

## **Goodbye to Jessie**

Jessie Kennedy, an invaluable member of our Lang Innovation Team (LIT), has dedicated her time and expertise to Gryphon Football since 2018. She began as a volunteer for the team and officially joined in 2021. As she embarks on new adventures, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for her unwavering commitment.

Jessie has made an indelible mark on our program. Her ability to relate to everyone, from coaches to players, has fostered a close-knit football community. Her contributions to LIT have driven innovation and progress.

As we bid farewell to Jessie, we acknowledge her legacy of dedication, innovation, and the deep connections she has fostered within our team and the larger community. Jessie, your contributions have made a significant impact, and we wish you success and happiness in your future endeavors.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication, Jessie. You will always be part of our Gryphon family, and your contributions will be cherished and celebrated.

We are now welcoming Sam Diehl back to the Gryphon Football team. Sam is a University of Guelph graduate who studied Marketing Management at the Lang School of Business. Sam previously completed two co-op with Gryphon Football and we are looking very forward to having her rejoin the LIT team.



## ***WHAT HAPPENED IN NOVEMBER?***

### **Remembrance Day**

In celebration of Remembrance Day, our players volunteered at the Pre-Remembrance Day Dinner at the Guelph Legion.

The players had a memorable and special night meeting veterans, acting members of the armed forces and members of the Legion.



## Last Day of Classes

The end of November marks the end of the fall study term at the University of Guelph. With that, the Gryphon Football players will be advancing into exam season before taking a well-deserved holiday break.

Congratulations to the team on a successful fall term.



## OUA All-Stars



Congratulations to our OUA Second Team All-Stars: [Devynn Cromwell](#), [Mitchel Schechinger](#), [Josh Campbell](#), and [Donavin Milloy](#). We are incredibly proud of each of your accomplishments.

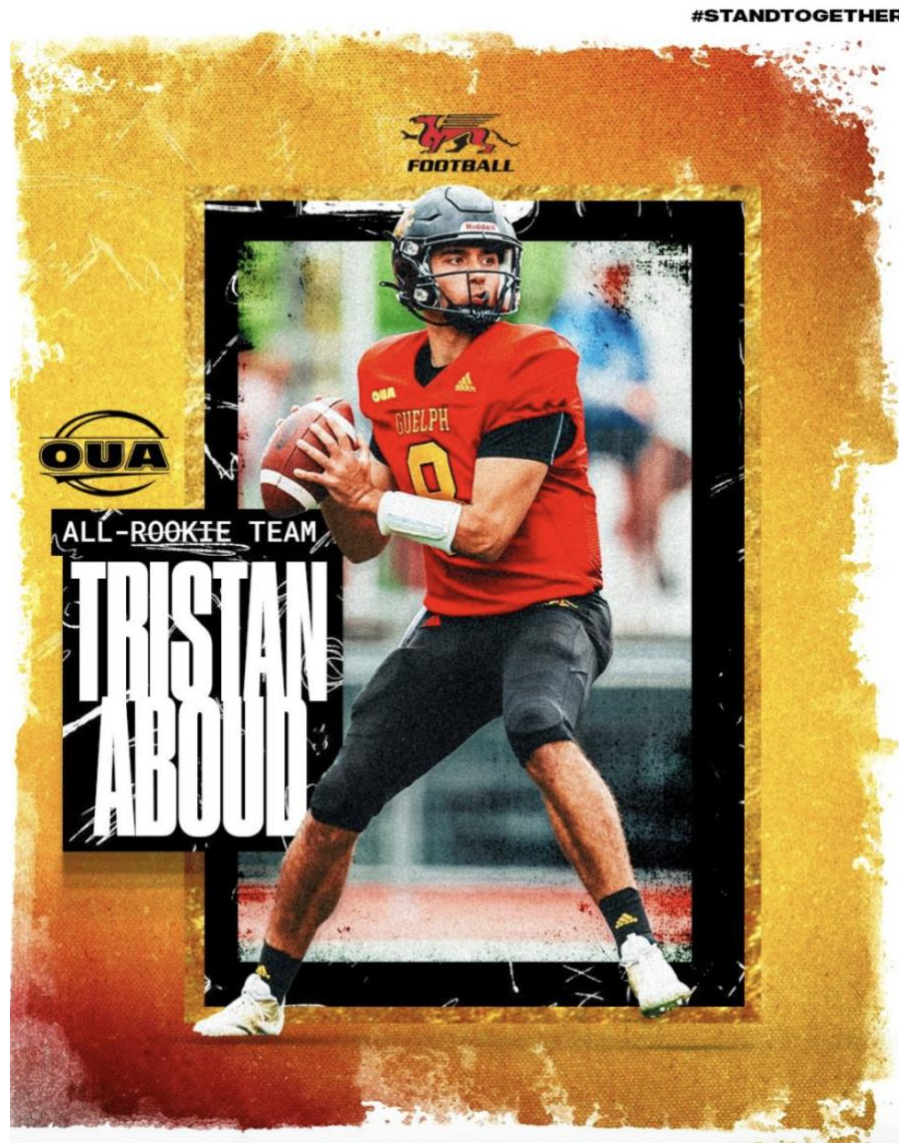
Read more [here](#).



**OUA Rookie Team**

This month we celebrate [Tristan Aboud](#) for making the OUA All-Rookie Team. Congratulations Tristan on this huge accomplishment, we know there are such great things in store for you.

Read more [here](#).



### **Women's Flag Football**

Congratulations to the Women's flag football team for being crowned the OWIFA 5 by 5 provincial champions! We are so proud of this accomplishment. Fun fact: a few of our players are coaching this team and it is great to see a fantastic partnership!

### **CFL Grey Cup**

Four Gryphon alumni competed in the 110th Grey Cup in Hamilton on Sunday, November 19th. Congratulations to [Johnny Augustine](#), [Kyle Walters](#), [Mike O'Shea](#) and [Jared Beeksma](#) on a Grey Cup appearance!

### **Clay Brown Induction to the Hall of Fame**

This month we celebrated Clay Brown's Induction into the St. Catharines Sports Hall of Fame.

Two-time Olympian Clayton Brown will be one of five local residents inducted next Wednesday into the St. Catharines Sports Hall of Fame.

"It's a big deal and I have to thank two of the fellows (Richard Crooker and Joel Finley) from the crew (Canadian eight at 1968 Olympics) who suggested I should try and get into the sports hall of fame. I said I didn't know but they said they would do a lot of work for me and research it," the 83-year-old lifelong St. Catharines resident said.

A football star at St. Catharines Collegiate, Clay helped the school win several championships, including the Canada Dry Award as one of Ontario's outstanding schoolboy football linemen in 1960. Mr. Brown began rowing in 1957 at the Collegiate.

"I was asked by some of the rowers who were also on the football team. They asked me 'What do you do. Do you just play football? Why don't you come out and get in shape and try rowing?' So that's what I did."

Three years later, he was representing Canada at the 1960 Rome Summer Olympics.

"I guess a bit of it was luck. I just got there at the right time."

Read more of the BPSN article [here](#).

*Clay is pictured with Gryphon Football Alum and FOGF member Peter Partridge. Peter is also a chair of the St Catharine's Hall of Fame committee.*





## ***FEATURED PLAYER***

When a young athlete is asked what they want to be when they are older, being a pro athlete is often the answer. For football specifically, the dream and goal is to play at a higher level such as the CFL and NFL. To set oneself up for success, athletes often play at the USports level in Canada, or at colleges in the United States. Rookie linebacker, [Jevaun Jacobsen](#) was on the path to playing at a higher level, receiving 18 Division 1 offers to play college football. But when injury struck and he tore his meniscus, he had 17 of those 18 offers revoked and his path quickly shifted. Jevaun's story is one filled with challenges, but also perseverance and we're pleased to highlight Jevaun's journey and comeback story for this month's newsletter.

Jevaun grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia and attended Terry Fox High School. In Grade 11, he travelled down south to attend [Clearwater Academy](#), their program strives to provide students both a strong academic opportunity and an elite football experience, allowing students to achieve their academic and athletic goals. Fellow Gryphon

teammate, [Miles La Foucade](#), attended Clearwater at the same time and it was a great connection for Jevaun when he arrived in Guelph, as he didn't know many other players on the roster.

*“When I was told Jevaun was joining the team, I immediately expressed my excitement to Coach. It was awesome to be reunited with him after we had spent some time together down south. Since I met him, he’s always shown resilience and positivity which is admirable. He’s a strong guy for sure and it’s a blessing to share the locker room with him again!” – Miles La Foucade*

In the fall of 2020, Jevaun attended the University of Calgary, where he met Pat Sheahan, who is the current offensive line coach for the Gryphons. Another Gryphon connection was Treshaun Abrahams-Webster, who is the current Defensive Assistant coach for the Gryphons.

Jevaun’s journey to the University of Guelph was anything but straightforward, but he noted in his conversation with us that he believes everything happened for a reason, and he’s grateful for the lessons he learned throughout the process.

“When I lost my D1 offers, in a weird way I was almost relieved and felt like it was the way it was supposed to happen. I’m happy with how all turned out and that I was able to do it on my own terms and make the decision to return to the sport of football.”

Jevaun’s first home game for the red, black and gold was against the York Lions for Homecoming. A 88-7 victory in front of a sold out crowd for Homecoming was a pretty perfect first home game experience for him at Alumni Stadium.

“Being back on the field was an incredible feeling. It was my first time fully healthy and it pretty much felt like I was back home in a way”

The passion of football is a family affair, as Jevaun’s brother (Corey) played in both the NFL and CFL and is the current Defensive Coordinator for the Toronto Argos.

Corey is no stranger to the Gryphon Football program, as the entire Toronto Argonaut organization spends over a month at the U of G campus during the spring for their CFL Training Camp. They utilize all the facilities, and really immerse themselves on campus. Additionally, Corey was a guest speaker at a coaches clinic this past February, which was hosted by the Gryphon Football coaching staff.

“I chatted with my brother quite a bit during the decision-making process, and it happened to be at the time when the Argos were at the U of G for training camp. He assured me that if I was to commit to Guelph, I would be taken care of here. He also highlighted how amazing the facilities are, the high-quality food and the culture of the program.”



Corey was able to watch Jevaun play during Game 4 against the McMaster Marauders. Jevaun had an impressive game with a team-high 10 tackles which included 9 solo, 2 assisted, and one for a 5-yard Marauder loss. One of the biggest plays in the game occurred late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, with Jevaun intercepting the football which led to a turnover and then a touchdown. The Gryphons had a 21-13 victory over the Marauders and Jevaun earned Defensive Player of the game [honours](#).

“Making that play in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter was a big moment for me, it was great to be able to celebrate with the team and look up and see my brother in the stands cheering me on. Corey hadn’t seen me play football since I was 15, so it was special to have him there.”

Unfortunately for Jevaun, he was only able to play in 2 games for the 2023 season, as he suffered an injury for the remainder of the season. However, Jevaun remained determined and positive, realizing that there was still an important role for him to play in supporting his team.

“The injuries have been tough, but the staff and coaches here have really cultivated a culture here that made me feel supportive. Of course, I wanted to be out on the field playing, but I had to shift my role to being on the sidelines”

Now in the off-season, Jevaun’s mindset has shifted to training, getting healthy and stronger, and also building up his resume for his professional career, as he aspires to be a general manager for a pro football team.

“Your playing career can only go so far, so it’s important for me to build up my resume, gain experience, and develop those transferable skills. I want to be around football forever, whether that be on or off the field.

Jevaun’s dedication and commitment to the Gryphons has not gone unnoticed. His teammates and coaches have praised him for his hard work, positive attitude, and willingness to learn. He has quickly become a valuable member of the team and we are excited to see what the future holds for Jevaun. With his talent and determination, we are certain that he will continue to make a positive impact on the team!



## ***FEATURED ALUMNUS***

This month's featured alumnus is Eric Stranz. Eric was a kicker and punter on the Gryphon football team from 2018 to 2022. He has recently become a coach for the Gryphon Football team. He began as a kicking coach this past season, and stated that he "loves it". Eric describes his coaching experience as a new, unique commitment to the program.

Through his entire journey as a Gryphon football player, Eric recalls his highlight as beating Western in the team's first game back after COVID-19. The final score was 23-21 and the game came down to a final punt. Stranz recovered his own punt to win the game. The cherry on top? It was a home game at Guelph.

Eric studied accounting at the University of Guelph and balanced co-op, a five course workload, and football all at the same time. For that reason, Eric says that "time management and the resources for the players (such as tutoring) were highly valuable".

Having joined the team in 2018, Eric says “everyone made it clear that it was so much more than football; it was a family”. He recalls training camp as having been an incredible first step to building comradery.

Another large component of Eric’s football experience was his parents' involvement in POP. His parents became POP members right off the bat. He says that “they loved being part of the team as much as [he] did”. This made the transition from high school to university much easier for Eric.

One of Stranz' most memorable moments was in Coach Sheahan’s first year. He set up a karaoke night at Franks before school had even started and Stranz recalls it being a great bonding experience. He says “seeing everyone in their element was super fun”.

As Stranz continues on his new journey as a coach, he hopes to help kickers on the team accomplish their personal goals.



**FOGF MOMENTS**

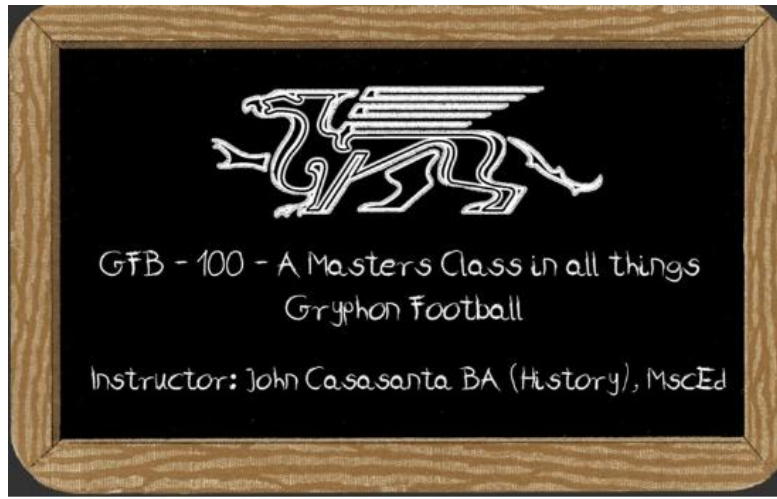


FOGF members and fellow Team of the Decade recipients gather in the Nest. All three are Yates Cup Champions.

*Pictured left to right: Gerrit Stam, Shane Daugherty, and Dan Conroy.*



**MR. CASASANTA'S HISTORY CLASS**



Welcome to GFB – 100, October edition. I am your instructor John Casasanta, your resident Gryphon Football historian. GFB -100 is a master's class where we will delve into interesting and historical facts about all things Gryphon Football. Each month I will provide you with an interesting fact about the Gryphon Football program. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any of your own facts or stats to add to this segment each month. Forward any information, stat, story or correction to me at [jcasasan@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jcasasan@uoguelph.ca). The monthly goal is that you find this section informative and educational. I look forward to sharing with you all, so with no further to do let's begin.

For this month's lesson we will continue with our pictorial retrospective of Gryphon Football. This month our focus will be from 1995-2000. We will exclude the 96 team from this lesson since we will be honouring them and the winning of the 96 Yates Cup in next month's edition. Thanks to the staff of the Ontario for allowing us access to every issue beginning in 1951 with the OAC Aggies then Redmen and right up to today's Gryphons. I hope you enjoy this retrospective and for some of you I hope you enjoy seeing some of these great moments you were a part of. Enjoy.

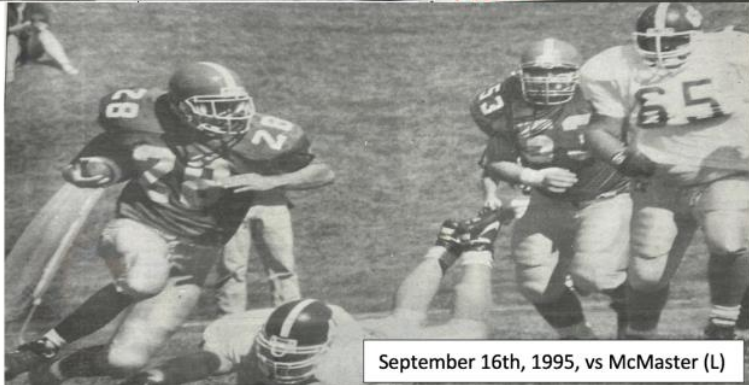
I want to thank Patrick Sutherland for his time and contribution to this month's lesson. Patrick was gracious enough to allow me access to the Ontario's archives. I am excited to be able to share 73 years of history with you with the help of Patrick and the staff of the Ontario. I look forward to seeing you next time when we discuss all things Gryphon Football. Class is dismissed.



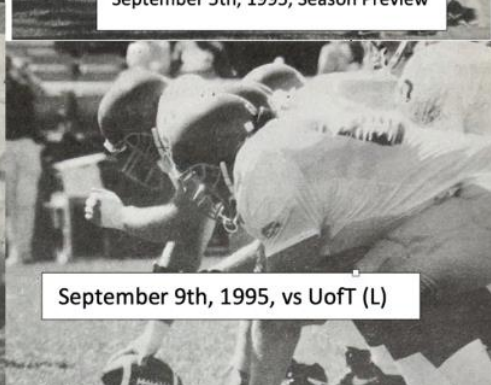
September 9th, 1995, vs UofT (L)



September 5th, 1995, Season Preview



September 16th, 1995, vs McMaster (L)



September 9th, 1995, vs UofT (L)

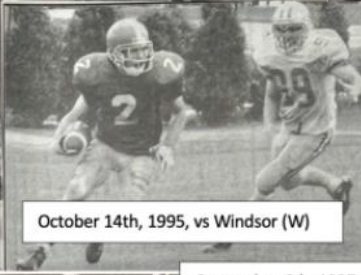




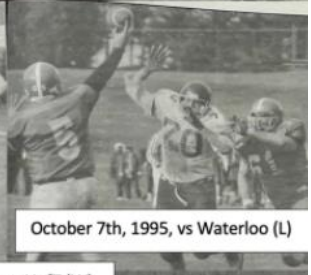
September 23rd, 1995, vs Laurier (L)



September 30, 1995, HC vs York (L)



October 14th, 1995, vs Windsor (W)



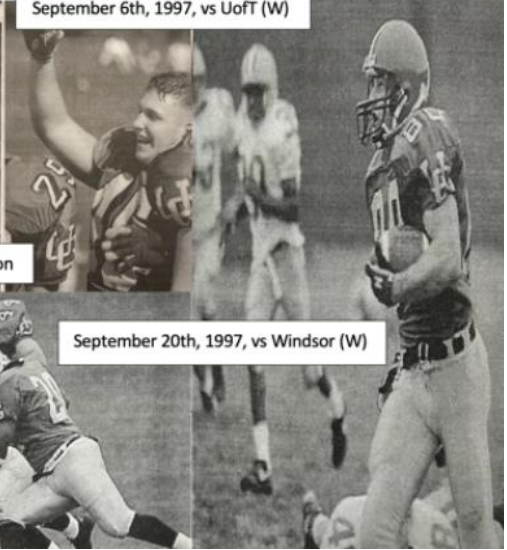
October 7th, 1995, vs Waterloo (L)



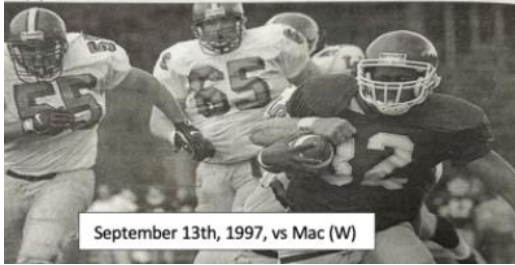
October 28, 1995, vs Waterloo (L)



April 1997 Superhero Edition



September 6th, 1997, vs UofT (W)



September 13th, 1997, vs Mac (W)



September 20th, 1997, vs Windsor (W)



September 27th, 1997, vs Laurier (W)



October 4th, 1997, HC vs York (W)



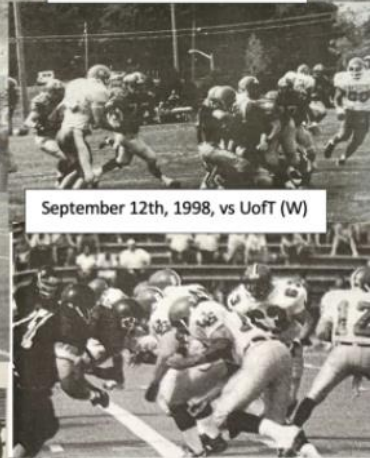
October 10, 1997, vs UofT (W)



October 18, 1997, vs Western (L)



October 25th, 1997, vs Waterloo (L)



September 12th, 1998, vs UofT (W)

# Breaking New Ground: The 1998 Women's Flag Football club

*"Football is a game played by warriors. To succeed, one must combine physical aggression with mental toughness."*  
-Criswell Freeman-

the systems and plays. Nevertheless, the women's anxious desire to learn, combined with their athletic ability made them ideal ingredients for a promising young football team with unexplored potential.  
-Bill Brown, one of the team's defensive coaches-



THE WOMEN'S 1998 FLAG FOOTBALL CLUB



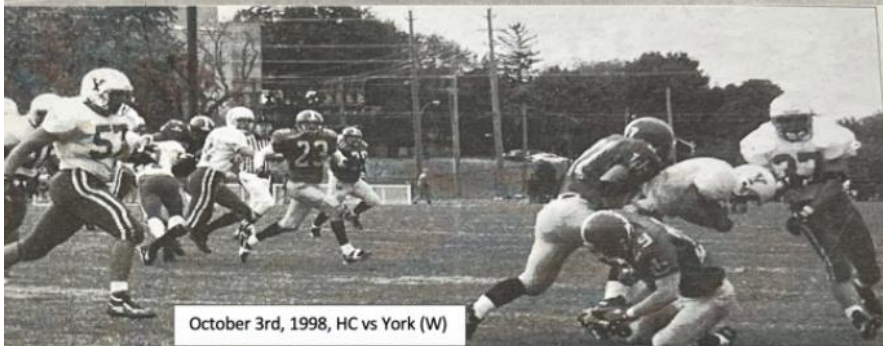
September 26th, 1998, vs Laurier (L)



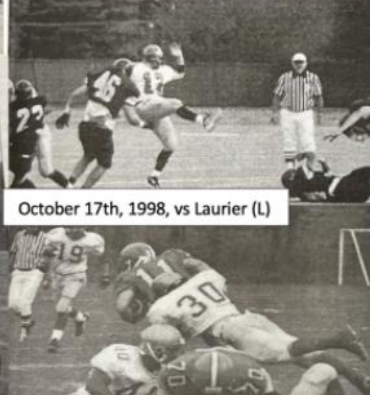
September 19th, 1998, vs Waterloo(L)



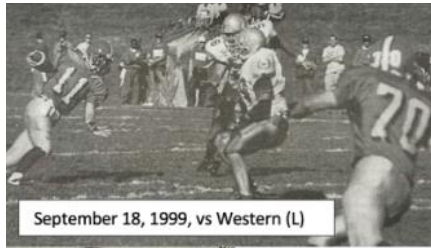
October 17th, 1998, vs Laurier (L)



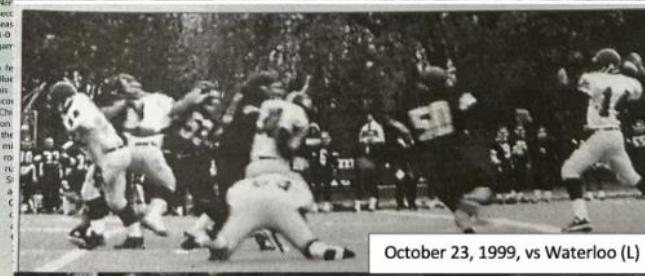
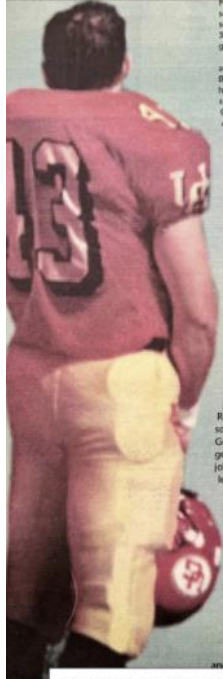
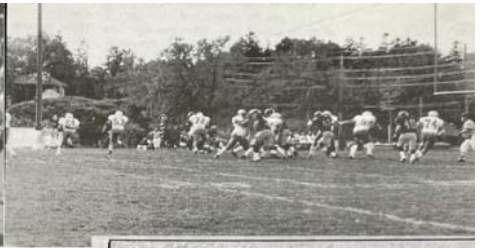
October 3rd, 1998, HC vs York (W)







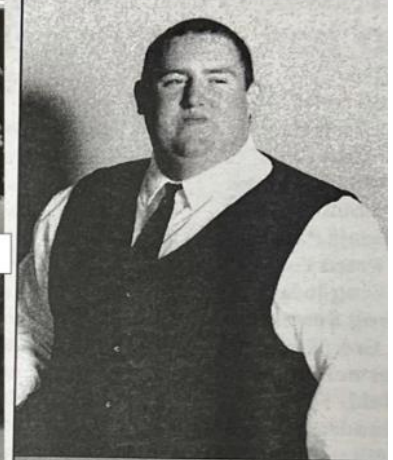
September 18, 1999, vs Western (L)



October 23, 1999, vs Waterloo (L)



September 25th, 1999, HC vs UofT (W)



**W.F. MITCHELL**  
*Sportsman*

April 2000

**JEREMY OXLEY**

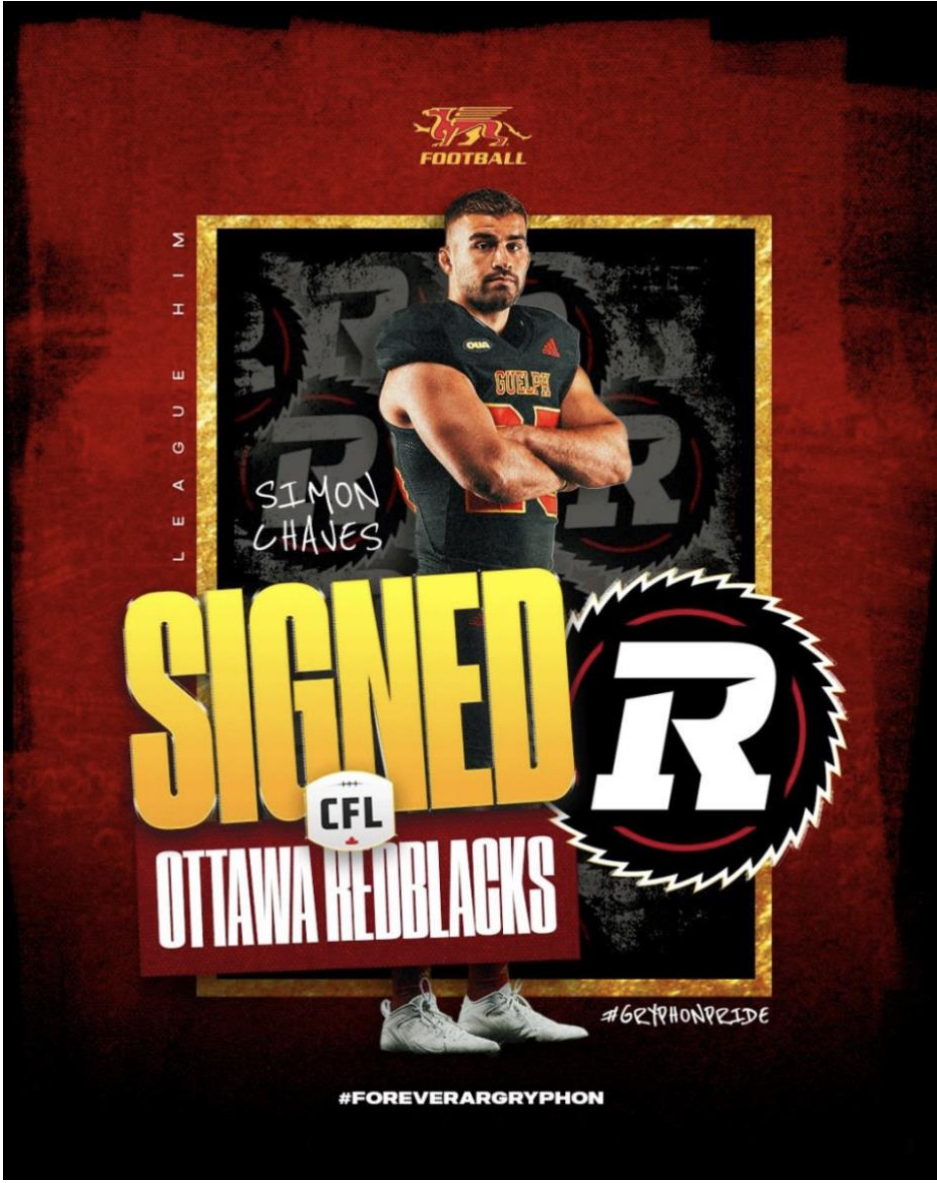
Jeremy Oxley's playing career with the Football Gryphons has been marked by steady progress and excellence. He has started every game throughout his four year career and was named team Rookie of the Year in 1996. For the last three years, he has been a First Team OUA All Star and this past season was selected as a First Team All Canadian and was chosen as the Gryphons' Lineman of the Year. He has been active off the field as a volunteer, working with Big Brothers to help organize Gryphon volunteers at the Bowl for Millions event.



**GRYPHONS GONE PRO**



Congratulations to our most recent 'Gryphon Gone Pro', [Simon Chaves](#). The Guelph long-snapper recently signed with the Ottawa Redblacks. Congratulations, Simon. We are rooting for you in the CFL.





### **Jim Stewart – A Gryphon Lineman's Legacy**

In the inaugural edition of "Herd it Here First," we shine the spotlight on Jim Stewart, a dedicated member of the newly-formed Gryphon alumni group known as "The Herd." Jim's journey from an unexpected start at Guelph in 1988 to becoming a proud offensive lineman is a tale of perseverance, camaraderie, and enduring lessons.

Jim, who initially joined Guelph for Human Kinetics, found himself drawn into football at the urging of his dad and high school coach, Rick Allen. From winter workouts as an inside receiver to a tryout as a slot back, Jim discovered his true calling when he took the field as a left guard, weighing in at a lean 265 pounds.

The brotherhood among the offensive linemen became evident quickly, forging friendships that have stood the test of time. For four years, Jim and his fellow linemen played together, forming an unbreakable bond that extends beyond the gridiron. Reflecting on his experience, Jim emphasizes the teamwork intrinsic to the O-Line, an attitude that has guided him throughout his life.

While earning recognition as an OUAA all-star in 1990 and 1992, Jim cherishes the moments that transcend awards—the victories against Western in 1992, the laughter in the locker room, and the camaraderie on and off the field. These memories, he notes, are the true rewards that endure.

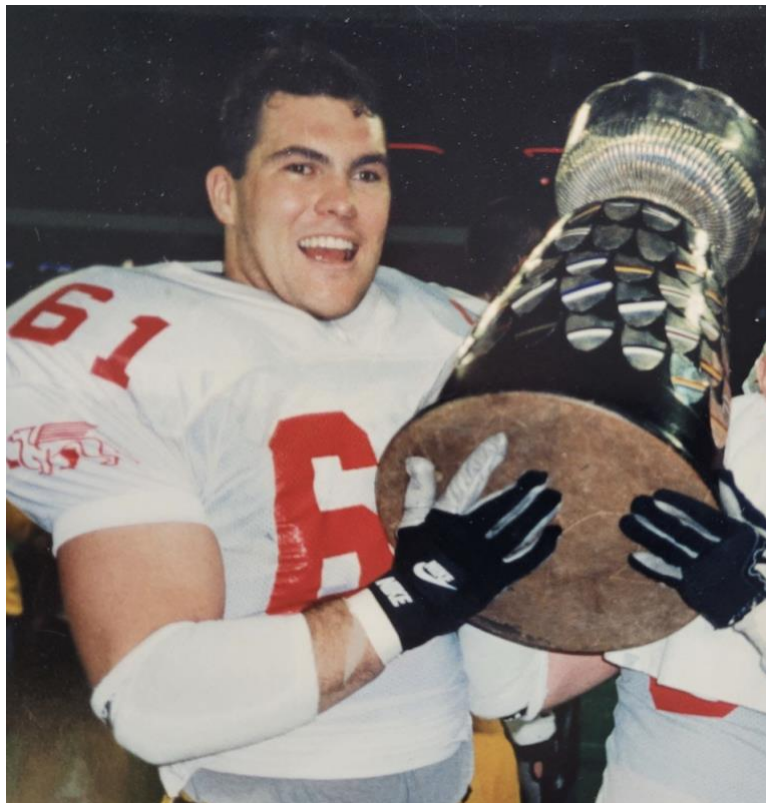
Post-Gryphon life led Jim to a decade of high school teaching in Sarnia and a subsequent career in administration. Retired for a year and a half, Jim channels his

passion for fitness, cultivated during his Gryphon days, into Silverback Fitness, a personal training business benefiting athletes of all ages.

Jim, a Gryphon for life, proudly declares his membership in "The Herd," and the FOGF embodying the spirit of Friendship, Resilience, and Respect—core values that define his time as a Gryphon lineman. As he imparts Gryphon tales to his three daughters, Jim ensures the legacy of lessons learned on the field lives on, inspiring the next generation.

Stay tuned for more exclusive stories from "Herd it Here First," where Gryphon legends like Jim Stewart share their journeys, on and beyond the football field.

All Herd members should save the date for January 25th 7:00pm-9:00pm at Montanas for a Meet and Greet with the current Offensive Line. Please Let Bill Brown know if you can come and RSVP to [brownw@uoguelph.ca](mailto:brownw@uoguelph.ca).







## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

Did you know that the Gryphon Offensive Linemen go to Dairy Queen the night before every game? This is a tradition that we believe dates all the way back to the early 1990s, however Cody O'Neil seems to think that it began in 2011 because the Cutten Club changed their desserts to fruit platters that year.

While its origin is a bit of a mystery, the tradition still stands!



## ***SAVE THE DATE***

Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ Guelph Lakes Golf and Country Club



## **FOGF MEMBERSHIP**

Interested in becoming an FOGF Member? There are three different tiers to our memberships: Red, Black, and Gold. To find out more information about our memberships and what is involved in each level, please click [here](#). For questions about the membership, please contact Bill Brown at [brownw@uoguelph.ca](mailto:brownw@uoguelph.ca)



**INSPIRE  
ENGAGE  
SUSTAIN**

**FRIENDS OF  
GRYPHON FOOTBALL**

VISION: Identify through membership a proud and inspired community of alumni and friends of Gryphon Football, positively influencing the success of the football program.

**FOGF  
MEMBERSHIP**

**JOIN  
NOW**



## **SHARE YOUR NEWS**

If you have any news or updates, we would be more than happy to share them in our upcoming newsletter. Please reach out to [brownw@uoguelph.ca](mailto:brownw@uoguelph.ca) for any celebrations, announcements, or bereavements that you would like us to share.