

DAVID MORRIS

Constable 1936-1950

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With the Winnipeg Blue Bombers set to play in the CFL's Western Finals on November 13, 2023, we look at another Winnipeg police officer who played in the Bombers ranks back during the 1936-37 seasons.

David (Dave) Morris was born on August 23, 1914, in St. James. The son of a baker, Dave grew up in St. James, living for many years at 384 Brooklyn Street.

Dave's first football honours came while a member of the Winnipeg Deer Lodge Juniors, which won the Western Canadian football title in 1934.

14 THE WINNIPEG EVENING TRIBUNE, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1934

Deer Lodge Lifts Prairie Junior Championship

EDMONTON TEAM IS OVERPOWERED BY 21-0 SCORE

Roughriders Take 20-Point Lead In Western Senior Final

HOW DEER LODGE WON WESTERN CANADA JUNIOR GRID TITLE

AERIAL ATTACK ROUTS COAST CHAMPS, 22-2

Kinmen Unable To Cope With Locals' Combined Passing and Running Game

A battered Edmonton Kinmen team and more than 2,000 local fans were last witnesses of the ruthless football this evening of Deer Lodge's orange horde, Saturday. Lodge's completed their conquest of the west with a final display of sheer, concentrated power to crush the Kinmen, 21-0, and return to Winnipeg the western Canada junior championship and the Al Gillie trophy, an alien article since Native Sons brought it here in 1930.

Deer Lodge's claim on the award came by right of the most decisive conquest of western provinces a prairie junior team has ever made. Victory came in the finale Saturday in a series of studied touch-down scores that the Kinmen were powerless to combat. Three touchdowns were the results of the obscure but the margin by which the Edmonton team was finally outwitted, was enormous. In the steering operators headed in Osborne Stadium's stands.

Visiting Line Riddled

For the entire second half the brilliant Deer Lodge backfield riddled the Kinmen line and baffled the Edmonton line and baffled the Edmonton line with a variety of passing and running plays.

During the first half the game had not become a rout. The Kinmen line had not absorbed the full pressure of a Deer Lodge platoon that ultimately shored horses with its backfield in the thrilling triumph. Roy Gerrits, grinding, locking backfield of the Edmonton team, had the Lodgers on the run in the early part of the first quarter. Gerrits bounced, consistently, lengthy kicks deep into enemy territory, twice driving the horses back on their goal line.

Deer Lodge's ascendancy was brief. Striking suddenly in a swift attack in the second quarter, Deer Lodge took a heavy touch, a touch-down and convert to assume an 8-0 lead.

Another interlude when the Kinmen made a gallant, though unavailing stand in the third quarter, preceded Deer Lodge's final two touch-down onslaught in the fourth period.

That was the brief outline of the

The above action shots were caught by The Tribune photographer Saturday as Deer Lodge won the Western Canada Junior Rugby championship by defeating Edmonton Kinmen. Upper left shows Roy Hinks, Deer Lodge tackle, snapping across Edmonton's goal line for the first Deer Lodge touch-down, after receiving Rutherford's forward pass and sending three Kinmen safety men for a further gain of 35 yards. Upper right is Roy Gerrits (in the white helmet) being brought down by a Deer Lodge tackle for no gain. Lower left Gerrits being tackled by Jim Wharris when he attempted to run back Rutherford's kick to the Edmonton 35-yard line. Dave Morris, with a guard to protect his broken nose, and Mattinsky are about to give Wharris a hand. Lower right, Wharris going through short end of the Edmonton line for a three-yard gain, from Deer Lodge's 49-yard line.

Seven Teams Still in Ontario Junior Race

TORONTO, Nov. 12 — Seven teams tonight were in the running for the championship of the Ontario Junior Rugby Football Union. Woodstock, Heriot, Crows Creek and Windsor will play off on Nov. 17 and 18 to determine which of the three teams enters the Ontario final.

Niagara Falls and St. Catharines played Saturday and meet again next Saturday.

The winner of this bracket will go up against the winner of the Toronto-Agincourt World series to be played here Wednesday and Saturday of this week, and the ultimate victor will enter the Ontario final.

Frank Shaughnessy New Montreal Ball Manager

MONTREAL, Nov. 12 — Frank Shaughnessy, who has been many things in many sports, yesterday took over the management of Montreal Royals of the International League, succeeding Oscar Kestner.

Regina Makes Breaks and Capitalizes Them For Smashing Victory

VANCOUVER, B.C., Nov. 12 — Regina Roughriders, one of the most polished grid machines the West has ever produced, today were away to an overwhelming lead in the Western Canada football final for the 17th time. They defeated Vancouver's fighting Maroons 22-2 on Saturday. Coach Greg Gramsick stacked his close formation plays against the open, end run tactics of his former college teammate, Dr. "Hammy" Reuber, and won. Their wanted line, outplayed by the lighter coast crew, the visitors took to the air to be passed that sped from the hands of the unconverted Ole Olson into the waiting arms of Paul Kirk, Andy Young or Al Miller. But at that the smooth functioning prairie grid ended but to capitalize on the break of the game to roll up their margin of 21.

Elmer Pearey, former University of Alberta star, was the hero of the victory march when he grabbed a pass attempted in the first minute of the game and raced 50 yards for a touchdown. The play was converted after Joe Ross had kicked to Bob Walker, who was routed behind his goal line. With punting honors between Ross and Olson fairly even, the half ended with Riders leading 5-0.

Early in the third quarter Paul Kirk booted two field goals to send the visitors well up in front, after Olson had touched the couple of for Maroons' Howard line twice. In the fourth quarter Pearey kicked to Olson kicked to the Regina line. The Edmonton line intercepted a lateral pass back of the line, five minutes into the third quarter, and Pearey kicked 30 yards for another Regina touch-down which was unconverted. The Roughriders scored their last points of the game when Miller fell on a fumbled ball back of the Maroons' goal line for another touch, unconverted. Bob Elias, former

Not surprisingly, Dave's talents earned him a spot on the Victoria and Winnipeg Seniors football clubs in the following years. In 1936 Dave earned a spot on the Winnipeg Blue Bombers roster,¹ playing guard, tackle or centre. During this time, most players played both ways.

Coming off their first Grey Cup win the previous year, 1936 was a disappointment for the Blue Bombers, getting knocked out early in the western finals. However, they returned to the Grey Cup finals in 1937, losing 4-3 to the Toronto Argonauts.

Dave played only four games in 1936, or half the season at the time, as he had also been "drafted" by the Winnipeg Police on May 11, 1936, and had to split his time between the practice field and his full-time job with the police. It was a similar situation in 1937, after which Dave left to concentrate on policing full-time.

Nevertheless, Dave kept his hands in the game by coaching his *alma mater*, the Deer Lodge football club, over the next few seasons. Indeed, Dave was never very far from the Bombers club as he was put on the reserve players list when All-Star Centre and Defensive Tackle Mel Wilson was injured in 1939.

In addition, Dave's size and skills off the football field as a hockey player obviously impressed his colleagues at the Winnipeg City Police Athletic Association (WCPAA) as he was picked up to play on the Association's senior men's intermediate hockey team.



WCPAA Hockey Team. Finalists in the 1938 Manitoba Intermediate Hockey League.
Dave Morris in the centre player in the back row.

¹ 1936 saw the first use of the term Blue Bombers. Credit for that goes to Vince Leah, a writer for the Winnipeg Tribune. During a 1936 exhibition game against the University of North Dakota, Leah called the Winnipeg team Blue Bombers in comparing them to the then heavy weight boxing champion Joe Louis, who had the nickname "The Brown Bomber". The name caught on and was officially adopted by the team in 1937.

In March 1938, the WCPAA team went to the provincial finals knocking out Sturgeon Creek, Petersfield, Transcona and Teulon in the playoffs before taking on the Treherne Indians in a best of two, total goals finals. The WCPAA lost the series 2-0.

Dave Gets His Man With Flying Tackle

A FLYING tackle by Constable Dave Morris, former Blue Bomber lineman, climaxed an exciting four-mile chase by a city police cruiser car through north end streets early this morning.

Seeing an auto speed away from the front of the Modern Shoe Store, at Selkirk ave. and McGregor st. at 4 a.m. this morning, the cruiser car crew acted on a hunch and gave chase.

Failing to shake off the police, the driver of the suspected car jumped out and started to run. Constable Morris chased him on foot and brought him crashing to earth.

Stolen Footwear

In the auto, according to police, was found a quantity of footwear stolen from the Modern Shoe Store, which had been the scene of a smash-and-grab raid. It was

later found that the auto had been reported as stolen.

With Constable Morris in the cruiser car were Acting Patrol-Sergeant W. Grant and Constable M. Lucid.

Joseph Masek appeared before Magistrate R. B. Graham in city police court this morning charged with shoplifting and theft, and theft of an auto. He pleaded not guilty and asked for a jury trial. Magistrate Graham remanded the case to April 10 and set bail at \$10,000.

Dave continued to play with the WCPAA Hockey Team until 1942. However, the team did not fare as well again. With Canada embroiled in World War II, Dave along with many other officers, would enlist for overseas service, putting hockey on hold.

On May 5, 1943, Dave took a leave of absence from the police department and enlisted with the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve. Dave was subsequently discharged from the Navy effective October 1, 1945, and resumed active duties with the Winnipeg Police.

On his return to policing, Dave remained active in curling, winning several curling championships with his police associates.

Winnipeg Tribune, April 7, 1941.

On November 30, 1950, Dave resigned from the Winnipeg Police and moved to Vancouver. He passed away on October 12, 1973, in Vancouver.

NOTE: The World Police & Fire Games come to Winnipeg on July 28 – August 6, 2023. Anyone wishing to recognize a police athlete, past or present, or any member they feel made sustained and substantial contributions to policing in Winnipeg and its surrounding municipalities during the past 150 years, is asked to send me their name and (if known) a brief description of their accomplishments.



ON A NEW BEAT: Dave Morris and his All-Police foursome, representing the West Kildonan Curling Club, "put the p inch" on Cornish, of Melita, in the final of the City Hydro, and prevented the country curlers from leaving town with the trophy. The winners, left to right: Morris, skip; Harry Van DerVeken, third; Earl Sutton, second, and Denny Konchak, lead.

February 15, 1950. Winnipeg Tribune
