Gryphons' Lair – Issue 80 September 2023

We've been waiting a long time to say this.... GRYPHON FOOTBALL IS BACK!

The 2023 season officially kicked off on Saturday, August 26th and then Gryphons defeated the Toronto Varsity Blues 33 – 10! It was a great start to the OUA season and we look forward to sharing all things gryphon football with our readers throughout the rest of the season. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide game recaps, update our readers on what our alumni are up to, share pictures and videos and promote our upcoming events!

<u>Vutsup Media</u> deserves a huge shoutout for creating the <u>2023 Gryphon football hype video</u>. This video shoot is always a highlight for our players and this year we had the opportunity to travel to <u>Pursuit OCR</u> in Mississauga to capture the footage. Always an anticipated video each year, and we are thrilled to share it with you all!



Pictured: Daniel Hocevar

We want to see your Gryphon Pride all year long! Please submit pictures of yourselves or family members while they are travelling wearing Gryphon gear. Pictures can be emailed to Sarah Garrett at <u>garretts@uoguelph.ca</u> and this will be a year-long contest. The winner will receive a Gryphon Football Game Day experience package for the 2024 football season.

Enjoy Issue 80 of the Gryphons' Lair!



Training Camp

Our players, coaches and support staff had an action-packed Training Camp at Alumni Stadium. We welcomed our rookies and their parents and families for Report Day on August 11th, and then we were ready to hit the turf for practice on August 12th.

From reviewing film, working out the Performance Centre, practicing on the field, team meetings – the days were action packed!

Thank you to the Hospitality Services team at the U of G for keeping us fuelled throughout camp. Did you know that the U of G has the best campus food in Canada? We sure were fuelled up for the duration of our training camp!

Curious what a typical day in the life is like for our athletes? Check out this <u>video</u> of 2nd year RB, <u>Isaiah Smith</u>.



Pictured: Offensive Lineman (Each year they dress up in a theme - the best tradition!)



Game 1 – Guelph Gryphons vs. Toronto Varsity Blues

Gryph nation showed up for Game 1 at Alumni Stadium! The pre-game tailgate hosted by the Gryphon Parents of Players Group was the perfect opportunity to bring our community together. Many thanks to the volunteers that organized, coordinated and set-up the tailgate, it was the perfect way to welcome our community back to Alumni Stadium!

There's nothing quite like the sense of community that comes from cheering on your team alongside fellow fans. That's exactly what happened at this game, where alumni from over six decades of football came together to watch the game from the nest. It was a truly special occasion, as these former players and supporters were able to catch up with old friends, reminisce about past games, and revel in the excitement of the present moment. It's a testament to the #ForeverAGryphon saying, and we appreciate that so many people, from so many different eras, came together for this game. We look forward to connecting with all our Gryphon Football family throughout the season.

The red, gold and black were able to pull of the victory for game 1 in front of a crowd of over 1,200 fans! The stats below speak for themselves, a very impressive showing from our players and we look forward to Game 2 against Windsor. Fans can tune into the action on <u>oua.tv</u>

Team Statistics		
	TORONTO	GUELPH1
Total Yards	190	414
Pass Yards	169	201
Rushing Yards	42	220
Penalty Yards	6-58	8-88
1st Downs	14	25
3rd Downs	0-2	1-2
4th Downs	0-0	0-0
ТОР	34:43	25:17

Read the game recap here.





Captains Lunch

On August 19th, the Gryphon Football team held their annual captains lunch where they welcomed back previous captains. The alumni were invited to the Nest where they were able to watch the current roster practice on the field. Following the practice, Coach Sheahan gave a post-practice breakdown and the alumni joined the team for lunch on campus. The event provided an opportunity

for current players to connect with past players, and many stories were shared. The Gryphon Football team expresses their gratitude to the alumni for taking the time to come back and visit their alma mater and get to know their team. It was a great opportunity to strengthen the bond between past and current Gryphons.





Pictured: QB Marshall McCray with former captain, Gerrit Stam

Rogers Partnership Announced

We are thrilled to announce the partnership between the Athletic Department and Gryphon Football with RogersTV to broadcast the 4 home games for the 2023 season This new partnership will offer the opportunity for individuals who are not able to attend the games in person to still enjoy the experience from the comfort of their own home. It's a great way to reach a wider audience and allow more people to support the team even if they are unable to physically be there.

This partnership was made possible because of the generous support from the Lang Innovation Team. Thank you, LIT! This is just another way that we are able to elevate our program and provide the best experience for our fans and community.

Read the full story here.







CELEBRATIONS

Players of the Game – Week 1

Congratulations to <u>Tristan Aboud</u>, <u>Anthony Moretuzzo</u>, and <u>Jack Cobb</u> for being named *Players of the Game* for the Week 1 victory against U of T.

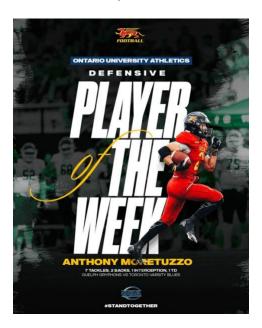
Read the article here.

We are excited to see what these players will bring to the rest of the season!



OUA Defensive Player of the Week – Anthony Moretuzzo

A strong start to the 2023 season for Defensive Back, <u>Anthony Moretuzzo!</u> An incredible Game 1 performance where he tallied 7 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 interception and 1 touchdown. Congratulations, Anthony on being named the <u>OUA Defensive Player</u> of the Week!



World Photography Day

In honour of World Photography Day on August 19th, we wanted to give a shoutout to our talented media crew – Dhanung Bulsara, Christian Bender, Alex Vutskoks and Jessie Kennedy. This team puts together our video, photography and social media content. View this <u>link</u>, to check out the fan engagement photos throughout this season, and be sure to follow us on <u>social media!</u>



Gryphon Alumni win Gold!

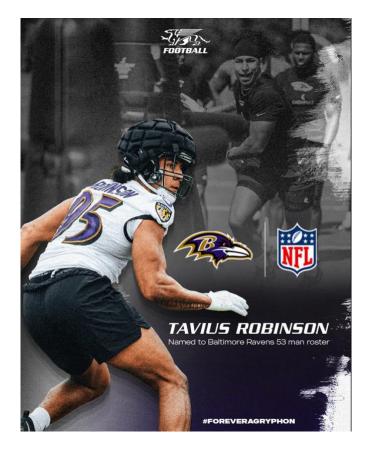
Congratulations to Gryphon Alumni, Dave Majpruz, Mike Chisolm and Brett McCallum, who are all part of the Hamilton Fire crew for wining GOLD in World Police/Fire Games in Winnipeg. This is the first Canadian team to ever win gold in flag football at WPFG, which began in 1985.

Congratulations!



Tavius Robinson listed on Baltimore Ravens Roster

Congratulations to <u>Tavius Robinson</u> for being named to the initial 53-man roster with the Baltimore Ravens! Your Gryphon family is excited to cheer you on!





A new support group has been initiated and opened the season with a bang. Alumni offensive linemen are gathering at every home game to support our current o-line and to create networking opportunities within the group. The **Herd O-Line Play of the Game** will be selected by those in attendance and awarded to a player at the end of each game before a group photo. <u>Ethan Pyle</u>, a 6'3" 280 lb. centre from Milton, ON was the first recipient of the award. He was presented with the trophy that was sponsored by <u>Montana's</u> in Guelph. If you have played Offensive Line and are not receiving these invites, please reach out to Bill Brown at <u>brownw@uoguelph.ca</u> to make sure you are promptly added to The Herd mailing list. Members of The Herd committee are Mike MacDonald, Brett McCallum, Dan Crabbe and supported by Bill Brown.





FEATURED PLAYER

The 2023 season will be the final time that <u>Kaine Stevenson</u> wears a Gryphon jersey. The Windsor native is entering his 5th year of eligibility and will be wrapping up his football career with the Guelph Gryphons.

This month's newsletter feature is #7, Kaine Stevenson.

Before he officially joins the alumni family, we had to be sure to chat with Kaine about his time at the U of G as a student, and what his football journey has been like.

Kaine had a unique recruiting process, as he spent 2 years in British Columbia playing in the CJFL, which is the Victoria Island semi-pro league. After returning back home to Windsor, Kaine reach out to Donnavan Carter, the current Special Teams Coordinator for the Gryphons.

"When I was in high school at W.F Herman, Coach Donnavan was a part of the Windsor Lancers coaching staff, and we had some initial recruiting conversations. Once I came back home after playing in CJFL, I reached out to Coach as I knew he was at Guelph, and I sent him some film tape. Coach Sheahan and Coach Carter ended up coming down to Windsor to meet my Mom and I. After that initial conversation, I was confident that I was committing to the U of G."

Kaine's first season with the Gryphons was in 2019 and he ended up starting his very first game in the OUA, at the running back position. The 2019 roster had a lot of standout players, including <u>Tavius</u> <u>Robison</u>, <u>Kiondre Smith</u>, <u>AJ Allen</u>, <u>Jared Beeksma</u>, and <u>Kian Schaffer-Baker</u>, many of whom went on to play in the CFL.

"It was definitely intense to be dressing and starting my very first game. However, being a little bit older and having the experience of playing with veterans during my time in BC really prepared me for the competitiveness within the OUA."

Like many of our current players, Kaine had a split in his momentum with football in 2020, due to the cancelled season because of the pandemic. During the 2020 – 2021 academic year, Kaine moved back home to Windsor.

After a long 700 days without football, Kaine was eager to get out on the field for the 2021 season.

"I think we had a bye-week for Week 1 during the 2021 season, and that was tough. We were all itching to play football again, especially after not having a season in 2020. After seeing all the other teams competing in their first game, we definitely had some built-up energy and couldn't wait to play. The game vs. Western has been one of my favourite memories from my time as a Gryphon. It was such a close game towards the end, and we were able to pull off the victory against Western."

And although university can be filled with incredible memories and moments, it can also be challenging and stressful. In 2022, Kaine faced some tough moments.

"I have a lot of things going on in my personal life, and looking back to last year, I lost two of my best friends from back home. I ended up reducing my academic workload, which meant that I had to take 4 classes this summer to get back on track. I am grateful for the support of my teammates and especially our Academic Coordinator, Lindsay Williams. Lindsay has been helping me stay on track, she's provided so much guidance throughout my time here at Guelph, and I truly don't know where I would be without her."

We chatted with Kaine during Training Camp, and he was reminiscing about his first training camp in 2019 and how fast time has gone, especially as he enters his final year.

"There's so much that goes into being a football player. Not only are you balancing the demands of being an athlete, but you're also focusing on school and there is also a lot of community events and outreach that our team partakes in. When I came into the program, I was strictly focused on football, and it definitely threw me for a loop with all of the other aspects that were involved with being a part of this team. But I really appreciate it. I think it's necessary to build us up as a time, and to create that brotherhood bond. These opportunities have definitely helped shape me into the person I've become today.

As Kaine looks to the 2023 season, he mentioned to us that he's ready for a great year with this team.

"I am excited for this season. I'm ready to leave it all out on the field. Although I am going to be finishing up my last year of football in the OUA, I am hoping that there might be other opportunities, such as playing in the CFL."

Thank you, Kaine for being this month's newsletter feature – we wish you all the best with your final season as a Gryphon!





FEATURED ALUMNUS

"A typical football game last three hours and if you're lucky and stay healthy, you get eight games a year. That's only 24 hours, 1 day in your life that would spend playing a football game. If you play for five years, it's really five days of your life. I think about all the hours put into the sport, such as watching film, lifting weights and practicing and working on footwork, etc. It's incredible to think about the dedication that student-athletes have."

The above quote was shared with us in recent conversations with Steve Burns, the September alumnus feature. We thought it was a great way to start of this article, as it really puts it into perspective just how dedicated our players are to the game. It is this continued passion and love of the game that keeps Steve Burns an active alumnus, and why he joined the Friends of Gryphon Football Membership program.

Part of Steve's FOGF membership benefits, include a ticket to the Annual Gryphon Football Gala. At the Gala in May, one of the silent auction items was a '*Gryphon Football training camp experience*'. The highest bidder got a chance to watch practice during Training Camp, tour the facilities and eat lunch with the team. Gryphon Alumni, Steve Burns joined us on August 19th to redeem his silent auction prize, and so we thought he would be the perfect alumni feature for this month, so we could

chat with him about his experience back in the 90's when he was a player, and then what it was like being back on campus, recently.

Steve played Defensive Back and had a great well-rounded experience in his first year. Steve was recruited by Coach McNally in 1989 and toured a few schools, but Guelph seemed 'right' for him. Growing up in Etobicoke, he wanted to be far enough from his hometown, but not too far.

After graduating from the U of G, Steve earned himself an entry-level job in Toronto on Bay Street and credited his football experience for helping him get his first job. During an orientation session, a trainer asked, 'who's the football guy,' and he looked around the room and realized that he was the only one. The discipline and teamwork he learned on the football field translated well to his career, and he was able to make a strong impression during job interviews.

"I really concentrated on my career, and I didn't go see a Gryphon Football game for about 16 years after graduating. There wasn't really a reason for me to go back, of course, I was still really good friends with a lot of my teammates, but I somehow never made it back to a game."

That all changed in 2014, when the Korol family brought Steve back into the Gryphon Family when their son, <u>Luke</u> started playing for the team, and it reminded him how amazing Gryphon Football is.

Luke Korol, Christine Korol's son, started playing with the Gryphons in 2014, giving Steve and his wife a reason to go back and watch the games. Steve typically catches up with Luke 3-4 times a year, and he thinks that's a true testament to the Gryphon Family and the strength of the alumni group as well as the Friends of Gryphon Football membership.

"It really makes me proud to be a Gryphon when I see the photos and videos on social media that highlighted the team and the FOGF membership. The quality of the media is outstanding, and it can be compared to NCAA schools. I had just assumed that all schools shared the same amount of content like Guelph, but after chatting with a friend of mine, I quickly learned that it's not the case. The quality of the media coverage of Gryphon Football is a testament to the program's excellence."

The timing of Steve's visit during Training Camp aligned perfectly with another event happening at the same time, so Steve was able to reconnect with some other alumni.

"I felt proud to be at that event with other alumni, seeing the players out on the field and watching the practice from the Nest. After practice was over, each player came over, introduced themselves, shook their hand, and chatted with the alumni. It was a class act. I've said it a bunch of times already today, but I truly felt proud. I hadn't watched a practice since I was a player out on that field, and so all the memories came rushing back."

One of the most special things about our Gryphon Football family, is that it's a multi-generational community. Many thanks to Bill Brown and the entire FOGF committee for working so hard to actively engage with our members and our alumni! At our home opener, we had alumni from 6 different decades watching the game from the Nest.

In addition to game day, one of the main highlights for Steve and his friends each year, is the FOGF Golf Tournament (to our readers – mark your calendars, July 19th, 2024!).

"My one buddy, who joins me for the golf tournament, says it's the highlight of the summer. He always has it circled in his calendar. The tournament is so well done, food is fantastic, speeches are great – it's such great event to bring players, fans, alumni and community members together to support the team."

It was great having you back on campus, Steve! We hope you enjoyed your visit with the team at training camp and taking a walk down memory lane. We look forward to seeing you at a game soon!



Pictured left to right: Steve Burns and Brent Siemens



FEATURED FOGF MEMBER

Matthew Famurewa



Current Career:

WORKPLACE CONSULTANT AT POI

Favourite FOGF Event:

I HAD THE CHANCE TO PLAY IN THE FOGF GOLF TOURNAMENT, AND IT WAS AN ABSOLUTE BLAST. The way the dave pampe embraced anthony hall and myself, and the fun of it all was great. It felt like something I could look forward to yearly.

Reason for joining the FOGF Membership Program:

MY BOSS ASKED ME TO JOIN A NETWORKING GROUP FOR MY WORK. I WANTED TO JOIN ONE THAT Embodied the hard work and focus of a football player. The names of the people in This group made my Jaw drop and made me excited for my future. Gryphon football Breeds Performers on the field and in Life. No better choice than fogf!

FOGF FEATURE GRYPHONS' LAIR

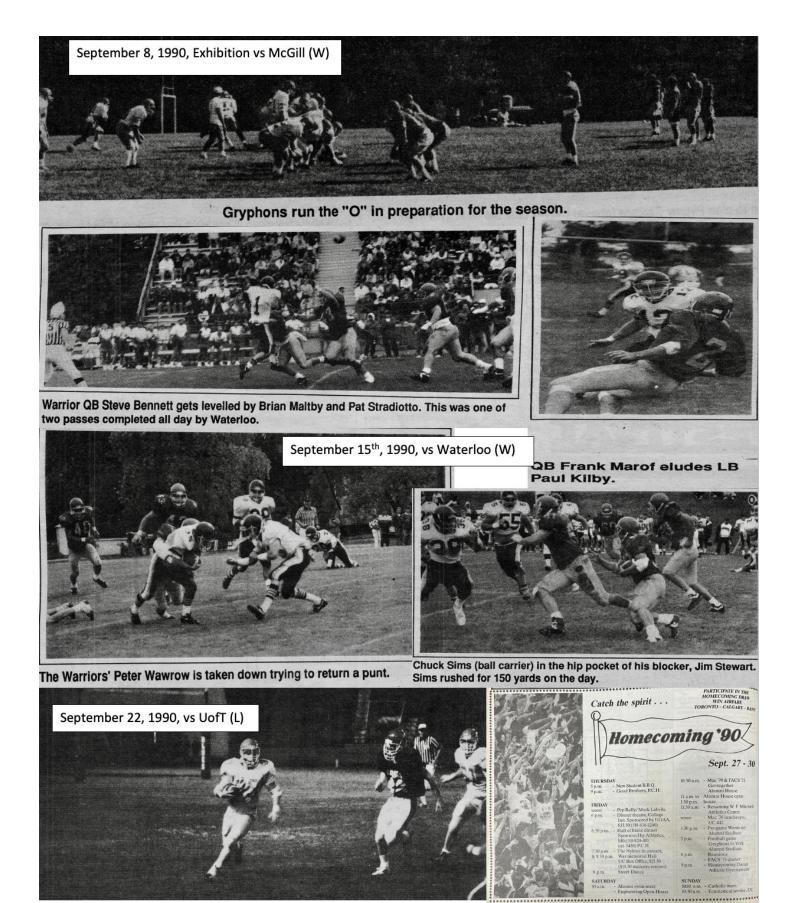
OOTBALL



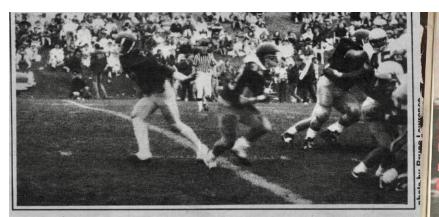
Welcome to GFB – 100. Welcome back to the September Edition of GFB – 100, thank you to those who earned extra credit over the summer months. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. It's time to get back to work. I am your instructor John Casasanta, your resident Gryphon Football historian. GFB -100 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 <u>jcasasan@uoguelph.ca</u>. 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.

This month we are going to stray away from the order we have been following to honour the teams from 2000-2005. I know what you're thinking Ian McQueen (Yates Cup Champion 96) we need to continue where we left off 90-95, but with it being the 2003 Gryphons' 20th anniversary I decided to place our focus on the 2000-2005 teams, I promise to come back to the 90's next month Mr. McQueen. Thanks to the staff of the Ontarion 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.





10010mher 2514 1990 <34> the On



What a rush! Chuck Sims against York: off and running and running and running. He didn't stop until he had the OUAA alltime rushing record.







PETRO

Gryphons sh

Yeom 53

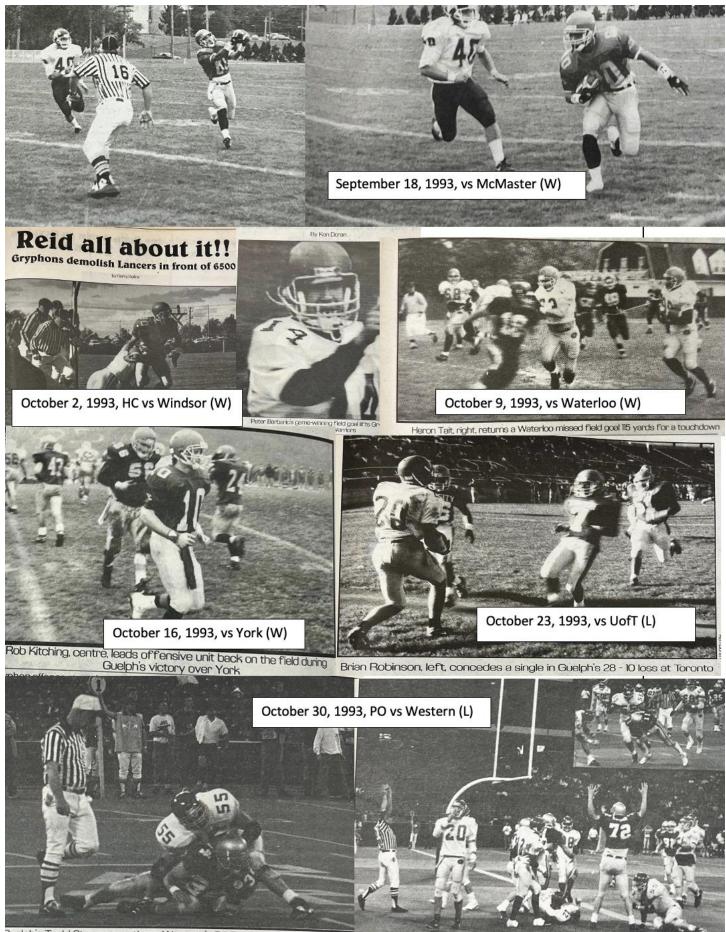
Volume 103 Issue 5

Tuesday October 2 1990



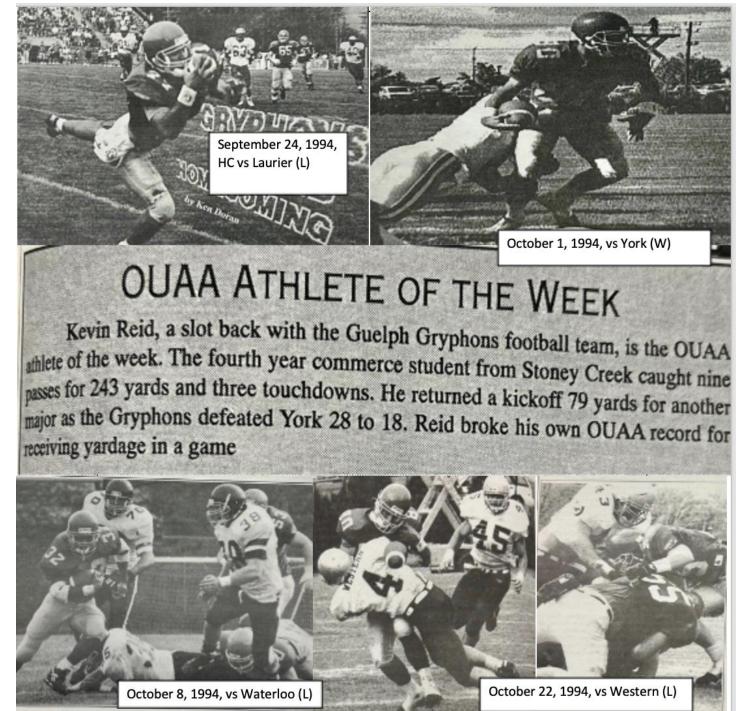
TOUCHDOWNI Gryphs quarterback Wally Gabler busts through Waterloo line to score six. Guelph lost the game 33-7 and may end up losing Gabler for the season.





Suelph's Todd Storms smothers Western's Bill Pannunolos after a Mustor





Terry Winds takend an an anti-

Happy 20th Anniversary to the 2003 Gryphons. I hope to see all of you at Homecoming this year. 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.



For this month's edition of Gryphons Gone Pro, we want to highlight <u>Charlie Taggart</u>, who is currently the Assistant Special Teams Coach for the Hamilton Ti-Cats.

Charlie wore #93 for the Gryphons and played at the Linebacker position.

Good luck with the rest of the season, Charlie!





Did you know that we have an Annual Chili Bowl at the Homecoming Game?

It's been eleven years and the tradition continues! The 2023 Chili Bowl is on Homecoming September 23rd. Come out and try some of the best chilis before the Gryphons take on the York Lions. Or better yet, bring your best chili and see if you have what it takes to be the next champion. The event kicks off at 10am in the back of the parking lot behind the scoreboard (P19).

Let Dan Crabbe know by September 14th if you're going to submit a chili. We will have a panel of special judges to decide who has the beans. It's going to be a great event, everyone is welcome, let's make it spicy.

Dan Crabbe - 519 994-5913 hdcrabbe@yahoo.ca





SAVE THE DATE

HOME GAMES -Saturday, September 9th @ 1 PM vs. Laurier -Saturday, September 23rd @ 1 PM vs. York (Homecoming) -Saturday, October 14th @ 1 PM vs. Queen's

AWAY GAMES -Sunday, September 3rd @ 7 PM vs. Windsor -Saturday, September 16th @ 1 PM vs. McMaster -Saturday, September 30th @ 1 PM vs. Waterloo -Saturday, October 21st @ 1 PM vs. Carleton

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



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 <u>here</u>. For questions about the membership, please contact Bill Brown at <u>brownw@uoguelph.ca</u>





If you have any news or updates, we would be more than happy to share them in our upcoming newsletter. Please reach out to <u>brownw@uoguelph.ca</u> for any celebrations, announcements, or bereavements that you would like us to share.