

Tigers' Football History

As long as Dalhousie Tigers continues to play football they will hold a record that cannot be broken by any other team in the league.

The Bengals were the first university in the Maritime provinces to adopt Canadian football and consequently have been playing the game longer than any other university.

Tigers first played in the tough Halifax Canadian Football League which included St. Mary's Amateur Athletic Club, Wanderers AAC, Dartmouth Air Station, and Halifax Navy, which later became Stadacona.

In their first season the tigers won three of their four games and finished second. They lost however to St. Mary's AAC 17-11 in the loop semi-final.

Dalhousie continued their successes the following season when they recorded a 5-1 mark and finished first. During the season the Tigers lost a close 12-3 exhibition decision to McGill University.

After two seasons with losing records, a young backfielder named Reg Cluny led the Black and Gold back into the winning side of the ledger. Playing in the era of the five point touchdown Cluny registered 46 as the team won four of five games.

Cluny added eight points in the semi-final as Dal clipped Cornwallis 23-5 but it was Don Harlucson who emerged as the hero

in the Purdy Cup final. Harrison scored the only touchdown as Dal topped Shearwater 5-0 to win the historic trophy for the first time.

In 1952, a powerful Bengal squad rolled up 216 points in eight games to set a school record. Scott Henderson, Reg Cluny and Dave "Nipper" Theakston led the scoring parade. The team started rolling late in the season however and wound up with a 4-4 record.

Charlie McKenzie and Dave Bryson led the club to a 3-3 record in the following year and Theakston scored three touchdowns in the semi-final to lead the Bengals to a 36-18 win over Shearwater. The final was a different story as the powerful Stadacona team rolled to a 39-0 victory.

St. Francis Xavier joined the Nova Scotia Football League in 1954 and surprised the Tigers with a 17-17 tie in their first game. The following week, the Bengals were shocked by a 38-6 loss at the hands of the Antigonish team.

The Dalhousie team finished the season in third place and defeated Shearwater 30-15 in the semi-final. In the Purdy Cup final veteran Cluny emerged once again as the star as he scored one TD and threw a pass to Bob Goss for another major as the Black and Gold downed St. FX 10-0.

In 1956, a young quarterback, Ted Wickwire joined the team and the following season a hard running halfback Peter Corkum became a member of the Tigers. Wickwire went on to set many Dal records and was generally accepted as the top signal caller in the area. Corkum set a single season scoring record of 66 points in 1959 and is still the top career scorer at Dalhousie with 194 points.

The Bengals reached the playoffs in 1955, 57, 58 and 59. In 1959 the Black and Gold last defeated arch rivals St. FX, topping the Antigonish team 14-12

in a regular season game. That same season the Bengals reached the finals, but lost the Purdy Cup, 30-1 to that same St. FX club.

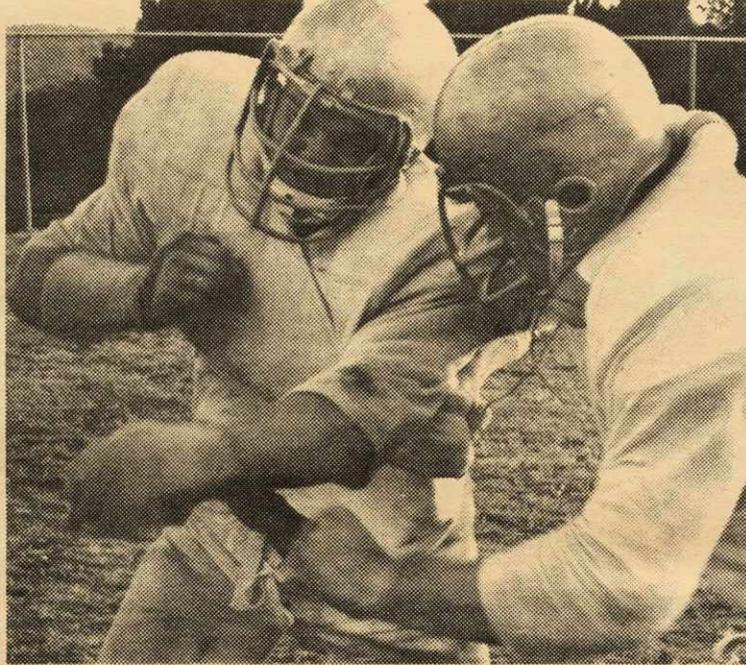
When the Atlantic Football Conference came, the Dal team fell on hard days losing 18 consecutive games. They snapped the streak with a 26-0 win over Halifax Buccaneers in 1963 and won a second game topping Acadia 19-12.

In 1966, led by Bill Stanish, the Tigers began to see some distant hope that they would again be winners. Stanish scored 60 points that season to become

the second highest career scorer in the history of the team. In that same year the Bengals scored 62 points in one game against Dartmouth Vikings to establish another team record.

Led by Jim delaMothe, Harold Townsend and Bob Lewington, the Tigers, had a 5-4 record last season, their first winning year since 1959.

In the years since Dal began to play Canadian football they have played 18 different teams, compiled a 67-99-4 record, and scored a total 2687 points against these opponents.



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COMING EVENTS

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- Sept. 18 - Pep Rally - Studley Field.

Friday

- Sept. 19 - 9:00 P.M. Commerce Open Dance
SUB.
University of Manitoba vs
Dal Tigers - Studley Field.

Sunday

- Sept. 21 - Sunday Night Movies - SUB.

Thursday

- Sept. 25 - Dalhousie Film Society -
"The Magician" (Swedish) - SUB.

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