

The Club that was to win eight Ontario Titles and three Dominion C.R.U. Titles between 1929 and 1953 with the war years excluded was the brainchild of "Fareless" Fred Dufon, very aptly named for his tremendous desire to surmount all obstacles and bring home a winner.

With a number of good players just out of Collegiate, Dufon decided the time was right to start Intermediate football. With a \$150.00 loan from the bank, and with the Cobourg Collegiate Coach the late T.H. McClelland, Cobourg entered the O.R.F.U. in a league with Lindsay, Belleville, Oshawa and Peterborough. The "Red Raiders" as they were originally called went through the complete season without winning a game, but did establish a core of good backfielders such as Ken Cooper, Chuck Johnston, Joe Dufon and Chuck Henderson, and a line of Spooner, Barton, Schrus, Pratt and Wood.

1935 was a banner year as the "Red Raiders" scored their first and only win one sunny day in Belleville, as Bud Edwards scored the winning touchdown to give Cobourg their first win, and the start of good times to come.

By 1937 Red Orange "The Galloping Ghost" of Illinois, was tearing up the grids in U.S. College Circles and the late John Hayden one of the Clubs Executive Members proposed the Club change their name to the Cobourg Galloping Ghosts and discard their red sweaters for basic white sweaters with red numerals.

The new look "Ghosts" also lured "Chuck Peck" out of Queens to do the coaching. Bud Lucas was now the quarterback with a backfield of Cooper, Edwards, Wellman and Johnson. Schrus, Spooner and Pratt still anchored the line, however, it was in the blocking department that showed the most improvement. This was due to the acquisition of Graham "Mike" Melick who had tried out with Roney Beach, but who decided to come to Cobourg and led the Ghosts to their first O.R.F.U. "B" Title in a thrilling win over Stratford.

1938 saw the Ghosts go on to bigger and better things: Still coached by Chuck Peck and led by Melick, the fiery Jack Jacobs and of course Lucas, Cooper, Johnston, Heaton and Egnell, the Ghosts walked through Belleville Panthers, Kingston Garrison, Toronto Catholics and Toronto Oakwoods to finally meet Sarnia Wanderers in the Intermediate "A" Championships which they won 12-7.

In 1939 the Ghosts' fortunes stayed a little. Melick had gone to Sarnia, several players had already enlisted and the Ghosts had to be content with the "B" Crown with wins over Oakwood Indians 8-2 in the semifinals and Selkirk Falls Trojans 27-0 in the finals.

such a strange way ever to win their 1st Dominion Crown. Chuck Ross and Bob Lucas did the coaching. Sub Conroy was the quarterback along with Ness Gibbans, Ireland Sulgley, Pud Jamieson, Gus Edwards, Chuck Henderson and Chuck Johnson in the backfield. The line of Jim Payton, Bill Jarvis, Homer Seale, Gord Beatty, Vern Goyer, Bob Campbell and Bill Douglas gave the Ghosts all they needed in a League with Peterborough, Trenton, Toronto and the Orillia Silver Bommers with Milligan, White and Bond.

In their League Final they defeated Oshawa 23-1. Then came the two game total point Ontario "A" Finals with Niagara Falls, where they defeated the Dynamos 23-2 and 9-0 and finally the Dominion Intermediate Championship game with Montreal Eastwinds and a 16-5 win for the Ghosts.

This Club set the pattern for years to come winning two more Dominion Crowns in the next four years, all led by the determined Fred Dufon.

The Central C.R.F.U. in 1947 consisted of Peterborough Orions, Oshawa Red Raiders, Orillia Silver Bommers, Queens Intermediates and the Cobourg Seafaring Ghosts. In the League Final the Ghosts played the Silver Bommers in a two game total point final, winning 15-17 in the snow, in Orillia and played in a 6-6 draw at home to take the total 21-17.

Then in the Ontario Finals, Niagara Falls came to town and this season surprised the Ghosts on a snow covered frozen field 13-6.

1948 was certainly one of the Ghosts most outstanding seasons. First the Central League dismissed Cobourg who had misled their eyes by drawing several players out of Peterborough and Oshawa. Not to be denied, Fred Dufon immediately went to work and formed an Eastern League with Trenton, Trenton R.C.A.F. and Queens Intermediates.

The team consisted almost entirely of Cobourg and Port Hope players with only Bob Cooper and Rye Norman out of Varsity, Russ Boyd an ex Argos and Gen Connors being imports. Cooper was an excellent leader and with a backfield of Sulgley, Jamieson, Connors, Curraly and Redhurst, and a line of Payton, Jarvis, Austin, Lee, Grandwood, Douglas and Boyd, the Ghosts roared through the Eastern League and into the Ontario Semifinals against who else but the Orillia Silver Bommers in what was supposed to be a sudden death game in Orillia. With the Bommers leading 16-5 at the half, it seemed to be all over for the Ghosts, but they came back to end regulation time tied at 16. With darkness descending the League Officials ordered another game to be played on Wednesday of that week in Peterborough. The injury ridden Ghosts scored early in this one and hung on for a 6-0 win and a berth in the Ontario Finals with London Falcons, who had demolished Niagara Falls 21-2.

In the Dominion C.R.U. Final, the Ghosts met Montreal Rocklands, a big hard hitting club featuring the running of Danny Johnston (who went on to the Allstar) and Jim Chambers (later to the Allstar), however the Ghosts scored early and surprised the Rocklands 10-0.

Its always hard to recall and even though the Ghosts added a number of outstanding players, including Jack Robinson late of the Arca's who also coached the club, Andy McConvey from O.S.C., Bob Bevan, Art Jones and with the return of Homer Seale and Jack Newton things looked promising. The League consisted of Trenak Mustangs, Queens Intermediates and Cabourg. The Ghosts romped through the schedule undefeated and then met the Orillia Silver Bombers in a two game O.R.F.U. Semifinal.

The Ghosts prevailed 29-18, winning 15-6 in Orillia and 14-12 at home. Then it was the Dundas Bombers led by Dutch Holland, Granby and Treaves, the Bombers ousted an injury riddled Ghost crew 15-6 in Cabourg and 8-3 in a very muddy field in Dundas. Dundas were a strong club, but must have peaked against the Ghosts for they lost to Montreal in the C.R.U. Final.

The 1950 Central O.R.F.U. League was extremely strong - Gravel had Davey West, Burkhardt and Art Skidmore, Peterborough had Huttly, Schuler, Westly and the McGill's brothers, and of course Orillia had Jim Kilginn throwing, Mutt Long and Dave Ross running. The Ghosts had their full crew back, O'at two excellent linemen in Gord Burdick and Bev McRally, along with Hawks, Don Smith and a great running back in Eric Darrah later to go on to the Allstars.

Jack Edrington was a tower of strength at centre and Broadwood, Lees, Jarvis, Burdick, Seale, Douglas, Helman and Smith gave great protection to our tailback Cooper. The backfield had Mathurst, Bevan, Carruth, McConvey, Corneily, Gungley and Jamieson. This team the Ghosts were loaded with strength. They won the League losing only one game, that to Oshawa, but several games were won in the dying moments in a very exciting season.

In the Ontario Semifinals they met their old nemis, the Dundas Bombers.

The first game in Cabourg was a terrific struggle with the Ghosts winning 3-0 on the strength of three singles by Bob Cooper.

Back in Dundas on another terrific field the game was a defensive struggle. The Ghosts line was outstanding particularly Ben Smith and Bev McRally. Coopers kicking kept Cabourg in the game and late in the fourth quarter led 8-0 on the field even though they trailed 8-3 in the game. With the line up, the Bombers kicker Mansel tried a field goal from 20 yards out, however, Eric Darrah somehow deflected the ball and

entiretime. The Ghosts rolled up a 1-1 win in Cobourg and an 18-11 win in London. However, London did tie the game in the second quarter 11-11 before Art Jones took over and kicked two field goals in the fourth quarter to lock it up.

The Oshawa winners this season were the Montreal Lakeshore Flyers featuring a big hard charging line and the running of Danny Johnston, who had given the Ghosts lots of trouble as a member of the Westmounts in '48.

The game, played on the same day as the famous "Mud Bowl" at Varsity Stadium, was dominated by a strong wind which pushed many kicks out of bounds on the west side of the field. With the weather dictating a low scoring ground game the Ghosts line prevailed and with Cooper kicking single points in the third and fourth quarters, the Ghosts won their third C.R.U. Intermediate Title 2-0.

By 1951 the Central O.R.F.U. League had expanded to include East York Blue Devils, as well as Ryerson, along with Orillia, Peterborough, Oshawa, Queens and Cobourg. Jake Edmondson was back as coach. New players included Bernie Fleish, Dan Campbell, Karl Lanahan, Vic Sarvin and Ike Kane.

This season saw the Ghosts pick up a lot of key injuries and as a result were ousted out of first place by the Oshawa Red Raiders led by Jim Lorenzo, Sully Ford and Mel Taylor. However, the Ghosts did grab second place and a berth in the sudden death Intermediate '51 Final with the Berlin Wildcats.

The Wildcats, led by the Reeves brothers Hank & Pete, played well, but in a rough game that saw three players ejected. The Ghosts triumphed 13-0.

1952 saw the League reduced to four teams, Oshawa, Kingston F.C.R.M.E., Cobourg and the Peterborough Orions who now included many of the disbanded Orillia Bombers.

With the retirement of several players there was a considerable turnover in personnel. Coming into the Ghosts folds, were first of all a new coach in the person of Art Ross, the former Argos star who had been coaching at Selby Beach. With him came players such as Red Alexander, Don Hall, Weger, Hendry and Horvath, along with Jack Reeves from D.S.C., Mel Taylor, Armstrong and Brodie who defected from Oshawa. This gave the Ghosts a potent crew, but as the season wore on it was evident something was missing. Injuries again were instrumental in the Ghosts finishing second to the Peterborough Orions-Bombers combination.

This put them into the Intermediate '52 two game final, with the Kitchener-Waterloo Rangers and Carl Teske. The Ghosts won the first game in Kitchener 17-12, but in the second game in Cobourg the score

periods of decline before the Ghosts led by Red Alexander scored, to win the "B" Title 14-8.

That title would turn out to be the last the Ghosts would ever win. Even though they operated in 1952, most of the local stalwarts had retired. The club consisted almost entirely of out of town players which unfortunately did not make the playoffs. With attendance dwindling and costs spiralling, it became evident to Fred Duffon and the Ghosts executive, that it would be impossible to continue.

The Gallaping Ghosts were, and still are the most famous of all teams in Colerick's Sports history. To play for, or even to be associated with the Ghosts, left one with a sense of pride and a never to be forgotten desire to perform to the best of one's ability.

In Fred Duffon, the Ghosts had a leader who proved that there is no substitute for hard work and determination. With a record of eight Ontario Titles and three C.R.U. Titles in thirteen years of operation, very few clubs could ever challenge the record of the Colerick Gallaping Ghosts.