



# BC LIONS YEAR-BY-YEAR HISTORY



## 1951 TO 1953:

A group, led by Ken Stauffer and Tiny Radar, inspired by Vancouver Sun columnist Andy Lytle, sent representatives to the off-season WIFU meetings to initiate Vancouver's bid for a team. The representatives (Radar and Orville Burke) were told to return to the meetings the following year with a \$25,000 good-faith bond if they could generate sufficient interest at home. The first meetings were held at the Arctic Club in November and a committee headed by Burke and Harry Spring set out to sell memberships at \$20 each. In 1952, even though Burke, Vic Spencer and John Davidson offered the good-faith bond to the WIFU the idea was rejected when both Winnipeg and Regina voted against the idea of a fifth team.

The first annual meeting of the club, held on January 22, 1953 saw Arthur E. Mercer named as the first President, and later in the year Mercer, Bill Morgan, Bill Ralston and Whit Matthews went back to the WIFU meetings. This time they sold the idea of a fifth team on the West Coast, and Vancouver was granted a conditional franchise, on the requirements of a 15,000 seat stadium, selling 6,500 season tickets and guaranteed travel expenses of the visiting teams. All the pieces began to fall into place when it was announced that Vancouver would host the 1954 British Empire Games, and that it would mean the building of a new stadium – Empire Stadium.

## 1954

After many years of trying to convince the other western cities to admit Vancouver to the Western Interprovincial Football Union, the Lions finally made it for the 1954 season. Coach Annis Stukus was forced to scramble for players from any and all sources and assembled a very raw group for the Lions' first season. In a league dominated by strong contingents of veteran Canadian players (teams were only permitted 9 American "imports" at this time), Stuke put together a roster essentially from scratch. Led by veteran linemen DT Arnie Weinmeister, Chuck Quilter, Laurie Niemi and all-star Bob Levenhagen, the BC front line was very capable and the strength of the club. The inexperienced crew of backs was led by veteran import Al Pollard from the Eagles of the NFL, Byron Bailey from Washington State and quarterbacks Johnny Mazur and Gerry Tuttle.

The season started well enough for BC as they shocked a strong and talented Winnipeg team from the kickoff in the team's opener at home on August 28, 1954. The Lions first ever major score came a minute before half-time as Bailey crashed over from a yard out to give the Lions a 5-1 lead. Pollard's convert made it 6-1 after 30 minutes. The Bombers fought back however with a 55-yard combination pass to Bud Grant and lateral to Gerry James leveled the score. Two 4th quarter singles eventually gave Winnipeg the victory by an 8-6 count. It would not be until the seventh game that the Lions would post their only victory of that inaugural season. BC upset Calgary 9-4 at home on September 18th as By Bailey scored the only TD of the game picking up a Gene Robillard fumble on the Calgary 3-yard line and slithering in for the game-winning points on the soggy field of Empire Stadium.

The Lions were badly outplayed in 1954 having had to scrape together a competitive team to face the established powerhouses in the WIFU. In fact, throughout the Lions scored a total of only three points in the first half of the final eight games! BY season's end with a huge number of injuries, the Lions limped in with a 1-15 mark but with the promise of future stars such as Norm Fieldgate, Don Lord, Al Pollard and Vic Chapman. Al Pollard was the Lions leading offensive light with 431 yards rushing and another 323 yards on 29 catches. Pollard was the BC placekicker and leading scorer with 39 points as well as taking all of the kickoffs, returning another 19 opponent kickoffs and 5 punts. The only job he didn't do seems to have been done by "water boy" and future Hall of Famer Mr. Bob Ackles. Outgained by almost a 2 to 1 margin and scorers of just 100 points that season, the Lions had nowhere to go but up. However, the foundation of a much stronger team for the future was formed in the Lions' toughest season and 1955 would be better. Despite the consistent and appalling rains, the Lions attracted a total of 135,983 fans to the first season's eight home games for an average of about 17,000 per game.

### W.I.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts							
EDM	11	5	0	255	163	22	MTL	11	3	0	341	148	22
SAS	10	4	2	239	204	22	HAM	9	5	0	275	207	18
WIN	8	6	2	202	190	18	TOR	6	8	0	212	265	12
CAL	8	8	0	271	165	16	OTT	2	12	0	129	337	4
BC	1	15	0	100	345	2							

WEST SEMI-FINAL: (WIN wins 27-25)

Oct 30/54 SAS 14 at 14 WIN

Nov 1/54 WIN 13 at 11 SAS

WEST FINAL: (EDM wins 2 games to 1)

Nov 6/54 WIN 3 at 9 EDM

Nov 11/54 EDM 6 at 12 WIN

Nov 13/54 WIN 5 at 10 EDM

42ND GREY CUP AT TORONTO:

Nov 27/54 EDM 26 vs 25 MTL

### I.R.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
MTL	11	3	0	341	148	22
HAM	9	5	0	275	207	18
TOR	6	8	0	212	265	12
OTT	2	12	0	129	337	4

EAST FINAL: (MTL wins 38-28)

Nov 17/54 MTL 14 at 9 HAM

Nov 20/54 HAM 19 at 24 MTL

GREY CUP SEMI-FINAL VS ORFU:

Nov 20/54 KIT-W 6 at 38 EDM

## BC LIONS OPENING NIGHT ROSTER – AUGUST 28, 1954:

No	Player	Pos	No	Player	Pos	No	Player	Pos
40	Gil Steer	C	70	Dick Christiansen	E	84	Ray Enright	HB
50	John Cvitanovich	G	71	Don Knowles	HB	85	Don Hollingsworth	HB
51	Bobo Sikorski	G	72	Don Lord	E/P	86	Gerry Tuttle	QB
54	Bob Levenhagen	G	74	Bill Currie	FW	87	Pete Thodos	HB
55	George Brown	G	75	Gerry Palmer	E	88	Byron Bailey	FB
58	Leo Sweeney	C	76	Norm Fieldgate	E	89	Keith Bennett	HB
60	Chuck Quilter	T	80	George Klein	HB	90	Bill Hortie	FW
61	Lorne Reid	T	81	Jack Hutchinson	HB	91	John Mazur	QB
62	Laurie Niemi	T	83	Doug Reid	HB	92	Al Pollard	FB/K
63	Arnie Weinmeister	T						



# BC LIONS YEAR-BY-YEAR HISTORY



## 1955

Annis Stukus continued to incite interest among Vancouver football fans and the team's second season got off to a wonderful start. The Lions beat Calgary 14-8 in the opener behind new star quarterback Arnie Galiffa. The Lions went 3-2 halfway through the season were still 4-4 with wins over Winnipeg and Saskatchewan. Injuries would take their toll again as they faded in the final eight contests. Finishing up at 5-11 the Lions had four more wins and just under 200,000 fans. Having fielded a much more competitive team, BC edged Calgary in the standings behind Galiffa and import backs Al Pollard and By Bailey. Dan Edwards, Sam Adams and Gil Bartosh were excellent receivers, while a small, young star from UCLA named Primo Villanueva brought a new excitement to the field. Along the line, Arnie Weinmeister and Laurie Niemi brought the same toughness to the game but injuries would limit their play and make this their last year in B.C. Once again, Al Pollard led the way with 44 points and 557 yards rushing for a Lions team that closed the gap with the competition by leaps and bounds.

### W.I.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
EDM	14	2	0	286	117	28
SAS	10	6	0	270	245	20
WIN	7	9	0	210	195	14
BC	5	11	0	211	330	10
CAL	4	12	0	209	299	8

SEMI-FINAL: (WIN wins 24-16)

Nov 5/55 WIN 16 at 7 SAS  
Nov 7/55 SAS 9 at 8 WIN

WEST FINAL: (EDM wins 2 games to 0)

Nov 11/55 EDM 29 at 6 WIN  
Nov 16/55 WIN 6 at 26 EDM

43<sup>RD</sup> GREY CUP AT VANCOUVER:

Nov 26/55 EDM 34 vs 19 MTL

### I.R.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
MTL	9	3	0	388	214	18
HAM	8	4	0	271	193	16
TOR	4	8	0	239	328	8
OTT	3	9	0	174	337	6

SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 12/55 TOR 32 at 28 HAM

EAST FINAL:

Nov 19/55 TOR 36 at 38 MTL

## 1956

The progress shown in 1955 wasn't enough for Stuke to keep his job and Clem Crowe was appointed head coach. After a pair of wins to open the season and continued large crowds, the fell into a slump shortly thereafter. The team's first-ever win over Edmonton came on September 24th (11-1) and at 4-5 the Lions were still in it. Only two more wins came their way that year however, but some improvement was made to finish at 6-10. In his third season with the club, By Bailey had the Leos' first-ever kickoff return for a TD on September 17th vs Winnipeg but the real finds in 1956 were two youngsters from Maryland and UCLA - Ed Vereb and Paul Cameron. Vereb scored a stunning 14 touchdowns and gained 514 yards on the ground, while Cameron added 858 yards from scrimmage and another 142 yards on 4 interceptions at safety. In these days of two-way players, Vereb and Cameron, Rae Ross and Norm Fieldgate (both from UBC) turned the Lions into a consistent force. Mid-season signing QB Jerry Gustafson gave the Lions hope at the pivot position tossing 11 TD passes.

### W.I.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
EDM	11	5	0	358	235	22
SAS	10	6	0	353	272	20
WIN	9	7	0	315	228	18
BC	6	10	0	251	361	12
CAL	4	12	0	229	410	8

SEMI-FINAL: (SAS wins 50-26)

Nov 3/56 WIN 7 at 42 SAS  
Nov 5/56 SAS 8 at 19 WIN

WEST FINAL: (EDM wins 2 games to 1)

Nov 10/56 EDM 22 at 23 SAS  
Nov 17/56 SAS 12 at 20 EDM  
Nov 19/56 SAS 7 at 51 EDM

44TH GREY CUP AT TORONTO:

Nov 24/56 EDM 50 vs 27 MTL

### I.R.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
MTL	10	4	0	478	361	20
HAM	7	7	0	383	385	14
OTT	7	7	0	326	359	14
TOR	4	10	0	331	413	8

SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 7/56 OTT 21 at 46 HAM

EAST FINAL: (MTL wins 78-62)

Nov 10/56 MTL 30 at 21 HAM  
Nov 17/56 HAM 41 at 48 MTL

## 1957

To start Clem Crowe's third year, many media sources predicted a playoff spot for the Lions and an opening night win at home over Saskatchewan in front of 26,807 seemed to serve notice. This was not to be as the team lost their next 8 games. Only a late-season 3-game winning streak gave the Lions their 4-11-1 record as the Leos went through six different quarterbacks led by Maury Duncan and Toppy Vann. By Bailey and Ed Sharkey were named to the WIFU All-Star Team with #88 leading the way with a club-record 884 yards rushing. Second year star Paul Cameron led the receiving corps with 36 catches for 593 yards while picking off 6 interceptions as a two-way player. Bailey scored 11 TDs to lead the club while all-round athlete and rugby star Ted Hunt kicked and caught passes for 42 points. Exciting receiver Jerry Janes joined the team and snared 6 TD passes for a fine 20.1 yard average on his 25 receptions. Norm Fieldgate continued to lead the defense along with four-year veterans Lorne Reid and Don Lord, and newcomer Mike Cacic.

### W.I.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
EDM	14	2	0	475	142	28
WIN	12	4	0	406	300	24
CAL	6	10	0	221	413	12
BC	4	11	1	284	369	9
SAS	3	12	1	276	438	7

SEMI-FINAL: (WIN wins 28-16)

Nov 9/57 CAL 13 at 13 WIN  
Nov 11/57 WIN 15 at 3 CAL

WEST FINAL: (WIN wins 2 games to 1)

Nov 16/57 EDM 7 at 19 WIN  
Nov 20/57 WIN 4 at 5 EDM  
Nov 23/57 WIN 17 at 2 EDM

45TH GREY CUP AT TORONTO:

Nov 30/57 HAM 32 vs 7 WIN

### I.R.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
HAM	10	4	0	250	189	20
OTT	8	6	0	326	237	16
MTL	6	8	0	287	301	12
TOR	4	10	0	274	410	8

SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 13/57 MTL 24 at 15 OTT

EAST FINAL: (HAM wins 56-11)

Nov 16/57 HAM 17 at 10 MTL  
Nov 23/57 MTL 1 at 39 HAM



# BC LIONS YEAR-BY-YEAR HISTORY



## 1958

The promise of the previous three seasons was absent at the opening of the 1958 campaign and Clem Crowe was fired after an 0-3 start. After two games with the players in command of the sidelines, former star end Dan Edwards stepped into the job. After 10 straight defeats to open the season, the Lions finally knocked off Calgary for their first victory. Despite wrapping up a disastrous 3-13 season, the Lions still drew an average of 23,647 fans to Empire Stadium but a playoff spot seemed far away. George Herring and Al Dorow became the Lions' 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> quarterbacks in just five seasons passing for a combined 2,881 yards. Bailey and Vereb again led the offense along with Jerry Janes (club record 868 yards receiving) and Paul Cameron (club record 58 catches). Joining the club in 1958 were future Hall of Famer Tom Hinton along with tackle Urban Henry. Hinton was the only Lion named to the 1958 WIFU All-Star Team while veteran tackle Chuck Quilter wrapped up his career with the team after five seasons of service.

### W.I.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
WIN	13	3	0	361	182	26
EDM	9	6	1	312	292	19
SAS	7	7	2	320	324	16
CAL	6	9	1	314	312	13
BC	3	13	0	202	399	6

SEMI-FINAL: (EDM wins 58-12)

Nov 8/58	EDM	27	at	11	SAS
Nov 11/58	SAS	1	at	31	EDM

WEST FINAL: (WIN wins 2 games to 1)

Nov 15/58	WIN	30	at	7	EDM
Nov 19/58	EDM	30	at	7	WIN
Nov 22/58	EDM	7	at	23	WIN

46TH GREY CUP AT VANCOUVER:

Nov 29/58	WIN	35	vs	28	HAM
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### I.R.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
HAM	10	3	1	291	235	21
MTL	7	6	1	265	269	15
OTT	6	8	0	233	243	12
TOR	4	10	0	266	308	8

SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 12/58	OTT	26	at	12	MTL
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EAST FINAL: (HAM wins 54-14)

Nov 15/58	HAM	35	at	7	OTT
Nov 22/58	OTT	7	at	19	HAM

## 1959

Coming off a 3-13 season and an opening night home loss to Winnipeg by 42-20, BC fans expected more of the same. Under new coach Wayne Robinson however, the young Lions turned things around rapidly posting a 3-game win streak and a 6-3 mark by mid-September. With two games to play and a 7-7 record, BC was set to battle Calgary for the elusive playoff spot. A stunning 45-6 away victory in Regina (BC was just 9-31 on the road in the team's first 5 seasons) and a late come-from-behind 10-8 win over Calgary at home on the final day of the season yielded the precious post-season berth. Attendance soared to 30,451 per game backing the 9-7 Lions and despite a 61-15 semi-final dismantling by Edmonton, the Lions appeared to have turned the corner. Simply put, the main reason for the turnaround came in the form of a 5-9 package from Iowa's 1959 Rose Bowl team – Willie Fleming. Undoubtedly the finest all-round back to ever play for the Lions, Willie brought a skill and excitement that meant the team could score from virtually anywhere on the field.

### W.I.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
WIN	12	4	0	418	272	24
EDM	10	6	0	370	221	20
BC	9	7	0	306	301	18
CAL	8	8	0	356	301	16
SAS	1	15	0	212	567	2

SEMI-FINAL: (EDM wins 61-15)

Oct 31/59	EDM	20	at	8	BC
Nov 4/59	BC	7	at	41	EDM

WEST FINAL: (WIN wins 2 games to 0)

Nov 11/59	WIN	19	at	11	EDM
Nov 14/59	EDM	8	at	16	WIN

47TH GREY CUP AT TORONTO:

Nov 28/59	WIN	21	vs	7	HAM
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### I.R.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
HAM	10	4	0	298	162	20
OTT	8	6	0	275	217	16
MTL	6	8	0	193	305	12
TOR	4	10	0	192	274	8

SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 5/59	MTL	0	at	43	OTT
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EAST FINAL: (HAM wins 26-24)

Nov 12/59	HAM	5	at	17	OTT
Nov 20/59	OTT	7	at	21	HAM

## 1960

In 1960, the Lions started slowly but bounced back to a 3-4-1 mark midway along. Still drawing nearly 30,000 fans per game, the Lions got only inconsistent quarterbacking from Randy Duncan and Jim Walden and skidded to a 5-9-2 mark and fourth in the WFC. Willie Fleming led the way with 1,051 rushing yards for an 8.4 yard average and a place on the All-Star squad with Norm Fieldgate and Urban Henry. It was clear that BC needed to find a QB or continue to flounder below Edmonton and Winnipeg who continued to dominate the league. The Blue Bombers beat BC all four times in 1960 to move their all-time edge over the Lions to 24-4 since 1954. Key additions were made to the team however as future all-stars Nub Beamer, Lonnie Dennis and Top Rookie Neal Beaumont joined up. Norm Fieldgate and By Bailey each completed their eighth consecutive seasons with the club but finding a pivotal player on either side of the ball remained a priority.

### W.I.F.U.

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
WIN	14	2	0	453	239	28
EDM	10	6	0	318	225	20
CAL	6	8	2	374	404	14
BC	5	9	2	296	356	12
SAS	2	12	2	205	422	6

SEMI-FINAL: (EDM wins 70-28)

Nov 2/60	CAL	7	at	30	EDM
Nov 5/60	EDM	40	at	21	CAL

WEST FINAL: (EDM wins 2 games to 1)

Nov 12/60	WIN	22	at	16	EDM
Nov 14/60	EDM	10	at	5	WIN
Nov 19/60	EDM	4	at	2	WIN

48TH GREY CUP AT VANCOUVER:

Nov 26/60	OTT	16	vs	6	EDM
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### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
TOR	10	4	0	370	265	20
OTT	9	5	0	400	283	18
MTL	5	9	0	340	458	10
HAM	4	10	0	273	377	8

SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 5/60	MTL	14	at	30	OTT
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EAST FINAL: (OTT wins 54-41)

Nov 12/60	TOR	21	at	33	OTT
Nov 20/60	OTT	21	at	20	TOR



Nov 30/63 HAM 21 vs 10 BC



# BC LIONS YEAR-BY-YEAR HISTORY



## 1964

If there is a season that could be considered the best in team history it would be hard to argue with 1964. Of the eight players with honoured numbers, four were on this team along with a further nine players from the Lions Wall of Fame. The Lions opened with a 10-game unbeaten streak, were unbeaten at home all year at 6-0-2, and dominated the western teams going 10-1-1 in 12 matchups. Rookie Bob Swift gained 1,054 yards, Joe Kapp led all passers and Tom Brown was named the West's Most Outstanding Player and Top Lineman. Nine BC players achieved All-Star status but for some reason this list did not include Willie Fleming despite a record-setting 109-yard on October 17th at Edmonton. The fearsome Headhunters defense of Coach Jim Champion allowed team record lows of 10.5 points and 245 yards per game. In the playoffs, BC defeated Calgary (2-1) to reach the Grey Cup and meet Hamilton yet again. The contributions of newcomer Bill Munsey (with a great two-way performance of 57 yards rushing and 2 TDs including a 71-yard fumble return) led to a 34-8 advantage after three quarters and the team's first CFL title by a 34-24 final. By Bailey retired after 11 seasons following the Grey Cup.

WESTERN CONFERENCE							EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts		W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
BC	11	2	3	328	168	25	HAM	10	3	1	329	201	21
CAL	12	4	0	352	249	24	OTT	8	5	1	313	228	17
SAS	9	7	0	330	282	18	MTL	6	8	0	192	264	12
EDM	4	12	0	222	458	8	TOR	4	10	0	243	332	8
WIN	1	14	1	270	397	3							
SEMI-FINAL: (CAL wins 76-40)							SEMI-FINAL:						
Nov 7/64	CAL	25	at	34	SAS		Nov 7/64	MTL	0	at	27	OTT	
Nov 9/64	SAS	6	at	51	CAL								
WEST FINAL: (BC wins 2 games to 1)							EAST FINAL: (HAM wins 39-38)						
Nov 14/64	BC	24	at	10	CAL		Nov 14/64	HAM	13	at	30	OTT	
Nov 18/64	CAL	14	at	10	BC		Nov 21/64	OTT	8	at	26	HAM	
Nov 22/64	CAL	14	at	33	BC								
52ND GREY CUP AT TORONTO:													
Nov 28/64	BC	34	vs	24	HAM								

## 1965

Dave Skrien's team struggled to defend their title after two early losses to Winnipeg. The team rallied back to 6-4-1 but faded as every other western team had improved substantially. Three losses to eastern teams proved a key as BC dropped to fourth place. Time was beginning to affect Willie Fleming who at 5-9 continued to take a pounding every time he touched the ball and frequently was forced to the sidelines for parts of games. Joe Kapp once again led the west in passing with 2,961 yards and the BC defense remained strong behind Tom Brown and West Top Lineman Dick Fouts. Ken Sugarman became a fixture along the O-line in 1965 while veteran receiver Sonny Homer switched over to defensive back. Bill Munsey went the other way taking over for Bob Swift who continued to struggle with a knee injury suffered in the Grey Cup. The record of 6-9-1 was unflattering as the Lions lost four games by a total of only 15 points.

WESTERN CONFERENCE							EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts		W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
CAL	12	4	0	340	243	24	HAM	10	4	0	281	153	20
WIN	11	5	0	301	262	22	OTT	7	7	0	300	234	14
SAS	8	7	1	276	277	17	MTL	5	9	0	183	215	10
BC	6	9	1	286	273	13	TOR	3	11	0	193	360	6
EDM	5	11	0	257	400	10							
SEMI-FINAL:							SEMI-FINAL:						
Nov 7/65	SAS	9	at	15	WIN		Nov 6/65	MTL	7	at	36	OTT	
WEST FINAL: (WIN wins 2 games to 1)							EAST FINAL: (HAM wins 35-20)						
Nov 13/65	WIN	9	at	27	CAL		Nov 14/65	HAM	18	at	13	OTT	
Nov 17/65	CAL	11	at	15	WIN		Nov 20/65	OTT	7	at	17	HAM	
Nov 20/65	WIN	19	at	12	CAL								
53RD GREY CUP AT TORONTO:													
Nov 27/65	HAM	22	vs	16	WIN								

## 1966

The 1966 season was perhaps the most difficult in team history as it saw the end of an era for the club. Many former WFC All-Stars and honoured players ended their careers after this season (or early in 1967) and the BC record finished up at 5-11 and last place. Veteran stars Willie Fleming, Joe Kapp, Tom Hinton, Pat Claridge, Jim Carphin and Dick Fouts left the club for retirement or other teams, while Tom Brown and Mike Cacic played only briefly the following season. Within a 20-game span, the core of the Lions WFC championship teams needed replacement. Joe Kapp concluded his run of 91 straight starts at QB, while converted flanker Willie Fleming caught a team-high 42 passes for 653 yards in his final season. The Lions lost a staggering eight games by 7 points or less including five by 1 or 2 points! Kicking proved a sore point as Bill Mitchell made only 11 of 25 FGs. Newcomers in 1966 included G Trevor Ekdahl and promising FB Larry Eilmes.

WESTERN CONFERENCE							EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts		W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
SAS	9	6	1	351	318	19	OTT	11	3	0	278	177	22
WIN	8	7	1	264	230	17	HAM	9	5	0	264	160	18
EDM	6	9	1	251	328	13	MTL	7	7	0	156	215	14
CAL	6	9	1	227	259	13	TOR	5	9	0	182	271	10
BC	5	11	0	254	269	10							
SEMI-FINAL:							SEMI-FINAL:						
Nov 6/66	EDM	8	at	16	WIN		Nov 6/66	MTL	14	at	24	HAM	
WEST FINAL: (SAS wins 2 games to 0)							EAST FINAL: (OTT wins 62-17)						
Nov 13/66	WIN	7	at	14	SAS		Nov 13/66	OTT	20	at	1	HAM	
Nov 19/66	SAS	21	at	19	WIN		Nov 19/66	HAM	16	at	42	OTT	
54TH GREY CUP AT VANCOUVER:													
Nov 26/66	SAS	29	vs	14	OTT								



# BC LIONS YEAR-BY-YEAR HISTORY



## 1967

The Lions decline continued in 1967 but despite a 3-12-1 mark the team drew 209,380 fans to aging Empire Stadium. An 0-5 start saw Dave Skrien replaced by Ron Morris (interim) and then Jim Champion who finished out the season. Skrien's term had lasted for parts of seven seasons (42-45-5) but he could not rebuild the team back to 1963-64 levels. QB Bernie Faloney stepped in capably and threw for 3,303 yards but could generate only 14.9 ppg and 24 offensive TDs. Bill Munsey had a fine year at running back and in a bright spot, all-star HB Jim Young made his first appearance with BC after a brief stint with Minnesota of the NFL (976 yards receiving on 46 catches for 8 TDs). Ted Gerela joined the club and was immediate sensation with his strong leg hitting a club record 50-yd FG. The final challenges would be left for 1968 as original 1954 veteran Norm Fieldgate retired after 14 seasons and 223 games, and defenders Tom Brown and Mike Cacic wrapped up their Canadian football careers early due to injury.

WESTERN CONFERENCE							EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts		W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
CAL	12	4	0	382	219	24	HAM	10	4	0	250	195	20
SAS	12	4	0	346	282	24	OTT	9	4	1	337	207	19
EDM	9	6	1	266	246	19	TOR	5	8	1	252	266	11
WIN	4	12	0	212	414	8	MTL	2	12	0	166	302	4
BC	3	12	1	239	319	7							
SEMI-FINAL:							SEMI-FINAL:						
Nov 11/67	EDM	5	at	21	SAS		Nov 12/67	TOR	22	at	38	OTT	
WEST FINAL: (SAS wins 2 games to 1)							EAST FINAL: (HAM wins 37-3)						
Nov 18/67	SAS	11	at	15	CAL		Nov 19/67	HAM	11	at	3	OTT	
Nov 22/67	CAL	9	at	11	SAS		Nov 25/67	OTT	0	at	26	HAM	
Nov 26/67	SAS	17	at	13	CAL								
55TH GREY CUP AT OTTAWA:													
Dec 2/67	HAM	24	vs	1	SAS								

## 1968

The team continued to struggle in 1968 as Pete Ohler and Paul Brothers filled in at QB for Bernie Faloney who left after one year. The BC offense scored just 16 TDs all season and were usually forced to settle for Ted Gerela's CFL record 30 FGs. Gerela hit an incredible 13 FGs from 40+ yards and led the WFC with 115 of the team's 217 points (13.6 ppg). A total of 41 turnovers were offset by spectacular newcomer and WFC All-Star FB Jim Evenson. He rushed for 1,220 yards as a rookie and with Jim Young accounted for 52% of the BC offense in 1968. Sonny Homer saw his last action as a Lion as did other Grey Cup stars Lonnie Dennis and Mike Martin. The great veteran Jackie Parker stepped in at QB playing 8 games and throwing for 726 yards despite the pounding that saw him barely able to move after games. A 4-11-1 record meant another year out of the playoffs but which featured other All-Stars in T Ken Sugarman and LB Greg Findlay and the start of TE Lynn Hendrickson's fine career with the Lions.

WESTERN CONFERENCE							EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts		W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
SAS	12	3	1	345	223	25	OTT	9	3	2	416	271	20
CAL	10	6	0	412	249	20	TOR	9	5	0	284	266	18
EDM	8	7	1	228	288	17	HAM	6	7	1	262	292	13
BC	4	11	1	217	318	9	MTL	3	9	2	234	327	8
WIN	3	13	0	210	374	6							
SEMI-FINAL:							SEMI-FINAL:						
Nov 10/68	EDM	13	at	29	CAL		Nov 9/68	HAM	21	at	33	TOR	
WEST FINAL: (CAL wins 2 games to 0)							EAST FINAL: (OTT wins 47-27)						
Nov 16/68	CAL	32	at	0	SAS		Nov 17/68	OTT	11	at	13	TOR	
Nov 20/68	SAS	12	at	25	CAL		Nov 24/68	TOR	14	at	36	OTT	
56TH GREY CUP AT TORONTO:													
Nov 30/68	OTT	24	vs	21	CAL								

## 1969

Six straight losses to open the season and a 1-9 start overall cost Jim Champion his job as GM Jackie Parker stepped in as replacement. Parker led a solid turnaround which included 4 straight wins and a spot in the playoffs after 4-year absence. Offense was still a problem however as the Lions produced just 22 rushing and passing TDs and under 300 yards per game. QB Paul Brothers started every game for the young team which included exciting rookie Jake Scott and second-year sensation FB Jim Evenson (1,287 yards rushing and a second straight All-Star berth). Jim Young caught 50 passes for 773 yards and Ted Gerela added 22 FGs to lead the way. DBs Jerry Bradley and Rich Robinson were first-time All-Stars who made a huge contribution with 16 combined INTs, while newcomer Garrett Hunsperger solidified the defensive line. The west semi-final saw BC travel to Calgary who shut down a strong effort with a late TD for a 35-21 win. DE Gary Robinson was a key addition from SFU and would go on to play 135 games over a 10-year career with BC.

WESTERN CONFERENCE							EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts		W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
SAS	13	3	0	392	261	26	OTT	11	3	0	399	298	22
CAL	9	7	0	327	314	18	TOR	10	4	0	406	280	20
BC	5	11	0	235	335	10	HAM	8	5	1	307	315	17
EDM	5	11	0	241	246	10	MTL	2	10	2	304	395	6
WIN	3	12	1	192	359	7							
SEMI-FINAL:							SEMI-FINAL:						
Nov 8/69	BC	21	at	35	CAL		Nov 9/69	HAM	9	at	15	TOR	
WEST FINAL: (SAS wins 2 games to 0)							EAST FINAL: (OTT wins 46-25)						
Nov 15/69	CAL	11	at	17	SAS		Nov 16/69	OTT	14	at	22	TOR	
Nov 19/69	SAS	36	at	13	CAL		Nov 22/69	TOR	3	at	32	OTT	
57TH GREY CUP AT MONTREAL:													
Nov 30/69	OTT	29	vs	11	SAS								







WESTERN CONFERENCE							EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts		W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
EDM	12	4	0	432	370	24	OTT	10	5	1	394	280	21
SAS	10	5	1	373	309	21	MTL	9	7	0	353	345	18
WIN	6	8	2	340	383	14	HAM	5	10	1	284	395	11
CAL	6	10	0	387	363	12	TOR	5	10	1	261	324	11
BC	6	10	0	276	331	12							
SEMI-FINAL:							SEMI-FINAL:						
Nov 8/75	WIN	24	at	42	SAS		Nov 9/75	HAM	12	at	35	MTL	
WEST FINAL:							EAST FINAL:						
Nov 16/75	SAS	18	at	30	EDM		Nov 15/75	MTL	20	at	10	OTT	
63RD GREY CUP AT CALGARY:													
Nov 23/75	EDM	9	vs	8	MTL								







# BC LIONS YEAR-BY-YEAR HISTORY



## 1979

From the outset, 1979 looked to be the Lions' best chance to return to Grey Cup glory for many years. Starting off with a 5-game unbeaten streak, the BC record sat at 9-2-1 at the end of September. The arrival of QB Joe Paopao to challenge Jerry Tagge plus WR Tyron Gray gave BC even more depth in an effort to challenge Calgary and Edmonton. The Lions were only able to win one game against their strong rivals in the West and ended up at 9-6-1 after a late season skid. The playoff semi-final at Calgary proved to be frustrating as the Stampeders completely dominated the contest winning 37-2. RB Larry Key produced another 1,000 yard season while Al Wilson, Glen Jackson, Harry Holt, and Lui Passaglia joined him on the All-Star Team. For Vic Rapp's teams, the first three seasons to close the 1970s produced a 26-19-1 record, the club's best three-year stretch since 1965, however a Grey Cup berth continued to be out of reach.

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
EDM	12	2	2	495	219	26
CAL	12	4	0	382	278	24
BC	9	6	1	328	333	19
WIN	4	12	0	283	340	8
SAS	2	14	0	194	437	4

#### SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 10/79 BC 2 at 37 CAL

#### WEST FINAL:

Nov 18/79 CAL 7 at 19 EDM

#### 67TH GREY CUP AT MONTREAL:

Nov 25/79 EDM 17 vs 9 MTL

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
MTL	11	4	1	351	284	23
OTT	8	6	2	349	315	18
HAM	6	10	0	280	338	12
TOR	5	11	0	234	352	10

#### SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 11/79 HAM 26 at 29 OTT

#### EAST FINAL:

Nov 17/79 OTT 6 at 17 MTL

## 1980

The 1980 season was a disappointing one for the Lions as the club missed the playoffs by a single point behind Calgary who took two of three contests. BC won back-to-back games only once in 1980 and went 3-6 against the strength of the West. Harry Holt had a fine season to achieve All-Star status alongside fixture at C Al Wilson and K Lui Passaglia. Young LB Kevin Konar was drafted from UBC and became an immediate contributor along Glen Jackson and Ole Bakken. QB Roy Dewalt was signed to replace Jerry Tagge and split duties with holdover Joe Paopao, while the receiving corps saw the addition of John Pankratz who would play the first of his eight seasons with the team. Al Charuk was once again BC's leading receiver while Leon Bright continued to dazzle with another pair of long kick return TDs as he led the WFC in punt return yardage.

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
EDM	13	3	0	505	281	26
WIN	10	6	0	394	387	20
CAL	9	7	0	407	355	18
BC	8	7	1	381	351	17
SAS	2	14	0	284	469	4

#### SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 9/80 CAL 14 at 32 WIN

#### WEST FINAL:

Nov 15/80 WIN 24 at 34 EDM

#### 68TH GREY CUP AT TORONTO:

Nov 23/80 EDM 48 vs 10 HAM

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
HAM	8	7	1	332	377	17
MTL	8	8	0	356	375	16
OTT	7	9	0	353	393	14
TOR	6	10	0	334	358	12

#### SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 8/80 OTT 21 at 25 MTL

#### EAST FINAL:

Nov 8/80 OTT 21 at 25 MTL

## 1981

The 1981 BC Lions opened in spectacular fashion, posting a 5-game win streak and 7-1 mark at the halfway mark. With QB Joe Paopao playing his finest football (3,777 yards and 28 TDs) and hooking up with WR Tyron Gray who set (then) a club record with 1,428 receiving yards on 63 catches, the Lions could score from anywhere on the field. RB Larry Key recorded his third 1,000-yard rushing season in four years for a balanced BC offense that scored 27.4 ppg. A pair of wins to close out the season assured another post-season berth and a trip to Winnipeg. BC had never won a road semi-final game before and surprised Winnipeg 15-11 by holding them to just 194 yards of offense. John Henry White's 154 rushing yards were a club record at that time and set up yet another try to reach the Grey Cup through a trip to Edmonton. This time it was much closer but the Eskimos prevailed 22-16 to deny the young Lions team a third trip to the Grey Cup game. Key additions in this season included DT Rick Klassen, DBs Nelson Martin and Larry Crawford. Crawford would go on to Wall of Fame honours and eventually become the Lions' all-time kick return (6,029 yards) and interceptions leader (51).

### WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
EDM	14	1	1	576	277	29
WIN	11	5	0	517	299	22
BC	10	6	0	438	377	20
SAS	9	7	0	431	371	18
CAL	6	10	0	306	367	12

#### SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 8/81 BC 15 at 11 WIN

#### WEST FINAL:

Nov 15/81 BC 16 at 22 EDM

#### 69TH GREY CUP AT MONTREAL:

Nov 22/81 EDM 26 vs 23 OTT

### EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
HAM	11	4	1	414	335	23
OTT	5	11	0	306	446	10
MTL	3	13	0	267	518	6
TOR	2	14	0	241	506	4

#### SEMI-FINAL:

Nov 8/81 BC 16 at 22 EDM

#### EAST FINAL:

Nov 15/81 OTT 17 at 13 HAM





















