

Get the Point?

By Robert Sproule © 2000

All right, does anyone know anything about the Canadian football scoring system? (and I'm being generous here). Does anyone know anything about the single point? Does anyone know anything about Canadian football other than it's strange? Good. Now that I've gotten your attention, let me explain the facts of life to you.

Okay, for some of my American cousins (and again I'm being generous), up here in Canada (and we're not the frozen north 'cause in Toronto we get just as hot as Tampa Florida in the summer, so there) have been playing a type of football similar to what you guys have been playing. Right? **WRONG!**

Actually you guys have been playing a type of football similar to what we have been playing only because we played the game first, came down and showed you how it was really played (Harvard & McGill in 1974, remember). But that's another subject for debate.

Anyhow, we Canadians have a similar scoring system as you have. The touchdown, that's when the ball carrier goes over or breaks the plane of the endzone (6 points). We have the convert or Point-After-Touchdown; when the ball is kicked over the crossbar and between the uprights after a touchdown is scored (1 point). We also have the 2-point convert by run or pass into the endzone just like you do. We have the field goal (3 points) when the ball is kicked over the crossbar and between the uprights from anywhere on the field. And we also have the safety touch when the ball carrier is forced back into the endzone and tackled there (2 points). And please remember that the single-pole (goose-neck) goal post **is a Canadian invention!**

But what we have that's better, (and yes it is better), is the single point. And the reason we have that is because we believe that anytime the ball goes into the endzone it is alive and worth points. Why do you guys call it a touch-back? What is it touching and what part of it is back? Or is that Black?

By the way, think how different your game would be if you had the single point off a wide field goal. Games would be a bit more tense, eh? And the strategy to force overtime would be that more important.

Currently, the powers that be in the Canadian Football League call any kick or wide field goal into the endzone a rouge. And that's wrong. Those of you that follow our game on cable, video cassette or DVD-TV behind locked doors rigged with booby traps and high explosives will naturally have a better understanding into all of this.

From a historical importance the single point is actually classified or credited into three separate or distinct categories: Rouge, Kick-to-the-Deadline and the Touch-in-Goal.

The Rouge

If the ball is kicked into the endzone by a punt from the field or a wide field goal and the ball carrier is tackled there, that is called a rouge. This is from the Old French method of scoring when the field judge used to wave a red flag or handkerchief to indicate that a score has been registered. One Point

The Kick-to-the-Deadline

If the ball is kicked into the endzone by a punt or a wide field goal and the ball goes through the endzone over the last line (the Deadline), this is called a Kick-to-the-Deadline. Also, if the ball lands in the endzone and rolls over the deadline or is kicked over the Deadline by a defender, or the ball carries runs over the Deadline then a Kick-to-the-Deadline is credited to the kicker. One Point

Touch-in-Goal

If the ball is kicked into the endzone by a punt or a wide field goal and the ball goes over either side line, this is called a Touch-in-Goal. Also, if the ball lands in the endzone and rolls over either side line or is

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kicked over either side line by a defender, or the ball carries runs over either side line then a Touch-in-Goal is credited to the kicker. One Point

Alright, do we understand the philosophy of the single point? Good! Then, the next time you watch a Canadian football game behind locked doors when the womenfolk, your children, neighbours and *real men* are not around, you can enjoy football Canadian style at its finest.

Oh, by the way. You do know about our two-point touchdown right? That's when the defending team intercepts a 2-point convert pass attempt, or recovers a fumble on a 2-point convert attempt either by the pass or run, or, recovers a blocked convert kick attempt and returns it over the goal line. Simple really.

Now, what part of the "*rouge*" didn't you understand?

Get the point?