

GAME NOTES
Calgary Stampeders vs Edmonton Elks
Week 14
Monday, Sept. 7, 2026
4 p.m. MT
McMahon Stadium



1. GAME OVERVIEW

For a 44th consecutive season, the Calgary Stampeders (5-6) will host the Edmonton Elks (8-3) in the Battle-of-Alberta edition of the Labour Day Classic taking place on the first Monday in September.

The Red and White – who will once again wear their black uniforms as per tradition – are 26-17 against the Green and Gold in their annual matchup over the past 43 campaigns. The Stampeders have also won 11 of their past 13 games played on the end-of-summer holiday since 2012. Overall, the Stamps are 31-27-1 on Labour Day against Double E.

This year's Labour Day affair will be the 70th overall to ever take place in Calgary, with the past 69 including a perfect 10-0 mark against a total of four other teams excluding Edmonton. The Stamps' first-ever regular-season game in 1946 was on this same occasion and the initial Labour Day matchup between the province's pair of squads took occurred in the Green and Gold's inaugural season of 1949.

On the 2026 calendar, this will be the first regular-season clash between the West Division rivals. The Stampeders will be looking for back-to-back triumphs for the third time this year and the Elks have claimed two consecutive victories.

Calgary came from behind to take down the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 28-23 at McMahon Stadium last Saturday. Josh Love got his first career start under centre and the trio of Miles Brown, Clarence Hicks and R.J. Moten each recorded a sack. Rene Paredes made five field goals after spending the first 10 games on the six-game injured list, and Dedrick Mills ran in a 49-yard touchdown with 29 seconds remaining before Kyle Wilson sealed the deal by securing an uncontested interception on the final play. The occasion was the 100th win as a head coach for Dave Dickenson, who now sports a record of 100-66-3.

Edmonton is coming off a Week 13 bye after beating the Winnipeg Blue Bombers at home by a score of 22-19 back on Aug. 21. Running back Justin Rankin had 141 yards from scrimmage while quarterback Cody Fajardo ran in a two-yard TD and threw a 15-yard major to receiver Austin Mack. The Elks, who were not penalized throughout the evening, saw their linebacker pairing of Nick Anderson and Joel Dublanko record seven tackles apiece.

The 46 touchdowns scored by the Stamps thus far are tied for the most in the Canadian Football League. Edmonton's big-play potential is evidenced by a 90-yard reception, 61-yard carry, 93-yard fumble return and 85-yard INT through 11 outings.

Across three meetings in 2025, the Stamps went 2-1 against the Elks including a 28-7 success on Labour Day. Standout performances in last year's Classic were on display by Mills – with 106 rushing yards on 17 touches – and Erik Brooks who ran across the goal line after returning a punt 86 yards midway through the third quarter to make it a two-possession game for good.

This year's second and final bout between the two adversaries is next Saturday at 5 p.m. MT from Commonwealth Stadium.

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2. HISTORICAL NOTES

- This is the 1,324th regular-season game in Stampeders history. The Stamps have 720 wins, 581 losses and 22 ties since 1945. Calgary has played 672 games at home, with a record of 417-234-11, and 671 games on the road (303-347-11)
- This is the 245th regular-season meeting all-time between Calgary and Edmonton. The Stampeders are 109-133-3 against the Green and Gold including a 61-60-2 mark at home

3. 2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

- PASSING YARDS: Vernon Adams Jr. – 2,548
- RUSHING YARDS: Dedrick Mills – 874
- RECEIVING YARDS: Jalen Philpot – 670
- DEFENSIVE TACKLES: Marquel Lee – 57
- SPECIAL-TEAMS TACKLES: Jesulayomi Ojutalayo – 21
- SACKS: Clarence Hicks – 8
- INTERCEPTIONS: Ben Labrosse – 5
- TOUCHDOWNS: Quincy Vaughn – 8
- POINTS: Jude McAtamney – 94

EDMONTON ELKS

- PASSING YARDS: Cody Fajardo – 3,368
- RUSHING YARDS: Justin Rankin – 791
- RECEIVING YARDS: Austin Mack – 892
- DEFENSIVE TACKLES: Joel Dublanko – 49
- SPECIAL-TEAMS TACKLES: D.K. Bonhomme – 14
- SACKS: Noah Taylor – 5
- INTERCEPTIONS: Tyrell Ford – 5
- TOUCHDOWNS: Justin Rankin – 8
- POINTS: Vincent Blanchard – 122

4. NOTABLES

- **With Love from Josh:** With Calgary's Vernon Adams Jr. unavailable due to injury, second-string signal caller Josh Love earned a victory in his first career start. It was the first time for a Stampeders backup quarterback to pick up a win since Jake Maier did so on Aug. 20, 2021, in

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place of an injured Bo Levi Mitchell. Love became the 16th different QB to start a game in the CFL this season and the fourth who had never previously done so, with only he and Kaidon Salter of the BC Lions having come out on top

- **Best on best:** The Stampeders lead the league in points scored with 406 (36.9 per game), while the Elks have conceded the fewest points with 279 (25.4 per game). Calgary's highest output has been a league-topping 58 points in Week 5. Meanwhile Edmonton allowed only 12 points in Week 11. Coincidentally, both respective showings came in games against the visiting Toronto Argonauts
- **"Pick" your battles:** Quarterbacks ought to make especially good decisions on Monday as the Elks (17) and Stamps (15) have been the two most proficient teams when it comes to racking up interceptions. Edmonton's Tyrell Ford and Calgary's Ben Labrosse are tied atop the individual leaderboard with five each. Seven different Stamps and a CFL-best nine different Elks have recorded at least one pick this season
- **A winning knack in black:** Since becoming the first CFL team to introduce a third jersey upon a Labour Day debut in 1994, Calgary is 37-13-1 when wearing black. That record includes going 17-5 on Labour Day and 10-6-1 in other regular-season games. During the post-season, the Stampeders are 10-2 overall in black including going 4-0 against Edmonton and winning the 1998 Grey Cup over Hamilton
- **J-E-T-S jets, jets, jets:** One of the most anticipated off-field moments for Stamps fans every year is the Labour Day flyover. A customary occurrence since 1993, two CF-18 Hornets will be departing Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake to conduct a flyover of McMahon Stadium from north to south at the conclusion of the national anthem and a second flyover from south to north just moments before kickoff

5. MILESTONE WATCH

- Clark Barnes needs one game played for 50 in his career
- Clark Barnes needs one touchdown for 10 in his career
- Tyreik McAllister needs one punt return for 100 in his career
- Tyreik McAllister needs six receiving yards for 100 this season
- Kyle Wilson needs one defensive tackle for 250 in his career
- Adrian Greene needs two defensive tackles for 100 in his career
- Jalen Philpot needs three receptions for 50 this season and 200 in his career
- Damon Webb needs four defensive tackles for 300 in his career
- Dedrick Mills needs seven carries for 150 this season
- Dejon Brissett needs 13 receiving yards for 500 this season
- Damien Alford needs 22 receiving yards for 500 in his career

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6. PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Ajou Ajou (ah-JOH)
Kelechi Anyalebechi (kuh-LEH-chee AN-yuh-luh-BEH-chee)
Reggie Begelton (BEG-uhl-tuhn)
Dejon Brissett (DAY-jawn bruh-SETT)
Ludovick Choquette (LOOD-a-vick chuh-KETT)
Bakyne Coly (buh-KEEN KOHL-ee)
D'Antne Demery (dee-AWN-tay DEM-uh-ree)
Chris Fortin (four-TAHN)
Savio Frazier (SOHV-ee-oh)
Daniel Grzesiak (GRESH-ick)
Anton Haie (AN-tawn HAY)
George Idoko (ah-DOH-koh)
Tevin Jones (TEV-in)
Ben Labrosse (luh-BROSS)
Marquel Lee (mahr-KELL)
Jason MacGougan (muh-GOO-guhn)
Khairi Manns (KYE-ree)
Tristan Marois (mare-WAH)
Tyreik McAllister (ty-REEK)
Jude McAtamney (MICK-uh-TAM-nee)
Deonta McMahon (dee-AWN-tay MACK-muh-HAWN)
Ashton Miller-Melancon (MUH-lun-SUN)
Dedrick Mills (DEE-dricks)
R.J. Moten (MOH-tun)
Christy Nkanu (nuh-KA-noo)
Jesulayomi Ojitalayo (JESS-oo-lay-OH-me OH-ju-ta-LAY-oh)
Godfrey Onyeka (on-YEH-kuh)
Folarin Orimolade (fo-LAIR-in oh-RIM-uh-LAW-day)
Rene Paredes (ruh-NAY puh-RED-ess)
Jalen Philpot (JAY-lin FILL-pot)
Justin Sambu (SAM-boo)
Jackson Sombach (SOM-back)
Matthew Stokman (STOCK-muhn)
Micah Teitz (MY-kuh TIGHTS)
Kelon Thomas (kuh-LAWN)
Mark Vassett (VASS-it)