

Gryphons' Lair
Issue 86
March 2024

Greetings and welcome to the 86th edition of the Gryphons' Lair! Our new head coach has been diligently building his staff, securing commitments from talented Gryphons nationwide, and fostering connections with alumni, parents, and community members. With spring camp just around the corner, we cordially invite all alumni and parents to join us in celebrating its culmination at Alumni Stadium on April 27th at 1:00 pm. Following the festivities, a BBQ generously sponsored by our esteemed partners at Harvey's will be provided. Save the date, and be on the lookout for additional details in the upcoming weeks.

But the excitement doesn't end there! After the BBQ, the Friends of Gryphon Football (FOGF) will be hosting a charity poker tournament at the Guelph Curling Club. It's an opportunity to continue the camaraderie while supporting a great cause. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information. We hope you relish this edition of the Gryphon's Lair!



Introducing our New Leadership, our New Vision, and the New Era



In February, Head Coach Mark Surya spearheaded a Meet The Coach event at the Redzone amidst a winter storm. Despite the weather, numerous alumni, parents, and community members gathered to celebrate recent enhancements to the program. Among the attendees

were newly appointed Director of Personnel Joe Cappiello, Defensive Coordinator Matt Berry, and Assistant Head Coach Donovan Carter, who took the opportunity to mingle and introduce themselves to the Gryphon Family. Academic Coordinator Lindsay Williams also unveiled an exciting new initiative aimed at fostering connections between alumni and players, thereby enhancing engagement opportunities. Additionally, FOGF Membership Coordinator Bill Brown addressed the audience, affirming the FOGF's unwavering support for Gryphon Football's new era. For insights from the newly formed full-time staff, check out the linked video. A full coaching staff will be celebrated in next month's newsletter.



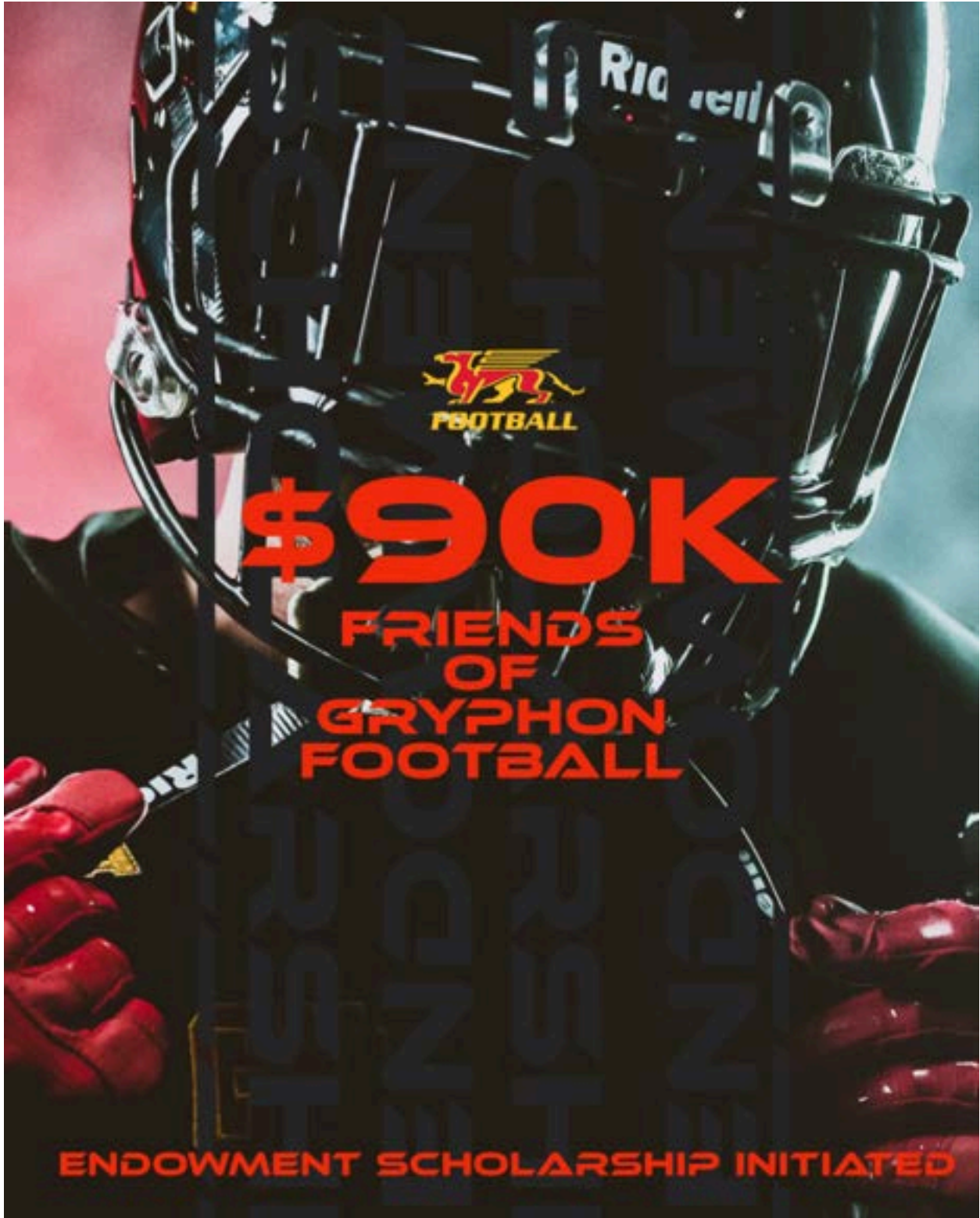
FOGF Endowment Initiated

The Friends of Gryphon Football Membership is now entering its 7th year, having successfully engaged 194 members during this time. Since its inception, our vision has remained steadfast:

to cultivate a proud and inspired community of alumni and friends dedicated to positively influencing the football program's success.

We are thrilled to announce a significant development: alongside the \$131,000 already donated to the Gryphon Football program over the past 5 years, the FOGF committee has voted to establish an endowment aimed at providing scholarships for our athletes. This endowment has been initiated with a generous \$90,000 contribution. Our goal is to further expand this endowment through future endeavors, with the aim of maximizing scholarship opportunities and propelling Gryphon Football to a leading position within the conference.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have supported our membership initiative. Your engagement and support are invaluable, and your contributions have a profound impact on our program. Thank you for your continued dedication.



POP Thank You Dinner

In the heartwarming image captured at the annual thank you dinner, the dedicated Parents of Players (POP) executive sit surrounded by members of the Lang Innovation Team (LIT), who expressed their gratitude for POPs unwavering support of Gryphon Football. Radiating warmth and camaraderie, members of the POP group are portrayed as the unsung heroes behind the scenes, tirelessly orchestrating tailgates, coordinating communication amongst parents, organizing away game logistics, orchestrating post-game celebrations, and ensuring the team's unity through shared dinners and barbecues. Their steadfast dedication extends beyond the field, with visible support at events like the golf tournament, North endzone celebrations, gala dinners and memberships of the FOGF. Their pivotal role in fostering a strong sense of community and support for Gryphon football is unmistakable, embodying the essence of teamwork and camaraderie essential for the team's success. Without their tireless efforts, the vibrant tapestry of support surrounding Gryphon football would undoubtedly be diminished. POP embodies the essence of the team's new mantra "Leave Your Mark".



Left to Right: Jay Lack, Andrea Lack, Cathy Condello, Josephine Moretuzzo, Doug Lane, Sarah Lane, Gerry Moretuzzo, Rachel Guthrie, Jeff Condello, Stu Lang. Taking Picture was Sarah Garrett.

Something to Celebrate at Alumni Stadium

In the image provided, there are two noteworthy elements worth celebrating. Firstly, the unveiling of our program's new mantra: "Leave Your Mark." Over the coming months, expect to learn more about its significance and how each of us can contribute to leaving a lasting impact on the program. Keep an eye out for upcoming initiatives, outreach endeavors, and shifts in team direction—we're eager to see what the future holds. Secondly, the photo offers a glimpse of ongoing activity at Alumni Stadium. While we await an official announcement from the athletic department, the sight of field renovations sparks excitement and anticipation. What changes lie ahead? The suspense is thrilling.





THE HERD IS COMING

HERD Spotted in Quinte

On February 17, the second Annual Trench Camp for the Quinte Skyhawks Community Football organization took place in Belleville, Ontario, led by Coach Mike MacDonald, who has been with the organization for the past two years since his relocation to the area in 2021. Modeled after the Oline Dline Camp, which Coach Mike and Coach Brian Cluff had previously run for the Gryphons, the camp saw Coach Cluff also coaching at the 1st Annual Trench Camp in 2023.

The camp's objective is to offer a training camp-like experience for players aged 14 to 18, featuring full equipment and contact drills. Notably, former Gryphons currently in the CFL or recently retired from it served as key guest coaches. This year, Herd Alumni Coulter Woodmansey (Hamilton Tiger-Cats), Eric Starzcala (Ottawa Redblacks), Andrew Pickett (former Ottawa Redblacks), Spencer Masterson (Edmonton Elks draft pick 2023), and Kyle Fraser (former Ottawa Redblacks draft pick) coached the Oline Campers, while for the Dline, AJ Allen (Saskatchewan Roughriders), along with current Gryphon Dlinemen Nick Partchenko and Max Barber, took charge.

Despite an initial limit, the camp attracted 50 players, filling up rapidly. The format comprised two practices, one focusing on the run game and the other on the pass game, interspersed with a healthy dinner and a film session akin to Gryphon training camps, where players received corrections based on footage.

A highlight of this year's camp was the signing of two Skyhawk players, Andrew Cumpsty and Caleb Belfry, to Letters of Intent to attend the University of Guelph and play for the Gryphons this fall. Cumpsty, an offensive tackle, was also recognized as the Top Olineman by the guest coaches.

The Herd alumni coaching staff impressed with their guidance, demonstrating techniques and mentoring players through their execution. Coach Mike expressed pride in seeing them give back to the young players with their enthusiasm and dedication.

Coach Peter Gabriel, President of the Skyhawks organization, presented gifts to all guest coaches, conveying the organization's and parents' gratitude for their contributions. It marked a proud moment for the Herd Alumni and Coach Mike, witnessing the bond formed between the organization and the participating young players.



L to R: Current DLine Max Barber and Nick Partchenko, AJ Allen (Saskatchewan Roughriders), Spencer Masterson (Edmonton Elks draft pick 2023), Andrew Pickett (former Ottawa Redblacks). Coach Mike MacDonald, Coulter Woodmansey (Hamilton Tiger-Cats), Kyle Fraser (former Ottawa Redblacks draft pick), and Eric Starzcala (Ottawa Redblacks)



Aiden Kuepfer, a first-year student in the Human Kinetics program at Guelph, has seamlessly integrated into Gryphon Football as an H-back. Hailing from Westmount Secondary School in Hamilton, Aiden was drawn to Guelph not only for its esteemed coaching staff but also for the tight-knit bond among teammates, and what he considers the best Human Kinetics program in Ontario.

Recruited throughout the season, Aiden's official visit marked the beginning of a remarkable chapter in his football career. Initially nervous and shy, he quickly found himself embraced by the Gryphon family. Within days, the barriers melted away, and the team's unity became apparent as players mingled and bonded both on and off the field.

For Aiden, the locker room holds a special significance. It's where positional team meetings unfold, providing invaluable learning opportunities and fostering deeper connections among teammates. His fondest memories include "post-practice meals and collective viewing sessions of highlight reels", where conversations flow, and friendships grow.

As he looks ahead to the coming years, Aiden is eager to leave his mark on the team. He anticipates contributing to community initiatives such as the blood drive, seeing them not only as opportunities to give back but also as platforms for personal growth and team bonding.

Balancing academics, football commitments, and personal well-being is no easy feat, but Aiden says that he has "found his rhythm" in the second semester.

Aiden takes pride in his involvement in the team's community endeavors, particularly initiatives like the upcoming blood drive, which holds great significance for the Gryphon Football community. As the next month approaches, Aiden and his teammates eagerly prepare to make a difference, both on and off the field.

As he continues his journey with Gryphon Football, Aiden Kuepfer embodies the spirit of dedication, teamwork, and community that defines the program. With each step forward, he remains committed to becoming the best player and person he can be, leaving a mark on the field and the Gryphon community alike.



FEATURED ALUMNUS

Juwan Jeffrey, a former standout in Gryphon Football, left an enduring legacy on the Guelph community during his 2018 to 2022 career. Throughout his time at Guelph, Juwan showcased his talents primarily as a running back, transitioning to a player receiver in his final year.

Immersed in the Criminal Justice and Public Policy program, Juwan's decision to join Guelph stemmed from the inviting campus, captivating program offerings, and the warm embrace of the football team. His recruitment visit, marked by genuine warmth from the coaching staff and a sense of belonging within the family-oriented football culture, solidified his decision to call Guelph home.

Among the memories Juwan treasures, certain moments stand out vividly. Homecoming and the Think Pink game held special significance, the latter serving as a tribute to his aunt who battled breast cancer. Fifth-year speeches resonated with Juwan deeply, underscoring the bonds forged both on and off the field. Training camp antics, from spirited singing to humorous skits of the coaches, fostered camaraderie and laughter, creating lasting memories that transcend the game itself.

Juwan's integration into the team during his first year was a whirlwind of experiences—an "oh wow" moment characterized by the excitement of forging new relationships and earning respect through unwavering dedication and effort in training and games. Karaoke nights at Franks provided a glimpse into the lighter side of his teammates, fostering a sense of camaraderie beyond the field. He recalls these as having been fond memories.

Reflecting on his journey, Juwan offers sage advice to future Gryphon football players: "Enjoy the moment and embrace all that the opportunity has to offer. Being a Gryphon football player is a gift; seize the moment and cherish it as such."

In his current pursuits, Juwan has transitioned into the professional realm, working as a personal bank advisor at TD. Looking ahead, he plans to embark on a new chapter by pursuing a career in policing, with aspirations to start the application process later this year. Juwan's journey from Guelph to the professional world exemplifies the spirit of determination and resilience instilled by Gryphon Football, paving the way for a bright and impactful future.





FOGGY MOUNTAIN



FOGF members Dan Crabbe and Andrea Roche, alongside FOGF Membership Coordinator Bill Brown, display their enthusiasm in the Friends Of Gryphon Football North Endzone during the 2023 Homecoming. Dan and Andrea spearhead our annual Chili Bowl event during the season. Additionally, Dan, with assistance from Frank Tersigni, organizes our annual Poker Tourney, aimed at raising funds for FOGF's yearly charity donation. This year, the Poker Tourney is scheduled for April 27th at the Guelph Curling Club. Dan also serves on the FOGF board and can be found manning the BBQ at our FOGF Golf Tourney on July 19th. Together with Coach Mike MacDonald and Brett McCallum, Dan initiated our Offensive Line engagement group called THE HERD. We consider ourselves fortunate to have Dan and Andrea as integral members of the Gryphon Family, and we express our heartfelt appreciation for their invaluable contributions.



MR. CASASANTA'S HISTORY CLASS



Welcome to GFB – 100. Welcome back to the March Edition of GHB-100. With that said it's time to get back to work. 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 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. If you see an image that you would like me to send, please contact me and I will be sure to send a larger image with better resolution to you, so with no further to do let's begin.

This month we are going to delve into the years 2010-2014. This stretch may have been the most successful in Gryphon Football history. Within these years we saw the Gryphons achieve a regular season record of 7-1 three times. Defeat Western regularly during the regular season and the playoffs and punch their tickets to two Yates Cup Championships in 4 years. There was an excitement on campus around the program, the Stadium was given a facelift that included a new rubber track, turf field and checkerboard endzones. We hosted the Ticats and their fans for

a portion of the CFL and we the new look Gryphons sported a new look each week with different combinations of jerseys, pants and helmets. Toted as the Oregon of the North the Gryphons generated excitement across the province and the country, garnering and landing top recruits from all over the country. The Gryphons were on the rise, and it was an exciting time to be a Gryphon. I hope you enjoy this pictorial history lesson that spans 2010-2014. Thanks to the staff of the Ontario for allowing us access to every issue beginning in 1951 with the OAC Aggies then Redmen and right up to today's Gryphons. I hope you enjoy this retrospective and for some of you I hope you enjoy seeing some of these great moments you were a part of. Enjoy.





Kathleen Ebaner
Gryphons football rookie Jordan McCoskey gets set to take the field.

Richard Shaver
Several year Gryphons defense lineups. Cameron, Smith, both mentioned here that a year after a nation top return.



2011



MARILYN POINTELL
Gryphon Bryan Dunjko successfully tackles a Marauder wide receiver, with Gryphon defensive back Mark Dunjko hot in pursuit.



MARILYN POINTELL
Gryphons football team to wear pink for breast cancer awareness.



Gryphons win comes off leg of Ferraro

Gryphons beat Queen's in dramatic comeback

Gryphons end regular season on a high note

"You always think it's going to be the offence or defense but it was really our special teams who turned the game around for us."

- Stu Lang



The Gryphons will look to find similar success as they prepare to meet Queen's in the OUA Semifinal on Nov. 3 at Alumni Stadium.



Members of the Gryphon defense salute the crowd following their victory on Nov. 3. The defense forced seven Queen's turnovers en route to the astonishing overtime victory.

The Moo-U miracle



Tigercats to call Alumni Stadium home Goodnight, Cinderella

NEW UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH STUDENT SECTION
 Taproom Professional Football in Campus!
GENERAL ADMISSION LOWER SEATING
 100 SEATS AVAILABLE • \$20 PER SEAT
 \$20
 888.547.2287

UNLEASH THE LEGEND!

2013 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

AUG. 29	LAURIER @ GUELPH
SEPT. 2	WINDSOR @ GUELPH
SEPT. 7	BYE
SEPT. 14	GUELPH @ TORONTO
SEPT. 21	McMASTER @ GUELPH
SEPT. 28	GUELPH @ WATERLOO
OCT. 4	YORK @ GUELPH
OCT. 11	GUELPH @ CARLETON
OCT. 18	GUELPH @ QUEEN'S



COURTESY PHOTO FROM GRYPHON ATHLETICS
 Guelph's Curtis Newton, sporting the Gryphon's Georgia-esque helmets, avoids Windsor's Alex Whonder on Sept. 2.

Ain't no mountain high enough Just win, baby

FREE

WINDSOR

WY STREET ART



Windsor running back, Rob Fargachian, returned from a hamstring injury and in his first game of the year, picked up where he left off averaging 5.8 yards-per-carry.



COURTESY PHOTO FROM GRYPHONS.CA
 With expectations constantly growing, coach Stu Lang stays humble and concentrated.

Gryphons football remain perfect at 3-0



Usual Suspects: Guelph's top wide-receiver, Alex Charvita, and defensive back, Taylor Palmer, both produced big numbers for the Gryphons on Saturday.



Calm before the storm: In one of the rare rainless moments of the game, the Gryphon offence lines up against the McMaster defence.



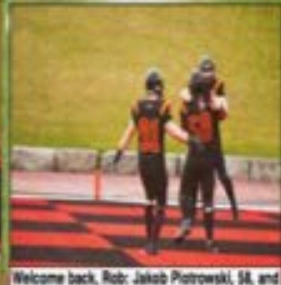
In his 28th year with the Gryphon football program, defensive line coach, Brian Cliff, motivates a defensive line that has produced outstanding numbers early in this 4-0 season.



Rain is a good thing: Despite the weather, Guelph Jazz Lindsey went 17-for-27 for 173 yards and a rushing touchdown.



Taylor Palmer, 20, was named OUA defensive player of the week after he made two interceptions on McMaster quarterback Marshall Ferguson.



Welcome back, Rob: Jakob Piotrowski, 58, and Jeff Finley, 51, showing love for their newly returned running back.



Guelph receiver, Alex Charette, catches a 27-yard Jazz Lindsey pass in the end zone.



As fans poured into the seats, Gryphon football players poured out of them. The 12,000 fans helped to give the Gryphons the edge they needed to give the 24-22 win over McMaster.



James Taylor gives his best McMaster supporter on the field a fist bump. Photo by Sam Becking.

Guelph move to 4-0 after homecoming win versus McMaster

Gryphons nationally ranked

Gryphons football improves to 5-0 No.4 Gryphons triumph over winless Ravens



PLAYOFFS, BABY!



Photo by Sam Becking

Jazz Lindsey learning at Argos camp



Lindsey starting quarterback. Jazz Lindsey was named to the Toronto Argonauts training camp as a CFL draft prospect. Lindsey is expected to participate in camp through to June 9.

BE LEGENDARY
FOOTBALL STARTS SEPTEMBER 6th
BE THERE.

2014 GRYPHON FOOTBALL HOME SCHEDULE:

- Sept. 6 | vs Toronto - Thu > **OPENING GAME**
- Sept. 20 | vs Queens - Thu > **HOMECOMING!**
- Oct. 10 | vs Carleton - Thu > **UNITED WAY GAME**
- Oct. 18 | vs Westhill - Thu > **BIGGEST CANCELS AHEAD OF THE GAME!**



Gryphons take home opener 50-18



#GRYPHONPRIDE 66-0. WHAT?! HOMECOMING 2014



Parisotto, Nieuwesteeg shine on top province

You're invited to...

TO THE BEST FANS IN CANADA
YOU INSPIRE US

STUDENTS GET IN FREE!

GAME DAY CHECK-LIST

- Arrive at stadium 30 minutes before kickoff
- Bring your own food and drinks
- Wear your team colors
- Bring your own chair
- No alcohol
- No weapons
- No profanity
- No smoking
- No stunts
- No outside vendors
- No outside vendors
- No outside vendors



THANK YOU FROM GRYPHON FOOTBALL



Year No. 1714
 100
 Ontario
 1957-1997
**BIG WIN,
 IN PINK**

Thursday, October 23, 2014



Quarterback Jean Lindsay connected on 20 of 23 attempted passes for total for 287 yards and one touchdown with no interceptions during the Gryphons' 49-24 win over the Carleton Place on Oct. 16.



Breast cancer awareness and the historic Gryphons



Gryphons headed for Yates Cup



51-26 semi-final win sends Guelph to 107th Yates Cup



OUA
 2014-15 FOOTBALL SEMI FINALS
 Nov. 16th, 2014 - Iwan Alward Stadium
GUELPH VS WESTERN
 TICKETS: \$10 STUDENTS: \$10 CHAIRS: \$10 - 10:00 PM ONLY

Gryphons lose nail-biter in Yates Cup final

If anyone would like a better resolution of any of these photos above, reach out to John Casasanta and he will send you what you need. jcasasan@uoguelph.ca.



This month's Gryphon Gone Pro is Kiondré Smith.

From Guelph Gryphon to Hamilton Tiger-Cat, Kiondré Smith, wearing number 85, epitomizes the journey from university to the pros. His transition from the university fields to the professional stage reflects his unwavering dedication and talent. As he dazzles with the Tiger-Cats, Kiondré carries the spirit of Gryphon Football, inspiring a new generation of athletes to reach for greatness. Congrats Kiondré.



DID YOU KNOW?

Behind the Scenes - Meet our Operations Assistants

Victoria and Natalie, the dynamic duo behind Gryphon Football's operational success, manage a number of the organization's tasks that allow things to run smoothly. While their backgrounds differ, their shared passion for sports and commitment to excellence unite them in their mission to elevate the team's operations.



Victoria Cleveland and Natalie Chue

Victoria, with her equestrian background and penchant for behind-the-scenes sports work, found her niche in the bustling world of sports operations. While she hadn't previously worked in football specifically, her love for the busy sports environment drives her dedication to the role. On the other hand, Natalie, fueled by her childhood involvement in sports and prior football experience in grade 8, seamlessly integrates her skills into her studies in sports and event management, fulfilling program requirements while making a meaningful impact on Gryphon Football.

So, what do our operations assistants do on a daily basis? Their roles entail a variety of responsibilities, from recruitment coordination and hosting game day visits to tailoring recruitment packages for prospective players. They assist coaches during practices, manage the scoreboard, coordinate post-practice meals, and oversee filming on practice and game days. Their presence is indispensable, ensuring smooth operations and fostering a vibrant team environment.

For Victoria, the most rewarding aspect lies in organizing recruit visits and witnessing players commit to the team, witnessing their journey from prospects to integral team members. You can find both ops coordinators at the pavilion for every practice, offering support and camaraderie to both seasoned players and rookies alike. Their friendly demeanor and

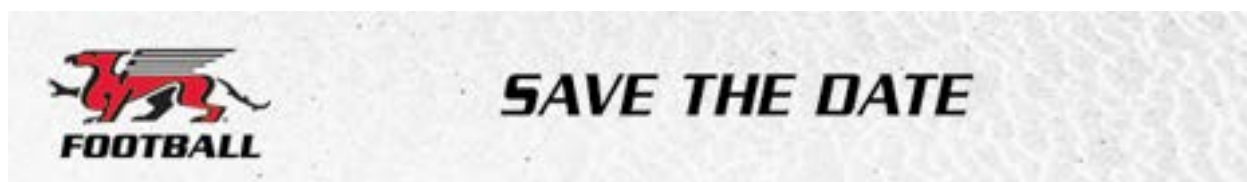
dedication create a welcoming atmosphere, particularly for newcomers navigating their first season.





Game days stand out as their favourite days to work, fueled by the electric energy and anticipation in the air. Before the kickoff, they savour the calm before the storm, relishing in the excitement of what's to come.

In their roles as football operations assistants, Victoria and Natalie exemplify the spirit of dedication, teamwork, and community that defines Gryphon Football. Their commitment to excellence ensures that every aspect of the team's operations runs smoothly, fostering a vibrant and inclusive environment where players can thrive and excel.



FOGF Spring Camp - Red Black Inter-Squad Game - Saturday, April 27th, 2024 1-3 PM
FOGF Poker Tourney - Saturday, April 27th, 2024 @ Guelph Curling Club



FOGF Golf Tourney - Friday, July 19th, 2024 @ Guelph Lakes Golf and Country Club 11 AM



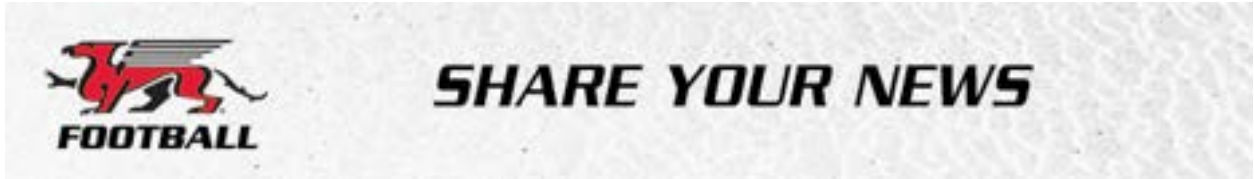
Parents have been taking on the FOGF Membership by storm. Did you know we have 22 active parents as members of FOGF. We are so fortunate to have such a supporting parent group.



POP Executive and FOGF Members: Jeff Condello, Cathy Condello, Willa Ferigo, Andrea Lack, Jay Lack, Mike Ferigo

Parent FOGF Members: Alex Zurby, Julie Zurby, Chris Metron, Dave Archer, Jen Brackenbury, Len Brackenbury, Jeff Sumner, Jeff Condello, Gerry Moretuzo, Todd Beazley, Gavin MacDougall, Jay Lack, Doug Lane, Gerrit Stam, Robert Sherrington, Rob Ogilvie, Patti Harrison, Sara Mann, Christine Korol (Son is Alumni), Darrell Korol (Son is Alumni), Elisabeth Duncan (Son is Alumni), Brad Duncan (Son is Alumni), Shawn McFalls (Son is Alumni)

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.

It's Great to be a Gryphon,

Bill Brown YCC '96 '15
FOGF Membership Coordinator
Proud FOGF Gold Member Since 2017