

Canadian Pro Football Drew Million Fans In 1955

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Professional football in Canada's two major leagues drew more than 1,000,000 fans through the gates during the regular 1955 season.

Playoff and pre-season exhibition games boosted the total to a high of 1,302,180.

The total attendance for the 90 regular season games in the Western Interprovincial Football Union was 640,304. In the Big Four League the 48 regular schedule battles attracted 391,647 fans.

Ten exhibition games four WIFU and two Big Four playoff games, the Grey Cup final and the East-West all-star game set about another 270,000 fans clicking through the turnstiles.

BOOST FROM LAST YEAR

In the WIFU, with each team playing 16 games both in 1954 and 1955, this year's regular season attendance of 640,304 represented an increase of about 47,000 over 1954. The Big Four also boosted its attendance although each team played only 12 games in the regular schedule, two less than in the previous year. Its total of 391,647 was an increase of 19,108.

British Columbia Lions, in the WIFU only the second year, set an attendance record by drawing 197,100 to their eight home games in Empire Stadium, an average of nearly 25,000 a game when 29,507 fans saw them play Edmonton Eskimos Sept. 10, 1955.

TWO RECORD CROWDS

It was the biggest crowd for a football game in this country until it was surpassed by the 39,417 who viewed this year's Grey Cup game between Montreal Alouettes and Edmonton at Empire Stadium.

Saskatchewan Roughriders were the only other team besides Vancouver's entry to pull in bigger crowds in the WIFU this season over 1954. The Roughriders drew a total of 100,462 fans, an increase of 3,800 compared with 1954.

The Grey Cup champion Eskimos drew 125,551 fans to Clarke Stadium for eight regular schedule games.

All the Big Four clubs except Argos reported higher attendance for the regular season despite the fact each played one less home game in 1955. Montreal led for the third year in a row, drawing a total of 125,137 to McGill Stadium, an increase of 9,132 over the previous season. The average attendance was 20,856.

Argonauts' extravagant import spending policy and team manager Harry Sonshine's high, wide

and handsome way of running the team failed to shove them over their 1954 mark. Their attendance at Varsity Stadium fell off 2,835 with a total of 104,993 compared to 107,822 the previous year.

Only 13,546 attended the East-West all-star game, played at Toronto's Varsity Stadium in aid of Canada's crippled children. Rain and cold kept many fans away with hundreds who bought tickets not showing up.

Rain Interferes With Pro Football Ch'ship

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Showers peppered this area Friday and presented the possibility that mud will make the going difficult in Monday's professional football championship game between Cleveland Browns and Los Angeles Rams.

More than an inch of rain is expected by today, with showers again Sunday. Skies are expected to clear Monday, however.

If the turf is wet, the respective running attacks may prove the deciding factor in the National Football League title battle.

The ground game brings into focus two outstanding runners, former teammates at the University of Maryland—215-pound fullback Ed (Mighty Mo) Modzelewski of the defending champion Browns, and halfback Ron Waller, 174-pound rookie.

Waller is the leading ground gainer for the Rams, having piled up 716 yards in 151 carries, plus 228 yards more as a pass receiver.

Modzelewski is second to Fred (Curley) Morrison, the ex-Chicago Bear fullback who was shifted to halfback by Cleveland coach Paul Brown, in running yardage. He has gained 619 yards in 185 carries.

SPORTS

Page 6 The Guardian Saturday, Dec. 24, 1955

Five Games Slated In N.H.L. During Weekend

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
At least one safe prediction may be made about the coming weekend action in the National Hockey League. When the dust clears, Montreal Canadiens and New York Rangers will still be hanging on to first and second place respectively.

Of the five games scheduled, the big one may be at Montreal tonight, when Canadiens meet Detroit Red Wings. The Wings are on the warpath after their 3-2 victory over Boston Bruins Thursday night which ran their win streak to four straight games.

DUKE FOR SLUMP

General manager Jack Adams is predicting confidently that the Wings are just starting to roll. Montreal, he claims, is due for a slump.

Even if the Wings take the Montreal encounter and win again on home ice Sunday against Toronto Maple Leafs, they can't get out of third place.

The Rangers, with 36 points, are 13 points behind Montreal and five up on the Wings.

If Adams' prediction falls flat and the Wings roll backwards they could even end the weekend at notched down in fourth place. Chicago Black Hawks could pick up the four points needed to oust Detroit from third spot by whipping the Leafs at Toronto tonight and the Bruins at Boston Sunday.

The other weekend game sees Montreal at New York Sunday.

The final results could see one deadlock broken in the points race. Toronto and Boston are tied for last with 25 each.

Rousing Reception Awaits Nashua On Return Home

HIALEAH, Fla. (AP)—A reception befitting a potentate and his entourage awaits Nashua, the millionaire race horse, when he comes "home" today.

For more than a week now, Hialeah race course where Nashua won his richest race, has been busy preparing for arrival of the 1955 "horse of the year."

Appropriately, Nashua and five other thoroughbreds arrive from Kentucky today aboard the Florida east coast railroad's "Flamingo." Nashua won Hialeah's Flamingo stakes last February, thereby earning \$104,600 of his \$945,415 bankroll.

ROYAL WELCOME

On hand to greet the great horse will be Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons, at 81 the dean of American thoroughbred trainers and the man who conditioned Nashua for all his races.

Mayor Henry Millander will present the keys of the city to Fitzsimmons, now in his 25th season as a trainer at Hialeah. The mayor will have a small token for Nashua too, a key fashioned of raw carrots.

Nashua is coming to Florida to shoot for the \$50,000 added Mc-

Argonauts Sign Bobby Kuntz

TORONTO (CP)—Toronto Argonauts of the Big Four football league Friday confirmed they had signed halfback Bobby Kuntz of the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen.

Kuntz said Wednesday he expected to sign "in a day or two."

He is the third player on the senior Ontario Rugby Football Union championship team to sign with Argos.

Earlier this week Argos announced they had signed tackle John Ganelle and end Mat Pagan.

Argos must still come to terms with the Kitchener executive before the three can play in the Big Four.

Skiers Barred From Olympics

INNSBRUCK, Austria (AP)—Four of Austria's top skiers including an Olympic champion, have been barred from the winter Olympics Games because they allegedly "acted against the interests of the Austrian Skiing Association," it was announced Friday.

The reason for their punishment was an attack on Austrian team coach Fred Boessner. In a statement to the press, they said he was "not qualified" for the post.

Rosner has repeatedly indicated he would resign unless action was taken against the skiers.

Only one of the skiers, Toni Spies, had already been nominated for the Austrian Olympic team while the other three—1952 Olympic slalom champion Othmar Schneider, Martin Strolz and Gerhard Hilbrand—were contenders.

Hockey Practice

The B. Y. C. coach has called a hockey practice for Monday from 1 to 2 p.m. He asked all players to attend.

All-star Coaches Pick Extra Players For Game

SAINT JOHN, N. B. (CP)—All-star coaches Hughie Campbell of the first team and Steve Brklacich of the second have announced the additional players who will bolster their squads in the first annual Atlantic Coast Senior Hockey League all-star game, scheduled for Moncton Stadium next Monday.

Both coaches, who won't be allowed to play for their respective clubs, will have a roster of 14 players, eight over the six picked by fans in the balloting which ended earlier this month.

Campbell, playing coach of the third place Fredericton Capitals, has built up his playing personnel with four additions from Saint John Beavers, three from Moncton Hawks and one from Amherst. Beaver playing coach Brklacich has picked up three Moncton players, two each from the Saint John and Amherst clubs and one from Fredericton.

FAN'S CHOICE

Already on the first team by fans' choices were: Beaver goalie Jim Shirley and defenceman Lloyd Hinchberger; Amherst's playing coach-defenceman Lou Kiley, forward Shermie White (centre) and Pierre Brillant (right wing); and Moncton playing coach Bert Hirschfeld (left wing).

Added to the first team are: from Saint John, Mark Boleau, Wimpy Jones, Frank Kuzma (forwards) and Red Barrett (defence); from Amherst, Emmett Kennedy (forward); from Moncton Dave Wall, Ray Lacroix (forwards) and George Whyte (defence).

Fans' choices on the second club were: Moncton's goalie Nick Pidsony and rearguard Fred Weaver; Fredericton defenceman Joe Lapine and right-winger Doug McPhee; Beaver centre Ron Rubin and Amherst left-winger Jackie Schmidt.

Also on this team are the following players picked by Brklacich: Hawks' Ray Leduc, Yvon Houle (forwards) and Bill Leblanc (forwards); Beavers' Nick Nicolle and Sid Pudicombe (forwards); Ramblers' Dave Kelly (forwards) and Lionel Botley (defence); and Capitals' Bob Leger (forward).

Hartley Campbell is manager of the first team and Jim McDonald holds that position on the second. Proceeds from the game are to go into a fund to be split between the two top finishers in the league at the end of the regular schedule.

Cricketer Dies

LONDON (CP)—Len Braund, former Somerset and England all around cricketer, died Thursday at his home in Fulham. He was 80.

Braund played for England 23 times between 1902 and 1907. Eight years ago his right leg was amputated and three years later he lost the other.

Record Betting

CHICAGO (AP)—A record total of \$204,991.019 was wagered at Illinois thoroughbred racing tracks in 1955.

The Illinois racing board's annual report Friday showed this amount was bet by 2,938,772 patrons at the five Chicago-area and two downstate tracks.

In This Corner A Christmas Letter To Santa From The Corner

Heavens! Less than 24 hours before Christmas and we have yet to write our yearly letter to good old Santa Claus. We had better get busy right now and send off a note to St. Nick and only hope we are not too late.

Dear Santa Claus,

We won't ask anything for ourselves this year but we would like to ask you for a few things that will bring a little happiness to athletes and fans here and abroad.

First there is Wilf McCuskey. Would it be possible, Santa, to bring him a boxing commission so that his yearly Maritime ring ratings would get the official support they deserve? Even for you Santa this next request might be nearly impossible to fulfill but do you think you could get the McCurdy Cup out of Glace Bay and into the grateful arms of Dr. Frank Jelks and his Charlottetown Nomads? Do you think you could persuade George Francis to put wheels on the outfield fence at Memorial Field so that pitchers could breathe more easily when Kip Ready and Buck Whitlock come to the plate? And while we are at Memorial Field how about a little illumination out there next summer? We know, Santa, that Cobey McCuskey would like nothing better for Christmas than another shot at Lou Lawrence's Canadian Middleweight title.

For Don Whelan we ask you to have a talk with Fate and persuade him not to get involved in anymore awarded baseball or hockey games. For all referees generally Sant we would ask you to bring them (at the request of an interested fan) two or three sets of bi-focals. For the Summerside Aces, Paul Schurman would be a wonderful present and if you would like to leave Coke Grady too, Island fans would be most appreciative.

If you have any spare Jack Gardons, Gus Dorais or Bob Mooney's around, the S.D.U. basketball squad would be glad to have them. For Dave MacLeod, who has been an exceptionally fine athlete in hockey, baseball, track and field and football, more fields to conquer. For all Island golfers a large supply of portable divots. And for Wendall (Gump) Gillis an extra supply. For Des Burge a few obedient golf balls that would go in the direction he intends them to. For Elmer Ward, who captains the Guardian bowling team, a strike. For all



JOINS ALOUETTES

Michel (Mike) Normandin, popular bilingual sportscaster widely known throughout Quebec province, has been appointed executive director of Montreal Alouettes Football Club of the Big Four. The appointment, announced by President Leo Dandurand and Executive Vice-President Ted Workman, followed soon after the break of General Manager Vic Obeck with club officials.

Ted Lindsay And Goldham Out

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Red Wings Friday told ailing players Ted Lindsay and Bob Goldham that they may spend Christmas with their families in Detroit instead of going to Montreal for Saturday night's game with the Canadiens.

Both Lindsay and Goldham missed Thursday night's game in Boston. Lindsay is suffering an injury to his left hand, while Goldham is bothered by a heavy cold which has settled in his shoulder and neck.

At the same time, the Red Wings recalled defenceman Larry Hillman from Buffalo of the American Hockey League. He will report in time to play against Montreal.

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

We had the pleasure of a visit this week from Townsend MacNeill of North Rustico, one of the best known horsemen in his section of the country. He was getting a yearling registered out of his 21-year-old favorite brood mare, whose pedigree traces back to the best breeding strains of the long ago. Mr. MacNeill is very active for his age and has a very bright outlook, probably because he is so interested in horses. We trust that the yearling will turn out to be a fast performer and a credit to Mr. MacNeill's selection of breeding strains.

And now there is a suggestion being made that drivers should be equipped with metal head guards. Billy Houghton, leading money winning driver of 1955, thinks the suggestion is an excellent one and a firm that makes a specialty of manufacturing such items is making some experimental types that can be tried out and if successful will be made up in quantities.

At a meeting of U. S. T. A. in Columbus it was decided that the licensing of women as drivers on pair-mutuel tracks would cease. Those women who hold pair-mutuel licenses—about six—can continue their driving. Driver qualifications are also being revised and changes include, for a professional license a man must have the equivalent of one year of training experience. For a full license a man must have the equivalent of one year of training experience. For a full license a man must have one year of driving experience and have made 25 satisfactory racing starts. A driver with a county fair license must demonstrate satisfactory ability to drive before being allowed to enter pair-mutuel competition. Experts on tracks have made revision of the rules about drivers a necessity. Some of the younger ones don't realize just how hazardous the sport is and take chances that endanger themselves and others who are driving against them.

TO SAINT JOHN

Our friend Marshall Govang of Saint John, N. B. has written giving the names of some new arrivals at the Saint John oval that we did not have previously. They are Forever Rosecroft 2:07, 7-year-old pacer by Symbol Gantle. In 1954 he shows 22 starts with 9 firsts, 3 seconds and two thirds and he is eligible to the 2:17 pace. In his last race that season at Bloomsbury, Pa. half mile track he was 4-1 in 2:07 4/5, 2:08 2/5. He is owned by Kirkpatrick Bros. of St. John and looks like a pacer that should tramp the St. John oval in 2:10 or better. The Machine Stable

of St. John brought in the 14-year-old black trotter Shandon 2:05 3/5 by Cardinal Prince 1:59 1/4. He is eligible to the 2:10 class and in his career has won almost \$25,000. He raced in upper Canada last year and should be a strong contender for the fast class trots in the Maritimes the coming season. The stable also has a good pacer in Holbert Grattan 2:07 2/5, a 9-year-old brown gelding by Win Grattan. He was five times first in 1954 and is eligible to a 2:16 class. This year he won in 2:09. Marshall states that there are close to 100 horses wintering at the St. John Raceway and five buildings are being hauled in to be converted into stables to accommodate more horses in 1956.

And now we hear from Harvey Cormier, Taylor's Village, N. B., the man who gave Argot Pointier his record of 2:07 and who was one of the most active drivers in the Maritimes this season, making over 170 starts. Harvey had a very good summer both in money and dashes. He is very high on Mae Federal, a 4-year-old mare that had not shown much until she got into his hands. Harvey believes she will be another Sister Mary Hoo in year or so as she has lots of 2:10 speed.

He was also very pleased with the mare Congresswoman, which he put on the trot and gave a mark of 2:15 and then put her in the pace and won with her in 2:12 2/5. He has a new horse called Big Ed, well built with lots of speed and staying power. This horse is a bit funny behind the gate, something like Tryon used to be, but in his last two races left fine and he believes that a little patience will make him a good race horse. He won a five mile race in Quebec so he must be tough enough. He is a chestnut gelding, doesn't wear a boot of any kind and Harvey won with him in 2:14 late in the fall. His mark is 2:12 3/5. He is by Mose Dale by Hal Dale and his dam is Fashion Handover by Peter the Brewer, which is good enough breeding.

MADE RECORDS

Another horse that raced well for him is Island Star by Calumet Budlong. He is a very good trotter and Harvey gave him a mark of 2:16 3/5 and believes he will make a 2:12 trotter next year as he seemed to be improving all the time. This is a list of horses Harvey gave records to this season: Congresswoman on the trot, 2:15; Miss Betty Dale p., 2:17; Island Star, 2:15 on the trot; Mae Federal p., 2:16; and Reta Federal p., 2:14. Harvey writes: "You have a (Continued on page 7)"

Season's Greetings

To all our friends for a happy holiday season.

Bill Warren's White Rose Service Station

Cor. Euston & Elm Aves.

Christmas Cheers

JOHNNY'S MAYFAIR TEA ROOM

Cor. Prince & Kent

Merry Christmas

And greetings of the season. We hope that you and all of our loyal patrons enjoy this wonderful Yuletide to the very utmost.

Grafton Street ESSO Service Station

PETER DesROCHES

CLOSED TUESDAY "BOXING DAY"

CARS

By Earle G. MacLeod

It does no good to comment, as so many do at this time of year, on how much our Christmas has changed.

The candles on our trees are now electrical (and thereby much safer) and the carols are more likely to come from a three-speed phonograph (and, therefore, be more musical, if not more dedicated, than our own efforts).

I do not regret, really, that our Christmas has changed. For whatever havoc progress has wrecked on this day of Christ, it remains still a day that stands out in each year as bright as the star that shone over Bethlehem.

We mark our milestones by our Christmases. We remember the new flivver the family got because it was used for the happy occasion of Christmas, or we remember how good a cook our mother was because she excelled at Christmas.

And all the uncles and aunts and cousins and nephews (some of them fun and some of them pretty unbearable) fit into our memories because we remember them from Christmases.

Memory is among our great treasures, and no mechanical contrivance can ever take its place as a source of pleasure. Christmas, as the focal point of memory, can never be changed fundamentally despite the gnawing away at its spirit by the growing commercialism.

Memory, made of Christmases, is brighter than any string of lights, sweeter than any wine and more beautiful than any photograph. In wishing all our friends a Merry Christmas, therefore, we are wishing you all another day that will soon become a pleasant and mellow memory!

Earle G. MacLeod

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