

SINGLES

By Robert Sproule

Ever hear of a non-forfeited football game ending with the score 1-0? It has happened at least twice in Canadian senior football, most recently when the Montreal Alouettes beat the Ottawa Rough Riders on Oct. 30, 1966. It is possible in Canada because they have a way of scoring one point, all by itself. Appropriately enough, it's called a single."

Singles used to be more common than they are today, and frequently they decided games. The records for most singles scored in a single game are given below.

If the ball is kicked into the goal area (which is 25 yards deep in Canada) by an opponent, a single is scored (1) when the ball becomes dead in possession of a player in his own goal area or (2) when the ball touches or crosses the deadline or a sideline in-goal, and touches the ground, a player, or some object beyond these lines. Under American rules all such plays would be touchbacks.

Singles are ordinarily scored on kickoffs, punts, or missed field goals. Dave Cutler of the Edmonton Eskimos holds the record for most singles scored on kickoffs in a single game. He scored two on August 16, 1978, in a game against the Toronto Argonauts.

FOR INDIVIDUALS:

- 11 Ben Simpson, Hamilton Tigers vs Montreal Football Club 10/29/10
- 10 Bill Dobbie, Calgary Tigers vs Edmonton YMCA 10/28/11
- Freddy Wilson, Regina Roughriders vs Saskatoon Quakers 10/4/13
- Billy Mallett, Hamilton Tigers vs Ottawa Rough Riders 11/14/14
- 9 Ben Simpson, Hamilton Tigers vs Toronto Argonauts 12/13/09
- Jack Williams, Ottawa Rough Riders vs Hamilton Tigers 12/20/09
- Billy Mallett, Hamilton Tigers vs Ottawa Rough Riders 10/5/12
- Billy Mallett, Hamilton Tigers vs Toronto Argonauts 12/21/14
- Vern Bradburn, Winnipeg Victorias vs Winnipeg Tammany Tigers 9/25/20
- Bert Gibb, Hamilton Tigers vs Montreal Football Club 10/2/26
- 8 Hughie Gall, U. of Toronto Varsity vs Toronto Parkdale 12/4/09
- Billy Mallett, Toronto Argonauts vs Montreal Football Club 10/28/11
- Ross Binkley, Toronto Argonauts vs Montreal Football Club 10/19/12
- Al Adamson, St. Johns vs Winnipeg Rowing Club 9/27/13
- Paul Bennett, Winnipeg Rowing Club vs Winnipeg Tammany Tigers
- 10/3/14 Jimmy Pritchard, Winnipeg Victorias vs Winnipeg St. Johns 9/27/19
- Lionel Conacher, Toronto Argonauts vs Ottawa Rough Riders 11/11/22
- Morris Hughes, Toronto Argonauts vs Montreal Football Club 10/20/23
- Norm McLeod, Winnipeg Victorias vs Winnipeg Tammany Tigers 9/17/27
- Frank Turville, Toronto Argonauts vs Ottawa Senators 10/20/28
- Frank Turville, Toronto Argonauts vs Montreal Football Club 11/8/29
- Frank Turville, Toronto Argonauts vs Ottawa Rough Riders 10/24/31
- Frank Turville, Hamilton Tigers vs Toronto Argonauts 11/12/32
- Huck Welch, Hamilton Tigers vs Montreal Winged Wheelers 12/16/35
- Huck Welch, Hamilton Tigers vs Ottawa Rough Riders 10/31/36

FOR TEAMS:

- 14 Hamilton Tigers vs Toronto Argonauts 11/13/09
- 12 Hamilton Tigers vs Montreal Football Club 10/29/10
- Calgary Tigers vs Edmonton YMCA 10/28/11

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 2, No. 2 (1980)

- 11 Hamilton Tigers vs Ottawa Rough Riders 11/14/14
- 10 University of Toronto Varsity vs Toronto Parkdales 12/4/09
- Regina Roughriders vs Saskatoon Quakers 10/4/13
- 9 Ottawa Rough Riders vs Toronto Argonauts 10/10/08
- Ottawa Rough Riders vs Hamilton Tigers 12/20/09
- Hamilton Tigers vs Montreal Football Club 12/5/10
- Toronto Argonauts vs Montreal Football Club 10/28/11
- Toronto Argonauts vs Hamilton Alerts 11/18/11
- Calgary Tigers vs Edmonton Eskimos 10/28/12
- Winnipeg St. Johns vs Winnipeg Rowing Club 9/27/13
- Winnipeg Victorias vs Winnipeg Tammany Tigers 9/25/20
- Hamilton Tigers vs Regina Roughriders 11/30/29

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A ONE-POINT TOUCHDOWN

On October 27, 1923, the Edmonton Eskimos ventured to Calgary to take on the Tigers for their second of three Alberta provincial union games after Calgary won the first match 18-4. In the second quarter, Edmonton was ahead 4-0. when they punted to the Calgary 20-yard line. On second down halfback Ken McCallum broke through the Edmonton line and into the secondary. Weaving through a broken field, he sped 90 yards to the goal line with two Eskies in pursuit.

Upon crossing the line under the watchful eye of an official, Ken slowed to a trot, allowing one of the pursuers to tackle him. When he touched the ground, the referee blew his whistle to indicate a dead ball and gave the Tigers a single point rather than five points for a try (touchdown). It seems that in 1928 in order to register a try, the ball either had to be TOUCHED DOWN to the ground after crossing the goal line or the player in possession of the ball had to remain stationary, in which case the official would blow his whistle and indicate a dead ball and award the team their points. McCallum's movement after crossing the line did not bring the play to an end, and the Eskie player was able to make a legal tackle.

Edmonton held on to win 4-1 and the third game was cancelled by bad weather. The Eskimos finished the season in first place with a 3-1 record, while Calgary was last at 1-3.