

Welcome to the November edition of The Gryphons' Lair newsletter!

The 2023 football season has come to an end, and we would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported our team throughout the season.

Thank you to the University of Guelph Athletic Department and U of G Hospitality Services and their staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that every game day at Alumni Stadium was a memorable experience. We also want to acknowledge the work of the Lang Innovation Team who advanced many elements of our program such as supporting our Gryphon Media crew, pre-game events at away games, the kids zone, and the North Endzone. It was great to see FOGF members, parents and community congregating in the endzone to watch the games. We also want to thank the alumni for attending the games and supporting their alma mater, always great to have former Gryphons back on campus! Thank you to the Parents of Players (POP) group for all your hard work and effort towards the tailgate. It was a highlight of the season, and we appreciate their contribution to the gameday atmosphere. Additionally, we are grateful to Gryph Vision, the broadcast crew, as well as Rogers TV for streaming the game for our online viewers. Finally, we want to thank the fans and community for showing up to the games and cheering on our Gryphons.

Although the 2023 season has ended, our program will continue to train, prepare and get ready for 2024. There will be lots of events and activities throughout the next few months that we look forward to highlighting in the newsletter!

Coach Ryan Sheahan would like to invite you to a season debrief with him, on Wednesday, November 22nd at 8 pm. The call will be done through zoom and will include a recap of the season, an outline of the 2024 offseason and recruiting plans. Registration is now [open](#).

Enjoy Issue 82 of the Gryphons' Lair!



Pictured: Gryphon Football Alumni Justin Dunk and his 2 nephews



CELEBRATIONS

Mother's Tea

The annual Mother's Tea event at Alumni Stadium was a great success! Moms and mother figures of the football team gathered for a lovely lunch and tea at Alumni Stadium. Thank you to Coach Sheahan for giving our Moms and other special guests a 'Football 101' lesson. All were excited to learn about the ins and outs of football and gain a better understanding of what their sons go through on the field. The event was a great opportunity for the guests to bond and connect with each other.

Thank you to the Parents of Players Group for hosting and coordinating, and to the Lang Innovation Team for sponsoring!



Pictured left to right: Rachel Guthrie and Andrea Lack (POP Committee)



Thank you, Gryphon Moms and Mom-figures!

Think Pink

Every year, Gryphon Football, Gryphon Parents, alumni, students, and staff, raise money in support of Cancer Research.

Together, we were able to raise \$7,500! Thanks to the Lang Innovation Team who matched donations up to \$2,500, a grand total of \$10,000 dollars will be donated to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Thank you to everyone for your support!



Pictured left to right: Griffin Sumner, Scott McRoberts, Tumi Adeniyi, Jeremiah Beckwith, Trevon Sealy

Thanksgiving

The Gryphon football program gathered together at the stadium on Thanksgiving weekend for a wonderful holiday dinner! This event was made possible by the efforts of Coach Surya and Lindsay Williams, who organized the event. The parents of the players contributed by cooking and donating delicious food for everyone to enjoy. This event was a great opportunity for all to come together and celebrate their successes as a team and as individuals. Many of our athletes are from out of town, and so this event was extra special for those who could not go back home to see family and friends over the holiday weekend. Thank you, to everyone who supported this incredible event!

Did you see the video of 2 of our players taking some time to do some Arts and Crafts over Thanksgiving weekend? Check out the video [here](#).





Thank you to our Gryphon Parent Group for organizing and coordinating!

Community Involvement

[Kumail Khilji](#), a 2nd year Defensive Lineman, spent some time at King George Public School, a local elementary school in Guelph, mentoring students and engaging in a game of touch football at recess with some intermediate kids.

"Giving back to the community is a way of expressing gratitude for the opportunities that the community gives us. These kids come to our games and look up to us as players, so visiting them is a way of connecting and creating positive change while enriching the lives of the future."

Always a great moment seeing our players interact and connect with the Guelph community!



October 14th vs. Queen's Gaels

On October 14th at the University of Guelph's Alumni Stadium, the Gryphon football team suffered a 24-17 loss to the visiting Queen's Gaels.

The home team put together a late comeback attempt, but unfortunately for the Gryphons, that would be as close as they would get, as the Queen's defence was able to come up with a pair of late sacks and erase any hopes of a late comeback by the Gryphons.

Read the game recap [here](#).



Pictured: Scott Murray

October 21st vs. Carleton Ravens

On October 21st in Ottawa, Ontario, the Gryphon Football season came to a close after a heartbreaking loss to the Carleton Ravens.

The Gryphons were leading 27-14 with just 2 minutes to go, but unfortunately the Ravens were able to score a pair of touchdowns and ultimately pull ahead and win 29 - 27.

Thank you to all of the family, friends and supporters that made the drive up to Ottawa to come and support the Gryphons! We have such an incredible community and the players, coaches and staff appreciate the support! There is nothing like hearing those Gryphon cowbells ringing in the crowds!

Although it was a tough loss, we are so proud of our Gryphons for battling through this game and every game of the 2023 season. A special shoutout to our graduating Seniors who wore a Gryphon jersey for the last time, we are so proud of you all and look forward to welcoming you into the Alumni family!

Read the full recap [here](#).



Gryphon Fan Experience

Harrison is a dedicated member of the Junior Gryphon football team and an avid fan of the Gryphon Football Varsity team. Thanks to his mother's successful bid at the Gryphon Gala in May 2023, Harrison was able to have a once-in-a-lifetime game day experience on October 21st. From being on the sidelines for warm-up to hearing the pre-game chant, Harrison was able to get a behind the scenes experience of what it is like to be a Gryphon football player. It was an unforgettable day that he will cherish for years to come!



Pictured: Harrison and Gryphon Player, Simon Chaves

Senior Recognition

At our final home game of the 2023 season, the Gryphon Football program and the University of Guelph Athletic Department honoured our Seniors. We welcomed family, friends and loved ones onto the field, and the players were able to run out onto the field, and take a moment to celebrate their journey as a football player.

Over 25 seniors were recognized and it was a very special moment to see them be surrounded by their support system!

Each year our Gryphon Football media team put together a special video for our Seniors. This season, we surprised our athletes by sharing messages with them from their friends and families – be sure to [check it out!](#)

Thank you, Seniors, for the countless hours you put into the Gryphon Football Program! We wish you all the best with your next chapter and look forward to welcoming you back to your alma mater as an alumnus!

#ForeverAGryphon



Pictured: Josh Campbell and family



Pictured: Brandon Ferigo and family

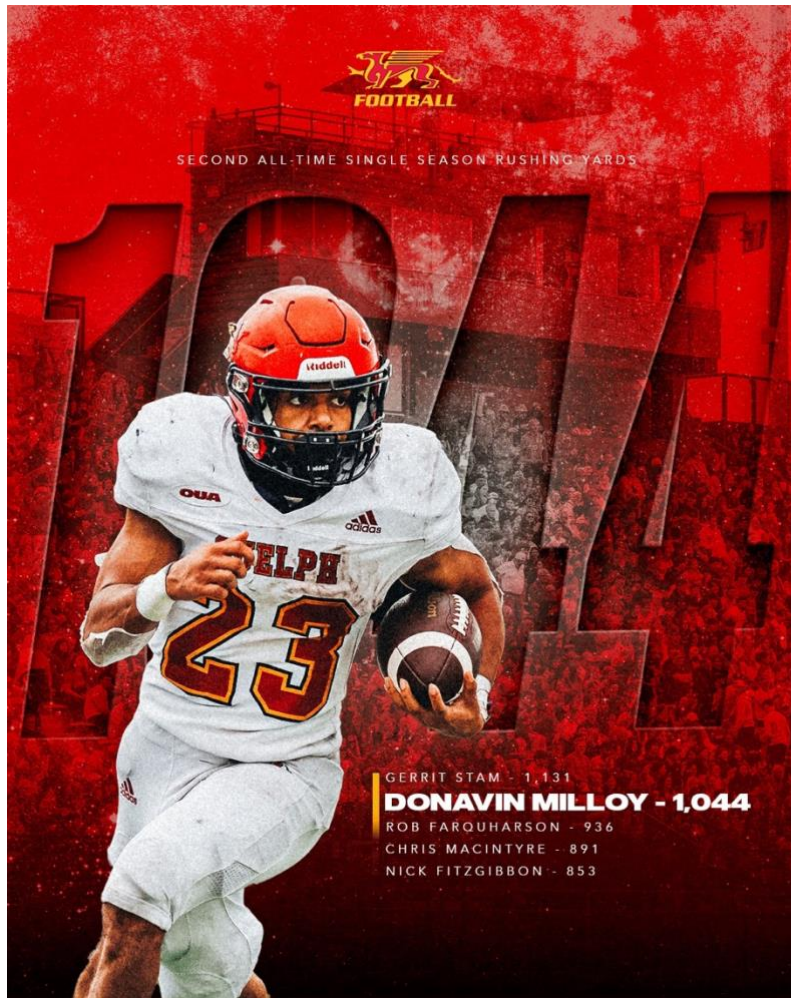


Pictured: Nick Guardiero and family

Donavin Milloy - 1K Rushing Yards

Congratulations to 2nd year running back, [Donavin Milloy](#) on finishing the 2023 regular season with 1,044 yards rushing!

Milloy becomes the 2nd Gryphon in program history to reach the 1000-yard mark! An incredible season for Milloy and we look forward to watching him back out on the field at Alumni Stadium in 2024!



Clay Brown – Induction to the St. Catharines Sports Hall of Fame

Congratulations to former Gryphon athlete, Clay Brown, for being selected to become a member of the St. Catharines Sports Hall of Fame. Clay is being inducted as a dual sport athlete – football and rowing. Clay was a part of the OAC Redmen team for the years 1963,64,66,67 and was also on the Team of the Decade for the 1960's.

Clay will be inducted on November 15th 2023, so stay tuned for more information about the event in our December 1 newsletter.

Congratulations, Clay!

CFL Nominations

Each CFL team recently announced their nominations for the CFL awards. We are proud to have two former Gryphons nominated!

Congratulations to [Clark Barnes](#), from the Calgary Stampeders for being nominated as the Most Outstanding Rookie and [Royce Metchie](#) from the Toronto Argonauts for being nominated as the Most Outstanding Canadian!

Read the full story [here](#).

Players of the Game

After each game, three Gryphon players are selected to receive 'Player of the Game' honours. One athlete is chosen for offence, one for defence and one for special teams.

To view the list of Players of the Game for all matches in October, please check out our [website!](#)

Honorary Captains

At each of our home games throughout the 2023 season, we selected an Honorary Captain from our collection of distinguished Gryphon alumni.

The Honorary captains joined us on the field with the referee and our Gryphon team captains to do the coin toss.

Thank you to our alumni for staying connected to our program. We were honoured to have you join us for game day back at your alma mater!

2023 Honorary Captains:

Dr. Scott Hobson: Dr. Hobson, is a former Defensive Back for the Guelph Gryphons and local alumni of GCVI. Dr. Hobson is a four-year Varsity Letterman. He secured his place with two OUAA all-star titles in 1980 and 1982, setting records like 5 interceptions in a single-season and a tied record for interceptions against Toronto. Leading by example, he captained the team in 1982 and earned the esteemed Wildman Trophy. He was recently named to the 1980s All-Decade Team, and Dr. Hobson's legacy extends even further from his 38-year veterinary career in Oakville.



Pictured: Gryphon Captains and Scott Hobson

Mark Brown, Heron Tait, and Dr. Dudley Brown: Mark Brown, a Hall of Fame Running back, a 2-time OUAA All-star, Athletics-male athlete of the year, WF Mitchell Sportsman of the year, and Wildman trophy recipient. He was also drafted 5th overall to the Toronto Argonauts in 1978. Heron Tait, a Yates Cup champion in 1992, achieved remarkable success with three school records for punt return accomplishments, including three punt return touchdowns in a single season. In 1995, he was drafted 27th overall to the Ottawa Rough Riders. Dr. Dudley Brown, a three-time Yates Cup champion, achieved one title as a player in 1984 and two as a coach during his impressive 9-year tenure coaching the Defensive Backs for the Gryphons. He was also part of the National Championship team in 1984.



Pictured left to right: Heron Tait and Mark Brown



Pictured: Dudley Brown

Andrew Oosterhuis and Dan Noble: Andrew, boasts an impressive list of achievements, including accolades like the Donald Forster-MVP, Don Cameron Award, and Football-Wildman Trophy. He's a 2nd Team OUA All-star and represented us in the CIS-East West Bowl. Andrew's academic excellence earned him the Canadian Millennium Scholarship, and he's a Distinguished Alumni recipient and a member of the 2010 Team of the Decade. Currently, he holds the role of VP of Marketing at Labatt Breweries of Canada. Dan Noble was a four-year starter and recipient of the Thomas Dimitroff Defensive Player of the Year award. His football journey included winning two championships in Italy and contributed as a Gryphon assistant DL coach for three years. Today, he's the proud owner of Noble Sports Performance, where he trains NHL stars like Mitch Marner and Anthony Cirelli, along with Team Canada's Sarah Nurse.



Pictured left to right: Andrew Oosterhuis, Ryan Sheahan, Dan Noble and President Charlotte Yates



This new initiative, 'The Herd', was a great addition to our home game experience for the 2023 season! Thank you, Montana's for sponsoring!

Alumni offensive linemen gathered at every home game to support our current o-line and to create networking opportunities within the group. The Herd O-Line Play of the Game was selected by those in attendance and awarded to a player at the end of each game before a group photo.

The HERD Play of the Game against the York Lions was awarded to [Julian lamundo](#). A 3rd year offensive lineman who protected our QB all game and was a big part of our dominant 88-7 victory!

Second year Offensive Lineman, [Mitchel Schechinger](#) was awarded the final HERD play of the game for the 2023 season. Schechinger is a 2nd year engineering student who exemplifies The Herd mentality. His versatility allowed him to move to Center and as a result had the play of the game!

Thank you to the members of The Herd committee, Mike MacDonald, Brett McCallum, Dan Crabbe and Bill Brown for organizing this initiative. Many thanks to all of the Offensive Linemen that came out to the games this season to support our current roster!



[Donavin Milloy](#) is a name that has been making waves in the OUA football scene this season. The 2nd year running

back hailing from Hamilton, Ontario was a key player for the Gryphon football team and we are thrilled to feature him for this month's newsletter.

Donavin attended St. Mary's high school in Hamilton, Ontario for grade 9,10 and 11. He transferred to Football North for his final year of high school football, and commuted to Mississauga. The Football North program strives to provide students with both a strong academic opportunity and an elite football experience, allowing them to achieve their academic and athletic goals. Many of our Gryphons have attended Football North, including [Denver Beazley](#) and [Devynn Cromwell](#). It is a fantastic program that prepares athletes for their post-secondary journey as a student and athlete.

Donavin's recruitment journey began in Grade 11 when he was contacted by Coach Surya. After a few phone calls and conversations, Donavin was ready to commit to Guelph, without even having seen the campus!

"I knew that I wanted to commit to Guelph, and I had no hesitations. The coaches did a fantastic job recruiting me and answering all my questions, and so I felt that it was the right spot for me to continue my football journey. I really liked the atmosphere on campus and I knew that it would be a great team dynamic."

Donavin had an impressive season during his rookie year in 2022, dressing throughout the season and getting some playing time, specifically on Special Teams. Donavin had the chance to work alongside his teammate, Isaiah Smith, who was the 2022 OUA Rookie of the Year.

"We are all pushing each other, working hard, and learning from one another. We've got lots of depth in the Running back position and we are excited to continue that momentum into the 2024 season. We will be working hard all off-season and getting ready to get back out on the field."

Reflecting back on the 2023 regular season, Donavin ranked 2nd in the [OUA](#) for rushing yards, 3rd in [USports](#) and was the 2nd player in Gryphon Football program history to reach the 1,000 mark. He finished up the season with 1,044 rushing yards, which puts him 2nd in the program history, behind Gerrit Stam. Donavin also received 'Offensive Player of the Week' honours 5 times during the 2023 season.

It was only fitting that we reached out to Nate Kettles, the Gryphon Running Backs coach for a quote on Donavin's performance this season.

"Donavin more than stepped up this season and we couldn't be more impressed with his play. It really is a testament to all the hard work he puts in year-round. His willingness to out prepare the competition is what allows him to be ready for any opportunities that come his way. He leads by example as an athlete that does the right things and demonstrates what can come from dedication and buying into the process. As a staff we were very excited for what Donavin (and the offensive line leading the charge) were able to accomplish in the 2023 season."

Milloy's success this season is a testament to his dedication and hard work. As a rising star in the OUA football scene, he is a player to watch out for in the coming seasons. Fans of Gryphon football can look forward to seeing more spectacular performances from Milloy in the future!

Thank you, Donavin for taking the time to chat with us, and we look forward to seeing you back out on the field in the 2024 season!



FEATURED ALUMNUS

Introducing Kyle Sinden, this month's featured Gryphon Football alumnus. During his time at Guelph, Kyle played on the football team as a running back and kick returner, while studying Finance and Economics.

While only on the team for one year due to a shoulder injury, Kyle was an impressive dual athlete, competing in both football and track. His time on the team was that of great success as he played on the Yates Cup winning team.

"Being able to surround myself with such exceptional football players and leaders really set the tone for the rest of my university career."

Having grown up in Tillsonburg Ontario, he describes his transition to the university as rather seamless due to the fact that Guelph was such a "tight knit community" and "had many similarities to home". He reflects on his time in Guelph as having been very "homey". Kyle noted that from the get-go Guelph had that hometown feel for me. There was no pretentious feeling being a Gryphon, just hard work and grit, which extended from the field to the classroom.

After his injury, Kyle continued on his track journey due to its lower-impact nature however, he stayed very involved in the Gryphon Football program out of his sheer love for the game and the people. While on the track team, Kyle participated in 60 and 100 meter sprints. He says that he balanced his training with academics by "maintaining a rigorous schedule".

“Being able to meet and collaborate with former Gryphons from all eras has truly been invaluable. Not to mention everyone from the 2015 Yates Cup team, including Stu Lang himself. I think most people want to stay involved with the program because of guys like Stu and Bill Brown. Very genuine, thoughtful leaders, which are rare to find.”

Post graduation, Kyle began his career in Burlington at a financial advising company, later switching into private equity. He continues his career there today and echoes the importance of doing things outside of the classroom, whether it be sports or other extra-curricular activities.

Sinden recently participated in the Gryphon Football golf tournament with a network of his fellow alumni, colleagues, coaches, and other community members. He says that he “one day hopes to give back to the program”. He refers to the golf tournament as having been one of the “most well-run tournaments [he] has been to”.

Kyle went on to explain that his involvement in extracurriculars was one of the highlights of his entire university experience. “I was fortunate enough to be a S.A.M mentor for three years helping younger student athletes find their footing in a new university environment, something that I found very useful in my freshman year. I was also part of the inaugural leadership academy with Scott McRoberts, another great Gryphon leader, which helped mold my soft skills outside of the classroom.”

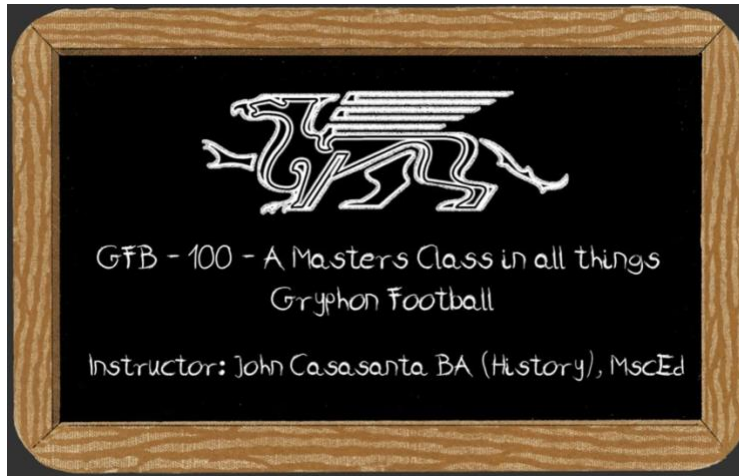
We want to thank Kyle for his continued support and involvement in the Gryphon Football program.



Pictured: Kyle Sinden (right) at the FOGF Golf Tournament



MR. CASASANTA'S HISTORY CLASS



Welcome back to the November Edition of GFB - 100. 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. The monthly goal is that you find this section informative and educational. I look forward to sharing with you all, so without further ado let's begin.

For this month's lesson we will continue with our pictorial retrospective of Gryphon Football. This month's focus will be the 1992 Yates Cup Champions. Let's begin with a quick synopsis of that excellent season. Leading up to the '92 season TSN had stated that Guelph would not be in the running for the playoffs, using the 1991 season record of 2-5 as their main source of reasoning. Mind you '91 was not a successful season, but it could have easily gone the other way. This was a talented group of Gryphons with a strong group of rookies coming in, proving TSN's Dave Miller as wrong as could be. Not only did the Gryphons make the playoffs they won the '92 Yates Cup by pounding Western into submission.

The Gryphons began the '92 season with a win against Western in front of 9,143 fans at Alumni Stadium, breaking the attendance record of 8,794 set during the 84 Central Bowl vs Calgary. This attendance record stood until 2007 when the Gryphons hosted the Yates Cup for the first time in Gryphon history.

After a promising start to the '92 season defeating the Mustangs at home in front of a record crowd, the Gryphons dropped the next two games. Losing to McMaster week 2 and to Laurier at Homecoming in week 3. What had haunted the Gryphons in 91 appeared to be rearing its ugly head again in '92. The 1-2 Gryphons needed to win the next week on the road in Windsor to even have a chance at a playoff berth.

Week 4 vs Windsor a victory on the road to even their record to 2-2, week 5 vs Waterloo saw another victory at Alumni Stadium and a road trip to York week 6 saw the Gryphons beat up the Yeoman to secure a spot in the playoffs. The Gryphons were now 4-2 moving into the final week of play erasing any past troubles from 91. This talented group was on the cusp of doing something no Gryphon team had done in the OUAA since 1984. Win the Yates Cup. But just like that Gryphon team of '84 the '92 version wanted to make the playoffs interesting by dropping their final game vs U of T at home. Just so they could see the exact same team again the following week in the first round of the playoffs.

For those of you paying attention in class, you will understand the comparison to the '84 team. In '84 the Gryphons dropped their final regular season game vs Mac just to see them again the following week in the first round of the playoffs. Since this is a history course, it is so nice to say that history repeated itself, just like the '84 Gryphons before them, the '92 Gryphons went on the road and defeated the Varsity Blues, the team they lost to in the final week of the regular season. This victory set up a week one rematch vs Western at the Sky Dome for the 1992 Yates Cup Championship.

Now before I get into the details of the championship game, here is an aside for you: Western, with all their money and influence, had Paul Beeston the then-president of the Toronto Blue Jays and a Western alumni, in their pocket. He put the Mustangs in the Jays' locker room for the Yates Cup game, thinking it would give them some kind of advantage, more like privilege, typical Western. But what neither Western nor Paul Beeston knew, was the

Gryphons had Tony D'Angelo, the long time Gryphon equipment manager, on their side. When Tony found out that the Mustangs had the Jays' room, he went to work on the room given to the Gryphons for the game. By the time Tony was done with this room the Jays' locker room didn't come close to the Gryphons' changeroom. Tony D did everything he could to let the '92 Gryphons know just how important this group truly was.

The 1992 Yates Cup was no contest, the Mustangs had no idea what hit them. A balanced attack on all three levels, offence, defense, and special teams dominated the purple ponies and the Gryphons were victorious defeating Western 45-10.

Thanks to the staff of the Ontario for allowing us access to every issue beginning in 1952 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.

September 5th, 1992 - Exhibition vs Concordia (L)

September 12th, 1992, vs Western (W)

The Big Upset
by John Vioris

The preps are coming

4000 Western fans invade Guelph on Saturday

When you show up at Alumni Stadium this Saturday, you will be forgiven for thinking that you have been accidentally whisked to London. The rivalry is a one sided thing. We don't really care.

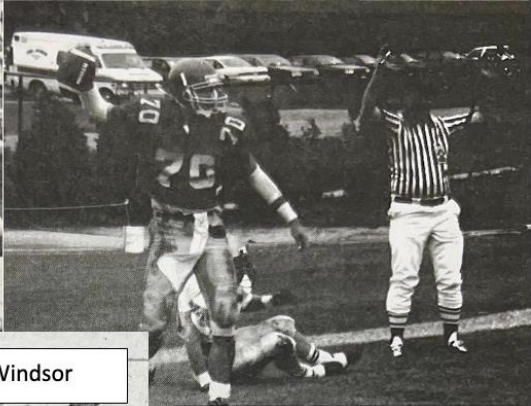
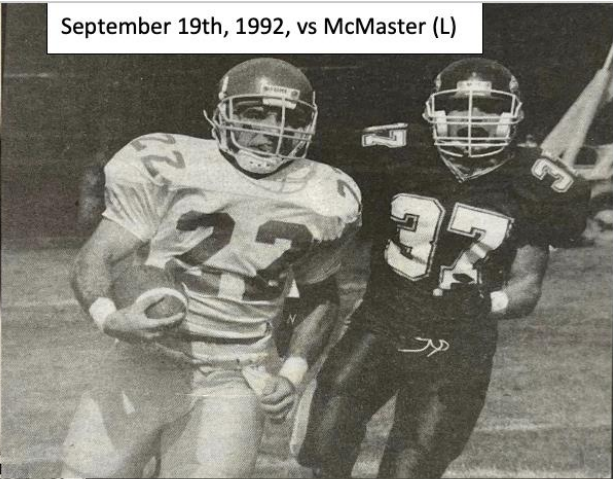
another football game," he said. "The rivalry is a one sided thing. We don't really care."

Yamamoto's attitude was echoed by

QUAA FOOTBALL PREVIEW • BASKETBALL • GRYPHS VS CONCORDIA • ATTACK OF THE PREPPIES • FOUL BALLS • MOUNTAIN BIKE EXTRAVAGANZA • INTRAMURALS



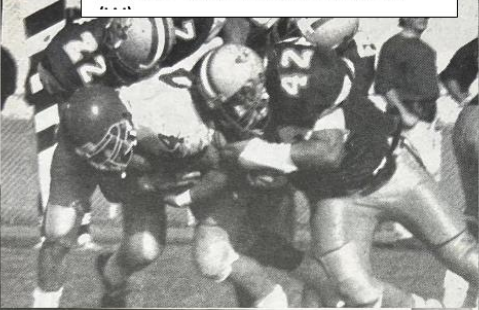
September 19th, 1992, vs McMaster (L)



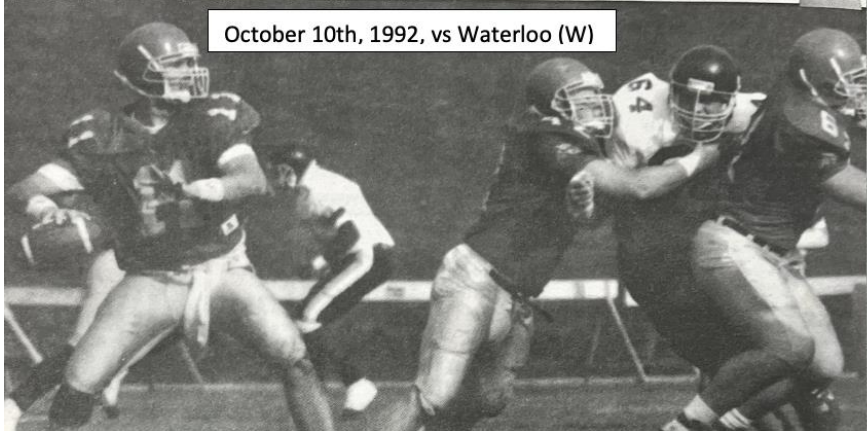
September 26th, 1992, HC vs Laurier

October 3rd, 1992, vs Windsor

October 24th, 1992, vs UofT (L)



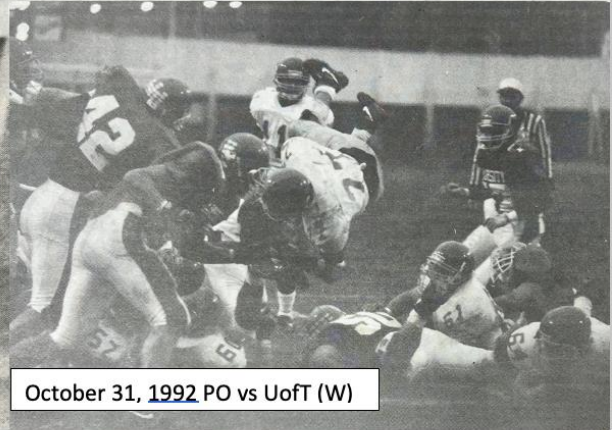
October 10th, 1992, vs Waterloo (W)



Yeomen Roll-over

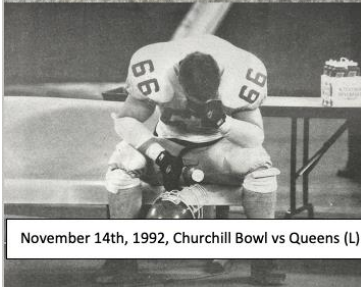
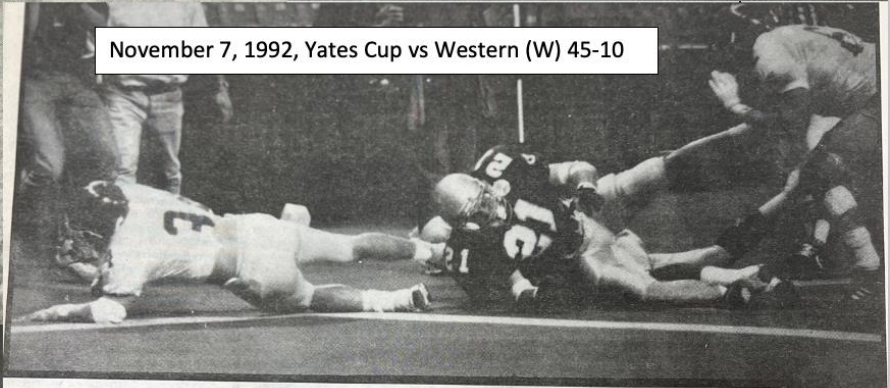
Guelph defence shuts out York

October 17th, 1992, vs York (W)



October 31, 1992, PO vs UofT (W)

November 7, 1992, Yates Cup vs Western (W) 45-10



November 14th, 1992, Churchill Bowl vs Queens (L)

Total 'Dome'ination

Daddy's money couldn't buy Western the game

By John Vinton

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 72 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.



GRYPHONS GONE PRO

This month's Gryphon Gone Pro is [Clark Barnes](#). After playing football for the Guelph Gryphons, Clark went on to play for the Calgary Stampeders in the CFL.

Clark wears #14 and is a wide receiver for the Stampeders. The Calgary Stampeders took him with their third round pick, 24th overall. He celebrated his selection at a draft party he had put together with family and friends, and some of his Guelph teammates.

Congratulations to Clark on his leap to the pros!



Pictured left to right: Kiondre Smith and Clark Barnes



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Giving Tuesday is coming up on Tuesday November 28th? This year, the Gryphons Athletics Department is offering over \$5,000 in additional funding for teams through the team challenge. Teams will be measured by dollars raised divided by the OUA team compliment. Here is the [link](#) to give to the football program, please save it until the 28th. We would love your support.



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, July 19th, 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



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 for any celebrations, announcements, or bereavements that you would like us to share.