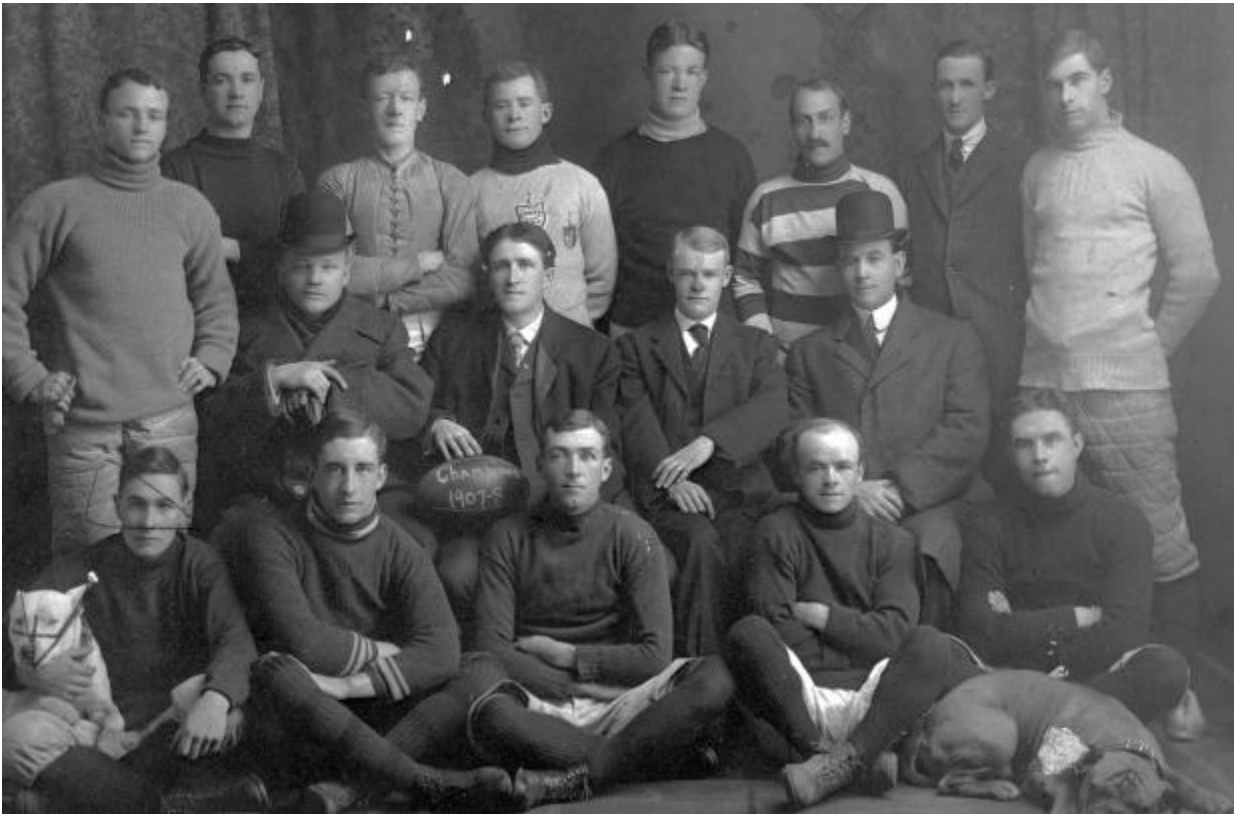


Oct. 16, 1908: Edmonton football team renamed

BY EDMONTON JOURNAL, EDMONTON JOURNAL OCTOBER 15, 2012



Edmonton Rugby Football Club

The Edmonton Rugby Football Club was reorganized as the Esquimaux — the forerunner to the Edmonton Eskimos — at a meeting in the Windsor Hotel on Jasper Avenue and 101st Street.

The team had been nicknamed “Esquimaux” by a Calgary sportswriter as early as 1897.

The meeting brought out some of the best-known players in the Dominion, including former Toronto Argonaut Harold Brunton. It featured a call-out to all rugby players, and those who aspired to be, to join the team.

It was decided that a captain would be chosen after the team’s first practice.

The officers elected at the meeting were president William Antrobus Griesbach and vice-president Charles William Cross.

Challenges were issued to Strathcona, Alberta College, Fort Saskatchewan Mounted Police, the YMCA and the Caledonians. Calgary had challenged Edmonton to a game on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 9.

It was decided the first game of the season would take place at Diamond Park in Edmonton and would be a combined team of the Esquimaux and the Calgary Rugby Team.

Two years later, the team would be renamed the Edmonton Eskimos.

To read more stories from the series This Day in Journal History, go to edmontonjournal.com/history.