



Gryphons' Lair  
Issue 69 – October 2022

The month of September was a busy one filled with five regular season Gryphon football games and the mark of a new academic school year for our players. A very special shoutout to our Academic Coordinator, Lindsay Williams, for all her support to our team as they balance the demands of football while being full-time students. From academic check-ins to reviewing class schedules and keeping the players up-to date on deadlines and due-dates, Lindsay does it all! We are so very fortunate to have her as part of our staff.

It has been great to see so many fans and alumni at our games, both home and away! Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our program, we truly have the best fans in the OUA.

As an ode to homecoming, a few players revealed their hidden *talents* (that might be a bit generous) of singing and dancing in a carpool karaoke video. [Check out](#) the video that was put together by our media crew. Based on the engagement and interaction, we might need to turn this into a series and see what other players have some musical talent!

A reminder to any alumni attending the Gryphon football games, please send Billy Brown a message to let him know you will be at the game so he can connect with you!

Enjoy issue 69 of the Gryphons' Lair!



### Game 2 – Windsor

Alumni Stadium was the place to be on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> as over 7,000 fans packed the stands and the hill to watch the Gryphons face off against the Windsor Lancers. QB Jake Helfrich made his first OUA appearance. Hailing from the University of South Carolina, Helfrich joined the Gryphon squad in late August and has done an incredible job transitioning to learn the Canadian Football system and adapt to the OUA.

Check out this [great article](#) that talks about Jake's decision to attend the U of G.

An impressive performance for Isaiah Smith in the home opener as the 1<sup>st</sup> year running back finished the day with 13 carries for 120 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Unfortunately, the Gryphons fell short in this game with the final score being 28-24 in favour of the Windsor Lancers.

Read the game recap [here](#).

<b><u>Players of the Week</u> – Game 2 vs. Windsor</b>	
<i>Offence</i>	<a href="#">Isaiah Smith</a>
<i>Defense</i>	<a href="#">Brandon Ferigo</a>
<i>Special Teams</i>	<a href="#">Harrison Siriman-Bagayogo</a>



*Pictured: Isaiah Smith and Jake Helfrich*





*Over 7,000 Gryphon Fans for our home opener!*

### **Game 3 – Waterloo**

A victorious day for the Gryphons as they picked up their first win of the season against the Waterloo Warriors. Although the Gryphons faced some extreme heat and a late push by the Warriors in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the boys were able come out victorious with a 41- 35 win.

Congratulations to Jake Helfrich for being named the [OUA player of the week!](#) In only his second game as a Gryphon, Jake went 19-32, logged 370 yards, 3 touchdowns and 0 interceptions.

Read the game recap [here.](#)

<b><a href="#">Players of the Week</a> – Game 3 vs. Waterloo</b>	
<i>Offence</i>	<a href="#">Jake Helfrich</a>

Defense	<a href="#">Miles La Foucade</a>
Special Teams	<a href="#">Eric Stranz</a>



*Pictured: Juwan Jeffrey*



*Pictured: Ryan Ogilvie (14) and Eric Stranz (70)*





*Pictured: Jake Helfrich*

## **Mothers Tea**

On Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, mothers and mother-figures of the players were invited to Alumni Stadium for our annual Mother's Tea event. After a great lunch served by Hospitality Services, our guests were put through a Football 101 lesson by Coach Ryan Sheahan. Not only did they get to learn about the basic rules of the game and review some football lingo/buzz words, they even got a sneak peak at one of the offensive plays from the playbook!

After an intense learning session with the Head Coach, guests were invited to ask questions related to football, academics, and student-life at the U of G.

Special thank you to the Andrea Lack, Karyn Barnes and Cathy Condello for organizing this wonderful event and to the Lang Innovation Team for sponsoring!



### Meet the Team Event – Branion Plaza

One of the greatest parts about being a student-athlete at the U of G is the amount of support on game-day from the entire community. So many Gryphon Fans attend our games, whether it be the student population, the Jr. Gryphon team, and even the professors who teach our players! We wanted to give back to our community and so we put together a homecoming ticket giveaway event in Branion Plaza, which is the central part of the U of G campus. A few of our players staffed the booth and had the chance to connect with other students at the U of G and personally invite them to attend the Homecoming game that was coming up on September 24<sup>th</sup>. A special shoutout to Harrison, a Jr. Gryphon who even had his Mom pick him up from school to come to campus and meet a few of his favourite players!

Thank you to our players [Vyshonne Janusas](#), [Spencer Kennedy](#), [Evan Spangenberg](#), [Laurent Paquin](#), and [Aidan MacKrell](#) for their support with this event!





*Pictured: Vyshonne Janusas (11), Jr. Gryphon - Harrison, Spencer Kennedy (80)*

#### **Game 4 – Ottawa**

The Gryphon squad headed to the nation's capital for Game 4 of the season. It was incredible to see the amount of Gryphon Fans that made the journey to Ottawa to cheer on our boys.

A special shoutout to the POP group for hosting a social event at Three Brewers on the Friday night before the game. Lots of fun was had by everyone who attended, and a perfect way to bring together our Gryphon family!



*Pictured left to right: Cathy Condello, Christine Stranz, Karyn Barnes, Andrea Lack*



Turning the page to Saturday, the game was held at TD Field, home of the Ottawa RedBlacks, and we were lucky enough to have Gryphon Alumni, [Andrew Pickett](#) and [Eric Starczala](#) at the game to cheer on their alma matter.

A tough loss for the Gryphons with the final score being 46-10.

Read the game recap [here](#).

<b>Players of the Week – Game 4 vs. Ottawa</b>	
Offence	<a href="#">Isaiah Smith</a>
Defense	<a href="#">Braeden MacDougall</a>
Special Teams	<a href="#">Seamus Milligan</a>





## Game 5 – Homecoming

If any of our readers have ever experienced Homecoming at the U of G, they know that it is quite a spectacle. Our festivities start on Friday night, with our POP group rallying together and hosting a pig roast the night before the big game. Parents stay up all night to monitor the BBQ and prepare some food to be served at the incredible tailgate party the following day. It was a homecoming for one of our long-standing football families, the Korol's, who donated their time and their RV for the pig roast. We want to thank them so much for their continued support of the program.



Over 8,500 fans gathered at Alumni Stadium on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. This game marked a very special occasion, as we were able to celebrate the 1970 Gryphon Football Team, who were the first group to play at Alumni Stadium. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our beloved Alumni Stadium was in 2020, but due to the pandemic, the celebration had to be pushed to the 2022 season. It was great to see so many people back on campus and reliving the glory days!

Although it was a tough game for the Gryphons, there were some highlight moments with [Anakin Guthrie](#) and [Harrison Siriman-Bagayogo](#) each collecting an interception in the first half.

Watch the highlight videos of [Anakin](#) and [Harrison](#)!

The Gryphon's fell 62-11 to the Queen's Gaels and move to 1-4 on the season. The team heads into a Bye week and will be back in action on Friday, October 7th

Read the game recap [here](#).

<b><a href="#">Players of the Week – Game 5 vs. Queen's</a></b>	
<i>Offence</i>	<a href="#">Isaiah Smith</a>
<i>Defense</i>	<a href="#">Kole Watson</a>
<i>Special Teams</i>	<a href="#">Nick Guardiero</a>



*Pictured: Miles La Foucade*





*Pictured: 1970 Gryphon Football Team*



*Honourary Captains for the Homecoming Game: Gerry Organ and Steve Stewart*



## Anthony Hall Feature

A new addition to the gameday experience this year is the halftime video feature presented by GryphVision.

The first feature of the 2022 season was to celebrate 5<sup>th</sup> year player, [Anthony Hall](#). Aside from his busy football schedule, Anthony is a mentor to students at Willow Road Public School, a local elementary school in Guelph.

We are so proud of Anthony for his dedication and commitment to these kids, and we are lucky to have his leadership on our team.

Watch the full video [here](#).



## Gryphon Gala – Fishing Trip at Lake Obabika

Thank you to Craig Purcell and the [Lake Obabika Lodge](#) staff for their support of the Gryphon Football Gala auction with a 5 night all inclusive fishing package. Gryphon Football alumni Ron Aimola and Brian Cluff enjoyed first class fishing, accommodations, meals, and hospitality.

We made sure Craig was wearing some Gryphon swag before we left!

Don't forget about this Gala Auction Prize for next year, it's an outstanding experience!





*Pictured left to right: Ron Aimola and Brian Cluff*

### **Dynamic Duo – Ryan and Pat Sheahan**

The second edition of the halftime video feature highlighted Head Coach Ryan Sheahan and Offensive Line Coach Pat Sheahan.

Watch the full video [here](#).

In addition to the video being released, a great article was put together by the University of Guelph. Check out the full article [here](#).

### **Stu Lang Era Reunion Dinner**

Players, coaches, and support staff who were a part of the Stu Lang Head Coach Era from 2010 – 2015 got together on Homecoming weekend to celebrate those special six years of Gryphon Football.

The event brought together many folks who had a major impact on the Gryphon Football Program from 2010 – 2015. We welcomed back Gryphons who had moved on to other things. From the former Gryphon team manager (Maddie Norwell), to POP representation (Christine Korol) and athletic staff (Teresa Budwal and Jordan Foley) – we want to thank everyone for making an effort to come out to this reunion. Everyone in attendance played a part in the team's success and ultimate winning of the Yates Cup in 2015

It was great to watch back some game film from those days and relive those special moments that happened as a team both on and off the field. A special thank you to [Derek Drouillard](#), and [Zack Androschuk](#) for sharing some stories with our guests about what it meant to play for Stu Lang and also to Brian Cluff for sharing some highlights moments with all of us about what it meant to coach alongside Stu.

Great to have so many alumni come back together for this special night, #ForeverAGryphon



*Pictured: Zach Androschuk*

## **Glory Bowl**

Before the official game kicked off at 1pm at Alumni Stadium, we had our annual Glory Bowl take place on the field. This game is an opportunity for alumni to come together for a friendly game of touch football. Although the pace of play might have decreased since they were in a Gryphon uniform, there was still some pretty good football talent that was showcased! Thanks to everyone who came out for the 2022 Glory Bowl! Start practicing for next year!





*Pictured: Gryphon alumni, Justin Dunk*



### **Jake Reinhart – Retirement**

Jake Reinhart, Gryphon alumni and Long snapper for the Toronto Argonauts has officially announced his [retirement](#) from the CFL. Congratulations on a successful football career, Jake!



## ***Announcements***

Gryphon Football is sad to share the news that Bob Steckle passed away on Sunday, September 25, 2022. Bob was a football player and wrestler during his time at Guelph. He competed for Canada at three Olympics, likely one of the most decorated Gryphons of all time. At the 1956 Games, he was the flag carrier for Canada. Bob won the Wildman Trophy in 1951 and was inducted into the inaugural class of the U of G Hall of Fame in 1984.

Bob and his wife Kay created two scholarships at the U of G one in football and one in wrestling, they also named the women's wrestling locker room. The obituary can be found [here](#).

Our thoughts are with Bob's family during this difficult time.







## Featured Player

It takes dedication and commitment to be a student-athlete at the U of G. And this month's player feature is no exception. In fact, the interview for this article took place at 9pm on a Tuesday night after practice, because it was the only free time in this student's schedule.

For this month's newsletter feature, we are proud to highlight #9 [Scott Murray](#), one of the Gryphon captains, who plays the position of defensive end. The 2022 season marks Scott's 3<sup>rd</sup> year of eligibility and year 4 of school. Scott is currently in the Bachelor of Commerce program, majoring in Real Estate and minoring in Finance.

Scott came to the U of G and the Gryphon Football Program at an exciting time. The business school had recently been named to the [Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics](#), and it was Head Coach Ryan Sheahan's first season leading the team.

"The U of G was a great fit for me. A few buddies from my high school (St. Marcellinus) were in their upper years at the U of G and were really enjoying it and then from an academic perspective, I liked what the real estate program had to offer. As soon as I came on my recruiting visit, I knew instantly that I was going to commit to Guelph."

Our interview with Scott took place in the boardroom at the pavilion. We couldn't help but talk about the amazing facilities our players have access to at the U of G.

"The pavilion exudes prestige. You feel it as soon as you walk in here. This building encourages excellence and that is what I hope we can strive towards."

In addition to the faculties and the resources, Scott noted that a big part of his development as a person and as a player, was learning from the veterans during his rookie year.

"The 2019 season was definitely one to remember. I had a lot of guys that I got to learn from, such as [AJ Allen](#), [Job Reinhart](#), [Tavius Robinson](#), and [Dotun Aketepe](#). Looking back on it now, I can really appreciate how lucky the other rookies such as [Kristian Stewart](#) and [Spencer Kennedy](#) and I were to learn from them, their veteran leadership was incredible."

With almost 40 freshmen joining the Gryphon squad this year, it is a different balance of players in regards to rookies and veterans.

"We have more rookies than seniors this year. This recruit class is such a valuable part of the team this season. I learned a lot from the vets during my first year, and I've taken some of those things and brought it to the team, but I also try and do my own thing. I like to lead by example and encourage our players to be disciplined."

Being a student in the Bachelor of Commerce Program, Scott's academic schedule is quite demanding. [Classes](#) within the Real Estate major include *Intermediate Macroeconomics*, *Financial Management*, and *Corporate Social Responsibility*. Scott's parents are entrepreneurs and develop real estate and so this program will really set him up for success to eventually work with his family.

"Some weeks are academically challenging, for sure. But regardless of if you are playing on a team or involved in extra-curriculars, those weeks will happen. And so as long as I stick to my schedule and have a routine, I am able to get things done, from an academic perspective and still the flexibility in my schedule for the demands of football."

Scott has had an impressive start to the 2022 season and was named 'Player of the Week' after Game 1 against Western as he tallied 2.5 of Guelph's 3 sacks for the game.

In addition to being 'physically' prepared to play, a big part of Scott's game day checklist is to be mentality prepared.

"The mental side of the game is so important. If you are not mentally prepared, you cannot perform to the best of your ability and ultimately you won't be able to play for your teammates, which I think is the most important part of the game."

Dan Rossi recently joined our support staff as our team Chaplin. Dan leads weekly seminars and works with our players on the mental and emotional side of being an athlete. Scott mentioned he's seen firsthand the effect that a tough loss or just the demands of being a student-athlete can have on people and so having these seminars with Dan has been beneficial.

*Performance in football, as in many sports is forged in the disciplines of training, practice and execution. Scott, like many of his colleagues embody these virtues and whether during a practice or on game day, the evidence can be observed in real time. Scott has brought into his preparation the ever-important emotional regulation and the mental repetitions of game day readiness, which when combined with his athleticism brings him to the next level of play. The incorporation of the mental game is often understood by athlete's, and often not given enough emphasis - Scott's ability to work these two rhythms of training into his sport has been impressive and valuable for him both on and off the field.*

-Dan Rossi

Thank you, Scott for taking the time out of your busy schedule to chat with us about your experience as a Gryphon Football player!







## Featured Alumnus

The Ferraro brothers – a name that everyone knows. The dynamic duo of Gabriel (Gabe) and Daniel Ferraro have been a critical part of the Gryphon Football program success since 2011.

Although he has a very busy schedule as an up and coming real estate agent, we were able to fit in an interview with legendary alumni kicker, [Gabriel Ferraro](#) for this month's alumni feature.

Gabe's older brother, [Daniel](#) was the first one to become a Gryphon, and is currently a part of our coaching squad. When Daniel first came to the U of G, the program was in a state of transition, and Daniel was a part of the team that really put Guelph on the map within the OUA.

"When Daniel joined the team in 2011, I was able to experience the campus, the city, the POP tailgate, the food on campus, the vibe on game days and I loved it. However, through the recruitment process, to be honest, Guelph was not number 1. It was because I didn't want to copy my brother. I wanted to go somewhere else and make my own mark. But during my grade 12 year, I started visiting other universities and I wasn't getting that same 'home feel' that Guelph had. The fan base wasn't as electric, and I just wasn't sold on another school."

Obviously, it was a good news story for us, because we had both Daniel and Gabe as part of the team in 2014. The brothers had one season together where they were both on the roster as players. 2014 marked Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> year and Gabe's 1<sup>st</sup> year. 2015 should have been Daniel's 5<sup>th</sup> year but he had to have knee surgery. Daniel moved into a coaching role during that season and Gabe was able to learn from his older brother.

"The other schools that I was looking at, they all had amazing veteran kickers. So, part of my decision was do I go with the option of learning from an amazing kicker, but it would be someone that I didn't know? Or option 2, also learning from an amazing kicker, but being able to learn from my big brother. Daniel could give me more than just a coach's perspective. He knew how I think about things. After a missed kick, he knew my thought process. Rather than someone just giving me general advice, he knew exactly what I needed to hear."

We wouldn't be doing this article justice, if we didn't chat about the incredible involvement of Daniel and Gabe's parents, Bruna and Domenic.

Many Gryphon football players have had dinner with the Ferraro family on long weekends, such as Thanksgiving or Easter, when the players were unable to go home and visit with their immediate family. Bruna was the heart and soul of our POP group and spent many hours organizing and coordinating events to provide our fans and community with the best gameday experience.

"Having my parents be so involved in the program was incredible. They were able to experience the wins and losses with us. I knew some of my friends at other universities told me their parents wouldn't even know who they were playing that week, which shocked me because that would never happen at Guelph. Our POP group was such a big extension of parents for everyone. For the guys that were from out of town, they had parental figures in Guelph, all thanks to the POP group."

Gabe was drafted to the CFL in 2018 and ended up playing for the Saskatchewan Roughriders. An interesting story that Gabe shared with us, is that he lived with [Jamal Hookers'](#) mother in Saskatchewan. Jamal is a Gryphon Football alumnus and his parents invited Gabe into their home when he needed a place to stay.

After his time in the CFL, Gabe made the career transition into investment and real estate. While playing in Saskatchewan and during the cancelled season of covid, he was able to get his license. Throughout the process, Gabe got connected with [Nick FitzGibbon](#), a gryphon alumni, CFL alumni and current real estate agent in Guelph. Gabe was eager to learn from him about the transition into the career of a real estate agent.

These types of mentorship and connection pieces are a great testament to the support that our alumni provide to one another.

Gabe is in his first official year as a real estate agent and although he commented that it is a lot of hard work and can be grind, he felt that football really prepared him well for this part of his professional life.

“As a football player, I learned to love working hard. Being in the weight room when there wasn’t a game for 6 months was challenging and mentally tough. But I was taught that doing the little things right, and getting the details worked out is important. Even though it might seem like there is no pay-off in the immediate, knowing it will pay dividends in the future was something that I had to learn and adapt to.”

Gabe has been a great supporter of the program and has come back to many games to cheer on Daniel, who is currently the Gryphon Football Kicking Coach. In addition, Gabe has been to many U of G and community events, recently attending the Hall of Fame Dinner in June of 2022 to honour Stu Lang.

When reminiscing about his days on the team, Gabe noted that there were of course highlight moments such as playing in his first homecoming game and kicking a field goal, or watching [Thomas Bresciani](#) catch a pass from [Theo Landers](#) to put them in the Yates Cup. However, Gabe mentioned that he treasures the moments off the field even more.

“It was moments like the bus ride home after a big win, hanging out in the lockerroom, going to Franks on Saturday nights, and going to the quarry after summer workouts. In the moment you don’t think it’s anything, but honestly looking back I hold on to those memories even more so than the games. As a kicker, I wasn’t in a lot of the meetings and during games I was typically off to the side, so and my involvement with the team was very different than a typical player. And so, for me I really cherished the memories of team bonding off the field.”

In our final minutes with Gabe, we asked him to share some advice for those currently on the Gryphon Football roster: *“Enjoy and cherish the relationship that you build, that is what matters and what you will remember. The Injury bug can happen– it just takes one moment that could possibly end your career. Or even if you go on to have a long career as a football player, the game will stop at some point. Give as much as you can to football, but don’t let it consume you. Whether it was a good or bad game, I would let it determine my emotions for that entire week. And so, I encourage the players to cherish the moments playing the game, but really hold onto those memories off the field, because it’s those relationships that will stick with you forever.”*

Thank you, Gabe for connecting with us and for sharing a little bit about your memories as a Gryphon Football Player. You were instrumental to our team’s success, and we are so glad to have you as part of the Gryphon Football legacy!



*Pictured left to right: Gabe Ferraro and Daniel Ferraro*





## **Featured FOGF Member**

The Korol name is very well known within the Gryphon Football community. Whether you know Darrell from all his support with our homecoming pig roast and tailgates, or maybe you met Christine during a POP event and she served you some delicious food at the tailgate. Or maybe you know that their son, [Luke](#), was a Linebacker for the Gryphons from 2014 – 2018 and was drafted to the CFL. Either way, this family has made an incredible impact on the Gryphon Football Program.

We are very excited to highlight Christine Korol for this month's FOGF Newsletter Feature.

The Korol family first got involved with the program back in 2014 when Luke (Darryl and Christine's son) came to campus for his U of G recruiting visit. If you talk to any football coach or player, most likely they can recall the specifics of a game, or of a play. Christine noted that she can recall every detail from Luke's recruit visit in 2014, it was a day that she will never forget.

"As a parent, you want to protect your kid. But we also had to realize that they are in university and it's important for them to learn how to make decisions on their own. I really appreciated how the coaches emphasized to us that they are there to help develop our sons as players, but also people. The coaches made it very clear that they want us (the parents) to be involved and support our sons. Because when they have a bad day at practice, or a tough loss, or a challenging time balancing school, we need to be there for our kids. Regarding football, the coaching is done by the staff, and I respected that. But they did such an incredible job reminding us of our role as parents to our sons while they were in university as it such a pivotal time of transition for our sons."

A highlight moment of Luke's recruit visit was when they started explaining the POP group, and what it entailed. Christine recalled that she was so excited about it but didn't want to ask any questions as she didn't want to embarrass Luke!

"You know your kids, and I could tell by the look on Luke's face that he was going to choose the U of G and choose the Gryphon Football program. Once the day was done, we got dropped off at our car and Luke looked at me and said 'I'm in.' That day, I saw our son make a confident decision that would be with him for the rest of his life, and I am so grateful I got to be there for that entire moment."

Gameday, whether it be a home or away game, became a Korol family affair while Luke was on the team. With the exception of a bye week, most football games are every Saturday in the month of September and October and Christine and Darrell didn't want to miss one game. Often, they had family gatherings at the football tailgate and it was the best way to all come together and to celebrate, whether it was a birthday, holiday or special occasion.

Christine, Darrell, and Luke are all members of our FOGF Membership Program and have been extremely generous with donating items for our gala, golf tournament and most importantly, have always been in attendance at our events to show their support. Just this past week, the entire Korol family was in Guelph for the Homecoming festivities. We've felt their impact in our program in more ways than one and are forever grateful that they have continued to stay connected to the football team.

"My favourite part of the Friends of Gryphon Football Membership is that we have the opportunity to give back. We want to be a part of the group that is able to continue the amazing legacy of the Gryphon Football program. I want others to experience what our son experienced as a player. I am so grateful for what his program did for our entire family, we truly were so grateful to be welcomed into the Gryphon Family back in 2014. And to still be connected to it today, is something really special. I have Gryphon football helmets in my office at work, half

of my closet is gryphon football swag, I see my POP Yates cup ring on my dresser every night before I go to bed. I am a gryphon for life!"

Thank you, Christine and to the entire Korol family for your continued support of the FOGF Program and the Gryphon Football team. It is truly special to see your family at our games and events, you are all the epitome of the saying #ForeverAGryphon



*Pictured left to right: Christopher, Christine, Luke, Darrell, Jacob and Zack*



We had a very special delivery of Gryphon-branded plates to the Performance Centre in September! More updates to come about training opportunities for high school students in our state-of-the-art facility - stay tuned!







## **Mr. Casasanta's History Class**

Welcome to GFB – 100. I hope you all enjoyed your first weeks of the new semester. 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 ado, let's begin.

This month's focus is the opening of Alumni Stadium in 1970. At the time it was touted as a new state-of-the-art facility that was meant to attract some 25,000 fans to enjoy intercollegiate football at the University of Guelph. Dan Crabbe (96 Yates Cup Champion) please focus on the lesson and leave the doodling for your own spare time. Ok, let's get started.

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1970, Alumni Stadium opened its doors to 4,200 raucous Gryphon Football fans as the University of Guelph Gryphons took on the York Yeomen. On this sunny Saturday afternoon, the Gryphon fans enjoyed this new state of the art stadium along with a 24-0 Gryphon victory in the process. It has been stated that on this date the football program took a giant step towards the future. This stadium was a culmination of many years of effort towards legitimizing the program and the first step-in long-range plans for a facility which would seat 25,000 fans. The athletics department in the 1970's was truly led by visionaries. The idea of 25,000 fans at Alumni Stadium is truly fantastic and the plan to put it all in place was an idea that was well before its time.

The total cost to build Alumni Stadium in the late 1960's was \$600,000. The university was given a Development Fund loan with the use of gate receipts and private donations as the main cog in the repayment of the loan. The 1969 Alma Mata Fund provided an initial donation of \$20,000 to begin the process of paying back the loan.

In 1970 Alumni stadium boasted such features as an 80-player dressing room, a sauna bath, visiting teams change room, an equipment room, meeting rooms, coaches' offices, a trainer's room and a multipurpose room located on the second level of the stadium. As for the tech side of the things, Alumni Stadium had a state-of-the-art press room, first rate broadcast equipment, telephone equipped spotter booths. This state-of-the-art facility allowed for 10-15 news staff a place to view, broadcast and report the news from the games.

As for the league opener, it was the Gryphon's home opener vs the York Yeomen. The game was a tightly contested affair in the first half. Both teams going into the dressing room with the score 0-0 at the half time. But at 2:07 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter the Gryphons struck first. Dave Clark returned a punt 56 yards to give the Gryphons a 6-0 lead. Gerry Organ added the convert to put the Gryphons ahead 7-0. Six minutes later a 14-yard Organ field goal put the Gryphons ahead 10-0. As the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter opened, Steve Stewart ran 21 yards for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gryphon score of the afternoon. Another convert from Organ made the score 17-0. With just under 3 minutes left in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Gryphons' QB Bruce Ravensdale hit rookie sensation Wayne Cook on a 28 yd pass to close out the Gryphon scoring. Organ with his 3<sup>rd</sup> convert on the day made the final score Gryphons 24 - York 0. I like the sounds of that, there is a certain ring to that final score, I guess I am biased. Defensively, the Gryphons caused York to fumble the ball 5 times recovering 3 of them and intercepted 3 York passes, a dominant performance to say the least.

Alumni Stadium has hosted many great games but reporting on the first day of its opening, especially with the 50-year celebration at Homecoming this year, seemed like the best possible scenario. I will dive deeper into the evolution of Alumni Stadium in the upcoming months, but I thought this would be a great start. I really hope the men who played during this time enjoy this lesson along with the pictures from this day in Gryphon history. I was so happy to see so many of you back at the stadium to celebrate this era and the 50-year anniversary of the opening of this game changer in Gryphon Football. ALUMNI STADIUM!!!!!!

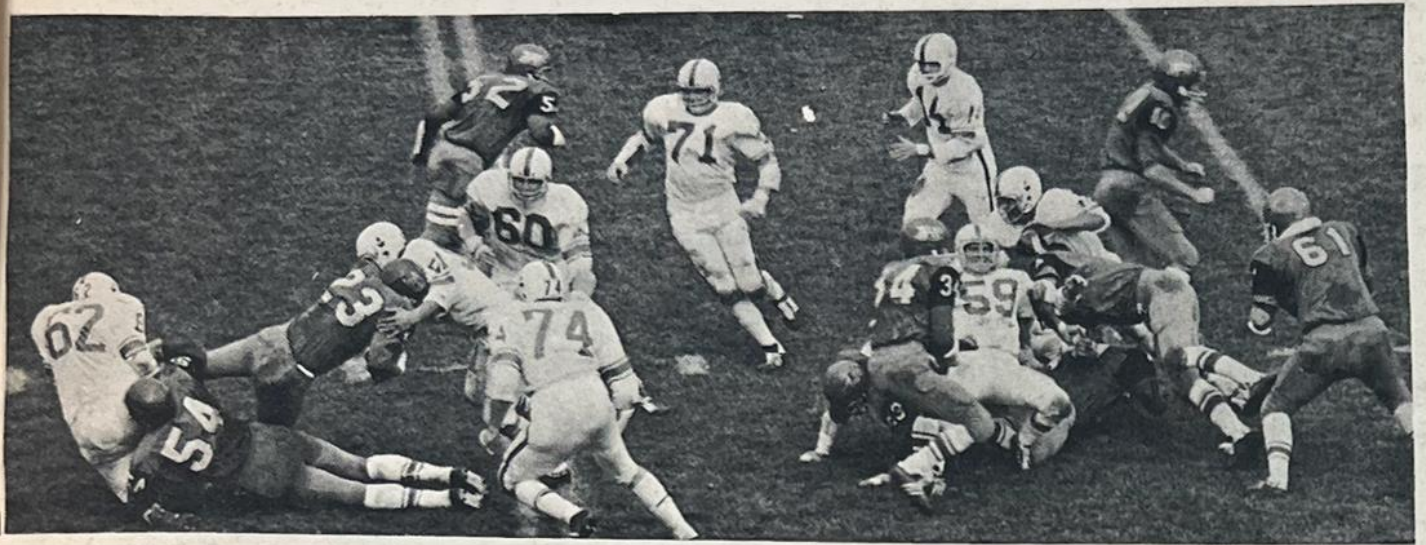
I want to thank Patrick Sutherland for his time and contribution to this month's lesson. Patrick was gracious enough to allow me access to the Ontarion's archives. I am excited to be able to share 72 years of history with you with the

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.

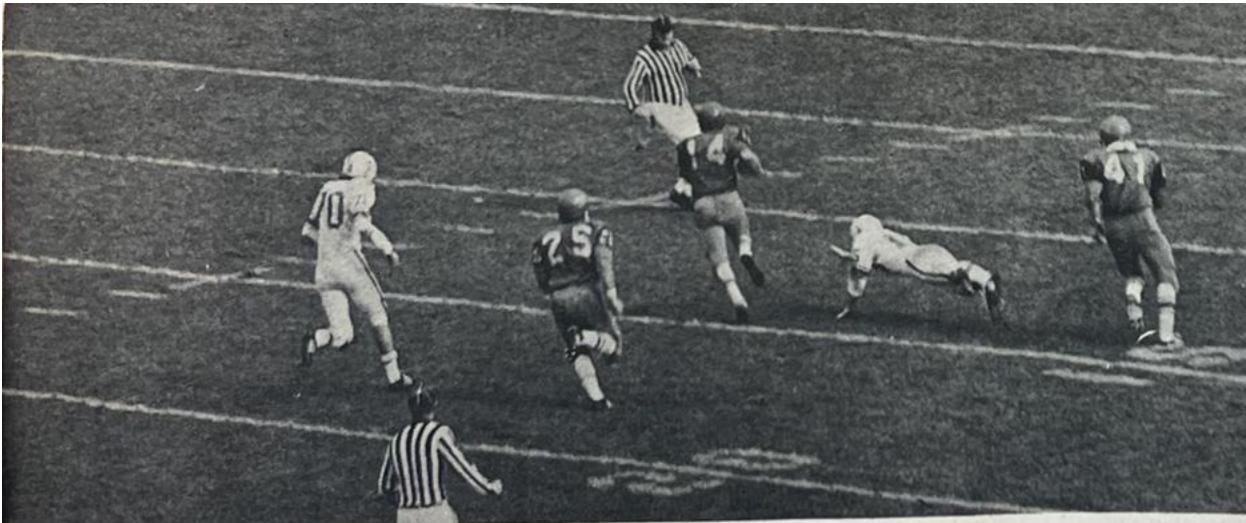
## ALUMNI STADIUM OPENS

# GRYPHONS SHUT OUT YEOMEN IN LEAGUE OPENER 24 — 0

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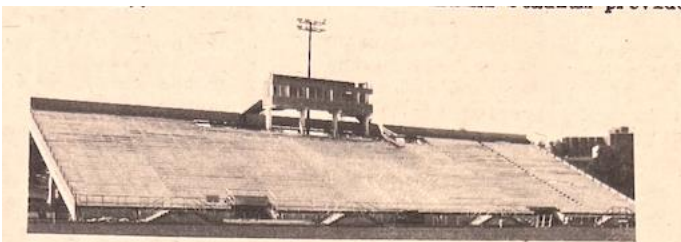




**DAVE CLARK (14) HEADS FOR T.D. TO OPEN SCORING  
IN THIRD QUARTER**

The game to look

	YORK	GUELPH
Yards rushing	80	109
Yards passing	222	107
Passes attempted	29	21
Passes completed	14	12
First downs	9	8
Number of Punts	9	9
Average	35.4	34.5



## ***Gryphons Gone Pro***

This month's Gryphons Gone Pro player is Ted McEachern, who was part of the 1970 Gryphon Football team. Ted joined us at Alumni Stadium for Homecoming weekend and the 1970's reunion last week in Guelph.

Ted was drafted in 1973 to the Montreal Alouettes and played for the Toronto Argonauts, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the BC Lions from 1974 – 1976.



Did you know that the U of G is recognized as having the best on-campus food for any University in Canada? Thank you to Creelman Bake Shop for preparing some special football treats to celebrate Homecoming! The next time that you are on campus, be sure to stop by Creelman Hall to check out the amazing selection of baked goodies!



*Pictured left to right: Aidan Mackrell, Juwan Jeffrey, Matthew Famurewa*





## ***Save The Date***

Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm - @ Guelph vs. McMaster

Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm - @ Laurier

Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 1pm - @ Guelph vs. Carleton

Check out the rest of the 2022/2023 Football Schedule [here](#)



## ***FOGF Memberships***

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)



## ***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.