



Cushman Classic I

October 8, 1997

Grand Forks Central 14 Red River 6

Offensive Players of the Game: Brooks Bollinger (GFC); Jeff Zimney (RRHS)

Defensive Players of the Game: Casey Blue (GFC); Joe Wilson (RRHS)

The inaugural Cushman Classic, held October 8, 1997, was a resounding success. Despite the heavy, monsoon type rains in mid-afternoon, the people poured through the gates. Over 3,500 people were in attendance for the pre-game food festival, children's carnival and football game. Grand Forks Public Schools superintendents, high school principals, and school board members, as well as members of the Central and Red River Boosters, served the food and beverages and supervised the children's carnival. The Pepsi Cola fireworks lit the sky at halftime, and a memorable post-game awards ceremony brought new tradition to the longtime city rivalry.

A huge—6 feet by 4 feet—traveling trophy, sponsored by the Grand Forks Rotary Clubs, was constructed. This trophy is in the shape of North Dakota and features a knight's sword and football helmet representing the Central High School Knights and a cavalry sword and football helmet representing the Red River Roughriders. A silhouette of a bell has been mounted at the intersection of the swords on this trophy.

Burlington Northern-Santa Fe donated a brass bell that was retired from one of their locomotives. Representatives from Burlington Northern-Santa Fe were on hand to ring the bell during the opening kick off and to present the bell to the winning team at the end of the game. A new tradition was begun—Grand Forks Central Captain Casey Blue tolled the bell 14 times, one time for each point gained in their hard-fought victory.

Perhaps the highlight of the entire event was the offensive and defensive player of the game

presentations. Cliff Cushman's son, Colin, and Cliff's widow, Carolyn Blaine, presented the trophies and brought a special close to Central's 14-6 victory over Red River.