

Combines Bl Questionable Strategy Paves Way For 9-8 Win By Toronto

By Jack Koffman,

Sports Editor, The Citizen.

Prosperity visited the Combines Saturday afternoon at Lansdowne Park hung around for a time and finally departed as the Ottawans persisted in looking the other way.

More than 5,000 fans left the park completely bewildered at a late turn of events which brought about Ottawa's second consecutive Ontario Rugby Football Union setback, a 9-8 defeat at the hands of Toronto's R.C.A.F. Hurricanes.

In direct contrast to their performance a week earlier, Dave Spivey's forces were in complete control this trip—until the waning minutes. A charging wingline, a 57-yard touchdown march in the second quarter and a stellar tackling display made the Combines monarchs for the day, but it was all wiped out in the face of some very questionable strategy.

Pass Backfires.

A late third-period fumble opened the door for a touchdown by Ross Trimble's Dominion champions on the first play of the final period. However, the home forces were still hugging a two-point edge five minutes from the end, although disdainful of single points.

It called for safe and sane football from there home, but the Combines elected to try one of their short "pro" passes and the order of things changed rapidly. An interception by Lloyd Langley, a yard-eating extension and Charlie Prince's successful placement sent Hurricanes home in a celebrating mood.

The customers were singing a victory tune at the halfway mark. There was reason for it after what happened in the second quarter.

Touchdown Drive.

Jack Pumble, handling the kicking to give Arnie McWatters a breather, capitalized on the breeze to uncork a few dandies. He sent one kick bounding over the goal-line and Art West was quickly and sharply hauled down by Kars Flammer for the first point.

Then, from their own 53, Combines really moved. They went for a touchdown in two plays. McWatters, starting out on an end run to the right, found the Hurricanes' secondary moving in on Train Simon and Arnie cut in through the opening.

He veered to the left, back out to his right and in again and, as Prince appeared before him, Arnie lateraled to Don Loney at the Toronto 35. Don streaked for the goal-line and was finally hauled down 11 yards out by Goodwin.

On the very next play McWatters faded to his right and fired a cross-fire forward to the left zone, where Ike Norris grabbed it over the goal-line. George Fraser converted and it was 7-0.

Costly Fumble.

McWatters leaped high in the air to intercept a Toronto pass over the goal-line and prevent a score in the third quarter. A Hurricane rough tackling penalty, an end run and a Simon plunge pulled the Combines out of danger, but a fumble gave Hurricanes possession in Toronto territory and a quick kick by Kijek left Ottawa on their own 3-yard line.

Pumble kicked out but, when Kijek punted over two plays later, Simon barely got out and fumbled when hit hard by Bob Cosgrove. Hurricanes recovered two yards out.

They failed to go over in two plays but once the teams changed ends for the last quarter, Kijek slipped through Ottawa's left center for a major score, which Prince converted.

Fraser's Single.

Combines were threatening again shortly after the kick-off and came away with a point when

Bitter Pill To Swallow

Toronto Hurricanes—Kijek, flying wing; Smylie, Alexander and Goodwin, halves; Prince, quarter; Cosgrove, snap; McGarry and Langley, insides; Love and Ozarko, middles; Booth and Buckmaster, outsidies; Burns, Barber, Glenn, Hooper, Heron, Henry, Pryer, Sluman, Morin, Young, Maynard and West, alternates.

Ottawa Combines—Powell, flying wing; Seymour, Dunlap and Simon, halves; McWatters, quarter; Loney, snap; MacDonald and Fraser, insides; Gaudaur and Pumble, middles; Norris and Mowatt, outsidies; Hubbard, Leach, B. Fulton, Hanson, Chipper, Pilon, Haywood, Flammer, Annany, Lefebvre, S. Fulton and McClay, alternates.

Officials: Joe Tubman, referee; Charlie Connell, umpire; "Happy" Shouldice, head linesman.

Summary:

First Quarter.

No score.

Second Quarter.

Ottawa, touch (Pumble); Ottawa, touchdown (Norris); Ottawa, convert (Fraser).

Third Quarter.

No score.

Fourth Quarter.

Toronto, touchdown (Kijek); Toronto, convert (Prince); Ottawa, single (Fraser); Toronto, placement (Prince).

Fraser's placement, wide of the goal-posts, rolled to the deadline for a single.

It left the home team on top, 8-6, and meant that the Hurricanes needed a placement to win. That's just what the visitors got when, after a Prince-to-Morin forward click and two other passes were grounded, Ottawas passed on second down instead of kicking or nursing the ball.

Langley Is "Villain." McWatters shot a short, pro pass over the line of scrimmage at Jack Mowatt, who had cut over from the right end. Instead, the ball bounced off McGarry's arms and Langley speared it before it hit the ground. Kijek was held once but, on the next play, Smylie raced to the Ottawa 8 around the right end on Prince's lateral and Toronto came over in front of the posts for a payoff field goal by Prince.

Ottawa played most of the game without "Ace" Powell, who suffered a twisted knee early in the second period. Simon, contributing some terrific plunging was hurt on the last play of the third quarter but came back later to finish the game.