

Gryphons' Lair – Issue 74  
March 2023

February was a short month but, nevertheless, jam-packed with community events, exciting announcements, recruiting releases, and off-season training!

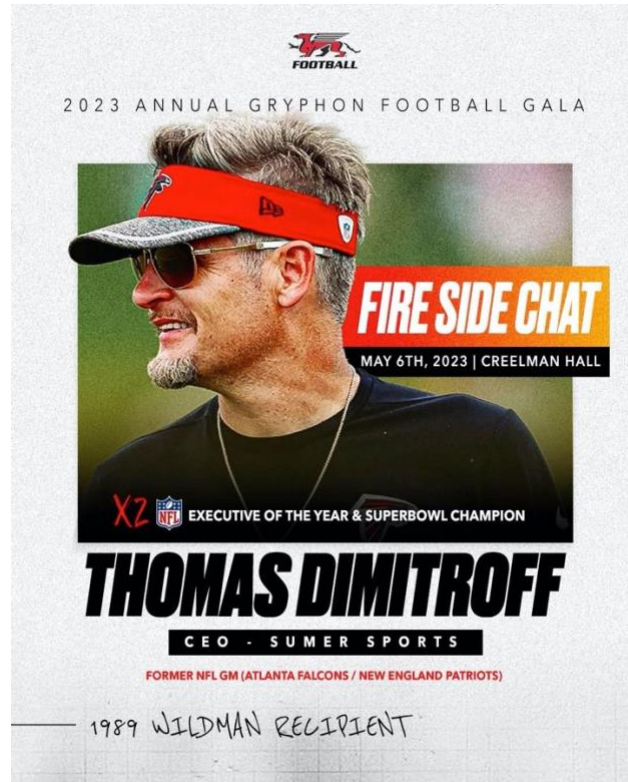
It is just over two months until our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual [Gryphon Football Gala](#) and we have an exciting update for our readers!

We are thrilled to announce that Gryphon alumni, Tom Dimitroff, will be joining us at our Gryphon Football Gala on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023! You won't want to miss a 'Fire Side' chat with Tom to hear about his experiences as a Gryphon and the success he has had within his football career. Tom's Highlights from his career include:

- Wildman Recipient
- Former NFL GM
- 2-time NFL Exec of the year
- 2-time super champion with New England patriots
- Sumer sports CEO

A reminder that tickets are now on [sale](#)! However, please note that as of March 1st, we are currently dealing with our ticketing site being down. All ticket inquiries can be directed to [gryphon.events@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gryphon.events@uoguelph.ca). We hope to get this resolved as soon as possible.

FOGF GOLD members, stay tuned for a different email containing your coupon code to redeem your ticket for the Gala Dinner. This email will be sent to all GOLD members when the site is up and running. Red and Black Level members can upgrade their membership to a Gold and the Gala will be included in your benefit package. Contact Bill Brown to upgrade.



We hope you enjoy Issue 74 of the Gryphons' Lair! Can you believe that next month will be our 75<sup>th</sup> edition? Thank you to our readers for all your continued support.



## Black History Month

Heron Tait is a proud Gryphon Alumni, a FOGF Member and also drives our EDI initiatives with the program.

Heron took the time to chat with some of our Gryphon Alumni, Darius Samuels and AJ Allen, as well as current players, [Isaiah Smith](#) and [Miles La Foucade](#) about Black History.

Both videos are linked below. Thank you, Heron for moderating these conversations and for being an incredible mentor and role model to our players. We are grateful for your support, dedication, and commitment to program.

[Meaningful Conversations with Gryphon Alumni](#)  
[Meaningful Conversations with Gryphons Past and Present](#)

We look forward to keeping these important conversations going beyond Black History Month.



*Pictured left to right: Heron Tait, Isaiah Smith, Miles La Foucade*

## **Coaching Clinic**

On Super Bowl weekend, our pavilion was home to coaches from across the province for a 2-day coaching clinic.

*“This camp was a great example of leadership and organization for aspiring programs and coaches who all have the same goal of aspiring to be better.”*

– Michael Sousa

Football Coach and Trainer for the Iroquois Ridge Football Team and Oakville Titans

Thank you to all the coaches who attended the clinic and special thank you to our guest speakers! We look forward to making this an annual event and hope to see you next year.





*Pictured: Corey Mace (Defensive Coordinator for the Toronto Argonauts)*

## **Family Day Tour for Junior Gryphon**

Our Gryphon Family is made up of so many incredible people. We've got our coaches, community members, players, trainers, volunteers, staff, parents, and the list goes on!

We had one SuperFan this past season that was at our games and never missed a moment to cheer on the red, black and gold. We wanted to show our appreciation for Harrison and remind him that he is an important part of our Gryphon Family.

Check out [Harrison's tour](#) of the pavilion! He got to meet some of our players and even do an unofficial signing with Head Coach Ryan Sheahan!



## EDI Initiatives

FOGF members met with Glen Lewis of HDA (Hockey Diversity Alliance) to discuss the HDA's successes and challenges, and how best to use those learnings to better serve FOGF's EDI initiative.



*Pictured left to right: Brian Cluff, AJ Allen, Dan Noble, Glen Lewis, Stu Lang, Heron Tait, Dudley Brown*

## **Gryphon Pizza Day**

February 28th was the 5th annual pizza day hosted by the Guelph Gryphons in partnership with Dominos. Proceeds went towards supporting women athletic scholarships and programs at the U of G. We are proud to support such an incredible initiative!





## Announcements

Our thoughts are with Reed Family, as Graeme was tragically injured in a car accident after being hit by a drunk driver on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Graeme played 5 years for the Gryphons, was a captain in 2007 and 2008, and was a Wildman recipient in 2008.

A Go Fund Me Page has been created to support the Reed Family, view the link [here](#).



*Graeme Reed holds the Wildman Trophy with fellow award recipients and his Gryphon Family in 2008*



## Celebrations

### Combine Invitations

Congratulations to the 6 Gryphon Football athletes who earned themselves an invite to the upcoming CFL Combine Events!

#### REGIONAL COMBINE

-[Franck Kemayou](#)

-[Juwan Jeffrey](#)

-[Matthew Famurewa](#)



## NATIONAL COMBINE

-[Siriman Harrison Bagayogo](#)

-[Clark Barnes](#)

-[Spencer Masterson](#)

The Regional Combine is set to take place on March 3rd, 2023 in Waterloo. The National Combine will be held in Edmonton during the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>.

Read the full story [here](#).

An incredible article was written about Siriman earlier in the month that highlights his journey through football and his career aspirations through sport. Check out the article [here](#).



## Gryphon Alumni at the SuperBowl

Great to see Gryphon alumni Andrew Oosterhuis and REC Steve Keyzer taking in all the action at the SuperBowl!



Pictured left to right: Andrew Oosterhuis and Steve Keyzer

## Tavius at Senior Bowl

Congratulations to Gryphon Alumni, [Tavius Robinson](#) for competing at the Senior Bowl on February 4<sup>th</sup>! A few great articles were released after the game and this one, in particular, talked about how the 'Senior Bowl Director sees potential record-setting NFL draft for Canadian football'

Read the article [here](#).



Although you haven't seen his skills as a football player quite yet, perhaps you heard his incredible singing talent for our [Valentine's Day video](#)!

Our player feature for this month is [Julian Iamundo](#), a transfer from the University of Ottawa and a part of the Offensive Line. Julian started his U of G journey in August 2022 and is studying Sociology within the Bachelor of Arts.

Per OUA policy, Julian was not able to dress during the Fall 2022 season, as transfer students must wait a full calendar year before they can play for their new team. Despite not suiting up yet for the red, black, and gold, Julian has thoroughly enjoyed his time with the program and knows that he made the right decision transferring to the U of G.

Julian started his University Career in Ottawa when he was 18. Although he had success on the field and things were going well, mentally it wasn't what we had hoped the experience would be. He decided that after the 2021 season he needed to make a change.

He reached out to Coach Mark Surya, whom he had met a few years prior at a Super Elite League Camp. He then got introduced to Coach Sheahan and said that he felt accepted right from the beginning.

"I remember calling my Dad one day and telling him that I would rather choose to take a risk and suffer the consequences from it, because I thought it would make me better and make me happier. Rather than choose not to take the risk and be in the same place and suffering and feeling stagnant. I strive to be the best version of myself every day. Being at the U of G, I have never been judged for who I am. All the coaches, staff and my fellow teammates appreciate me for who I am and for what I bring to the team and the program."

Julian moved into his student house a few weeks before training camp and was extremely impressed with the various components of the Gryphon Football Program. He noted that being a part of this team will allow him to improve his life on so many different levels. From improving himself as a football player, an athlete, a student and as a person. And ultimately that is what will motivate him to do whatever he can to give back to the program.

"The record we had in the 2022 season shows no relation to the work that everyone in this program put in. It's like nothing I have ever seen before. This program exudes excellence. It makes you want to work harder, train harder. You want to encourage everyone around you to be better."

During the winter months, the team spends a great deal of time in the Fieldhouse and the Performance Centre for off-season training. Julian might just be one of the hardest workers that we have in the gym during off-season but also outside of football in regard to working 2 part-time jobs and being a student. He currently works at Creelman Hall, which is a Dining Facility on campus and as part of the Grounds Crew that shovels the snow and salts the sidewalks across campus. Fun fact - Julian's singing voice helped him land his job at Creelman Hall!

"In training camp, we would go over to Creelman for lunch and dinner. After a tough practice, we often want to lighten the mood and have some fun. One day, all of the rookies had to sing in front of the team. I got up and did my thing and absolutely loved singing in front of all the players and the Creelman Staff. The next day, the cafeteria crew told me that they really liked my singing voice, and the Supervisor of Creelman (Sue) made a point of it to be there to hear me sing. I've got a reputation for liking chocolate milk, and the cups are really small. So, I told the staff that if I could get a pitcher of chocolate milk, I would sing for them again. They came out with a massive pitcher of chocolate milk with a straw in it and I got up and sang."

“Afterwards, Coach was chatting with Sue and then I ended up striking up a conversation with her and mentioned that I was looking for a job and right away she said, ‘you can work here!’ And I can tell you that is one of the best jobs I’ve ever had, the staff are so accommodating with my football and class schedule. After morning workouts, I head to the dining facility and help with heavy lifting, moving boxes and unloading food shipments.”

A typical weekday in the off-season for Julian starts with a 5am wake-up call to go work for Grounds Crew and shovel snow. He then heads to morning workouts for 7am and then off to Creelman for his second job. Add in classes in the afternoon and that is quite a full day for a student-athlete.

“There have been times I have had to get up at 2:30am to shovel. Coming here I was worried that I wouldn’t be able to balance being a student-athlete and working. And it’s hard, working 2 jobs, going to class, and doing off-season training. But it’s worth it. Guelph has made such an impression on me, and I’m thrilled to be a part of this community.”

*Community.* A word that came up multiple times throughout our conversation. Julian noted that in just the short time he’s been here at Guelph, the bonds that he’s created have felt like family.

“One of the first players I met was [Tommy](#) (Bourikas). Since the day I met him, he’s been a brother to me. He’s been welcoming and made me feel like a part of the Gryphon family right away. Transferring here, I didn’t know many people. He’s given me that friendship that I’ve been looking for. And the other OL players, such as Olu ([Matthew Famurewa](#)), has been a role model for me and helped me learn so much, outside of the football stuff. For example, we had to set something up in TeamBuildr, which is an app that we use as a team. Olu knew that it was something I wasn’t familiar with, so he stepped in and helped me out before I even had time to ask for support. It was on the very first Training Camp, where I didn’t know many people and so it might seem like something small, him helping me out like that is something that I won’t forget.”

Thank you, Julian for taking the time to chat with us! Your work ethic and determination does not go unnoticed, and we can’t wait to see you run out of the tunnel on gameday next season!



*Pictured left to right: Julian Iamundo and Tommy Bourikas*



## **Featured Alumnus**

Did you know that the University of Guelph mascot name has not always been the Gryphons? Up until 1967, the mascot for the U of G was the 'Redmen' which is what our alumni feature wore on his jersey during his time as a student-athlete.

We are thrilled to be featuring alumni Bruce Groves for this month's newsletter.

Bruce attended high school in Eastern Ontario and always knew that he wanted to attend school in Guelph and be a part of the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC). Back in the 60's students did 5 years of high school and then were able to apply for direct entry into the OVC program. In present time, applicants must complete a minimum of 2 years of academic study before applying to the vet program.

"I was fortunate that I knew exactly what I wanted to do out of highschool. I remember receiving a letter in the mail with information about open tryouts for the football team and I figured that I might as well go! Well, I can tell you that it was the best decision that

I ever made. Being an athlete made me focus on sports and then I had a busy academic schedule, so I learned very quickly that discipline was an important skillset. The saying “if you need something done, ask a busy person!” definitely rang true during my time at Guelph.”

Bruce played 2 seasons for the football team but decided to not play a third season as he needed to focus on his studies.

“The Vet program was extremely rigorous. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such a wonderful faculty advisors that were a part of my learning process. In particular, Professor Earl Hunt, Dr. Jim Stevens and Dr. Jack Cote, were all standout professors that had a major contribution to my time at Guelph.”

An interesting fact, Dr. Stevens was a part of the admin committee in 1967 that conducted the survey to be sent out to students about the search for a new mascot!

Although Bruce wasn't on the football team during his 3<sup>rd</sup> year, he knew it was important to have something in his schedule other than just school. Getting involved was part of the university experience and so he participated in intramurals and held a spot on the student-athletic advisory board.

Heading into his 4<sup>th</sup> year, Bruce received a letter from the new football coach, Billy Graham, encouraging him to come back and play.

“Billy Graham was a big mentor to me, as well as Huck O'Connell, the line coach. Being back on the roster kept me busy. In addition to being a student-athlete, I was also a Student Proctor, and my role was to live in residence and support the first-year students.”

Bruce's career as a football player and student was quite memorable, as he was the Wildman Recipient in 1995 and was named to the 1960's Team of the Decade as a Linebacker.

It's a Guelph tradition to welcome back all our previous Wildman Recipients to our annual Wildman Awards event. For those who do not know, the Wildman Trophy is awarded to a senior or graduating player who exemplified to the highest degree the traits of sportsmanship, leadership, gentlemanly conduct, and who has maintained good scholarship.

Bruce was unable to attend the Wildman Awards this year, but he hopes to return to campus in the near future. Homecoming is always one of his favourite events and he loves being able to come back and connect with other alumni.

After graduating, Bruce went into large animal practice and focused mostly on cattle. He opened a practice in Uxbridge, Ontario with Grant Elliot, who happened to be one of his teammates on the football team. After about two and half years, Bruce went back to

school to do post-graduate work in Veterinary Microbiology. He had an extremely impressive career and spent 38 years at Pfizer. He started as the Director of Veterinary Medicine and then transitioned into the Technical Director Role and various positions after that, all focusing on animal health.

Bruce retired in 2008 and focused on spending time with his family! During his professional career, he spent many years commuting from his home in Montreal to New York City and London, Ontario. During his retirement he loves to spend his time curling, golfing and swimming – which sounds like the perfect retirement plan!

Thank you, Bruce for sharing some memories with us during your time at Guelph! We look forward to welcoming you back on campus soon for a football game!



*Pictured: Bruce at his 79th Birthday party!*



## **Featured FOGF Member**

Gryphon Alumni, FOGF Gold Member, Gryphon Football Coach (1987- 2020), PGA (Personal Gala Assistant to Randy Dimitroff) FOGF Board Member, Vanier Cup Champion in 1984 – can you guess who the FOGF Feature is for March?

This month's FOGF Feature is Gryphon legend – Mr. Brian Cluff (otherwise known as 'Cluffer')

We could write pages and pages about Cluffer's involvement with the Gryphon Football Program, from a player's perspective or a coaching perspective. With the upcoming

Gala Dinner on May 6<sup>th</sup>, we thought this would be a perfect opportunity to chat about Brian's involvement from an FOGF (Friends of Gryphon Football) perspective.

"I guess officially, my role for the Gala is to support [FOGF President] Randy Dimitroff as his PGA – Personal Gala Assistant! I help with brainstorming ideas for the event, draft the itinerary and collect the silent auction prizes. I've been involved with putting together the nomination packages for the two major awards that we give out at the Gala. This involves collecting data and presenting to the FOGF committee about the nominations."

For those who attended the Gala in 2021 and 2022, Cluffer and Randy stepped in as hosts for the Gala while it was virtual. They've been friends for over 40 years and it shows given their on-camera chemistry and banter!

Randy was a QB for the Gryphons during the 80's and Brian played on both sides of the ball. We wish we could have made some sort of joke that Cluffer still protects Randy as he did during their time playing together, but Cluffer was a Defensive End when he played with Randy so he joked that he only tried to tackle him when they were teammates in practice!

"I am really looking forward to the Gala this year, and to be back in person after 4 years will be fantastic. We've got some incredible guest speakers lined up and it will be a special night to honour Andrew Oosterhuis as the Distinguished Alumni and Jeremy Oxley as the Honour Jersey Recipient. The Gala is always a wonderful night out, the food is fantastic, we've got great silent auction prizes and it's a great night to support the Gryphon Football Program! I hope that folks understand that this is not solely a Gryphon Alumni event, it's a Friends of Gryphon Football event. Whether you are a corporate or community member, it's an inclusive event and it's for everybody, whether you're a Gryphon Alumni or not."

In between preparing for the Gala, helping out at local coaching clinics and spending time with his family, Brian is also extremely committed to engaging with our alumni. This past Homecoming, Brian gave a tour of the Pavilion and the Performance Centre to alumni players from the 1970's team. He mentioned that it was incredible to share stories of Gryphon Football history and then to see the look on their faces when they saw the renovations and improvements that had been done to the stadium since their time at Guelph.

"We're so fortunate to have these incredible facilities thanks to Stu and Kim Lang and the 'Angel Gabriel Foundation' and I'm always happy to tour around an alumnus and share some of the history of our Gryphon Football Program. Just a few weeks ago I was able to show Gryphon Alumni, Pat Tracey, as well as former Gryphon Football Head Coach Dan McNally (1987 – 2000) the Pavilion as both gentleman had never seen it before."



“Pat Tracey and I played together, we were roommates, and we won the Vanier together. And that’s the special thing about Gryphon Football - you build such incredible relationships with these people during university that the friendship will continue after you graduate. Pat was the Best Man at my wedding, I was the Best Man at his wedding. We’ve known each other since 1982 and have continued to be a part of each other’s lives.”

It’s only fitting that Brian and Pat got together on Family Day (February 20<sup>th</sup>) to tour the football facilities and Alumni Stadium, a place they called home for many years.

“I’ve realized over the years that anyone who played Gryphon Football, often wants to give back and to stay involved. I’m proud of the University of Guelph and the Football Program and so that is why the FOGF membership program is a great way to stay connected. Although I am no longer coaching, I still see it as supporting the team through connection points and fundraising opportunities.”

Over the years, the FOGF committee has been able to provide financial support through awarding several scholarships to student-athletes on the team. It was noted in our conversation with Brian that it is really something special to be able to see a tangible example of where the FOGF resources are going and how it is directly supporting the Football program.

Brian was able to attend the Athletic Scholarship Event back in November and got to connect with all the players that received a scholarship from FOGF support.

One thing that our readers should know about Cluffer, is that he’s the type of coach who stays connected to his players, even after they’ve graduated. He genuinely cares about their success as a player and most importantly as a person.

One of the best examples of this is the support he’s shown for Tavius Robinson, who is a Gryphon Football Alumni (2018, 2019). Brian coached Tavius with the Gryphons for two seasons prior to Tavius playing Defensive Line in the NCAA for the Ole Miss Rebels.

*“Cluffer was a great coach during my time at Guelph and I am very appreciative of his continued support!”*  
*-Tavius Robinson*

“Last Fall, I went down to the States with a group of Gryphon alumni, both players and coaches to see Tavius play - we all have a connection to Guelph. One of the guys that came with me was Matt Vine and Matt and I played with Tavius’ Uncle (Junior Robinson) at Guelph in 1982, so it was nice to introduce Tavius to those former players. Gryphon Football and the FOGF is really all about connecting and engaging, it’s about the personal relationships and that always has been what’s really important to me.

Coach Cluffer, you have been a positive influence for many players and coaches, and your impact on our program has been incredible. Thank you for your continued support, you are the epitome of the saying #ForeverAGryphon!



*Pictured left to right: Brian Cluff and Pat Tracey*



*Pictured left to right: Tavius Robinson and Brian Cluff*



## *Training Talk*

February saw the end of our first 6 weeks and 2 blocks of training in which the players' main focus was putting on size and strength in the weight room, and getting used to those new dimensions on the field. We had a familiar face in former Gryphon linebacker [Alex Jafs](#), now an experienced performance coach in the area, come to assist us twice a week specifically focusing on the form of some Olympic lifts (especially for some of our newer athletes). As we transition into March, we'll be looking increase our speed on the field through a power block of training as we work towards our spring camp.

Our high school offseason lifting program has been fantastic. We have split up the athletes into two groups: group A is newer to the gym and focused more on developing confidence and competence through their programming led by Coach Avey, while group B is a bit more experienced and has been getting a much harder push from Gryphon linebacker [Nathan Condello](#) (sensing a theme here with the Gryphon LB's). We have over 20 athletes from Centennial, Bishop Macdonell, J.F. Ross and GCVI working hard towards gearing up for summer rep leagues of all ages.

During Superbowl weekend, the football program held its Coaches Clinic. As the last presenter of the clinic, I focused on educating the coaches on the steps that should be taken if they are the ones implementing strength and conditioning programs themselves. I also gave easy examples of exercises they could do at minimal cost, and further explained if they were creating a weight room on a budget, what items should come first and so on and so forth.

The Coaches Clinic led me to begin formulating an idea for a Performance Clinic with 45 minute presentations to a number of demographics (sport coaches, strength coaches, personal trainers, athletes, students). The goal is to make this an annual event. As of right now, I have a great number of colleagues in the industry who have agreed to take part and speak at this event. I will not disclose names now, but know there is a great deal of variety in the topics that will be discussed.

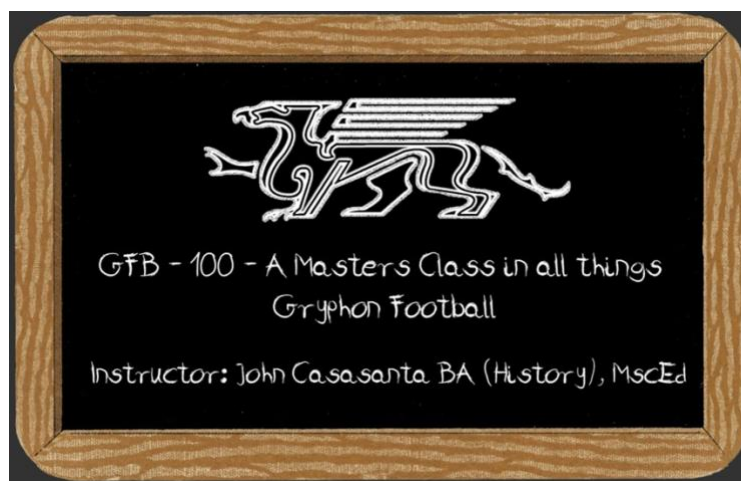
Further, I will be looking to launch a 1-day Football Combine Test Teaching workshop. A lot of the athletes we recruit from high schools are constantly taking part in Junior Identification days and being asked to participate in combine events. I've noticed that many of them have no formal training in how to excel at some of these tests. As such, this one-day event which I am planning at the end of the high school March Break will be geared towards breaking down the tests individually, training how to perform them, and providing homework for further benefit. That too will be announced on social media shortly.

Finally, during the University of Guelph's reading week, I flew down to Pensacola Florida and took in the training happening at Exos in Gulf Breeze, where our very own Siriman Harrison Bagayogo is working diligently to prepare for the CFL National

Combine, and hopefully to get a look from the NFL as well. It was impressive to see the scope of the program being executed down there, specifically as focuses daily on Exos' four main pillars: mindset, nutrition, movement and recovery. I've made many notes on what is taking place here and received feedback from conversing with employees, coaches and a few of the athletes on their experience. Likewise, seeing what the athletes are doing training wise and how is a nice confirmation that your 2023 Guelph Gryphons are on the right track.

A black banner with a red and white Gryphon logo on the left. The logo is a stylized Gryphon with wings, standing on its hind legs. To the right of the logo, the text "Mr. Casasanta's History Class" is written in a bold, yellow, italicized font.

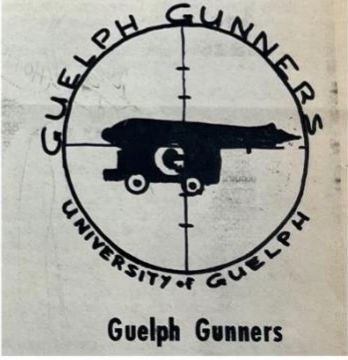
**Mr. Casasanta's History Class**

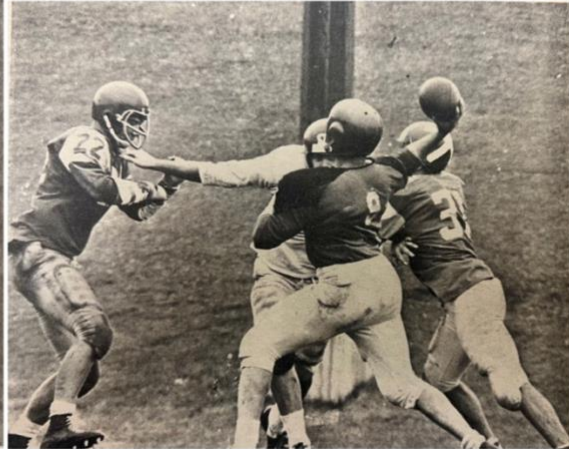


Welcome to GFB – 100. Welcome back to the March Edition of GFB - 100. I am your instructor John Casasanta, your resident Gryphon Football historian. GFB -100 is a master's class where we will delve into interesting and historical facts about all things Gryphon Football. Each month I will provide you with an interesting fact about the Gryphon Football program. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any of your own facts or stats to add to this segment each month. Forward any information, stat, story or correction to me at [jcasasan@uoquelpg.ca](mailto:jcasasan@uoquelpg.ca). The monthly goal is that you find this section informative and educational. I look forward to sharing with you all, so without further ado let's begin.

For this month's lesson we will continue with our pictorial retrospective of Gryphon Football. The focus this month will be from 1965-1970. Thanks to the staff from the Ontario for allowing us access to every issue beginning in 1952 with the OAC Aggies then Redmen and right up to today's Gryphons'. I hope you enjoy this retrospective and for some of you I hope you enjoy seeing some of these great moments you were a part of. Enjoy.

**REDMEN OR GRYPHONS?**





Training Camp 1968

## Ex-Ti-Cat Joins Gryphons Offense

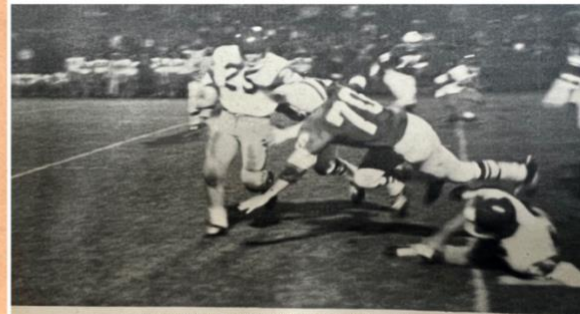
A welcome addition to the Gryphon's coaching staff this year is the veteran player and coach, Dick Brown. Taking over the duties of offensive coach, Mr. Brown is expected to engineer a far superior offense for the Gryphons.

Coach Brown played eight seasons in the CFL until 1957, with the Ti-Cats, Argos and Allouettes as a cornerback and safety. The Argo record for most punt returns in one season is still held by him.

Having spent the last eleven years coaching, Coach Brown was until recently head coach of the Hamilton Hurricanes. His main interest is to develop a strong passing attack to add balance to the Gryphon's offense.



Besides coaching football Coach Brown will assist Dr. Mitchell in the administrative duties of the Physical Education Department.



Stewart tries to avoid tackle by York's Jim Miller.

Pat Bowser Photo

September 24th, 1968 vs York (Win)



A Dempsey to Hutchins pass in the first quarter broken up by Ottawa's Williams. John Gillespie Photo

September 28th, 1968 vs Ottawa (Loss)



"Senator" Steve Stewart directs traffic as he sets sail on a punt return. Stewart scored one touchdown toward Guelph's victory on an 80 yard punt return. John Gillespie Photo

October 12, 1968 vs Laurentian (Win)



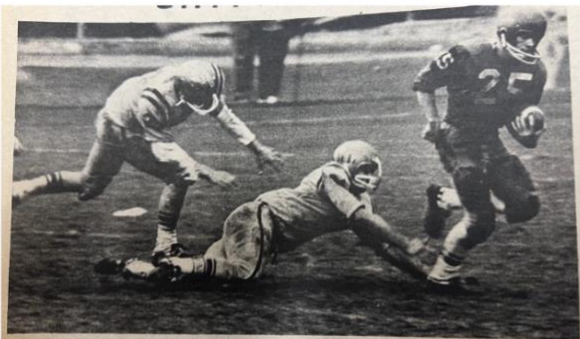
A Laurentian Voyageur nose dives as Greg Topolie and Ed Barrie look on with seeming impartial interest. But Gryphons defensive unit was a long way from disinterest as the Guelph crew shellacked Sudbury 38 - 3. John Gillespie Photo

October 12, 1968 vs Laurentian (Win)



An unidentified Guelph defensive back tries to elude a Carleton halfback after intercepting a pass. Barry Byear (20), Robert Saunders (63), and Bill Morrison form blocking.

October 19, 1968 vs Carleton (Loss)



**John Gillespie photo**  
*Inches, inches. Steve Stewart escaped by inches when he dodged Lutheran tackler's outstretched arm and took off for Guelph's only touchdown in last Saturday's game. Stewart was in top form but the Gryphons have now fallen to third place in the league.*



*Carleton quarterback Mike Sharp is tackled after a short gain by Gryphon defenders John Wilson (49), Greg Topolie (33), and Bill Peiton (50).*

October 26, 1968 (Homecoming) vs Waterloo (Loss)      October 19, 1968 vs Carleton (Loss)



*Captain Greg Topolie (33) of the Gryphons moves to stop Lutheran ball carrier.*      **John Gillespie photo**



*Mike Power (22, above) shone for Guelph in the last three games of the season. He's looking forward to next year because "we're not losing too many players and next year could be our season." Bill Dempsey (10, left), Guelph's first-string quarterback, has proven himself cool in the clutch. Unfortunately Dempsey was another Gryphon playing his final game on Saturday against the Laurentian Voyageurs.*



## COACHES'

## COMMENTS



Coach Huck O'Connell (far right): We had a very good season in general. Our defence did a good job and the offence started rolling in the last half of the season.

Coach Orlando Iacouelli (left): We went a long way. We've had a few boys who have been getting experience. Most will be back next year and we're looking forward to the next season.

Coach Dick Brown      I think we gave the people of Guelph, both the students and the townfolk alike, a good entertaining year of football. Even the games we lost, I think we played well enough to win.



Published November 8, 1968



Published February 13, 1969

I want to thank Patrick Sutherland for his time and contribution to this month's lesson. Patrick was gracious enough to allow me access to the Ontario's archives. I am excited to be able to share 72 years of history with you with the help of Patrick and the staff of the Ontario. I look forward to seeing you next time when we discuss all things Gryphon Football. Class is dismissed.



This month's Gryphons Gone Pro is Heron Tait! He was signed as by Toronto as a free agent in July of 1995 and dressed for six games for the Argos!



## ***Save The Date***

Did you know that the Canadian Cancer Relay for Life event is active in 29 countries and 6,000 communities worldwide?

On March 11th, players from the Gryphon Football and Women's Flag Football team will be uniting as one team to raise money. Visit the [link](#) to either donate or share the initiative.



A big month of recruiting and we've got some incredible talent being added to our roster! Looking forward to welcoming these individuals to Guelph in just a few more months for Training Camp!

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>HOMETOWN</b>
Michael Partchenko	LB	Toronto, Ontario
Brady Jenkins	ATH	Okotoks, Alberta
Nick Metron	LB	London, Ontario
Rhys Antwi	DB	Milton, Ontario
Tom Rodehutsors	WR	Okotoks, Alberta
Willem Arseneau	WR	Calgary, Alberta
Zac Valentine	FS	Edmonton, Alberta



## **Save The Date**

Junior ID Camp - Sunday, April 16th, 2023

- Great opportunity for all football prospects to be identified!
- Athletes must be born between 2002 - 2006
- Register [here!](#)
- Contact Mark Surya at [msurya@uoguelph.ca](mailto:msurya@uoguelph.ca) if you have questions



Gryphon Gala – May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

FOGF Golf Tournament – July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023



## **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.