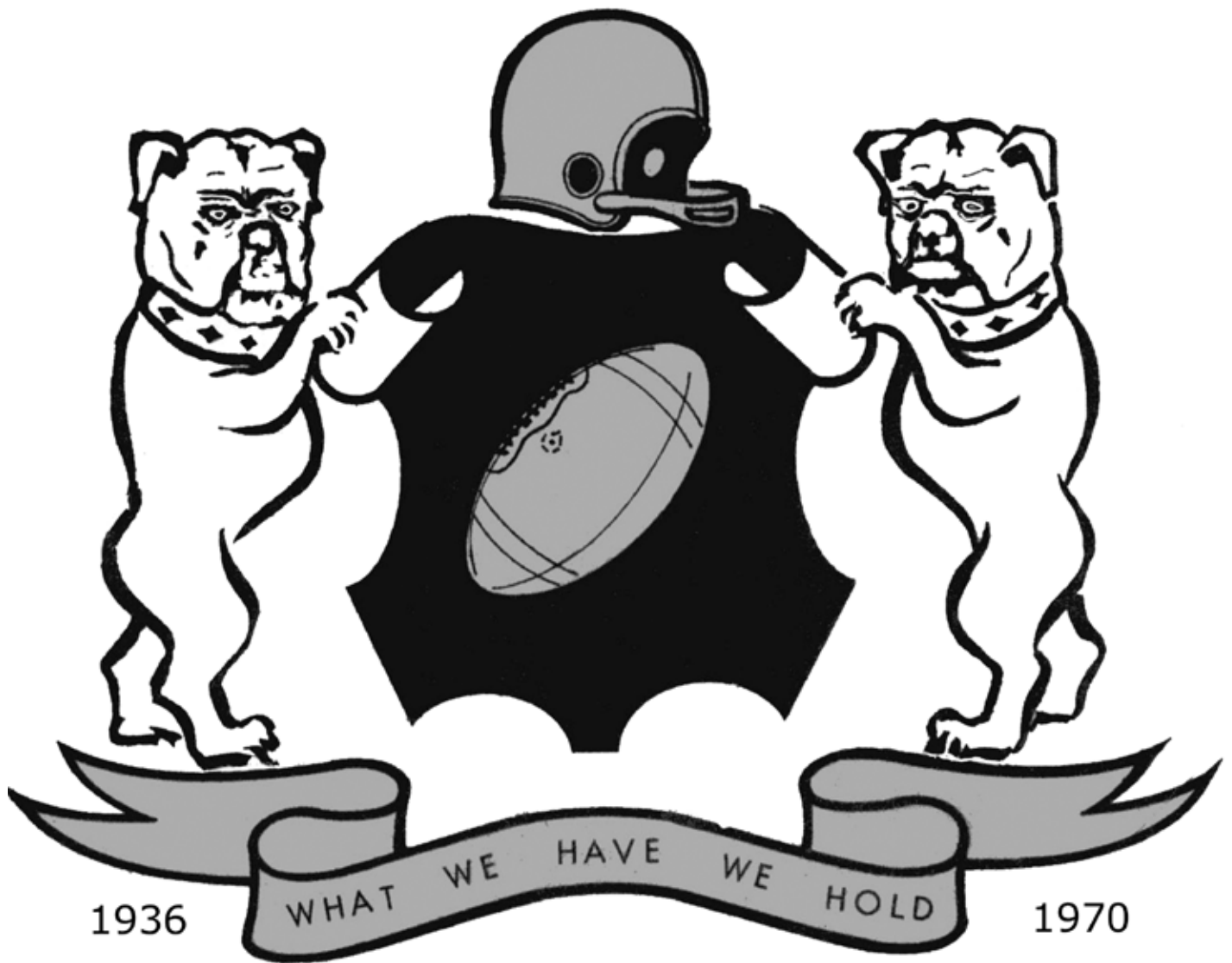


# St. Vital



# Bulldogs

St. Vital received its first look at "rugby football" in 1936 when a group of young men packed their meager equipment and headed north to the Main Street stadium in Winnipeg to play the Young Men's Hebrew Association. The result of that game has long been forgotten score wise, but the contest was the first in the 34-year history of the St. Vital Bulldogs.

In 1937 Norwood and Elmwood put together teams and the first Manitoba intermediate league was formed as the two teams challenged the Bulldogs. Norwood won the opening game 15-1 but lost the return clash, 17-1. Elmwood proved to be no match as St. Vital romped to 31-1 and 38-0 victories.

In 1938, the Big Four League was formed when Morse Place and the Transcona Boilermakers joined St. Vital, Norwood and Elmwood. Bulldogs went 7-1 in the regular season.

Fullback **Bob "Scotty" McKay** was Mr. Everything for the Dogs. McKay accounted for most of the scoring and rushing and also was the punter. Head coach Toby Mallory was hard pressed to keep his players' egos in check after a fairly easy season, which saw Bulldogs outscore the opposition 151-28.

To keep his team in some sort of game shape while Elmwood played Morse Place in the league semi-final, Mallory arranged an exhibition game, won 28-5, versus the

St. Vital Southerners. St. Vital had to sit around another week because the semi-final had to be replayed.

St. Vital defeated Elmwood 7-1 and 12-0 in the two-game, total-point final.

In those days, a touchdown was worth five points plus the convert. St. Vital played at King George Park where the Super Store is now located on St. Anne's Road north of Fermor Avenue. The Bulldogs practised Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. while game time Sunday was 2 p.m.

Transportation to, and from, away games was on the back of a local market gardener's truck. Provided there was room, fans were welcome to ride with the team.

The league changed in 1939 but not the Bulldogs winning ways. Morse Place and Norwood dropped out and were replaced by a team from St. James. Bulldogs went 6-0 and outscored the opposition 155-16 before winning the two-game, total-point final 13-2 over St. James. A week later the Dogs downed the league All-Star Team, 12-1.

The championship string ended in 1940 when Transcona Tigers defeated St. Vital 17-7 in the semi-final, then lost the final to St. James.

St. Vital was a winner over the Transcona Tigers in their 1940 opener.

Late in the fourth quarter, St. Vital recovered a fumble on the Tiger 40-yardline.



*Due to a lack of players and an executive, the Bulldogs were forced to combine with a team from Fort Rouge in 1947. Team members were: unidentified (left front); L. Cockburn; Frank Hatcher; Ernie Evans; Jim Thompson; Art Hunt; and Stu Greg. Second row: Jim Simster, left unidentified; C. Cowie and unidentified player. In the rear is Julian Adams.*

1948 St. Vital Bulldogs



"From there the Bulldogs marched steadily to the 10-yard strip in a series of line smashes. With 60 seconds to play, **Bob McKay** picked a hole and went over for the only touch of the game which he converted," reported the Winnipeg Tribune.

"St. Vital pulled a surprise when they produced tailback Bob McKay for the game. A Bulldog star for the last three years, Bob played his last game Sunday before leaving the city with the army. He wound up his career in a blaze of glory for his hard plunging was the deciding factor in the game."

McKay became a police officer in St. Vital after the war. Along with **Garth McLure, Bob Findlay, Vic "Chink" Horton Garth McLure, Vince Karlenzig, Allen Rae, Jack McVicar, Wally O'Brien** and pre-war president **Fred Lorch** were among those who shipped out during the season.

Among the missing when the Bulldogs re-assembled in 1946 were end Karlenzig, Horton, Findlay and Lorch. Karlenzig, an instructor, died in an airplane crash, Horton was killed in action and Findlay was a member of the ill-fated raid on Dieppe.

St. Vital finished the 1946 season tied for

first with the Norwood Legionnaires, lost the tiebreaker, 9-1 and were routed in the semi-final by Transcona. That year the league was known as the Manitoba Intermediate Rugby Football League. The coach was **Garth McClure**.

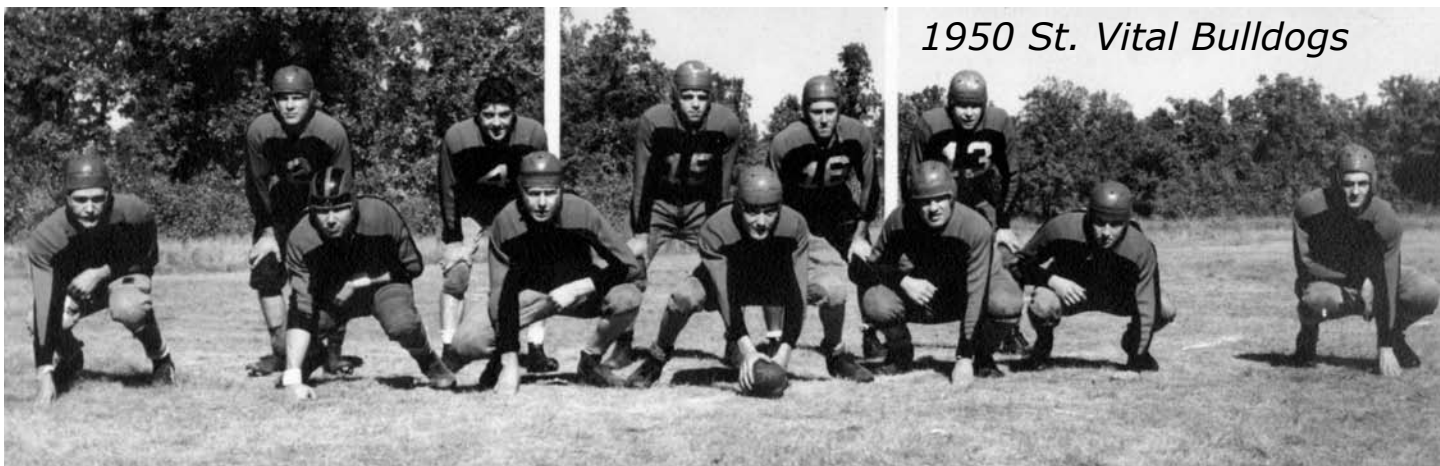
"For the present time a weight limit of 175 pounds has been set in order to reduce the possibility of injuries, due to the grave shortage of equipment," reads an excerpt from the 1946 Bulldog program.

A lack of players, and an executive, forced a merger with a group of players from the Fort Rouge area for the 1947 season. Former Winnipeg Blue Bomber, **Art Kolisnyk**, coached the team, known as the St. Vital-Fort Rouge Bulldogs. Only two scores were found, a 20-0 loss to Norwood and a 6-0 victory over Elmwood. The team did not make the playoffs.

With a roster of 16 players under coach **Bob McKay**, St. Vital finished the 1948 with a 2-4 record, defeated Elmwood 12-2 in the semi-final and then lost the two-game, total-point final 16-14 and 10-1, to Norwood.

Following a one-year absence, when he played for the Regina Roughriders, **Art**

1950 St. Vital Bulldogs







Very few of the the 1952 St. Vital Legion Bulldogs have not been identified. Bob McKay (trenchcoat left); George Mollette (85); Lorne Cameron (84); Fred DePourcq (77); Frank Wimmer (6); Glen Swaney (64); Frank Hatcher (74); Ted Francis (82); Dick Todd (70); Don Baker (79); Joe Boyko (56); Art Riel (63); Wally Hooper (50); Cal Varey (52); Lorne Milgaard (70); Bill Pagan (66).

**Kolisnyk** was back at the helm of the Bulldogs for 1949. St. Vital finished second to Norwood in the four-team league, which also included Elmwood and Transcona. Bulldogs defeated Elmwood 8-1 in the semi-final and then upset Norwood 7-6 and 7-3 in the total-point final. **Ray Smith** was the hero of the final game when he returned a punt 70 yards for a touchdown. Smith almost wore the goat horns when he fumbled a punt on his own 10-yard line. The defence saved the day by stopping Norwood on three cracks from the 10 in the dying minutes of the game. In the first ever Manitoba-Thunder Bay championship, the Port Arthur Mustangs were 19-1 winners.

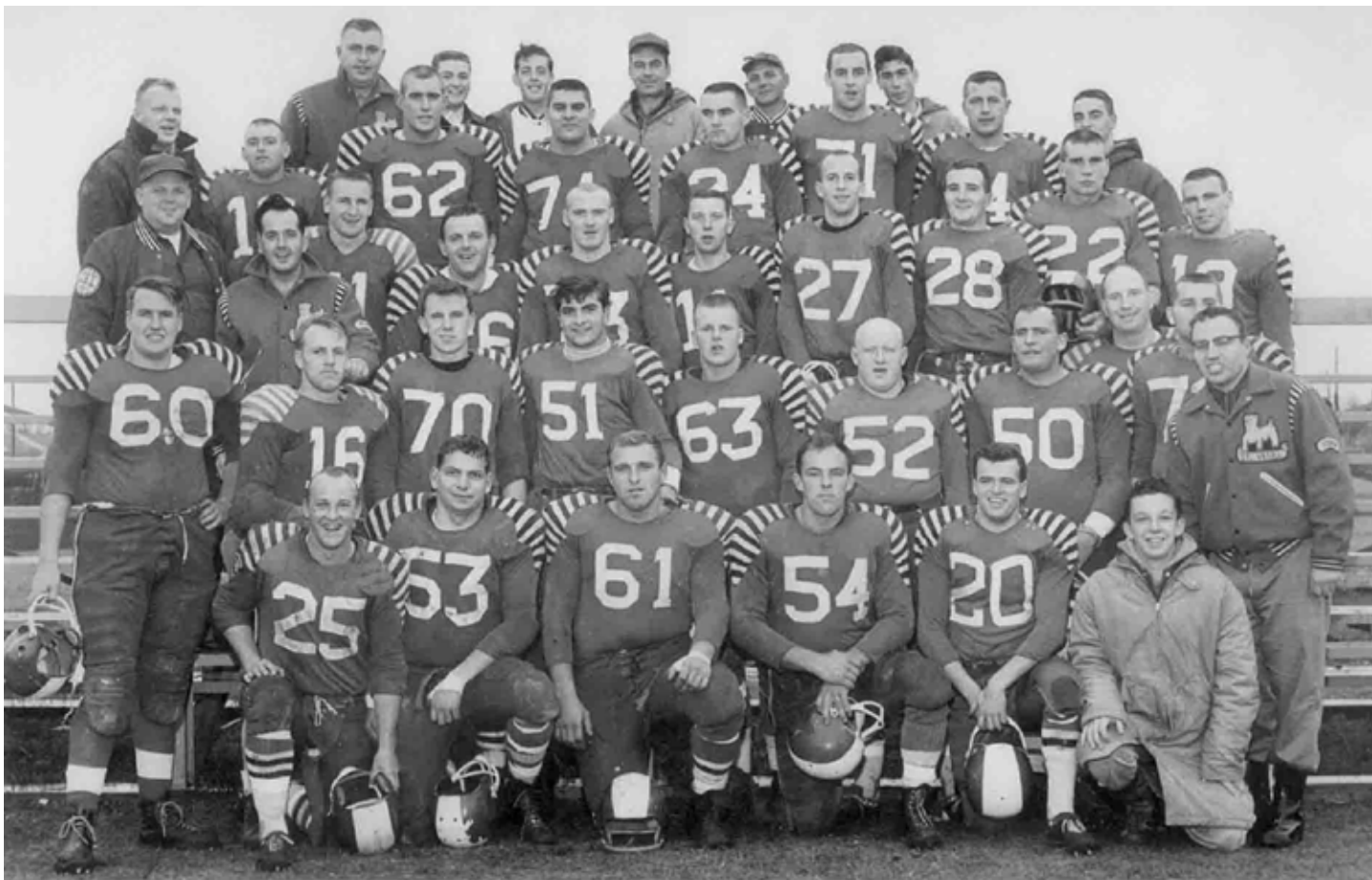
St. Vital finished the 1950 schedule with a 4-2-0 record, winning the first two and dropping the next two games. St. Vital downed Norwood-St. Boniface Legionnaires 4-1 and 8-4. Both games were played at the Osborne Stadium, located where the Great West Life Building now stands on Osborne Street. The Bulldogs needed 20 minutes of overtime to defeat the Fort William Redskins 24-18 in the Manitoba-Thunder Bay final. St. Vital claimed the Canadian intermediate championship when a team from southern Ontario couldn't raise the money for the trip west.

Little is known about the 1951 season, which saw the Winnipeg Rams join the league. St. Vital lost to Norwood-St. Boniface in the semi-final. The Legionnaires won the Manitoba-Thunder Bay title but lost 18-0 to the hometown Hamilton Panthers in the first-ever Canadian final.

Former Saskatchewan Roughrider coach **George Giokis** took over the coaching reins in 1952 leading the Dogs to a 6-3 record and an 18-0 victory over Winnipeg Rams in the semi-final. St. Vital lost 28-3 and 15-7 in the total-point final to the eventual Canadian champion Norwood-St. Boniface Legionnaires.

St. Vital finished third with a 2-4 record in 1953 based on their 22-0 and 23-5 victories over the hapless Elmwood Colts.

**Jeep Woolley** was the head coach in



**1960 Canadian champions:** Front row: Wayne Hanna, left; George Proctor; Ken Bochen; Norm Stapon; Peter Watt; Pat Holton (water boy). Second row: Dick Bonnycastle; Norm Fredrickson; Bob Miller; Jerry Tostowaryk; Peter Kuryk; Ray Ash; Dennis McDonald; Bill Hutton; Les Brown; coach Hal Mauthe. Third row: Wally Hooper; Lionel Grant; Fred Mackie; Ted Warga; Mickey McDonald; Walter Zapisocki; Ted Francis; Jack Soles; Don Kubish; Keith Webster. Fourth row: George Wilson, coach, George Mallette; Rod Bower; Bill Swystun; Jerry Morlock; Al Keenan; Bill Todd; Garry Larner. Fifth row: Jack Nelson; Larry Moore; Garry Grant; Doug Gillespie; Doug Waldie. Missing: Lorne Milgard.

1954 with Wally Hooper, the line coach. The club lost 31-9 to Norwood-St. Boniface in the semi-final. Champion Winnipeg Rams went on to win the Canadian championship.

The league shrank to three teams in 1955: St. Vital, Winnipeg Rams and the Canadian-Ukrainian Vets. **Wally Hooper** was back for his second year as line coach. The season marked the head-coaching debut of **Hal Mauthe**. The Dogs went 2-4 and lost to the Rams in the playoff.

Hooper moved to the executive suite in 1956 and was replaced as line coach by **Dennis Falconer**. Only St. Vital and the Winnipeg Rams were in the league.

The 1957 season was no different than the

previous year. St. Vital defeated St. James Rams in three of the four regular-season meetings then won the best-of-three final, 28-13 and 17-1. Quarterback **Jim Tonn** was brilliant in both games. In the opener, Tonn rushed for two touchdowns, kicked a 28-yard field goal and converted all the TDs. He also hit Wayne Hanna with a 45-yard, TD-strike.

In the second quarter, Tonn avoided a sack with a lateral to **Jerry Morlock** who lugged the ball in for the first touchdown. In the final game, Tonn scored a touchdown, a field goal and two converts. before getting hammered 40-9 by the Fort William Redskins in the Manitoba-Thunder Bay final.





**1962 Canadian Senior Champions** George Mallette, front left; Jerry Tostowaryk; Ken Bochen; Pete Turko; Peter Watt; Wayne Hanna; Robbie Mauthe, mascot, Ted Warga. Second row: Hal Mauthe, coach, Claude Steeves; Tom Armstrong; Bill Hutton; Bob Kuryk; Norm Stapon; Ed St. Mars; Terry Bunting; Stan Unger. Third row: George Wilson; Len Goodine; Fred Mackie; Ted Francis; Mike Wasylykiw; Gerry Morlock; Bob Miller; George Dawson. Fourth row: George Proctor; Ted Hohtanz; Les Brown; Mickey McDonald; Norm Fredrickson; Keith Webster; Barry Clark; Bob Turner. Back row: Wally Hooper, coach; Ted Mikliechuk; Earl Simpson, vice-president; Gordon McLaughlin, president; Lionel Grant; Mo Renaud; Cliff Bochen.

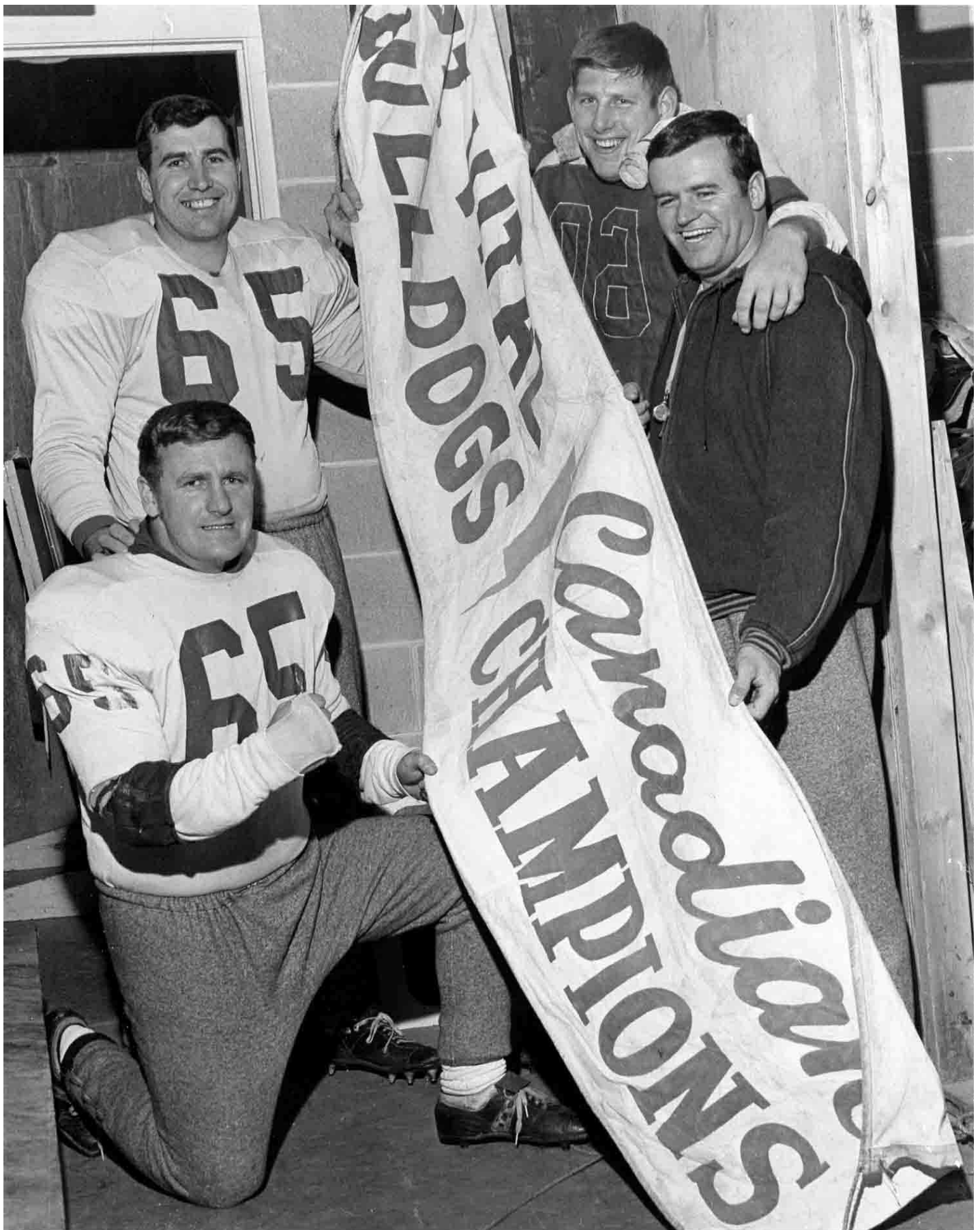
The new guys in the league, the Kildonan Mustangs, were hammered 51-0 in the opening game of the 1958 season. **Peter Watt** returned the opening kickoff 50 yards and five plays later scored the first TD. The inexperienced Mustangs were held to -5 yards offence while St. Vital ran up 381 total yards.

St. Vital outscored St. James and Kildonan 236-3 in five games before hammering St. James 61-0 and 28-8 in the final.

The following Sunday in Port Arthur, **Wayne Hanna** scored St. Vital's lone touchdown in a 14-10 loss to the Fort William Redskins. Larry Lychpwyd wiped

out a 10-8 St. Vital lead with a 52-yard TD run with under four minutes remaining.

St. Vital romped through the 1959 season with a 6-0 record outscoring St. James and Elmwood, 114-7 with three shutouts. While the semi-final was being played, St. Vital went to Saskatoon and blasted the U of Saskatchewan Huskies, 26-8. St. Vital took the league final over St. James, 4-0 and 8-0. In the final game, Bulldogs lost four of nine fumbles. **Len Goodine** combined with quarterback **George Mollette** for a 70-yard touchdown. The Dogs advanced to the Canadian final versus Montreal Lakeshore Flyers with a



St. Vital Bulldogs defensive line (Bob Kuryk, Tom Armstrong and Bruce Pirnie) join head coach Peter Watt in unfurling the team's 1962 Canadian Championship banner prior to the 1968 Canadian final versus Sudbury Spartans at the Winnipeg Stadium.



**1968 Canadian Senior Champions:** Bob Turner front left; Ernie Kuzyk; Bob Kuryk; Jim Kirkness; Jerry Tostowaryk (line coach); Gary Larner; John Patterson; Gary White. Second row: George Wilson (general manager); Tim Borbridge; Bruce Pirnie; Wade Christenson; John Hill; Blair Schapansky; John Smith; Dennis Meech; Art Marche; Peter Watt (head coach). Third row: Tom Heffner; Barry Freund; George Dawson; Dave Brown; Wayne Skene; Claude Steeves; Ray Homeniuk; Don Kuryk; Henry Bryner. Fourth row: Jim Giesbrecht; Darcy Normand; Ralf Schoenfeld; Ermano Barone; Brian Smith; Tom Armstrong; Mickey McDonald; Ken Suffron. Fifth row: Gerry Morlock (trainer); Mo Renaud (president); Ken Simpson (secretary). Missing: Ross Burgess; Brian Charman; Barry Hobday; Roman Kopchuk; Bob Lawler; Ron MacKenzie; Bob Roe; Gerry Nufer; Dennis Liebrecht (backfield coach); Bill Hutton (executive); Peter Kuryk (executive); Bob Holliday (publicity); Art Lobson (executive); Hal Mauthe (executive); Stan Ross (executive); Myron Zbyradowski (executive).

46-13 victory over Fort William and 14-8 over the Vancouver Columbians. On the last play on the snow-covered field at Verdun Stadium, Lakeshore chose to punt for the winning point from the St. Vital 25-yard line. Coach Hal Mauthe put four receivers in the end zone with instructions to force overtime by running, or punting, the ball out of the end zone. **Goodine**, who snuffed out a Lakeshore drive with an interception, punted out the ball four times but the fourth return hit the crossbar and was recovered by the Flyers for a touchdown.

St. Vital boiled over the loss and took out their frustrations in 1960 on the St. James Rams, Elmwood Mustangs and Steinbach-Landmark Dutchmen. Bulldogs posted scores of 31-0, 69-1 and 69-7 during

the regular season before blasting the Dutchmen 51-0 in the semi-final. St. James fell 27-0 and 26-0 in the league final. En route to a second straight appearance in the Canadian final, St. Vital downed Fort William, 22-10, and Drumheller, Alberta, 31-0, at Calgary's McMahon Stadium. St. Vital gained revenge over Verdun with a 21-8 victory before a crowd of 3,500 at the Winnipeg Stadium.

**Don Kubesh**, who carried the ball 21 times for 178 yards and two touchdowns, was ejected from the game by referee **Bill Ceretti** when a fight broke out with 3:50 remaining. **Peter Watt** scored the other TD on a 55-yard pass from fullback **Ted Warga**. The play began as a pitchout from quarterback **George Mollette** to Warga. Warga kicked two punts singles



while **Keith Webster** converted one of the majors. St. Vital rolled up 344 rushing yard to Verdun's 124.

St. Vital added its third straight league title in 1961 winning Manitoba with 18-1 and 13-3 victories over St. James Rams before winning the west with a 36-0 victory over Fort William and 28-7 over the New Westminster Royals. The wheels fell off the Bulldogs wagon with 11 minutes remaining in the Canadian final in Verdun, against the Shamcats. The 'Dogs had a 32-14 lead when an injury forced the Shamcats to play their back-up quarterback. The fact that people were making their way to the exits never phased Bob Anderson who passed for two quick touchdowns en route to a 33-32 victory over St.Vital.

Bulldogs lost the first game of the 1962 Manitoba final, 14-1, but roared back for a 22-6 victory in the second game. On the march to their second Dominion championship in four years, Bulldogs edged the Fort William Redskins, 35-31 and the

Edmonton Rams, 9-7 at Clark Stadium. The Canadian final was played at the Winnipeg Stadium where 1,651 fans braved snow and a -8C temperature to watch St. Vital steamroll eastern champion East York Argonauts, 29-7. **Ted Warga** lugged the ball 17 times for 124 yards. Halfback **Keith Webster** scored two touchdowns. **Mickey McDonald**, who also snagged a 50-yard pass from quarterback **Mike Wasykiw**, and **Len Goodine** scored the other TDs for St. Vital. Rookie defensive lineman, **Bob Kuryk**, booted the converts. **Bob Miller** had two interceptions and **Jerry Morlock** one in the victory that boosted head coach **Hal Mauthe's** four-year record to 58-3. It was the debut year for line coach **George Wilson**. The game was the last for running back **Wayne Hanna**. **Ed "Punchy" St. Mars** let everyone know the championship was his third. He won his first in 1952 with Norwood-St. Boniface.

**Peter Watt** was an all-star running back. His grit and determination continued when





*Mickey McDonald, left, John Patterson, Tom Armstrong, Jerry Tosotowaryk and RB Art March, on the bench during St. Vital Bulldogs 68-7 drubbing of Sudbury Wolves in 1968 Canadian final at the Winnipeg Stadium.*

he took over the coaching reins of the St. Vital Bulldogs in 1967.

Watt immediately elevated **Jerry Tostowaryk** to a playing line coach.

**Watt** and **Tostowaryk** led the Bulldogs to a 26-3-0 record and pair of championships in three straight appearances in the Canadian final.

During the 1967 season, Bulldogs finished the regular season with a 5-1-0 record before edging the St. James Rams 2-1 in the best-of-three final and a date with the Bramalea Satellites in the Canadian final.

One eastern Canadian sports writer described the sloppy field as a "training ground for the troops of Ho Chi Mein" the communist leader during the Vietnam War.

Bulldogs vaunted offense suffered a supreme setback when fullback Don Kuryk had to miss the game—he got married that weekend—and the slop negated St. Vital's

passing attack featuring flanker Henry Bryner. The result was a bitter 4-0 loss.

Bramalea cheated St. Vital from gaining a measure of revenge by joining the London Lords in a semi-professional league for the 1968 season.

"Watt and Tostowaryk's Wreckers" opened the 1968 season with a 35-0 pasting of the Lakehead Mustangs. They finished the season with a 6-0-0 record while outscoring the opposition 178-26.

St. Vital won both games of the two-game, total-point Manitoba final defeating the St. James Rams 27-7 and 19-1. In the second game, Rams were held to 10 yards total offence.

Bulldogs wanted revenge on Bramalea but had to settle for the unsuspecting Sudbury Spartans, champions of the Northern Ontario Football League.

Running back **Art Marche** scored three

touchdowns in St. Vital's 62-7 romp over the eastern champs. Bulldogs amassed 529 yards in total offence, but the stats didn't tell the whole story—10 penalties for 115 yards wiped out six touchdowns and 226 yards while a quick whistle nullified another touchdown.

The Bulldog Express continued in 1969 as St. Vital romped through the seven-game schedule undefeated and outscored their opposition 263-41. They eliminated Lakehead Mustangs 58-20 in the two-game, total-point final.

Overconfidence and a 12-hour, bus-trip combined with a fired-up Lakehead squad contributed to a 21-20 victory in Thunder Bay before a 37-0 victory at St. Vital Memorial Park clinched the title.

In North Bay for the Canadian final, St. Vital borrowed **Josephine**, an English bulldog, as their mascot in a 72-13 victory over the hometown Tiger Cats. Stung by an 80-yard TD on the opening play, Bulldogs carried a 35-13 lead into the second-half. The 'Dogs exploded for 34 points in the final five minutes of the game for their 19<sup>th</sup> straight victory and second consecutive Canadian senior football championship. Flanker **Henry Bryner** and quarterback **Barry Hobday** combined for four touchdowns in the rout.

On November 17, 2008, the 1968 and 1969 Bulldogs were inducted into the **Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame** — Stan Ross, executive, Darcy Normand Ross Burgess, Barry Freund, Bob Turner, Wayne Skene, George Dawson, Peter Kuryk, Tom Armstrong, Greg Lawler, Barry Hobday; Gary Nufer, Blair Schapansky, Moe Renaud, Peter Watt, head coach, John Smith, Tom Heffner, Jim Kirkness, Gerry Morlock, Bob Roe, Tim Borbridge, Claude Steeves, Jim Giesbrecht, Ken Simpson, executive, Brian Smith, Dennis Liebrecht, Bob Kuryk, Ken Suffron, John Paterson, Mickey McDonald, Roman Kopchuk, Gary Larner, Brian Charman, Bill Hutton, Ron MacKenzie, Art Marche, Dave Brown, Ralph Schoenfeld, George Wilson, general manager, Don Kuryk, Dennis Meech, Henry Bryner,

Jerry Tostowaryk, playing line coach, Bob Holliday, publicity, John Hill, Wade Christenson, Ermano Barone, Gary White, Bruce Pirnie, Ray Homeniuk.

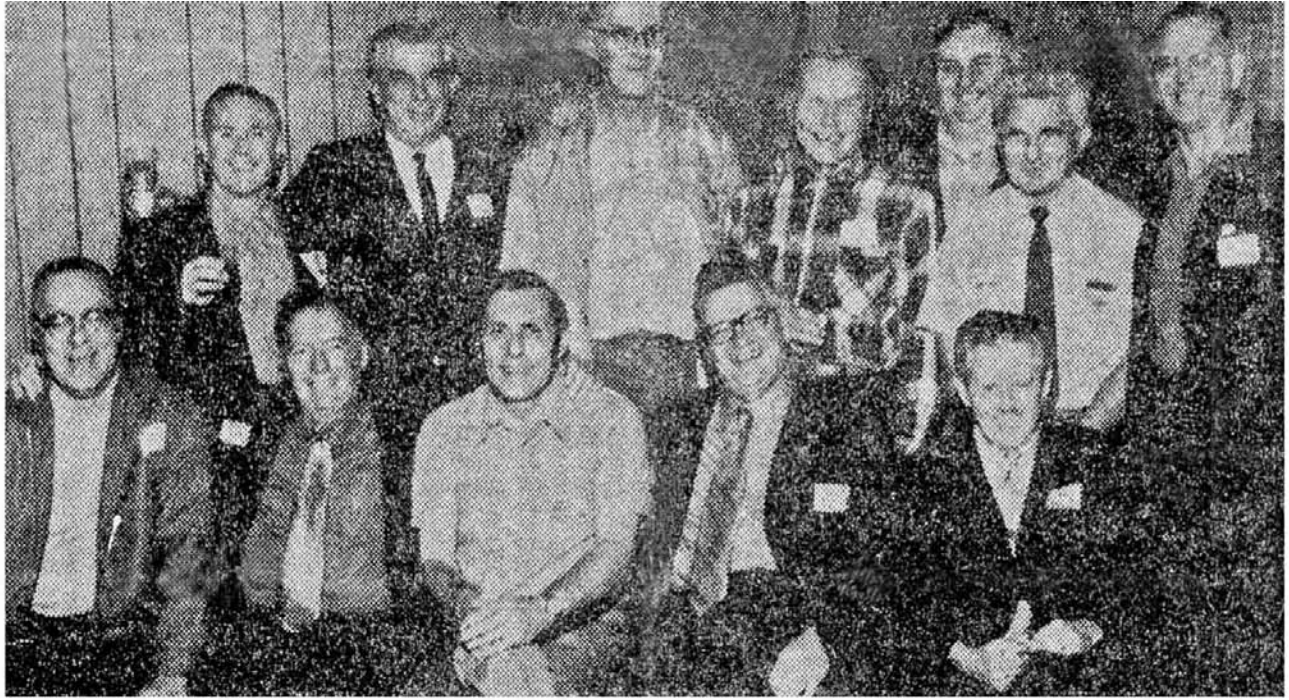
The 1960 and 1962 Bulldogs were inaugural inductees into the **Manitoba Football Hall of Fame** in in 2010 and on April 30, 2012 were inducted in to the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame.

***Entering the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame from the 1960 squad were:***

Wayne Hanna; George Proctor; Ken Bochen; Norm Stapon; Peter Watt; Pat Holton (water boy); Dick Bonnycastle; Norm Fredrickson; Bob Miller; Jerry Tostowaryk; Peter Kuryk; Ray Ash; Dennis McDonald; Bill Hutton; Les Brown; coach Hal Mauthe; Wally Hooper; Lionel Grant; Fred Mackie; Ted Warga; Mickey McDonald; Walter Zapisocki; Ted Francis; Jack Soles; Don Kubish; Keith Webster; George Wilson, coach, George Mallette; Rod Bower; Bill Swystun; Jerry Morlock; Al Keenan; Bill Todd; Garry Larner; Jack Nelson; Larry Moore; Garry Grant; Doug Gillespie; Doug Waldie; Stan Gaidy; Larry Mainella; Jack Nelson; Garth Day; and Lorne Milgard.

***The inductees from the 1962 squad*** were: George Mallette; Jerry Tostowaryk; Ken Bochen; Pete Turko; Peter Watt; Wayne Hanna; Robbie Mauthe, mascot, Ted Warga; Hal Mauthe, coach, Claude Steeves; Tom Armstrong; Bill Hutton; Bob Kuryk; Norm Stapon; Ed St. Mars; Terry Bunting; Stan Unger; George Wilson; Len Goodine; Fred Mackie; Ted Francis; Mike Wasylykiw; Gerry Morlock; Bob Miller; George Dawson; George Proctor; Bob Turner; Ted Hohtanz; Les Brown; Mickey MacDonald; Norm Fredrickson; Keith Webster; Barry Clark; Bob Turner; Wally Hooper, coach; Ted Mikliechuk; Earl Simpson, vice-president; Gordon McLaughlin, president; Lionel Grant; Mo Renaud; Cliff Bochen.





## Original St. Vital Bulldogs

Members of the original (1936) St. Vital Bulldogs football team at a (circa 1960) re-union  
 Dick Smith (front left), Harvey Field, Lefty Smith, Bob "Scotty" McKay, Gerry Farrell.  
 Back row left: Alf Denny, Kerry Lyons, George Morrison, Guenther Salzman, Harold Finch  
 Garth McLure and Stan Jarman.



## Bulldog football was a Kuryk family tradition

*The Kuryk family played a large role in the success of the St. Vital Bulldogs as four brothers travelled from the North End to earn national championships. Bob, left, anchored the defensive line on the 1962, 1968 and 1969 Canadian champion teams. Don, right, was a running back during the same years while Peter, second left, was on the national 1960 championship squad. Cousin John donned the cleats for the 'Dogs in 1949, 1950.*