

# CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE ON ITS WAY TO LAS VEGAS

By W.G. Ramirez

Following the Canadian Football League's official approval on Monday afternoon, Cleveland businessman Nick Mileti was formally introduced Tuesday afternoon as president of the league's newest franchise in Las Vegas.

After meeting with the CFL's Board of Governors, Mileti handed the league \$1 million, the first of \$3 million expansion fee and signed a five-year lease with a five-year option to use the Silver Bowl.

TSN, Canada's equivalent to ESPN, televised the exchange of money live throughout the country.

At Tuesday's press conference, Mileti seemed elated while stressing that it was the fans of Las Vegas that he was most anxious to serve.

"The game will grab you like this," said Mileti, grasping his throat with both hands.

"The field is longer and wider (than in the National Football League). It is a fast-action game and this is a fast-action town.

The visitors (to Las Vegas) will be a plus. 43% of international visitors are Canadians. The basic plus will be the people of Las Vegas. They're the greatest fans of all sports."

As Mileti stated, the field is longer and wider than in the NFL, 9,750 square yards compared to 6,400 square yards. Almost half of 3,350 square yard difference is measured in the two end zones. In the CFL the end zone is 20 yards deep, ten more than in the NFL.

The field runs 110 yards long by 65 yards wide, automatically requiring players to endure much more speed and agility come game time.

Another big difference in the two leagues are the downs in which to make 10 yards. Of course in the NFL, teams are allowed four, in the CFL - three.

The Silver Bowl, which Mileti praises as being "the perfect coliseum," will be cosmetically transformed by adding extra carpet and also extra seats, which the new president has labeled "Jack Nicholson seats."

"(The Silver Bowl) has that intimacy that can give you that home field advantage. 32,000 is the perfect size to sellout, and I intend to do it!"

Mileti was confident that the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas would be able to adjust to professional football - the CFL - stating, "we're in the excitement business. There are only 10 home games, come on."

Mileti has plenty of experience with professional expansion franchises, introducing the

Cleveland Cavaliers to the National Basketball Association in 1973. It was the excitement of all the people and going to the games, Mileti says, which interested him in getting back into the professional sports business.

"This CFL league is stronger today than the NBA was in the 1970's," conceives Mileti.

Vice-President of Communications Michael Murray was also on hand, as was Commissioner Larry Smith, reiterating the fact the City of Las Vegas was about

to encounter the longest-established and successful secret in sports - The CFL.

"We have over 100 years of tradition," said Smith. "On January 25 I met Nick Mileti and we talked about possibilities, including Las Vegas. We came together just 10 days ago and it was voted unanimously to bring Nick and Las Vegas into the league."

Pat Christenson, Associate Athletic Director for Operations of the Thomas and Mack and the

Silver Bowl, was also excited that "Vegas was fortunate enough to receive the CFL's next franchise.

"The city has arrived," said Christenson, "(Las Vegas) is growing tremendously and we're looking to be one of the most exciting teams in the Canadian Football League.

Las Vegas is the second American city to receive a franchise, the first being Sacramento, the Gold Miners, earlier this year on February 26.

## NATIONAL TESTING PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYERS COMES TO CIMARRON-MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

The High School Grid Iron Report (H.S.G.R.) will be holding their testing site for high school athletes at Cimarron-Memorial High School on August 7. The event includes a test that will measure the athletes' skills in six different categories. In addition to athletic test results, H.S.G.R. will be collecting academic information from each athlete to produce a verifiable player information packet that is made available to colleges across the country for recruiting purposes.

"The H.S.G.R. is a unique program designed to give high school student-athletes a free opportunity to be recognized both athletically and academically by colleges and universities nationwide," says H.S.G.R. President Ronald E. Potocnik.

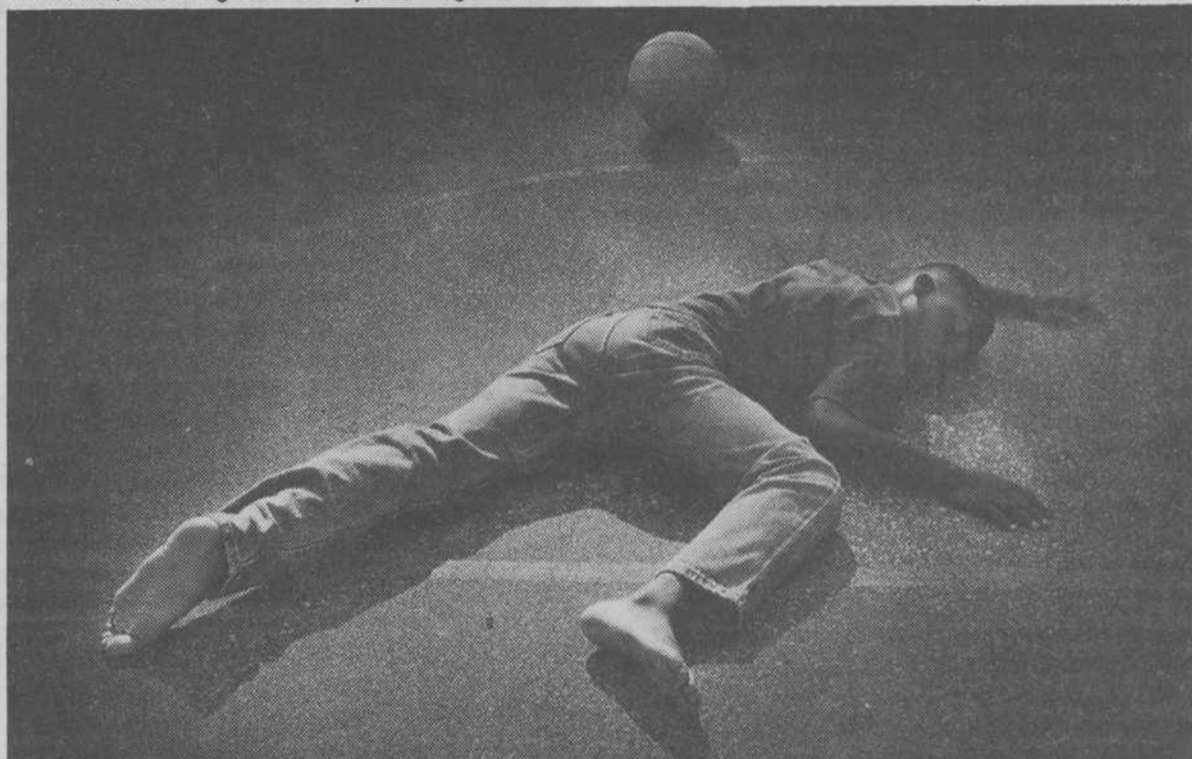
There is no cost to the high school or the athlete to participate in this event. The H.S.G.R. does testing in various athletic and strength areas which includes the 40-yard dash (electronically timed), vertical jump, bench press, standing broad jump, 20-yard back pedal, a standing flexibility test, and an accurate measure for height and weight.

Colleges from across the country currently subscribe to the H.S.G.R. and rely on this accurate and documented information as a part of their recruiting process.

Among the local universities who subscribe are UNLV and New Mexico, as well as other national powerhouses such as Notre Dame and Michigan. Division II, Division III, and NAIA schools such as Arizona Western also subscribe to the service.

Data shows that 60 percent of the players tested by H.S.G.R. go on to play college football. H.S.G.R. has agreements with several high schools to act as an athletic, academic and video clearinghouse for the association which along with high schools in the state also share in revenue generated from college subscribers.

Testing will be done at various sites around the country in over 30 states through August. Cimarron-Memorial High School is one of several testing sites to be held in the state of Nevada this summer.



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