It's the best time of the year - students are back on campus for the Fall semester, we're halfway through the regular season and there are lots of updates for you, Gryph Nation! This will be a jampacked newsletter. We've got recaps to share from our games, players to celebrate for receiving OUA and U Sports Honours, media projects to highlight, and more!

If you follow us on social media, you might have seen that we released Season 2: Carpool Karaoke! <u>Last year's video</u> was such a hit, we knew that we had to bring it back this year. This season, we featured 3 Offensive Lineman, be sure to <u>check it out!</u>

Enjoy Issue 81 of the Gryphons' Lair – it's a good one!



Game 2 - vs. Windsor Lancers

For our first road game of the season, we headed to Windsor for a match-up against the Lancers. Unfortunately, we came up short and faced our first loss of the season. Many thanks to all the fans, parents, families, and friends who made the trek to Windsor to cheer on our squad. Our Gryphon POP group hosted a great tailgate before the game and we are always grateful for the support of our Gryphon Football family!

Read the game recap here.





Pep Rally

During Orientation Week on campus for first year students, it is tradition to host the Pep rally at Alumni Stadium. All first year students learn their residence hall dance in the afternoon, and perform it on field Infront of the crowd! We had a few of our rookies welcome students to the stadium and invite them to our Game 3 O-Week game!

Check out the recap of Pep Rally here!



Pictured left to right: Tom Rodehutskors, Nate Slawter, Kyle Simon-Guerin, Marshall McCray, Maddux Martin, Nate Kashama-Aghayere

Game 3 - vs. Laurier Golden Hawks

The buzz at Alumni Stadium for Game 3 was electric! Many thanks to Harvey's for being our O-Week sponsor and for donating delicious burgers for our tailgate! Our program is known for having the best tailgate in the OUA, and we wanted to thank our incredible volunteers, POP group, sponsors, event staff and athletic department staff for making it happen!





Game 3 was a tough loss for the Gryphons, but we were able to turn the page and focus on a very important Game 4 match-up the following Saturday!

Read the game recap <u>here.</u>





Game 4 - vs. McMaster Marauders

Gryphons headed down to the hammer for a crucial Game 4. The team had an incredible performance and came out victorious with a 21-13 win against the Marauders. QB Freshman

Marshall McCray had 2 rushing touchdowns in the game which made him the OUA leader in Rushing yards. Rookie <u>Jevaun Jacobsen</u> had an impressive debut and recorded 10 tackles which included 9 solo, 2 assisted, and one for a 5-yard Marauder loss.

Read the game recap here.





Game 5 - vs. York Lions, Homecoming, Montana's Sponsor

The Gryphons kept the momentum going and put on a show for our Homecoming crowd! With a final score of 88 – 7, the Gryphons were dominant on both offence and defence, that stats speak for themselves!

Team Statistics		
	YORK	GUELPH
Total Yards	182	728
Pass Yards	102	502
Rushing Yards	87	227
Penalty Yards	7-66	8-97
1st Downs	12	33
3rd Downs	3-4	2-3
4th Downs	0-0	0-0
TOP	26:43	27:14

It was great to see many alumni come back to their alma mater for the Homecoming festivities! We started bright and early with our Chili Bowl, coordinated by Dan Crabbe. Congratulations to Jay Ross and Christine Bramson for being crowned this year's winners!



Before the Gryphon squad took the field, we had our annual Glory Bowl where former Football alumni have the chance to play a game of touch football. It was great to see so many former players re-connecting and to see players from various decades take the field together.



Less than 2 minutes into the first quarter, the Gryphons got on the board early with a touchdown pass from rookie QB <u>Tristan Aboud</u> to 3rd year receiver, <u>Vyshonne Janusas</u>. The TD's continued all game long, and every time we entered the endzone, Jeremiah Junior, the cannon at Celebration Corner went off with a bang! Thank to Montana's and the Lang Innovation Team for sponsoring this initiative! In addition, Montana's provided ribs for our Gryphon POP Tailgate that our fans were able to enjoy pre-game. Thank you, Montana's!



QB Tristan Aboud had himself a game! With 6 touchdowns, he set a new Gryphons record for passing touchdowns. Previous record was set by Justin Dunk (2006) and Wally Gabler (1992) with

5. Current country singer Owen Riegling was our half-time performer and we had our Gryphon Cheerleading squad bring the noise all day long!

A perfect weather day, a sold out crowd, and a victory – it was a Homecoming to remember!

Read the game recap here.





Game 6 - vs. Waterloo Warriors

After a close contest on the field for the majority of the game, the Gryphons suffered a tough loss to the Waterloo Warriors. The red, black and gold lost 30 - 23 and move to 3 - 3 on the season. The team will look to reset and prepare for their next match-up against the Queen's Gaels on October 14^{th} .

Read the game recap here.





CELEBRATIONS

Players of the Game

Each week, 3 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 September, please check out our website!

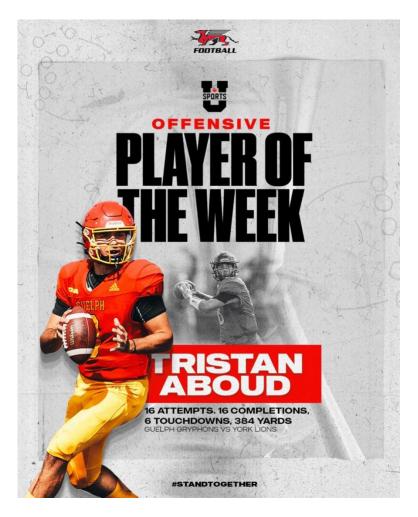
OUA Offensive and USports Offensive Player of the Week

Congratulations to rookie QB, Tristan Aboud for being named the OUA and USports Offensive Player of the Week after a dominant performance in Game 5 against the York Lions.

Big things ahead for #8!

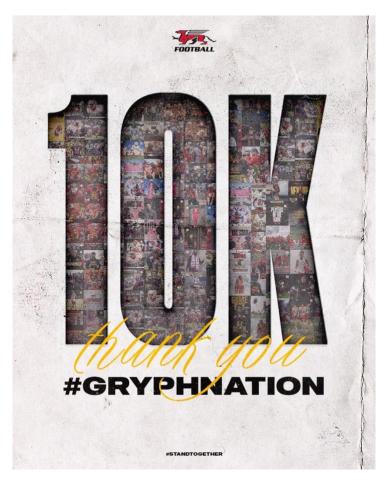
Read the news release here.





10K on Instagram

10K followers strong! The Gryphon Football media team reached a big milestone and hit 10,000 followers on Instagram. It's been a great journey building out our media accounts and sharing content with our followers. We look forward to continuing this momentum!



Fred Dunbar Endowment Celebration and Therapy Room Unveiling

On September 9, donors to the Fred Dunbar initiative came together to celebrate the man many remember for his laugh, his sense of humour and his deep devotion and concern for others. Fred Dunbar, Athletic Therapist for the Guelph Gryphons from 1968-1976, passed away in November 2021. To recognize Fred and to celebrate his legacy at the University of Guelph, over 70 alumni, friends and family raised over \$40,000 to establish the Fred Dunbar Student-Trainer endowment fund and honored him by naming the Fred Dunbar Athletic Therapy room in the Gryphon Football Pavilion.

The day was highlighted by the unveiling of the therapy room where Fred's daughter, Leah spoke on behalf of the Dunbar family followed by the current Head Athletic Therapist Dave Wright. Dave, once a student of Fred, brought Fred's legacy full circle. Long-time friend and football alumnus Bruce Ravensdale spoke on behalf of all the donors. Bruce, and hockey alumnus John Marshall were instrumental in the success of the Dunbar initiative.

Thank you to all who joined us on the 9th and who gave to support the Dunbar initiative.





National Coaches Week

In honour of National Coaches Week (September $16-24^{th}$) we wanted to give a big shoutout to our incredible coaches for all the work they do to elevate our program both on and off the field!

To view our full list of coaches, check out our website!



THE HERD IS COMING

This new initiative 'The Herd is Coming' has been a great addition to our home game experience! Thank you, Montana's for sponsoring!

Alumni offensive linemen are gathering 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 will be 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 Laurier Golden Hawks was awarded to <u>Daniel Hocevar</u>. The 6'4 offensive lineman from Hamilton was dominant in the run game all afternoon making key blocks downfield!

<u>Julian lamundo</u>, a 6'2 offensive guard received the HERD play of the game in our recent Homecoming game. Julian protected our QB all day and has been a great addition to our OL!

If you have played Offensive Line and are not receiving these invites, please reach out to Bill Brown at brownw@uoguelph.ca to make sure you are promptly added to The Herd mailing list. Members of The Herd committee are Mike MacDonald, Brett McCallum, Dan Crabbe and supported by Bill Brown.





FEATURED PLAYER

There are 22 Universities in Ontario, and many located in the Southern region. When high school students are making the decision about what post-secondary institution to attend, they are often considering the academic program, the extra-curricular opportunities, and the city that the school resides in. But for students that live out of province and want to attend school in Ontario, they need to consider many other factors, such as proximity to the airport, how to transport all their belongings across the country, and more.

Our newsletter feature for this month, is 1st year, Defensive Back, <u>Nate Slawter</u>. He hails from Nova Scotia, where he attended Auburn Drive High School. Nate credits his former high school teammate and current Gryphon QB <u>Troy Hawkins</u>, for introducing him to the program. After visiting the campus in January 2022, Nate knew that the University of Guelph was the perfect academic fit for him.

"Leaving home and family was a big decision for me, but I knew that the resources and competition level in Ontario would help me grow as a player."

Nate got his first experience of Gryphon Football when he was in Grade 11, when his team visited the U of G while they were playing in a nearby 7-on-7 tournament. Not only was that his first time being at the university, but also one of his first times being in Ontario. His recruiting process with the Gryphon's officially began at the Canada Cup, where he met Coach Surya. After keeping in contact throughout his grade 12 year, Nate came on an official visit in January 2022. Campus can look quite different in January compared to the summer, so Nate was quite impressed when he arrived in Ontario this past August, about a week before Training Camp.

In his first year at the university, Nate has already made strides, dressing for games, and getting some playing time. He admits that the speed of the game was quite different from what he was used to in high school. Fortunately, Gryphon vets like Devynn Cromwell, Miles La Foucade and Anakin Guthrie were there to help him adjust to the playbook and the pace of the game.

"It's been great to have an opportunity to be on the field. I've made some great plays, but also some mistakes. It's been a learning moment for me and I'm really grateful for the veterans' reassurance that they made similar mistakes in their rookie year. The coaches and my teammates are all here to support one another and I think this group is going to make some noise in the OUA."

Despite living far away from his hometown, Nate has still managed to find a sense of community at the university. He has been impressed with the amount of academic support he has received through the SAM (Student-Athlete Mentorship) program and within the Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics. He mentioned that he receives daily emails about events and opportunities happening within the Business school and on campus.

"There is always something happening on campus, every time I walk into the University Centre, there is some informational booths about student clubs, job postings, resources on campus and more. I really appreciate all the opportunities available for students outside of the classroom to get involved."

For most of our players, they can head back to their hometown throughout the semester, but for out of province students, that isn't always the case.

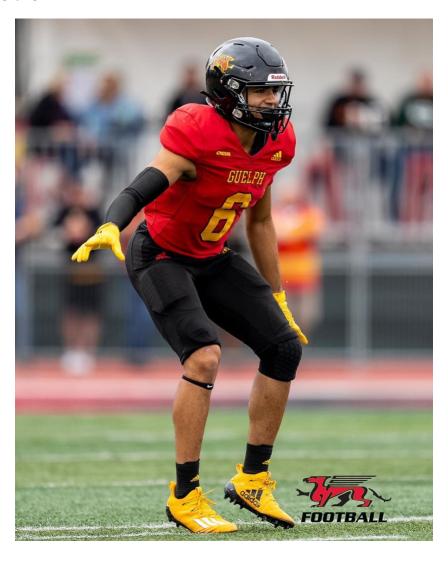
"I don't necessarily have the option to head home every once in awhile to see my family, so I really appreciate that there is such a sense of family and community within the program. My Dad actually came to our home-opener and surprised me, and so I had the opportunity to show him the campus and the city."

Another big adjustment for first year students can often be cooking for themselves, or learning how to budget for grocery bills and food costs.

"I originally thought I would cook lots and go to the grocery store, but with how busy my schedule is, I find myself eating on campus at Creelman Hall and the University Centre. The food is amazing here at the U of G so I'm quite happy to leave the cooking up the chefs!"

"There is a real sense of community and a family atmosphere both within the team and the entire campus, and I'm happy to be a part of that."

Thank you, Nate for being this month's newsletter feature! We wish you all the best with your rookie season at the U of G!





FEATURED ALUMNUS

Keeping with the theme of out-of-province athletes, our alumnus feature this month is Saskatchewan native, <u>Thomas Bresciani.</u>

He played for the gryphons from 2016 - 2018, and previously spent 5 years in the CFJL before attending the University of Guelph. Thomas was looking for a place to continue his career and pursue his dreams of playing in the CFL.

"I looked at all the rosters of the teams across Canada, checking out how many 5th years, or seniors, they had, I broke down their depth chart and spent a good amount of time analyzing the roster list. Guelph only had a few senior receivers that year, and both got drafted, which speaks to the quality of players graduating from their program. I reached out to the team and got connected with the staff and begun the process. What I appreciated about the recruiting process, was that the coaches said, 'we have a young receiving core, there is a spot available, but you have to earn it.'

After having conversations with the coaching staff, looking at the campus using Google Street view and checking out the team's profile on social media, he made his commitment and drove 29 hours straight from Saskatchewan to Guelph.

"What stood out the most to me was the professionalism of Guelph football. The facilities, the opportunities to travel with the team, the extra-curriculars that we take part in such as volunteering in the community – it truly resembles an NCAA program."

One of Bresciani's highlight memories during his time as a Gryphon was getting engaged to Brittany, his now wife after the Pink Game vs Laurier in 2017 on the Gryphon Logo.

"Gryphon football always took pride in being a family and it was magical to have such a life changing moment happen in front of my gryphon family. Gryphon football will always be a part of our family because of that and we take great pride in this!"

On the field, standout memories include his first TD against Windsor in his rookie year, seeing Kian Schaffer Baker's one-handed catch against Ottawa and of course the iconic game against Ottawa in 2018 that sent the Gryphons to the Yates Cup Final.

It was a cold, rainy Saturday afternoon in November and the gryphons were facing off against Ottawa in the Yates Cup Semi-finals. They were down 18-0 at the half, yet Thomas noted that the team was not concerned or worried at all heading into the second half.

"It was important that we directed our focus to what was ahead of us, not what was behind us. Being down at the half was a situation that was not new to us. We had been in it before, and we know what we needed to do to come out with a win."

With less than a minute to go, the Gryphons were down by 2. QB <u>Theo Landers</u> threw a Hail Mary pass to Bresciani, who caught it and ran into the endzone to put the Gryphons in the lead.

"After the ball was snapped, I remember that Theo didn't throw the ball right away, so I knew something was up. I didn't see the safety in the middle of the field, so I turned and started running. I realized that I was faster than the guy covering me, so I tried to stay in front of him. I remember

locking eyes with Theo, and I was thinking that there was no way he was going to throw it. And honestly, it felt like time stopped. Turns out I was wrong, I saw the ball be thrown up in the air and I caught it. I remember thinking to myself that nothing was going to top that moment. As a team, as an athlete - those are the moments you dream about. A game winning catch and celebrating with your teammates."

The Gryphons ended up winning 27 - 22 and made it to the Yates Cup Finals. Check out the video of the catch <u>here!</u>

After graduating, Thomas returned back home to Saskatchewan where he is a strength and conditioning coach at the University of Regina. Additionally, he is currently the youngest official in Regina officiating CJFL and USport games. He gets a sideline view of some of our current Gryphons in the CFL who play for the Saskatchewan Roughriders, as Thomas is a ball-boy for the past three seasons with the CFL and is a proud member of Rider Nation, the fanbase for the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

"It's great getting to see the boys live out their dreams and play in the CFL. The Gryphon bond is quite strong and I can't wait to come back to the U of G one day to visit my alma mater and catch a game."

Thank you, Thomas for being this month's newsletter feature! Always great catching up with a Gryphon alumni and we look forward to having you back on campus soon!

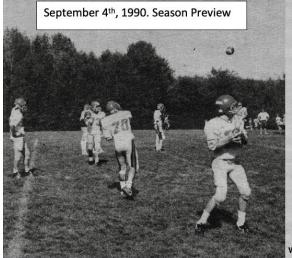






Welcome to GFB – 100.October edition. I am your instructor John Casasanta, your resident Gryphon Football historian. GFB -100 is a master's class where we will delve into interesting and historical facts about all things Gryphon Football. Each month I will provide you with an interesting fact about the 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. The monthly goal is that you find this section informative and educational. I look forward to sharing with you all, so without further ado, 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 1990-1995. We will exclude the 92 team from this lesson since we will be honouring them and the winning of the 92 Yates Cup in next month's edition. Thanks to the staff of the Ontarion 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.

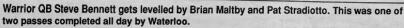




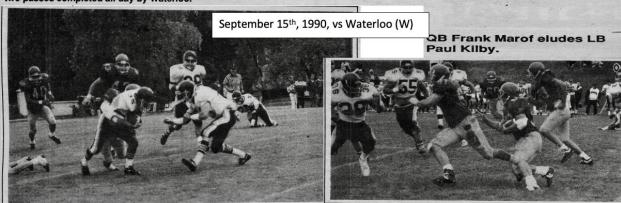


Gryphons run the "O" in preparation for the season.





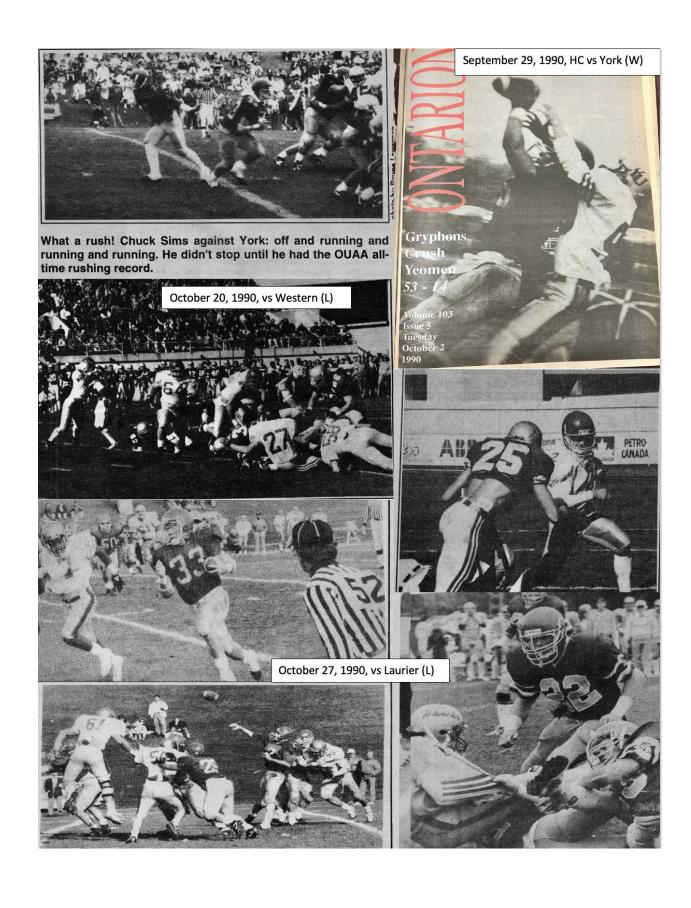




The Warriors' Peter Wawrow is taken down trying to return a punt.

Chuck Sims (ball carrier) in the hip pocket of his blocker, Jim Stewart. Sims rushed for 150 yards on the day.

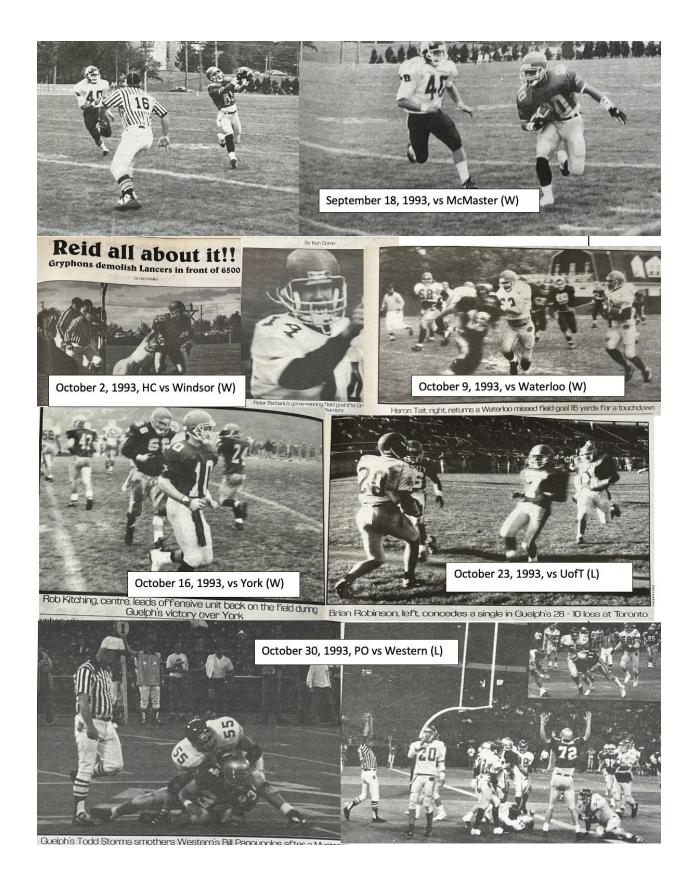






TOUCHDOWN! Gryphs quarterback Wally Gabler busts through Waterloo line to score six. Guelph lost the game 33-7 and may end up losing Gabler for the season.





CIAU FOOTBALL TOP TEN

(as of November 9,1993)

- 1. Saint Mary's Huskies
- 2. Toronto Blues
- 3 Calgary Dinosaurs
- Concordia Stingers 4.
- Western Mustangs 5.
- **Bishop Gaiters**
- Alberta Golden Bears 7.
- Acadia Axeman 8.
- Laurier Golden Hawks

Argos Return

to Guelph

Boatmen start camp this week

10. Guelph Gryphons

by Garry Kollins

Football Gryphs CFL Bound Eskimos use first pick to grab Guelph lineman



Ango bound: Dave Inwin was selected in the fourth round by Toronto on Saturday. The Guelph Gryphon football 1 am very happy to go to Ed-monton and to be their first pick," ex-plained wessleing. 1 wanted an op-portunity to go to a CPL camp. It didn' really make much of a difference where."

where:
Meanwhile, Irwin, who was a first team OUAA all was picked by the round, Irwin may hing the Argo team a but Gryphon head coach Dan McNally thinks the Argos is good place for Dave said when a raining car arising car

"I'm an individual player,

McNally. 'Rob was their first pick there-fore they are serious about him.'
And Wesseling is serious about
Edmonton. He said the has no of fear any competition from players south of the border and believes he will make the tram

Similarly, Irwin was thrilled about being drafted by Toronto and is anxious to the control of th

Award **Nominees**



Rookie of the Year

Jennifer Dewer-Ice Hockey Hillary Stephenson- Swimming Rena Wesolowski- Basketball

Paul Eldridge-Baskerball Zoltan Hunyady-Wrestling Kevin Mallow-Football Todd Wetzel-Hockey Paul Donald-Swimming

Most Improved Athlete

Female

Kerri Guignon-Basketball Jennifer Hughey-Field Hockey Margaret Krawchuk-Volleyball Caitlin Tuckey-Ice Hockey Male

Charles Assmann-Football Chris Baldauf-Basketball Brad Haelzle-Hockey

March 22, 1994.

President's Trophy (Academic/Athletic) Female

Kristi Adomo-Basketball Sarah Callaghan- Swimming Claire Grasty- Field Hockey Katy MacDonlad-Figure Skating Danika Van Proosdij-Nordic Skiir Male

Chris Baldauf-Basketball Brendon Larson-Swimming Rob Wesseling-Football

Most Sportsmanlike(W.) Mitchell Award)

Female

Danielle Cation-Swimming Liz Duval-Hockey Laura Sharp-Field Hockey Sue Ann Staff-Figure Skating Stephanie Sears-Nordic/ Skating Steve Sweetnam-Swimming

Dave Adams-Nordic Skiing Steve McKee-Football Chris O'Rourke-Basketball Eric Ross-Hockey Steve Sweetnam-Swimming

Athlete of the Year

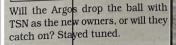
Liz Duval-Hockey Liz Espositio-Field Hockey Meridith Young-Figure Skating Kara Bowman-Swimming Kathy Butler- Cross Country

Andrew Henry-Rugby Zolton Hunyady-Wrestling Dave Irwin-Football Chris ORourke-Basketball Steve Sweetnam-Swimming



Way to go Dave: Footbell star Dave Irwin won the male athelete of the year last Tuesday night. The wide receiver hopes to make the Argos next year.



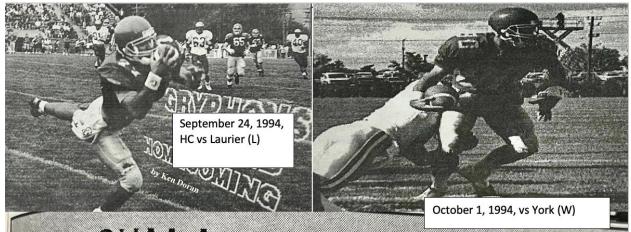


June 7, 1994.



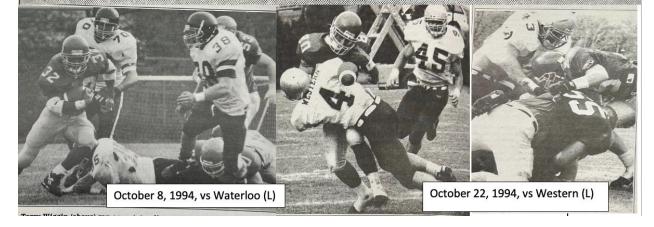
University of Toronto Blues

September 10, 1994, vs U of T (L)



OUAA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Kevin Reid, a slot back with the Guelph Gryphons football team, is the OUAA athlete of the week. The fourth year commerce student from Stoney Creek caught nine passes for 243 yards and three touchdowns. He returned a kickoff 79 yards for another major as the Gryphons defeated York 28 to 18. Reid broke his own OUAA record for receiving yardage in a game



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 Ontarion'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 Ontarion. I look forward to seeing you next time when we discuss all things Gryphon Football. Class is dismissed.



FEATURED FOGF MEMBER





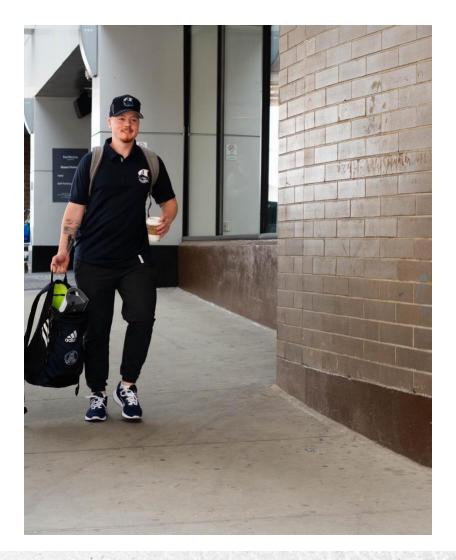
GRYPHONS GONE PRO

We thought we would change it up a bit this month and feature someone who used to be on staff with our team and is now working in the CFL!

Trevor Keough is a graduate of the Bachelor of Commerce program and worked with the Gryphon Football Program as a video coordinator. He is currently the Video Assistant for the Toronto Argonauts.

The Argos are having an impressive season, with the best start in Franchise history and will be hosting the Eastern Final at BMO Field in November.

Congratulations on all your accomplishments, Trevor!



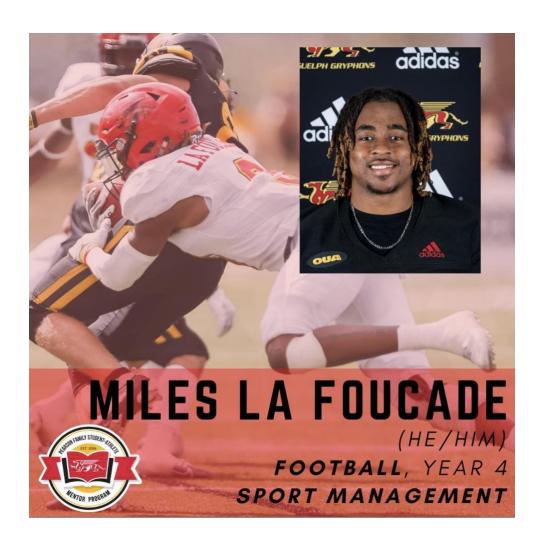


DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that current football players, <u>Spencer Kennedy</u>, <u>Scott Murray</u> and <u>Miles La Foucade</u> are mentors with the Pearson Family Student-Athlete Mentor (SAM) Program?

The SAM Program is designed to provide support for all student-athletes at the University of Guelph. A great initiative for our Gryphons, and we are proud to have 3 football athletes representing the team!

More information can be found here.









SAVE THE DATE

HOME GAMES

-Saturday, October 14th @ 1 PM vs. Queen's

AWAY GAMES

-Saturday, October 21st @ 1 PM vs. Carleton

Season tickets and single tickets can be purchased at gryphons.ca/tickets



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



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