 8-1 and kept pace with the Argos, who were next.

It was the last game of the season as Kingston had had enough and defaulted to Hamilton; thus whoever won the match would take the ORFU crown. Both clubs were tied at 4 wins and 1 loss and both knew the battle would be long and hard. The lines controlled each other and neither team was able to run for more than a few yards. All the kicks were returned quickly or run back for good gains, but in the first half the Riders managed to force the Boatmen to rouge for their only score. Toronto came back and yard by yard

moved closer to the Ottawa line. Finally, Hardisty kicked over the line and tied the game. Minutes later he repeated the trick and the Argos held on for the championship 2-1.

The Dominion Final came down to the Argos and Ottawa College of the Quebec Union. In no time the Students demonstrated their fast-breaking style of play and soon had an 11-0 lead over the Ontario champs. Toronto opened the second half with a single, then scored two rouges and two tries to tie the match. Darling kicked another single and the Boatmen led for the first time, only to have the Students tie it at 12. Neither team added to their score and the referee called the game on account of darkness. The CRU ordered a replay to settle the championship and apparently the Students were better prepared, as they ran all over the Argos and controlled their linemen en route to an 18-3 victory, thus proving that the university game was better than that of the city teams.

Back in November, while the Argos and Ottawa were fighting for the ORFU Cup, "Thrift" Burnside, former captain of Varsity in 1898-99, put forth a suggestion for rules changes that in time would revolutionize the game of football in Canada. Burnside noted that there were too many players on the field, that the scrimmage game was too time-consuming, thus allowing the team in possession to control the ball completely. Therefore, he proposed the following changes (known as the Burnside rules): reduce the players per side from 15 to 12. By the removal of the scrim supports, the centre would snap the ball (with the hands) back to the quarterback or runner, and the team in possession of the ball would be required to gain 10 yards in three successive scrimmages or lose possession to the other team. There were other minor changes, but these were the major ones. They caused considerable debate in the Canadian Unions.

First of all, one must remember that there were four sets of rules in use in Canada at the time. The Ontario and Quebec Unions played a different set of rules, as did the College Union. And the rules of the CRU, which the Manitoba RFU played, differed again. Actually, what concerned Burnside most was uniformity. In any event, the new rules were used experimentally in inter-faculty games at the University of Toronto with great interest and success.

Jack McCollum, Varsity captain, stated that he didn't believe the introduction of the Burnside Rules would really improve rugby to any extent, but that the game could be bettered by adopting the down and yards system, by which the team in possession was required to gain either 5, 10, or even 15 yards in three scrimmages. This, he felt, would make the game more open, remove the tactic of teams keeping the ball locked into titanic scrimmage battles when playing against the wind, and finally allow the fans to follow the play with a better view of the ball.

And, of course, the Burnside Rules were brought up at the ORFU's annual meeting. There were many for the innovations but there were several that advised that such measures, if adopted, would be the same as playing American rules. Nobody wanted that, and thus no changes were voted for. The CRU followed suit and did not adopt the Burnside Rules either.

1901 Scoring Leaders:

1. Murphy, Ott. – 4 tries, 8 singles: 24 points.
2. Powers, Ott. – 4 tries: 16 points.
3. Rayside, Ott. – 3 tries, 2 goals-from-tries: 16 points.
4. Hardisty, Argos – 2 tries, 7 singles: 15 points.
5. Hamilton, Ott. – 2 tries, 2 goals-from-tries, 2 singles: 14 points.

1902: Professionalism

To the amateur, it was a dirty word. If the Football Unions didn't get you, then the Amateur Athletic Association of Canada would. The disease soon had every one pointing the finger at every one else. There was no two ways about it, Canadians had to be amateurs. If you took part in football or any other sport and received money, or even if you simply played against a player who did, you were a professional and causing damage to the sport. For instance, in a special meeting of the ORFU Executive in September 1902, charges of "professionalism" were laid against W. Grant of the Argos. Mr. Godfrey of Ottawa charged that as trainer of Varsity Football Club in 1898, Grant had received remuneration for his services. Toronto and the University made statements against this and the charges were dropped.

Because of all this, the ORFU allowed only three teams into the senior series for the fall games: Ottawa, the Argos and the Tigers. The schedule was arranged so that two teams played each other while the other had a bye. Each team was to play the others twice.

In the opening game, the Argos somehow found the Tigers just not really in the game. They scored a converted try, kicked three rouges, and had an easy 9-0 score at the intermission. In the second half, Hamilton managed three kicks by McSwayne, only to have Toronto secure two more trys and win 17-3.

The next week Hamilton noted the lack of players for practices and counted the gate receipts and decided to pack it in. They informed the ORFU that because of the poor turnout of players and because the expenses to Ottawa would be more than the receipts from the return match, they were ceasing operation for the year.

This then left Ottawa and Toronto to battle it out for the Cup. They followed the rest of their schedules. Each team battled the other, gained and lost ground and otherwise produced a rather boring game which the Riders won 9-4. In the return match, the clubs were scoreless at the half but Ottawa, with Hal Walters scoring twice, sunk the good ship Argo 20-0 for the championship.

The Dominion final was between the two Ottawa teams. The Riders proved that their style was superior to that of Ottawa College by defeating them in an unexciting 5-0 win.

Back in Toronto, a good sized crowd was gathering to watch the Argos and Varsity engage in a series of two matches to decide the city championship using the Burnside Rules. Having already gained experience with the new rules, Varsity had the advantage and mounted several marches to the goal line while the Argos, somewhat confused on the down system, frequently kicked the ball away after making 15-20 yard runs. In the end, Varsity's understanding gave them the game 22-9.

The return match was no better for the Argos, but this time their problem was with their quarterback. Time and time again, the defenders broke through the line and tackled the pivot man before he got the ball away. Three times the Argos tried a new man but each knew less of the Burnside Rules than the player before him. Varsity took the game 30-5 for the series.

On December 6, the Quebec Union stated that they were against the damn Burnside Rules, although they wanted the flying wing position removed to bring the players to 14 a side. They simply stated, after due consideration, that the snap-back and down system were not adaptable to their union.

A week later the Ontario Rugby Football Union shocked the establishment by accepting the Burnside Rules. These were:

1. Reduction of teams from 15 to 12 players.
2. Adoption of the snapback system in scrimmaging the ball.
3. Teams in possession of the ball were required to make ten yards on 3 successive downs or scrimmages or turn the ball over to the other team on the fourth down.
4. Place 6 men on the line of scrimmage, not 8.
5. The quarterback was allowed to buck the line upon receiving the ball from the snapback.
6. All goals were to be worth 2 points, whether by placement, drop kick, free or penalty kick.
7. On all kicks, opponents were to line up 10 yards back from the kicker.
8. The throw-in was abolished; the ball was to be brought in at right angles to the touch line 5, 10 or 15 yards and scrimmaged.
9. These rules were to be made uniform throughout the country as completely and as soon as possible.

Burnside and his supporters had won, stating that the new rules made the game more open and interesting to both players and fans. The vote was 19-5 in favor.

However, the CRU was not going to endorse the new ORFU rules, thereby changing the nature of Canadian football overnight. But it should be noted that the vote on the Burnside Rules was decided by one, 4-3. The CRU did, however, favor the Quebec Union's idea and removed the flying wing position. Thus teams played 14 a side this season.

And so when the 1903 season opened, the ORFU found that uniformity in the rules throughout the country had not been achieved, and that they alone were playing a kind of separatist game favored by no one else.

1902 Scoring Leaders:

1. Walters, Ott. – 3 tries: 12 points.
2. Bell, Argos – 2 tries: 8 points.
3. Hardisty, Argos – 7 singles: 7 points.
4. Boyd, Ott. – 1 try, 3 singles: 7 points.
5. Wilson, Argos – 1 try: 4 points.

1903: The Return of the Tigers

When the schedule was being organized, there were seven clubs ready to field teams for the upcoming season. Ottawa, Kingston and Peterboro (after a long absence) were in the Eastern Division and Hamilton Tigers, the (Hamilton) West-End Pleasure Club, London and the Argos were in the Western Division.

No sooner had the schedule been released than the clubs started to drop out for various reasons. Ottawa didn't want to play the Burnside Rules and besides, they considered Kingston and the Pets as merely good intermediate teams. Then Kingston dropped out because their star player, Chaucer Elliot, was labelled a professional and they weren't going to play without him. And Peterboro realized the problems of putting up a team and withdrew due to lack of players and funds.

London withdrew because they were required to play their first two games on the road and finally, the Argos, on hearing that the ORFU had reinstated Green of Hamilton and Bert Morrison of Toronto, two known professionals, were bitterly opposed to the Executive's actions and quit the Union.

The Argos were replaced with a team called the "Toronto Torontos" and Ottawa informed everyone that they were quitting as well and then scheduled a series of exhibition matches for the season. When they heard that Brockville had dropped out of the Quebec RFU due to money problems, they applied and were accepted with open arms.

Thus the ORFU dropped from seven teams in September to three clubs when the season opened, each playing four times. There were many reasons why the Hamilton Tigers dominated the ORFU this year as compared to teams of the past. They had the right players at the right time and played the right system for their style. They had a beefy line in players such as DuMoulin, Barron, Douglas, Lyons and Burkholder, and a speed runner in Tommy Stinson. And they had Art Moore, one of the greatest halfbacks in Canadian history.

Their style of play was different too; on defense they had strong and fast wingmen to control the line of scrimmage and speedy backs to return kicks. On the attack, they employed simple but effective plays: a fast breaking end run, a trick crisscross play, a combination passing play around the end, and a power plunge up the middle behind crisp blocking.

The season started with the Tigers playing the WEPC. The game was no contest as the Tigers, with Stinson scoring 3 tries, overpowered the enemy 37-11.

The Torontos played the Pleasure-Seekers. Two evenly matched teams, they battled up and down the field until the Torontos managed to outscore the Hamilton entry and win 18-12.

With Toronto, Hamilton ran up a commanding 25-0 half-time score and were content to coast to an easy victory. But somebody forgot to tell the Tors and they started a rally that almost blew the Tigers out into the lake. Two fumble returns for a try by Ardagh got his team moving and in short order they had narrowed the score to 23-25. The Tigers woke up and returned to plunging, finally pushing Stinson over. They won 29-25.

The next match between the two Hamilton clubs was a one-man show for Art Moore. Although not as fast as Stinson, he was a great broken field runner and his ability to zigzag made his runs things of beauty. At the end Moore had scored two trys and kicked 6 goals-from-trys for 20 points. The Tigers won 46-5.

Because the Argonauts were playing Varsity for the city championship and were expecting to draw all the local fans, the Torontos requested that their match with the WEPC be postponed to early November. It was, and the Torontos met the Tigers again. But the Hamilton crisscross play was too much for them to handle. The Torontos would take after Stinson only to see Moore rounding the other end with the ball, and when they went after Moore, it was either Stinson or DuMoulin going the other way. So effective was the play selection that the Tigers were 21-1 at the half and then 27-10 at the final whistle, and undefeated for the season.

The postponed match between the Torontos and the West-End Club took place on November 7. In quick order, the Hamiltonians controlled the play and the score 7-0 and looked towards their first win of the season. But Toronto regained control, scored a safety to tie the game and secured several more trys to win the contest 20-7. They finished second at 2 and 2 while the Enders were 0 and 4.

The Ottawa Rough Riders won the Quebec Union. When they heard that Hamilton had won the Ontario RFU, they refused to play for the Dominion final because the Tigers played the scorned Burnside Rules and Ottawa would only play if the scrimmage rules were enforced. Neither side would change their views as both had won their respective unions with their own style of play as per the rules; there was no Canadian championship played in 1903.

After a full year of playing the Burnside Rules, all the ORFU teams seemed to adjust to the new style and even President W.N. Ferguson stated in the minutes that, although he still preferred the old English system of rugby, he liked the snapback and certainly felt that it opened up the game, considerably more than the scrimmage tussles.

The Executive changed the scoring system so that a try was now 5 points and the goal-from-try was 1 point (instead of 4 and 2, respectively). Goals-from-field remained at 2 points, and the five-yard rule on kick returns was replaced by a rule allowing fair catches.

In their annual meeting, the CRU accepted an application from the College Union but when the discussion came up for determining rules for the Dominion final, the ORFU members wanted half the game played under the Burnside Rules and the other half under Quebec's. But the QRFU members refused to vote on the matter, asking why not also accept the rules of the Maritime and Western teams? The Ontario suggestion was defeated.

1903 Scoring Leaders:

1. Moore, Ham. – 3 trys, 15 goals-from-trys, 1 single: 43 points.
2. DuMoulin, Ham. – 4 trys, 8 singles: 24 points.
3. Stinson, Ham. – 5 trys, 2 singles: 22 points.
4. Hynes, Argos – 4 trys: 16 points.
5. Grey, Argos – 3 trys, 1 single: 13 points.

1904: Art Moore

Before the start of the Quebec football season, the membership voted to try one part of the Burnside Rules – the down-yard system. But what they decided on, after much confusion and with the support "King" Clancy of Ottawa College, was that if a team gained 5 or more yards on its third scrimmage, they retained possession of the ball. In other words, even if a team had gained 15 and 20 yards on its first two scrimmages, on third down they still had to run for 5 yards to keep the ball. It was a little odd, but it was a step in the right direction for the Quebecers.

Back in the Ontario Union, the Hamilton West-Enders dropped out and the Argos, Peterboro, London and the Toronto Victorias formed the union along with the returning Hamilton Tigers and Torontos.

In the first district, the Argos, Peterboro and the Torontos battled it out for the first place spot all season. The Argonauts were not in condition and Peterboro defeated them for the first time ever, 19-2. Against

the Torontos, they failed to contain or gain as they were hammered 28-7. The Torontos spotted Peterboro a converted try in the first few minutes of their match, and then overpowered the Pets 27-6.

The Argos surprised the Torontos and fought them to a tie at the half and then outscored them to take the contest 18-16. Against Peterboro the Torontos ran up a 9-0 lead and appeared to control the game. Then they started to fumble at the wrong time. With Rickey returning three of the fumbles for tries and a record, the Pets rallied and won 29-17.

Rickey scored on another fumble return when Peterboro again met the Argos, but behind the superior punting of Hamber and Boyd, Toronto took the match 11-7. All the teams were tied at 2 wins and 2 losses.

Thus to determine the final division standings, playoffs would be necessary. The Executive declared that the two Toronto teams would play, and the winner would meet Peterboro. In the first game, the Argonauts were held to a safety and two singles. The Torontos gave the ball to Morrison and he scored all their points, excluding two safety touches, for a 14-4 victory. With Peterboro, the Torontos had no real problems, as they kept the visitors off the board until the very end and took the division 21-7.

Meanwhile, in the other division, the Tigers were off to a very slow start against the Victorias and fell behind 9-1 at the half. An onside kick got Hamilton rolling and a 125-yard rushing performance by Art Moore helped control the ball as the Tabbies shut down the Vics and thumped them 34-9.

Although evenly matched, in their next game the Vics found their opponents more than they could handle. They were held to just one try as the London Kickers took them 17-6.

Confident of their recent win, London felt they could battle the Tigers on even ground. They managed to fall behind at the half 11-10. But then an onside kick broke the game open and the rout was on. Hamilton secured four fumbles for scores and blasted the Kickers 57-10.

Perhaps it would have been better had the Victorias remained back in Toronto, as their game with Hamilton turned out to be one neither side would forget. The Vics failed to move the ball except for two kicks over the line, and the Tiger running game was in peak form. Ballard and Isbister both ran for 90 yards, and Simpson, who was later to gain fame for his kicking ability, ran for 220 yards and two tries, but the game belonged to Art Moore. He ran wild for 285 yards, scored a record 5 tries, kicked another record 10 of 12 converts for a record of 35 points in one afternoon as the Tigers slaughtered the Vics 80-2! In all, the Tigers ran for 900 yards and 48 first downs, and secured 12 tries.

So weak was the Toronto line that in their return match with London, the Kickers made good gains and took the match 14-9. But in turn, against Hamilton, they were contained by the likes of Marriott and Burkholder, couldn't hold the Tiger running, and were blasted 38-0.

When the undefeated Tigers finally met the winner of the first district for the ORFU championship, it was a two-game total-point affair. The Torontos were simply not in the same league as Hamilton and with Moore gaining 160 yards, the Tigers took the first game 32-0.

In the second match, the running game gave the Tigers a quick 11-0 lead only to have the Torontos slowly ebb away until Mara secured a fumble and narrowed the score to 11-9 at the break. Mass plays pushed Lyons and DuMoulin over the line, and Hamilton had 25 points. But Mara scored on another fumble and the Torontos were behind only 25-15. Three more tries, including a brilliant 40 yarder by Simpson through the entire Toronto team gave Hamilton the series and the Cup, 43-15.

For the CRU championship, Hamilton suggested they and the Quebec winners, Ottawa College, play half under the ORFU and then half under the QRFU rules. But Ottawa declined, refusing to play Burnside Rules. They stated they didn't know the new rules and would play only CRU rules – which was still the mass scrimmage game, 14 players and no downs to gain yards. And for the second year in a row, there was no Dominion champ.

Much to the surprise of the Canadian football world, the Colleges liked the down system the Ontario teams played and at their annual meeting voted to play 10 yards in three downs for the upcoming season.

In the ORFU meeting this year, they made the drop kick 3 points, the penalty touch 2 points, removed the fair catch rule and replaced it with a three-yard reception zone.

1904 Scoring Leaders:

1. Moore, Ham. – 10 trys (record), 21 goals-from-trys (record), 1 drop kick (3 pts.): 74 points (record).
2. Marriott, Ham. – 4 trys: 20 points.
3. Rickey, Peter. – 4 trys (all fumble returns, record): 20 points.
4. DuMoulin, Ham. – 2 trys, 10 singles: 20 points.
5. Trimmer, Argos – 3 trys, 2 goals-from-trys, 1 single: 18 points.

1905: The Year of the Tiger

Peterboro and the Torontos dropped out of competition. That gave the ORFU a four-team league, each playing a six-game schedule. The Argonauts opened the season at home against the Victorias and introduced two new players to the history of the game. Julian “Dub” Sale was to become a pounding plunger for the Scullers and W.E.P. “Peter” Flett was a speedy runner and an excellent kicker. On the strength of these two players, the Argos handed the Vics their first defeat of the season 28-8.

In the return match, two fumbles proved costly to the Victorias. The Argos turned them into trys and went on to win 22-3.

London was still as weak as ever and failed to stop Moore on his end runs and punt returns as the Tigers blasted the Kickers 49-3. The return match was no better as Art ran for over 250 yards, including a 60-yard punt return, and scored 18 points. The Tabbies socked it to London 59-3.

The October 21 game between the Argos and the Tigers was the battle for first place. Both clubs were undefeated and would be observed by the father of American football, Walter Camp, by personal invitation from the ORFU Executive.

The game, four 15-minute quarters as agreed by the captains, gave Camp a favorable impression of the Canadian game. But with Flett out of the game due to injuries, the Argos were no match for the Tigers. Moore was “held” to only 95 yards in runs but he made one punt return for 75 yards and would have scored had he not stumbled. He also returned a fumble for 35 yards only to be pushed out of bounds near the line. Hamilton was ahead 13-5 after the first quarter and 25-6 at the half. They took the match 41-7 at the final whistle.

At this point, the two lopsided victories by Hamilton over London compelled the Kickers to inform the ORFU that they were withdrawing from further play due to lack of player interest and turnout at practice. This meant that the Argos and the Victorias picked up two default victories each, assuring Toronto of at least a second-place finish.

It really didn't matter who played the Tigers – they were going to be defeated, as Hamilton was simply the Giant killer of the century. Against the Victorias, who tried to hold the score down to earthly numbers, Moore had another field day, scoring on a 55-yard dash and a 40-yard punt return, collecting 15 points and finishing the game with 225 yards from scrimmage. Naturally, Hamilton blasted the Vics 40-0.

In the last game of the season and with first place wrapped up as well as the ORFU Cup, the Tigers played a meaningless game against the Argonauts. Stubbornly, the Rowers played and soon the Tigers found they had a battle on their hands as the Double Blue were not going to give in easily. A short kick gave Hamber a 20-yard punt return late in the game but Hamilton had the contest wrapped up 22-10.

At this point, Hamilton really felt they were worthy of the Canadian title and challenged the Ottawa Rough Riders for the game. But where to play appeared to be the key issue. Ottawa wasn't going to play Hamilton unless the game was in the Capital and the Tigers weren't going to play in the home of the Quebec winners. And the CRU, desperate to re-establish a true national crown, banned the ORFU champs from the final.

Varsity, the college winners, were happy to play anybody anywhere and took on the Riders at their home field with the match played under the ORFU rules for the first half (trys and goals 4 and 2 points and 5

yards on the 3rd down) and then the second under CIRFU rules (trys and goals 5 and 1 point and 10 yards in 3 downs).

The teams took turns scoring in successive quarters with the Riders 7-0 in the first quarter, then 7-5 at the half. A safety touch after the intermission gave Ottawa 9 points but then in the last frame, Varsity scored a try and converted it to give them the Dominion crown, 11-9.

The ORFU raised the value of the goal-from-field from three to four points and made 15-minute quarters optional to the captains at their annual meeting. Art Moore became the career scoring leader with 175 points.

And the CRU, in its meeting, declared that in the future all championship matches would be played half under Quebec and half under Ontario rules. For the first time the CRU made a concerted effort to publish a rules book consisting of the constitutions and rules of all the unions in Canada.

1905 Scoring Leaders:

1. Moore, Ham. – 7 trys, 21 goals-from-trys, 1 free kick: 58 points.
2. Stinson, Ham. – 7 trys, 2 singles: 37 points.
3. Ballard, Ham. – 6 trys: 30 points.
4. Marriott, Ham. – 6 trys: 30 points.
5. Isbister, Ham. – 4 trys (on fumble returns, equals record), 5 singles: 25 points.

1906: They Finally Won It All

The season opened with Peterboro returning to the league, replacing the London Kickers. Their first match was with the Toronto Victorias, who dominated the first half 5-1. Then a costly fumble was secured by Crowley of Peterboro, and McWilliams' convert put them ahead. They started to add on to their total and took their first victory 16-7.

The Vics tried to regroup against the Argonauts in their next contest but were outplayed. The Scullers took advantage of the rain, the wind and the mud. The Argos worked their trick plays to lead 9-1 at the half, and even when the rain and wind stopped, still controlled the game 21-3.

The adverse weather conditions affected Hamilton at Peterboro, as Moore ran for only 80 yards. However, the other Tiger players were able to display their talents and whitewash the Pets 37-0.

Under more favorable conditions, the Argos and Hamilton played a tight and tough struggle at the Cricket Grounds. The Tigers held a slim 5-0 lead and the Boatmen pressed, only to be held on downs. They punted and Moore made a spectacular 60-yard return to break the game open. Toronto failed to stop the Tigers' combination plays with Moore and they lost 19-6.

But in their rematch with the Vics, Peter Flett's excellent kicking gave the Argos field position time and time again. They took the easy contest 15-5.

Peterboro surprised the Tigers and fought them at the line, matched them in kicking and even managed several good runs. They held the score to 18-1 at the half. But two fumble returns by Burkholder and Moore's 220-yard rushing performance allowed the Tigers to score 24 more points and blast the Pets 42-1 in the Thursday afternoon game.

The Victorias played so poorly that Hamilton found their next game nothing more than a light workout. Art Moore scored 21 points, ran for 195 yards en route to a 48-1 Tiger blasting. The return match gave the Vics one advantage as Moore was injured but still played. Dave Tope took his place at right half and ran for 175 yards as the Tigers held the visitors off the board until the dying moments and soundly whipped them 55-6.

At Peterboro and in the rain, both the home club and the Argos failed to mount much of a running attack. Both teams settled down to a kicking game, hoping the other would make a mistake they could capitalize on. The first quarter ended with the Argos ahead 1-0. In the second frame, each team traded goals-from-the-field and rouges for a 6-6 tie. Just before the half, Flett scored on a rouge and Toronto went ahead by

one. The remainder of the match was Toronto's as they scored 6 more points while limiting the Pets to one. Argonauts took the contest 13-7.

In their last game of the season, the Argos gave the Tigers their toughest game in many years. In fact the Argos were all over the Tabbies – so much so that Hamilton was lucky to emerge the winners. Right from the start, Toronto ran at the famed Tiger line and in the space of five minutes had scored as many points. Several drives stalled and only great returns by the Tigers allowed them to run Flett's punts out of danger. Hamilton was unable to gain on the line and for the first time in years were struggling as the Argos were determined to be the Tiger killers. At the half, Simpson scored two rouges but Toronto had control 5-2.

Hamilton finally took the lead in the third when DuMoulin was pushed over on a mass formation. In the last quarter they got another single. Good runs by the Rowers got them close enough for Flett to kick and they secured a safety and a touch-in-goal to tie the score at eight. Then, Ben Simpson, who had almost signed with the Peterboro team two years back, put on an electrifying show of kicking and kept hemming the Argos in their own territory. Finally he produced two great punts that won the match 10-8.

The Victorias and Peterboro engaged in another punting duel. By the end of three quarters of play, Peterboro was ahead 7-4. The Vics got two singles from Stollery to narrow the score, but when Gillespie rambled over on a spectacular inside kick Peterboro appeared to have the match locked up. But then the Vics secured two fumbles and sneaked past the Pets 23-14.

The last match of the schedule, Peterboro at Toronto, was one the Pets were determined to make a game of. They quickly jumped off to a 2-0 score. The Argos already had second place wrapped up but wanted the season to end on a winning note. Flett was the star of the game, as his kicking and lateral passing gave his team a 4-2 lead at intermission. His 16-yard run for a try near full time was the margin of victory, 12-4.

If Hamilton wanted the Dominion final, declared the CRU, they would first have to play a strong, high-scoring Montreal team from the Quebec Union. If they won, the Tigers could challenge the College champions, McGill, for the final – all without the Burnside Rules, and that meant without the scrimmage game.

In spite of these rigid conditions, Hamilton prepared to battle Montreal and practiced the three-man scrim until game day. The Tigers controlled the ball from scrim and their good runs placed Simpson within range of his lengthy boot so well that by the end of the first quarter the Gold and Black had tallied 6 points to 0 for Montreal. Two more punts made it 8 and only a fumble secured by Montreal put them on the scoreboard.

With Moore pounding out 65 hard yards and Simpson kicking for a 45-yard average, the Tigers scored three more times in the second half and took the semi-final 11-6.

McGill was simply not in the same league, as too many times the Tiger wingmen broke through and stopped their plays before they started. Outstanding punt returns by Moore (over 100 yards) gave Hamilton field position. Two fumbles and singles by Simpson led to 20 points before McGill scored, and Moore's 15-yarder before the half made it 25-2. The Tigers coasted in the last half, clawed McGill 29-3, and finally became Dominion Champions. There was really no doubt in anyone's mind that the Hamilton Tigers, with or without the Burnside Rules, were the most dominant team on the field.

1906 Scoring Leaders:

1. Moore, Ham. – 7 trys, 20 goals-from-trys, 1 single: 56 points.
2. Flett, Argos – 2 trys, 4 goals-from-field (record), 15 singles: 41 points.
3. Simpson, Ham. – 3 trys, 2 goals-from-field, 16 singles: 29 points.
4. Murray, Ham. – 4 trys: 20 points.
5. Burkholder, Ham. – 3 trys, 1 single: 16 points.

Aftermath

At their next annual meeting, the ORFU made a surprising move. They voted to play under CRFU rules, a return to the scrimmage game. This meant 14 players per side, no snap-back, and no yards system. Although the reasons are not clearly noted in the minutes, they were probably based on the fact that

because Hamilton, and indeed the Union, played the scrimmage rules and still won the Canadian Championship, they could play against anyone. The vote was unanimous.

Yet, in return, the CRU started to realize the value of the down system and voted to adopt the College Union rules with minor adjustments. Teams now had three downs to gain 10 yards for possession and were required to line up one yard apart. Before, as soon as the ball touched the ground the teams came together. Now they had to wait until the centre scrim put the ball into motion with his foot. Trys were 5 points, goals-from-tryes 1, goals-from-field 4, free kicks 3, penalty kicks, safety touches and rouges 2, and touch-in-goal kicks 1 point.

The CRU also stated that for a player to take part in the Dominion final, he must have played in at least one of his team's matches.

Thus, by the end of 1906, several important changes occurred. Hamilton proved that they were the best team of all these years and the best in Canada, at least in the eastern part of the country. And more notably, for the first time in years the rules of Canadian football were almost uniform. All the unions looked forward to continued prosperity and total assurance there would be no issues over the CRU final.

But this unprecedented marriage of the leagues was to be short-lived. In September of the following year, President George Ballard of the Tigers and of the ORFU was tinkering with the idea of forming another union comprised of his team, the Argos and both Ottawa and Montreal from Quebec. (See 1983 PFRA Annual.)

That these teams should come together was inevitable, and when they did, it was a major milestone in Canadian history. For from this merger would come the roots that in time would form the eastern part of the CFL and dominate football for the next fifty years. In effect, this move made both the ORFU and the QRFU second-rate football organizations.

Still, the ORFU managed to reorganize itself and field senior teams; they even challenged successfully for the Grey Cup several times. The Hamilton Alerts won it in 1912, Toronto Balmy Beach in 1927 and 1930, and the Sarnia Imperials in 1934 and 1936.

And it should be noted that just once, the Tigers returned back to the fold when, in 1948 after a disagreement with the IRFU over gate receipts, they switched places with the Hamilton Wildcats and dominated the ORFU for the next two years.

When the ORFU went back to CRU rules in 1907, Canadian football was on its way to evolving into the modern game. We now had 3 downs to gain 10 yards, and had experienced 12-man football and the snapback system of scrimmaging. The latter two points would be confirmed in the CRU rules of 1921. Only the forward pass was yet to come.

In January 1883 a handful of sports gentlemen wanted to organize the game into a peaceful form of recreation, not aware of the seed their convictions had planted nor of the direction of its growth.

* * * *

O.R.F.U. Championship Teams

Year-Team playing record:

1883	Toronto Argonauts	4	0	0	43	12
1884	Toronto Argonauts	4	0	0	75	12
1885	Ottawa College	4	0	0	57	9
1886	Ottawa College	2	0	0	25	0
1887	Ottawa College	3	0	0	24	0
1888	Ottawa College	4	0	0	66	3
1889	Ottawa College	3	0	0	39	20
1890	Hamilton Tigers	4	0	0	63	10
1891	Osgoode Hall	3	0	0	100	7
1892	Osgoode Hall	4	0	0	110	24
1893	Queens	5	2	0	162	65

1894	Queens University	4	0	0	33	12
1895	Varsity (UT)	2	2	0	56	42
1896	Varsity (UT)	4	0	0	92	39
1897	Hamilton Tigers	3	1	0	64	31
1898	Ottawa City	6	0	0	170	20
1899	Kingston Granites	5	1	0	80	38
		(defeated O.C. in playoff)				
1900	Ottawa City	4	2	0	89	26
		(defeated Argos in playoff)				
1901	Toronto Argonauts	5	1	0	65	28
1902	Ottawa City	4	0	0	29	4
1903	Hamilton Tigers	4	0	0	139	49
1904	Hamilton Tigers	4	0	0	209	21
		(defeated Torontos in playoff)				
1905	Hamilton Tigers	6	0	0	248	23
1906	Hamilton	6	0	0	211	22

Individual Records – Career

Points: 231 Moore, Hamilton
119 Senkler, Osgoode Hall

Trys: 27 Moore, Hamilton
22 Senkler, Osgoode Hall

Trys running: 23 Moore, Hamilton
21 Senkler, Osgoode Hall

Trys on fumble returns: 5 Burkholder, Hamilton
4 Langton, Toronto

Trys on onside kicks: 3 Logie, Hamilton
1 Thompson, Strathroy

Penalty kicks: 2 Gilmour, Varsity
1 Watson, Hamilton

Free kicks: 6 Harvey, Hamilton
2 Wood, Toronto

Goals-from-try: 77 Moore, Hamilton
23 Rayside, Ottawa City

Goals-from-field: 5 Saunders, Toronto-Hamilton
4 Harvey, Hamilton

Singles: 48 Southam, Ottawa-Hamilton
45 McRae, Queens

Individual Records – Season

Points: 74 Moore, Hamilton 1904
Trys: 10 Moore, Hamilton 1904
Trys running: 9 Moore, Hamilton 1904
Trys on fumble returns: 4 Rickey, Peterboro 1904
Trys on onside kicks: 3 Logie, Hamilton 1888
Trys on punt returns: 2 Moore, Hamilton 1905
Penalty kicks: 1 Watson, Hamilton 1886
Free kicks: 6 Harvey, Hamilton 1894
Goals-from-try: 21 Moore, Hamilton 1904, 1905
Goals-from-field: 4 Flett, Toronto 1906

Singles: 23 Farrell, Queens 1893

Individual Records – Game

Points: 35 Moore, Ham. Vs. Tor. Vics, Oct. 22, 1904
Trys: 5 Moore, Ham. Vs. Tor. Vics, Oct. 22, 1904
Trys running: 5 Moore, Ham. Vs. Tor. Vics, Oct. 22, 1904
Trys on fumble returns: 3 Rickey, Peterboro vs. Tor. Tors, Oct. 29, 1904
Trys on onside kicks: 1 Thompson, Strathroy vs. Ham., Oct. 18, 1884
Trys on punt returns: 1 Boyd, Tor. Vs. Ham., Oct. 19, 1889
Penalty kicks: 1 Watson, Ham. Vs. London, Oct. 16, 1886
Free kicks: 3 Harvey, Ham. Vs. Tor., Oct. 13, 1894
Goals-from-try: 10 Moore, Ham. Vs. Tor. Vics, Oct. 22, 1904
Goals-from-field: 3 Ambey, Ham. Vs. Stratford, Oct. 8, 1892
Singles: 8 Southam, Ham. Vs. London, Oct. 24, 1891

Team Records

Points season: 248 Hamilton 1905
211 Hamilton 1906

Points game: 80 Osgoode Hall vs. 48th, Oct. 5, 1895
80 Hamilton vs. Toronto Vics, Oct. 22, 1904

Shutout game: 71-0 Hamilton vs. Stratford, Oct. 8, 1892
69-0 Hamilton vs. London, Oct. 24, 1891

Trys season: 40 Hamilton 1905
33 Ottawa 1898

Trys game: 17 Osgoode Hall vs. 48th, Oct. 5, 1895
12 Toronto vs. Peterboro, Oct. 9, 1886

Trys on fumble returns season: 10 Hamilton 1903

Trys on fumble return game: 4 Hamilton vs. WEPC, Sept. 26, 1903

Penalty kicks season: 1 Hamilton 1886

Penalty kicks game: 1 Hamilton vs. London, Oct. 16, 1886

Free kicks season: 6 Hamilton 1894

Free kicks game: 3 Hamilton vs. T.A.C., Oct. 13, 1894

Goals-from-try season: 21 Hamilton 1904, 1905

Goals-from-try game: 10 Hamilton vs. Tor. Vics, Oct. 22, 1904

Goals-from-field season: 4 Hamilton 1892

Goals-from-field game: 3 Hamilton vs. Stratford, Oct. 8, 1892

Singles season: 43 Queens 1893

Singles game: 18 Hamilton vs. Stratford, Oct. 8, 1892

Safety touches season: 4 Hamilton 1904

Safety touches game: 3 Ottawa College vs. Hamilton, Nov. 10, 1888