

ANDREW HARRIS

By Robert Sproule, CJFL historian

He Came. He Saw. He Conquered. Vancouver Island Raiders sensational running back, Andrew Harris was to better his performance at the InterGold Game two weeks earlier. There, he ran for an All-Time Canadian Junior Football League record. On a record 34 carries he gained an outstanding 370 yards, and equaled the record of 3 touchdowns in a game as his team won over Saskatoon Hilltops 27-25.

But here in Burlington, on November 8, he was destined for greater things. It was the Canadian Bowl, the final game of the season. Against the Ontario champs, Burlington Braves Andrew Harris was to do the unheard-of.

The Raiders, a running team challenged the Braves to stop them. From the first play from scrimmage, Harris broke to the outside and ran 56 yards for the first touchdown. It was the first of many. Behind crisp blocking that allowed him to pick his holes, Andrew ran for another score. By the half he had two touchdowns and gained 198 yards on 19 carries. But the Raiders were just ahead of the Braves 14-8.

In the second half it was all Harris. In spite of a very muddy field, Andrew found the slop much to his liking. A run for 23 yards here, 44 yards there, and another for 37, and he continued to add to his total. He scored twice more to cap the win, the last run of a short 10 yards. Raiders had their second Canadian Bowl title in three years, 35-8 over Burlington.

But the real story was Andrew Harris. Through, around and over the porous Brave defense, he gained more yards rushing than anyone, even himself in the InterGold Game. When the game was over, the tally was made. Andrew had run for an incredible record of 410 yards on a record equaling 32 carries. He scored a record 4 touchdowns, all by rushing for another record 24 points.

It was Saint Andrews Day, Raiders style.