

CFL vs NFL

With my mention of the CFL in last week's article, some of you may have wondered, has a CFL team ever played against an NFL team? The answer is yes, they have met in exhibition games on 10 different occasions. Here is the list:

August 26th, 1941: Winnipeg Blue Bombers 19, Columbus Bulls 12 (Osborne Stadium)
September 1st, 1941: Columbus Bulls 6, Winnipeg Blue Bombers 0 (Osborne Stadium)
September 10th, 1941: Columbus Bulls 31, Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1 (Osborne Stadium)
August 12th, 1950: New York Giants 27, Ottawa Rough Riders 6 (Lansdowne Park)
August 11th, 1951: New York Giants 41, Ottawa Rough Riders 18 (Lansdowne Park)
August 5th, 1959: Chicago Cardinals 55, Toronto Argonauts 26 (CNE Stadium)
August 3rd, 1960 Pittsburgh Steelers 43, Toronto Argonauts 16 (CNE Stadium)
August 2nd, 1961: St. Louis Cardinals 36, Toronto Argonauts 7 (CNE Stadium)
August 5th, 1961: Chicago Bears 34, Montreal Alouettes 16 (Molson Stadium)
August 8th, 1961: Hamilton Tiger-Cats 38, Buffalo Bills 21 (Civic Stadium)

All games were played on Canadian soil but other than the last game, there is no mention of what rules they played under. The last game, each half was played under each side's rules. The Canadian field size was not changed. As you can see, the overall results were in overwhelming in favour of the American teams with 8 victories and 2 losses. However, the last game was so embarrassing to the NFL, that they never came back. The Buffalo team did gain knowledge of a huge fullback playing in the CFL and at first opportunity, signed him to a contract. He was 250 pound, Cookie Gilchrist. He went on to win the AFL's MVP, two AFL rushing titles and helped Buffalo win the League Championship in 1964.