

A Look Back

Gryphons Expand Staff

The Gryphons welcomed Jean-François (JF) Joncas to their staff this month as the new Offensive Coordinator. Former OC, Todd Galloway, moved to a new position as full-time Director of Recruiting.

Galloway's role is unique within the OUA. "What we want to do is just bring more organization to the recruiting process," Galloway said. "Having more organization and with the resources that we have, (we will be) able to recruit more nationally and internationally, and will also be able to do it in a manner where we're not taxing our coaching staff".

JF is joining us from Champlain College Lennoxville in Quebec where he was the Head Coach for the varsity football team. In 11 seasons at Champlain, Joncas guided the Cougars to seven Bowl d'Or championship appearances in CEGEP Division 1 league, winning the league final in both 2013 and 2015. Joncas was an Offensive Lineman for Laval University where he won the Vanier Cup in 1999 and 2003.



Augustine Shines at Combine

The Gryphon running back was invited to the Canadian Football League's national combine in Regina where he was out to show the teams that he is professional football material.

"I'm very privileged and honoured," Augustine said before attending. "They only invite the first 30 and they'll add another 15 or 20. Just to be recognized at that level, (I feel) very privileged and honoured. I was very excited, but at the same time I knew how hard I've worked the last four or five years"

Since the end of the 2016 season, Augustine has been preparing to participate in a CFL combine.

Augustine, Page 2

Connect with us
@GryphonFootball



(From Page 1 Augustine)



Rumour has it that Powerhouse Lane will become a pre-game gathering place for students, fans, and alumni alike and will be known as “Champions’ Corner”.

It may even feature championship plaques for all past Gryphon champions – regardless of their sport – as well as miniature goal posts where fans can show off their skills and win various prizes.

“It’s a lot different in the aspect that in the season you’re preparing to play football,” he said. “For this, you’re preparing for a little bit of football, but also for testing.”

Augustine has dreamed of becoming a professional athlete since he was a kid. At first it was to play pro basketball. Then it was to become a professional boxer. “My life could literally change this year and go into my career and not only my career, my dream,” he said.

As a sociology student who is also taking leadership courses, Augustine feels the key to success in school for a student-athlete is to stay on top of everything. He has advice for the players who’ll be freshmen with the Gryphons in 2017 or even further in the future:

“Any kid who comes to the Gryphon program is going to get the best,” he said. “My advice is to take advantage of all the things that are given to you. The No. 1 thing is academics. You can only play football for so long. From the tutors that are given to us, mentors on the team, the SAM program – use all those resources. What it comes down to is who wants to put in that extra effort. It’s not going to be handed to you. It doesn’t work like that.”

At the combine, Augustine pleasantly surprised CFL staff with his abilities, especially his smooth route running on day two. They thoroughly enjoyed how he was able to match his on-paper physicality on the field, and quickly became the one to watch.

Original article written by Rob Massey

#NextGryphon



The Gryphons are proud to welcome Mitchell Thiele from Stoney Creek, ON. The 6-foot-3, 275-pound defensive lineman will be joining our family come September.

Thiele played in the 2015 Football Canada Cup and was named a 2016 OFC team all-star.

We are excited to have such a great addition to the team!

From the Parents of Players

What does POP mean to you?

“POP has done a fantastic job in keeping us informed about all aspects of the team. This is a special group of wonderful people and we are grateful for all that they do”

-Tracy and Tom Drouillard, parents of 4th year Gryphon Derek Drouillard





Gryphons in the Community

On March 16, our Gryphons took part in the Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser at Woodlawn Bowl in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters Guelph. So far, the campaign has raised over \$13,000 for the organization. These funds will be used to increase the outreach of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in our community. Go Gryphons!



Celebration

Congratulations to Gryphon alumni Mike O'Shea on being inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame!



To The Hill With Kevin MacNeill

I have been very pleased with the work and dedication our team has put in this last month. With the new Offensive Coordinator, JF Joncas, and a couple more additions that will be named later, the Gryphons have been busy and moving towards our team's goals. The month of March saw two mini camps and many early morning skills sessions. Leadership roles are being defined and our culture continues to put the *Team First*. We had an integrated practice against Laurier that allowed many of our young players to showcase their improvements.

It's an exciting time here at Guelph. Our \$10 million Pavilion is taking shape, our new coaches are settling in, our recruit class is one of the best in Canada and we are currently making plans for our 2018 Spring camp at IMG in Florida. But nothing overshadows our focus on August 27 as we host Ottawa in our home opener. Go Gryphons!

Did You Know?

There is a feather of an eagle and the fur of a lion buried at centrefield at Alumni Stadium. The Gryphons went undefeated on their field for a record 21 games after the symbolic Gryphon was buried.



Save the Date!

- April 8 | O-Line D-Line Camp
- April 12 | FOGF London Reception
- April 15 | Elite Skills Camp
- April 19 | FOGF Guelph Reception
- April 22 | Specialists Camp

Featured Alumni

Peter Partridge Jr. was the recipient of the 1997 Wildman Trophy, and is a generous donor of the Peter Partridge Jr. Family Scholarship. This scholarship is given to a current member of the football team who demonstrates extraordinary athletic and leadership qualities, and who has achieved a minimum 70% average, or equivalent, during the previous academic year as a student-athlete.

