

## Grey Cup History

The 105th Grey Cup game was played this weekend with snow falling, snow on the ground and with a Shania Twain at halftime, final score, Argonauts 27, Stampeders 24. It made the GBP/PIT game look a little bland. Here is a short history of "**le Coupe Grey**". With two Cups already in existence for Hockey (Stanley and Allan Cups), Albert Grey, the 4th Earl Grey and the 9th Governor General of Canada wanted a trophy with his name on it. In 1909, he commissioned a trophy for the Dominion amateur rugby football championship. The first Grey Cup was won by the University of Toronto Varsity Blues over the Parkdale Canoe Club. If you did the math, (2017-1909=112), the Grey Cup is older than 105 years. There were several years during WW1 and WW2 where there was no competition. All teams, amateur and professional, had to be members of the Canadian Rugby Union (CRU) to vie for the Cup. Slowly over time, amateur teams were unable to compete and the professional teams took over. By 1950, the Interprovincial Rugby Football Union (IRFU in the East) and the Western Interprovincial Football Union (WIFU) had become disgruntled with the CRU and in 1956, formed the Canadian Football Council. In 1958, the Council withdrew from the CRU and reorganized themselves into the Canadian Football League (CFL) and assumed control of the Grey Cup. The first Grey Cup game played under the CFL banner was at Empire Stadium in Vancouver in 1958. Here is a list of some the memorable Grey Cups: 1950 = The Mud Bowl (This led to the IRFU and the WIFU being disgruntled with the CRU over field conditions). 1962 = The Fog Bowl (The fog was so bad, the game had to be suspended and resumed the next day). 1977 = The Ice Bowl (The Montreal Alouettes attached staples to their shoes which gave them a huge advantage in traction on the icy field and won the game 41 to 6). 1956 = The Incomplete Game (With minutes left and the Eskimos up by 50 to 27, fans swarmed the field and by the time the field was cleared, the football had disappeared. The referees declared the game over). 1957 = The Trip (A Hamilton player had intercepted a pass and was running down the sidelines but was tripped by a fan. The trip did not affect final outcome of the game). 1961 = The first tied game at end of regulation. 1989 = The greatest Grey Cup ever played. (Saskatchewan defeated Hamilton 43 to 40 with a last second field goal). 1995 = The first and only American team to win the Grey Cup, The Baltimore Stallions. A side note about the Governor General of Canada. Most people when asked, "Who is the Head of State for Canada?", will answer, "The Prime Minister". This is not correct. The true response is "It depends". When the Queen is in Canada she is the head of state. If she is not in Canada (most of the time) it is her representative, the Govenor General.