

I began playing intermediate Canadian Football junior B & Canadian High School football 1947 -48 .The Junior B football was played at McDonald Park which meant streetcar ,ferry & another streetcar to Kerrisdale Park.The only time I got my name in local press was when I snapped the ball over the kickers head

In 1950 while in NVHS I became line coach for the American high School team ,which went on to win the championship beating Duke of Connaught team at UBC stadium .One of the star players was Larry Reta who always greets me with "Hi Coach "

In 1960 I became an official in GSL league (American 8 man rules) .Worked my way up & often refereed games coached by feared Coach Bud Lancey .Bruce Hawkshaw handled the training of Officials of the GSL at field house in Norgate Park

Was accepted in 1964 to join Canadian Football Referee Association .To gain on field play I did minor football at South Fraser park for Art Hunt CFRA training sessions were held at Carling Brewery ,I acquired a taste for a refreshment that was available after the meetings .In those days when you threw a penalty flag you sounded a small horn strapped to your waist which often confused players & was later done away with . Ken Stien ,Maury Mulhern Bill Stuart & Joe Frizzel all CFL officials were members of CRRRA.

I officiated many Junior & Juvenile games as umpire ,head linesman also did many games refereeing juvenile games .A couple of times I worked as line judge at UBC .I was doing a game at the end of season and in the latter part of 4th quarter I could hear someone warming up a chainsaw ,the announcer heard it as well and began pleading to the operator of the chainsaw not to cut down wooden goalposts ,unfortunately the announcers lost . One time i was asked to do game with the American group . I made a mistake , Garry Durkin said don't talk to any one ,in few minutes a tall lanky American came up to me & said " Eyes not mad at you Eyes talk to you "

.Occasionally I would time Canadian Junior games for Cal Pillkey at Empire & SFU games for Joe Fizzel at Swanguard .S.F.U. games , the following Canadian officials were part of crew Charlie Phips ,Max Hatch, Gary Dirkin & Ken Staveley all ARA members who worked with American officials one of whom was Larry Labree of Bellingham

In 1970 I was asked to work CFL games as part of sideline stick crew, one time as part of the stick crew an official said move the sticks I took off

for the other end of the field with my partner Ron Dockerdy behind me ,he had his stick straight out & complained he could not keep up to my high gallop , later I was hired by CFL to work on sideline which included firing the gun at the end of game . The blank shells used in the gun were supplied at my cost .The people involved at that time were Cal Pillkey ,Bill Read ,Ken Kerr & Jack Cuthbert we were all behind a wooden table on the edge of field . The old empire field was grass but in rainy weather it turn to mud ,one wet evening a marching band were doing half time march across the field each had white boot on but after they passed us there were one or two boots stuck in mud left by band members . I am no actor so I spoiled a attempt by film crew to set something up by throwing some feathers & a rubber chicken next to me just after I fired the gun .Willy Fleming was the feature back in those days ,also worked with Don King Official & western referee in chief ,who when he returned back to the prairies would have a fresh salmon packed in his luggage.While in dressing room before the game I saw Bill Stuart who was going to do his first CFL game, walking impatiently around dressing room waiting for something , it seems he had not put his official pants in his bag . I was given a Gruen Precision stop watch to assist me which I still have . Just recently I was showing off to an official Janie Graham who informed me & read to me the inscription on the watch “ On loan from the Gruen watch company”,I had used the watch for the past 25 years & had not noticed the inscription . Many years ago to avoid the wrath of UBC coach , I exchanged sweaters (changed numbers) with Bruce Hawkshaw because of a previous bad call & he thought he might not be recognize in his next game assignment. In 1982 the Lions moved to BC Place and the CFL made a personal change thus ending my CFL involvement

In 2010 Greg Barnes who was working same position I had done in 1982, invited me to be his assistant at a BC Lion game against Montreal which had been the visitors in my last game I did at Empire . It was a nice gesture to remember old times ,

In 1974 the American Referee Association were given Canadian Football contract to do Canadian games .So because of this the CFRA folded .

I feel the loss was due to the little special privilege groups within the Association , special group did all UBC games, only certain people did Juinor Games , another group did SFU games at Swanguard .

In 1976 I was allowed to join the ARA group but had no voting privilege for two years .I worked as umpire ,head linesman ,field judge doing both American & Canadian games also did timing at both levels .The ARA later became the BCFOA .After one of my earlier American games I was

greeted by two officials Bob Dyson & Mike Westman who said I had not been timing the game they were calling .Bill Diette would always give out neatly hand printed assignment for the coming week at each meeting . In 1990 I decided to do only timing which I have done till now . I worked with Gordon Clough for many years doing UBC ,Canadian Junior ,SFU & High School ,games were all over lower mainland as far out as Chillawack .In 2010 SFU switched to NCAA games so Gordon & myself spent many hours learning NCAA rules which was unnecessary the american official gave one sheet of instructions, in 2012 Gordon passed away & I continued with Kent Taylor doing 20/40 seconds clock .In 2017 he was replaced by Dave Moore

In 2011 I was assigned to time the Canadian College final , the Vaniee Cup , with Bruce Hawkshaw doing 20 second clock , held at BC Place .

The timing booth at UBC has changed over the years I have worked with Jamie the announcer for over 20 years . It started with 3 people in booth I did timing ,field clock score ,down & distance ,Jamie doing announcing & commercials plus a music /sound technician , recently 3 people were added, a UBC controller , UBC student doing score ,down & distance ,BCFOA official doing 20 second clock , in same 12' by 10' room, That's progress.

Review

BC Lions football at Empire Stadium

Stick crew & field timing crew 1970-1982

UBC Thunderbird Stadium CIS

Timing , Clock ,score ,down& distance & occasionally 20 second clock 1985 -2017

SFU Swanguard & Terry fox field

Timing ,Clock score ,down& distance & 20second clock 1972 -1997

CIS 2007 -2009 NCCA 2010 -2017 including 20/40second clock

Canadian Junior Lower Mainland

Field Official ,Timing,Clock, score, down & distance 1972 -2017

American High School

Field Official, Timing ,Clock ,score, down & distance 1977 -2017