It is hard to imagine that there would be anyone more qualified than the "old quarterback" himself, Frank Cosentino, to produce such a publication. Indeed, most would regard Frank Cosentino as the undisputed expert on the history of the CFL. As the inside cover of *A Passing Game* states, the author has been either playing, coaching, teaching, or writing about Canadian football for nearly four decades. Over this period of time, Cosentino has been a keen analytical observer of the game and has earned the respect of his peers as a highly regarded sports historian, and researchers would strongly concur with the author's assertion that "*A Passing Game* will stand on its own or can be read as a companion to his book *Canadian Football: The Grey Cup Years*" (Musson, 1969). It is significant to note the support provided by the Canada Council and the Manitoba Arts Council in assisting with the publication of this important literary work documenting a piece of Canadian history.

In typical Cosentino style, the book's title, *A Passing Game: A History of the CFL*, has been cleverly selected. Indeed the genesis for the book title dates from 1931 when the Canadian Rugby Union (CRU), the governing body for football in Canada, adopted the forward pass. At that time, the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association (MAAA) unveiled Warren Stevens, an American from Syracuse University studying at McGill, as its quarterback. Stevens was far advanced in the application of this passing skill and led the MAAA to an undefeated season and a Grey Cup victory in the 1931 football season. The use of national origin and its association with the introduction of the forward pass leads into the central theme of the book—the trend towards the Americanization of the Canadian game.

*A Passing Game* represents a solid piece of research and analysis incorporating a wide variety of primary and secondary sources. The author makes effective use of the minutes of CFL meetings (executive and general), CFL Annual Reports, Commissioner's Reports, and popular press accounts taken from newspapers from across Canada. The book follows up on Cosentino's earlier work (*Canadian Football: The Grey Cup Years*, 1969) and presents a year-by-year summary (commencing with 1969 through
1994) of the events and developments within the CFL over this time period. The major CFL news stories are presented chronologically with probably a greater emphasis on the 1970s. It provides illuminating and sometimes colorful insights into the roles played by key personalities such as Jake Gaudaur, Ralph Sazio, Norm Kimball, Leo Cahill, Harold Ballard, Earl Lunsford, Jack Gotta, Doug Mitchell, Donald Crump, and Larry Smith, to mention a few. The book examines a wide variety of issues, including rule changes, economic issues (salaries, revenue, sponsorship), media relations, private vs. public ownership of franchises, expansion (i.e., the threat of the NFL along with the expansion of the CFL to the United States), the role of the CFL Player’s Association, player quotas, non-imports vs. imports, salary caps, free agency, and others. The subject matter is both far-reaching and inclusive.

The chapter dealing with 1973 to 1974 is particularly well done. Here, Cosentino carefully documents the events and developments surrounding the intervention of the federal government into the affairs of the CFL. This fine example of the mixing of sport and politics traces the Minister of National Health and Welfare’s intrusion into the debate surrounding American football expansion into Canada and CFL expansion into the United States. With the introduction of Bill C-22 (*An Act Respecting Canadian Football*) on April 10, 1974, Marc La Londe made the Canadian government’s position on the expansion issue quite clear. This act of government intervention into Canadian professional sport was, and continues to remain, unprecedented.

Another area of personal interest is Cosentino’s discussion of London’s application for a CFL football franchise. It appears that the franchise fee requested by the CFL skyrocketed inexplicably from one meeting to the next, resulting in London withdrawing its request. It seems clear that the existing operations in Toronto and Hamilton had something to do with the decision to increase the cost of the franchise fee—another fine example of the behind the scenes discussions and decisions taken by the CFL.

Cosentino, through his personal interest in the experience of the Canadian-trained quarterback, does an excellent job in documenting this area. His treatment of Bill Robinson, a player who quarterbacked The University of Western Ontario to a national championship in 1974, is particularly revealing and captivating. Indeed, the question of Canadian vs. American (or non-import vs. import) player participation in the CFL, and attendant regulations dealing with this issue (i.e., designated import rules), are well presented. In this regard, Cosentino might have considered including more discussion on Jamie Bone’s complaint to the Ontario Human Rights Commission claiming that he was discriminated against in his pursuit of employment in the CFL at the quarterback position because he was Canadian. This would have strengthened Cosentino’s assertion that a Canadian who wishes to play professional football at the quarterback position in his own country is not competing on a level playing field.