

Sports Teams

Cobourg's Galloping Ghosts

What's in a Name?

According to William Shakespeare, *"a rose by any other name would smell as sweet"*. Don't tell that to anyone connected with the *Cobourg Red Raiders!* **Though they may not have smelled any better with a new name, the team certainly played better.** Almost immediately upon changing their name, they transformed from winless wonders into league leaders!

Over their first two years (1935-6) the Raiders amassed one win and twelve losses in the Ontario Rugby Football Union - Intermediate. Clearly something had to be done, and part of that something was a change of name. At the suggestion of team treasurer Johnny Hayden the name chosen was *"Galloping Ghosts"*, **the nickname of Red Grange, a famous football player of that time.**

After that, the Ghosts had an amazing run of success. **They won three Ontario championships in the 1930s, added five more after WWII, and went all the way to become Dominion Champions in 1946, 1948 and 1950.**

The club continued to operate through 1953, their last year, but most of the local talent had disappeared. Attendance continued to decrease while costs skyrocketed, making it very difficult for the team to continue.

There is certainly room for debate, but some consider the *Cobourg Galloping Ghosts* to be **the most famous team in Cobourg sports history.** **Colourful "Ferocious Fred" Dufton managed the team for its full thirteen-year existence,** five years before the war and eight years after.

In the words of reporter Layton Dodge, the *Cobourg Galloping Ghosts* created a *"dynamic, prolific renaissance, making the Ghosts nationally known and a household word locally."*



Raiders & Ghosts Before the War

Gus Bambridge, Milt Benson, Tom Brewster, Robert Brown, Tommy Bulger, Ken Cooper, Joe Dufton, George Dufton, George Galbraith, Hank Haynes, Chuck Henderson, Chuck Johnston, Bob Lucas, Jack Newton, Alec Pratt, Charlie Schrumm, Archie Spooner, Reg Stuart, Bill Woods

Sports Teams

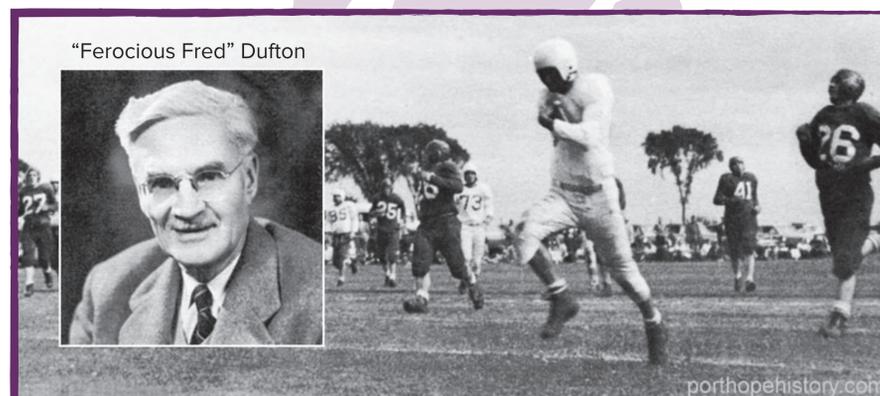
The *Cobourg Galloping Ghosts* were a first class outfit. They were the first team in Canada to wear aluminum cleats, and the second to wear white uniforms. Players had to be bandaged properly with their shoes shined before taking the field. **Their first class approach was part of their success.**

Those who were involved in any capacity with this team love to talk about the glory years. Ian Munro, for one, recalls going to every Ghosts' game in the early 50s when kids' season tickets were 75 cents! **Those of us who came later can still experience a sense of pride in these men who represented our town so well.**



Ghosts After The War

Red Alexander, Bob Bevan, Art Brandwood, Gord Burdick, George Campbell, Darcy Campbell, Glen Connor, Bob Cooper, Paul Currelly, Bill Douglas, Chub Downey, Bernie Flesch, Boyd Hendry, Eagle Hircock, Eagle Hircock, Junior Hoselton, Bill Irvine, Jim Irvine, Bill Jamieson, Jack Jamieson, Bill Jarvis, Art Jones, Vern Lees, Tommy Lewis, Tommy Lewis, Ken Medhurst, Jim Poynton, Homer Seale



Photos courtesy of PortHopeHistory.com and Heather (Jarvis) Rowe