

1-Game Final Stays; CRU Will Buy Tarp

By HAL WALKER

Winnipeg, March 11 (Staff).—The greatest individual sports attraction owned by Canadians, the Grey Cup final, will remain a one-game spectacle played at Toronto, because of an astounding change of heart that delegates had at the annual meeting concluded here early Saturday night.

The one game, as opposed to the two-game total-points series which would be shuttled between Montreal and Toronto, caught people here by complete surprise inasmuch as weeks ago the two strongest eagles in the country—the Western Interprovincial and the Eastern Big Four—had approved by an identical 3-1 vote to hold a two-game series.

But a powerful lobby led by Calgary's fighting president, Tom Brook, with a strong touchdown drive by Winnipeg's prey, Ralph Misener, swung the ballots to a 4-3 vote, eliminating the necessity of the Western Union having to even vote on the measure.

The CRU also made some of its member clubs happy by adopting a measure which considers an American who has played four continuous seasons in Canada no longer an import. This affects such sterling operatives as Montreal's Virgil Wagner, Edmonton's Frankie Filchok, Ottawa's Howie Turner and Regina's Del Warden.

A fine of \$1,000 will be levied, in the future, against any club raiding or interfering with another outfit's players unless the player is legally released from his old club.

By a 6-3 vote, the meeting also defeated a Calgary-sponsored motion for unlimited imports. The eastern representatives were unanimously against.

Brook contended that salaries were getting out of line and unlimited imports was the only answer to level them off and keep the Canadian players from asking for outlandish salaries.

He said the supply of player material was "practically negligible" in the west, and asked that the clubs be allowed to sign "another six or seven imports under a maximum salary limit of \$1,500." He said this would keep the Canadian salaries from getting too high.

In support, Dr. M. L. Van Vliet of Edmonton, representing the Western Intercollegiate, said "It had to be either unlimited imports or no imports at all."

Ah yes, and the tarpaulin. The CRU will buy a tarpaulin at a cost which will approximate \$8,100, thus at long last making a move to ensure that a suitable playing field greets the national final.

In Toronto last night, Warren Stevens, director of athletics at the University of Toronto, revealed that the university had informed the CRU that Varsity "could not justify the expense of a tarpaulin, particularly when there was no assurance that the Grey Cup final would always be played at Varsity Stadium."

"We at the university believe a tarpaulin is very desirable and that the CRU has made a wise move," Stevens said. "This will end all the controversy."

If the tarpaulin was to be avail-

able for rental at the stadium, Stevens added, the university might be interested in using it for the Intercollegiate season, or, at least, before important games. He had received no information on the policy of the CRU in this respect, he said.

A strong lobby by the western and eastern Big Fours to gain greater voting power at the expense of the Ontario Rugby Football Union also met with surprising defeat. The Big Fours had sought to have their delegates armed with four votes apiece rather than the two ballots they now own. The ORFU is also entitled to two votes.

The Big Fours insist they are the backbone of our football; that their leagues invariably have their champions in the Grey Cup final. Why should they, the logic ran, be allowed but an equal vote with their weak sister, the ORFU? Threats of secession from the parent body were muttered unless this was changed.

But what happens? The voting remains the same, and Canada's oldest football league, the maligned ORFU can consider itself fortunate. Only some brilliant oratory from its veteran secretary, Harold Bailey, saved its day.

In order to gather more money for the Grey Cup finalists, the CRU decided to raise its prices for the one game. Top price will be \$5, with a secondary price of \$4 to a

minimum of \$3. Arguments for a higher scale with a top of \$7.50, \$5 and \$3 which would gross a gate of roughly \$130,000 instead of the current \$75,000 to \$80,000 was quickly pigeon-holed as too drastic a jump.

The meeting decided to leave the allocation of Grey Cup tickets the same, with 30 per cent going to the West, 30 to the East, 30 per general sale and 10 to the CRU. They added, however, that the West will be given a proportional share of the "good seats" in the stadium.

Delegates decided against a special, large-size souvenir ticket for the Grey Cup, and will continue to use a standard size.

In a meeting which was relatively quiet, orderly and full of back-slapping good humor, the CRU elevated to the presidency Myer Insky, of the Quebec Rugby Football Union, succeeding Tommy Alison, of Toronto. Arthur Chipman of Winnipeg, moves up to the vice-president's chair, Norm Perry of Sarnia becomes second vice-president and Dr. Van Vliet is third vice.

Appointment of a permanent secretary at a salary of about \$6,000 per year was left in the lap of the incoming executive. Nothing will be done about this immediately but Hec Crighton of Toronto, who was applauded by the meeting for his great job in rewriting a rule book and granted \$400 out-of-pocket expenses, has the inside track for the job, if he wants it.