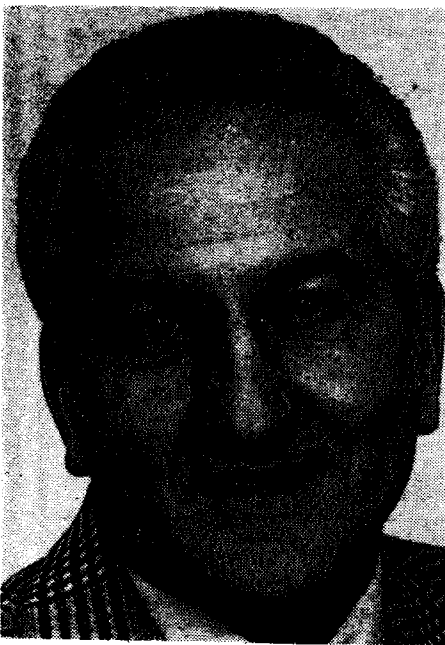


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Peel Region Bio. BK.

May 1-82 MIV

Nick Volpe was on Grey Cup squad



A member of the last Toronto Argonaut squad to win the Grey Cup, Nick Volpe is now superintendent of special education for the Peel Board of Education.

Like a lot of people, Nick Volpe is disappointed by the recent record of the Toronto Argonauts.

Unlike a lot of people, though, the longtime Port Credit resident can remember the team as winners.

He was there.

"I guess there aren't too many people around that played in two Grey Cups — especially with Toronto," he said recently.

Volpe played four years for the Argos as quarterback, defensive halfback and field-goal kicker during the glory days of the early 1950s, when the squad won the cup twice in three years.

The first was against Winnipeg in 1950, the legendary "Mud Bowl" in Toronto.

Volpe contributed a couple of field goals and one touchdown-stopping defensive play to the game, which he recalls with a grin as "really interesting."

The city was hit by about six inches of snow the night before the game, and heavy equipment was sent out to clear the field.

Unfortunately, though, it had gotten very mild overnight.

"They just churned up the field," Volpe recalls. "You couldn't see the lines, and it was almost impossible to catch or throw the ball."

what are they doing now?

The team's second big win — its last to date — was in 1952 against Edmonton. Volpe was sidelined with injuries, but called in several plays from the press box, including one that went for a touchdown.

And, as it turned out, that was Volpe's swan song as a professional player — "I think because I was teaching school; I got involved with education, and that was my full-time job."

In fact, he'd been a physical education teacher at a Port Credit high school throughout his years with the Argos.

"I had quite a routine," he recalls. "I'd teach my class and have football practice from about a quarter-to-four to 5:15, then hustle down to Varsity Stadium (for Argos practices)."

Volpe put in more than 15 years at the Port Credit school, and another 12 teaching phys. ed., Latin, math or English at various Toronto-area schools before joining the Peel Board of Education five years ago.

Besides his school-coaching duties, Volpe was putting his football experience to good use, both off the field (he wrote a well-known text for high school and college football coaches) and on, coaching both an Argo farm club and, for about 10 years, a Lakeshore-area amateur team.

Today, he's enjoying his job as the Peel Board's superintendent of special education, responsible for about 25 schools or programs around the Region, including vocational schools and programs for the hearing or visually impaired.

But, as in the past, he shares his time with football, this time from behind a TV camera as the "isolation director" responsible for "instant replays" during televised games on CTV, a job he's held since 1971.

"I always liked variety. And I think that's why I enjoy my association with football — because it's so different from the role I have as an administrator."

May 1, 1982 MIV

VOLPE, Nick