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Alouettes humble Edmonton in Grey Cup classic

Editor of Markle Community Newspapers Orillia Wednesday Nighter, Jeff Day, covered the Grey Cup in Montreal last weekend. He filed this report on the Canadian football classic with the Times and Citizen.

by Jeff Day
Orillia WN Editor
Montreal—A record breaking scoring barrage by Montreal's Don Sweet and a completely inept Edmonton Eskimo squad was the whole story at the 1977 Grey Cup game played before a largely partisan 68,205 fans at the Olympic Stadium here Sunday.

The Alouettes took advantage of nine Eskimo turnovers and the kicking toe of Don Sweet to coast to a 41-6 Canadian Football League Championship.

Sweet, who was chosen by Canada's attending sportswriters as the Top Canadian in the contest, was successful on six of seven field goal attempts, booted three converts, a kickoff single and notched one point on a missed three pointer to topple three standing Grey Cup records.

His six field goals are the most in the classic. The previous record of four was held also by Sweet, his 23 points in the game are the highest, breaking the mark set by Jim Van Pelt in 1958 and his career total of 45 points snapped the record held by Joe Krol of

Toronto who had 30. The attendance figure of 68,205 is another record as is the revenue from the gate receipts.

And to top it all off, the 41 points scored by the Alouettes is the third highest ever scored by a team in the Grey Cup. Only Queen's University, 54-0 over Regina in 1923 and the Eskimos 50-27 win over Montreal in 1958 are higher.

There was almost another record broken, the one for the coldest temperature, -10c, but the thermometer at the Olympic Palace dipped to only -9c.

The cold didn't seem to bother the fans but it played havoc with the players and the field.

The 26 centimeters of snow coupled with upwards of 70 kmh winds left in its wake a frozen, icy field.

Seven turnovers
In the first quarter alone, both Edmonton quarterback Bruce Lemmerman and Sonny Wade managed to turn the ball over seven times, Edmonton four times, Montreal three.

But it was only the Alouettes who could take advantage of the miscues, scoring on Sweet's first field goal of the game with 11:34 gone in the first quarter.

The second quarter belonged to Sweet's toe as he booted two more field goals and a single before the Dave Cutler could get

close enough, 38 yards, for the first scoring by the Eskimos, just as the half ended.

It was clearly defined by the half how the contest would conclude and that philosophy carried right through the final two quarters as the Montreal defensive line, led by Glen Weir, who was the game's Defensive Player, Marvin Davis, Gordie Judges and Junior Ah You manhandled the Eskimo offensive line brigade.

Before either Lemmerman or Wilkinson could have time to either set up a run or a pass, the front four had shut down the options and sacked the quarterback.

If the first half wasn't indicative of the way the game would go, the third buried Edmonton.

The Als went ahead 13-3 then Cutler came back with his second field goal two minutes later, before the explosive Montreal offense led by Sonny Wade, the games Most Valuable Player exploded for 17 points before the final quarter even began.

Sweet put his fifth through the uprights then the Alouettes marched 60 yards in 5 plays capped

off on a touchdown by Peter Dalla Riva on a 6-yard pass from Wade, then Randy Rhino, the runner-up in the best defensive player voting to Werv, ran back a Henry Ilesic punt 52 yards to the Edmonton 10.

Two plays later, Wade had combined with John O'Leary for a 10-yard touchdown pass and with Sweet adding two converts the Alouettes had the game very much in hand, 30-6.

Als gang up
The final fifteen minutes were more or less a repeat of the previous fifteen with the home town Als putting another eleven on the board.

By this juncture, the Alouette fans were just waiting for the final gun and the Eskimo supporters were watching to see just how inept their team could be.

Bruce Lemmerman contributed his teams ninth turnover and Vernon Perry returned the errant pass 74-yards to the Edmonton 7-yard line.

Wade knew what to do. He tossed his third TD pass to a wide open Bob

Gaddis, Sweet converted and the score reached an embarrassing 38-6.

And that wasn't all, Sweet added insult to injury with his sixth field goal to end the scoring rampage at a merciful 41-6.

Could have been worse
The count could have been 14 points greater for the Als were it not for a

fumble by Sonny Wade in the first quarter on the Edmonton one-yard line and in the third quarter when a Wilkinson pass picked off by Randy Rhino was called back on an offside call.

Edmonton, who had scored 76 points and allowed only 1 in their last two games with a 38-0 drubbing of Saskat-

chewan and a 38-1 romp over the BC Lions in the Western final, could only come up with the grand total of 102 yards offense and only poked into Montreal territory four times with two of those stalling on the Als 40.

Montreal rolled up 424 yards, 340 passing and 84 on the ground.

Just about the only

people who didn't enjoy the proceedings had to be the Eskimos—despite the cold and the transit strike the fans were treated to a spectacular half time

show featuring dozens of Canadian Sports.

After the game, the jubilant Montreal fans celebrated almost anywhere and the

downcast Eskimo faithful hoped they would get a rematch next year when the Grey Cup classic will be played in their hometown.



Sonny's miscue

Action in the first quarter of this year's Grey Cup game in Montreal's Olympic Stadium saw what was thought to be a crucial fumble by Alouettes quarterback Sonny Wade. Edmonton recovered the Montreal fumble, but

that was about all. The Eskies went down with a resounding thud Sunday afternoon, losing the Canadian football classic by a humbling score of 41-6.

Wednesday Nighter photo

Sports shorts

Free throw competition

Sunday in Penetang

Be honest now. How many baskets do you think you could sink given 15 shots from the foul line?

It's not easy as close to 100 boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 14 will likely find out this Sunday.

Schools from Penetanguishene, Midland, Elmvale and surrounding area will be sending teams to Corpus Christi school in Penetanguishene to compete in the annual basketball free throw competition beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Each competitor will get 15 shots from the line. Total number of baskets will be tabulated and a winner in each age group

selected.

The eagle eye in each division will move on to the Simcoe County finals to be held in Barrie late January or early February.

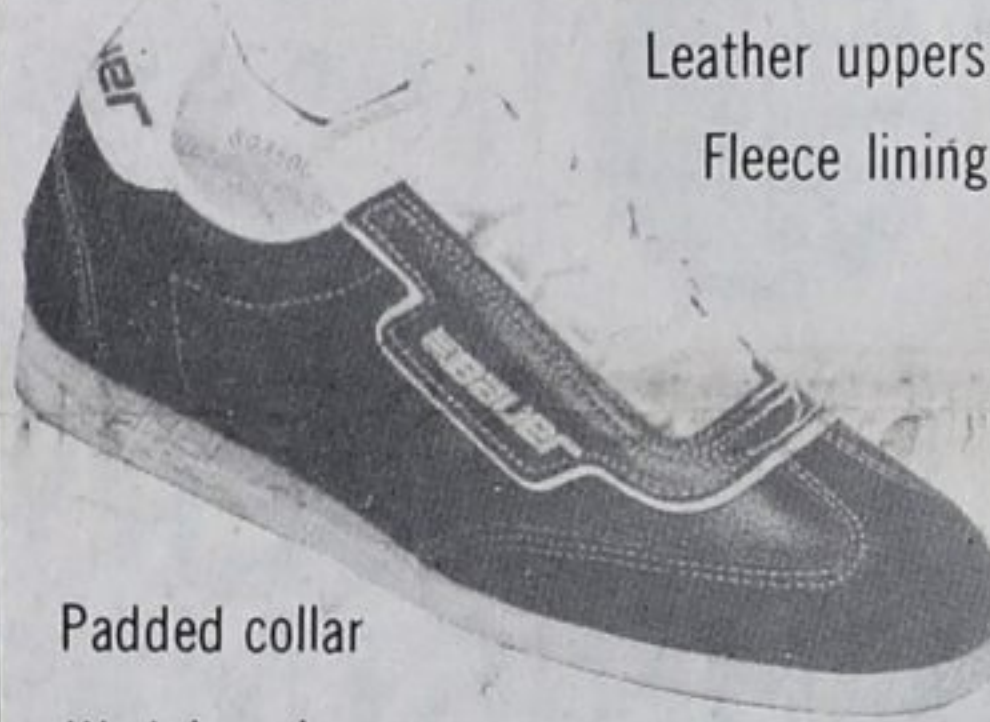
Last year's winner in the 13 year old division, Rob Leduc, went on to place second in Ontario and placed in the top 10, when results from across Canada and the United States were tabulated.

Leduc shot for Bayview School last year. He'll be the favourite in the 14 year old division this Sunday while shooting for Midland Secondary School.

Ribbons donated by the Knights of Columbus will be presented to division champs.

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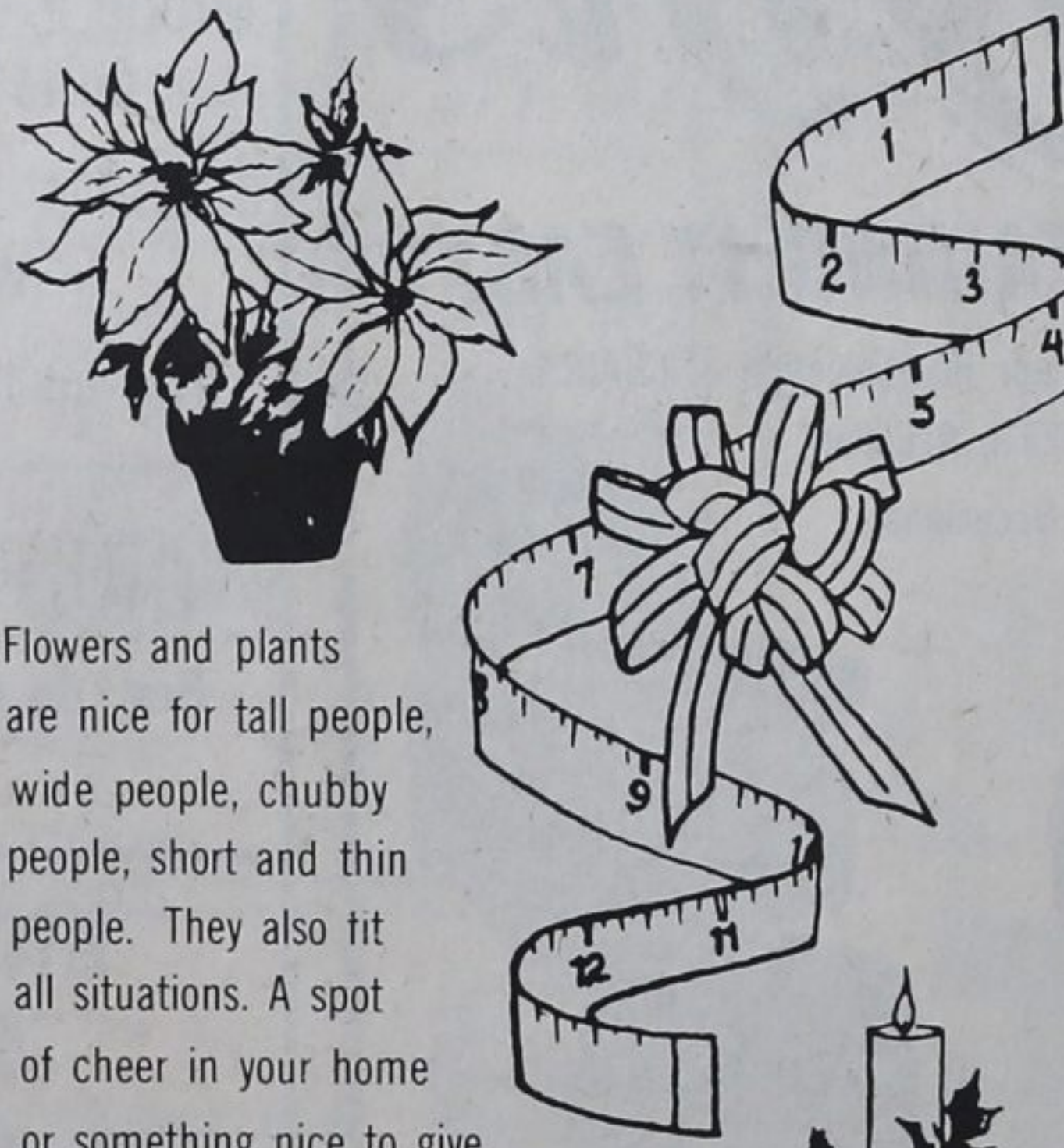
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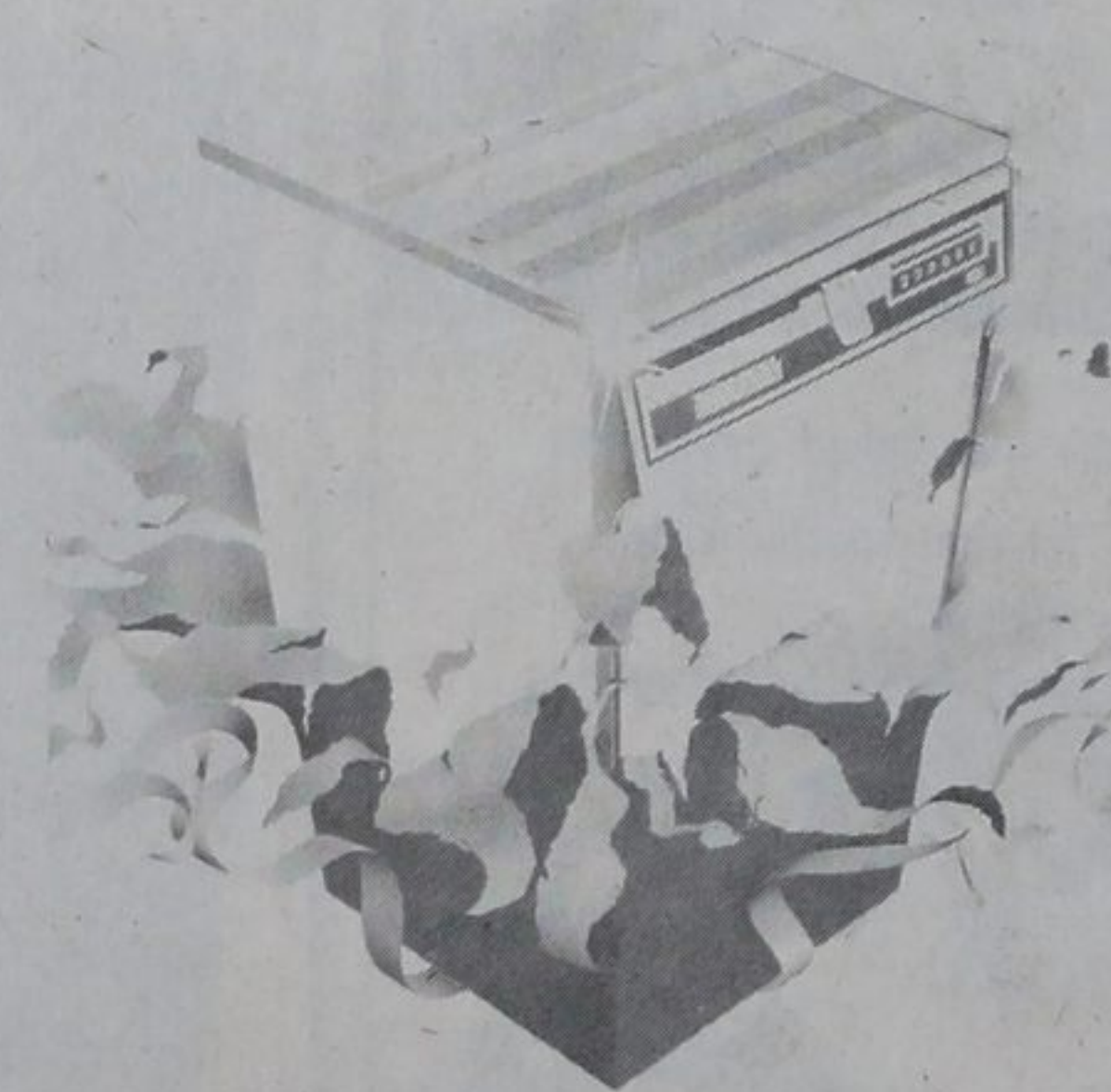


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