

*Gryphons' Lair*  
*Issue 79 – August 2023*

Welcome to the latest edition of the Gryphons' Lair Newsletter! We are excited to share with you the latest updates and highlights from our Program. This newsletter keeps our readers connected to the team and Gryphon Football community. Whether you are reliving your glory days on the field or just looking for a way to stay up-to-date with the latest news, we hope you enjoy reading our monthly newsletter.

If you have any friends, family members or know any Gryphon Football fans that would like to be added to the mailing list, please send their names and emails to Jessie Kennedy at [jkenne11@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jkenne11@uoguelph.ca) and she will get them added to the list!

This is our last official edition of the off-season because in the upcoming September newsletter we will be recapping our first home game of the 2023 season! Be sure to check out the season schedule [here](#). We look forward to seeing you all back at Alumni Stadium.

Enjoy Issue 79 of the Gryphons' Lair!



### **FOGF Golf Tournament**

On Friday, July 21st, the Friends of Gryphon Football Golf Tournament held its 26th annual event, which was completely sold out with 144 golfers. Participants enjoyed a great day at Guelph Lakes Golf and Country Club, where they played 18 holes of golf and were entertained with various activities, including the longest drive competition, 'Beat the Coach' with Ryan Sheahan, beverage sampling from Cottage Springs, BBQ sauce tasting from Montana's.

We are grateful for the tremendous support we received from all our sponsors, whose contributions helped make our tournament a great success. We would also like to thank the staff at Guelph Lakes for ensuring that the event ran smoothly. We are already looking forward to the 27th annual FOGF golf tournament, which will take place on Friday, July 19th, 2024, and we hope to see you all there.



Thank you to the committee, George Bortolato, Randy Dimitroff, Bill Brown, and Jessie Kennedy for their dedication and hard work in organizing and running such a successful tournament.

A special shoutout to our football players volunteers ([Tommy Bourikas](#), [Ethan Pyle](#), [Mitchel Schechinger](#), [Kumail Khilji](#), [Ben Lane](#), [Jakob Tomas](#), [Yusuf Al-Khaldi](#) and 3 of our incoming rookies - Maddux Martin, Marshall McCray, Amrit Atwal,) for their contribution to the event, which helped to make it even more memorable. They traded their sport to help set up the course and run various activities, such as the putting contest, BBQ lunch and more!

Thank you to our incredible volunteers, Elisabeth Duncan, Andrea Lack, Sydnee Laurent, Cathy Condello, Josephine Moretuzzo, Sawyer Brown and Madeline Wolford. Without your support, this event would not have been possible.

Congratulations to the winning foursome, Lukas Korol, Steve Hiff, Ben Lack, and Mike Kneeland. They had an impressive score of 57, which is 14 under par!

It was a great day on the course with our Gryphon Football family and we look forward to next year's event!

Check out the online gallery of photos [here](#).





## Coach Coates – Family, Passion and Football

Be sure to check out the great article linked below, that was written about Coach Greg Coates and his father, Dwayne Coates. It talks about their passion for the game, and Greg's reasoning and motivation for learning the game of football.

*"I think growing up, it definitely left an impression on me. The years spent on the sidelines watching him do what he did - I don't think I could imagine doing anything else in my life."*

We're proud to have Coach Greg a part of our Gryphon family as the offensive and special teams assistant.

Read the full story [here](#).



## Tavius Robinson returns to his Alma Mater

We were thrilled to welcome [Tavius](#), former Gryphon and current Raven for the Baltimore Ravens, back into the gym at Alumni Stadium last month. Great to have Tavius working out in the Performance Centre and making use of our state-of-the-art-facilities. We wish you all the best, Tavius as you gear up for your first season in the NFL!



*Pictured left to right: Tavius and Coach Sheahan*



## ***CELEBRATIONS***

### *First CFL Regular Season TD for former Gryphon, Clark Barnes*

July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 – a day [Clark Barnes](#), a recent U of G alumnus, will always remember as he logged his first regular season touch down of his CFL career. Clark scored a 54-yard touchdown against the Ottawa Redblacks.

Congratulations, Clark! We know that this is just the first of many for you!

Watch the TD play [here!](#)

### *Coach Surya on the West Coast for Canada Cup*

Coach Mark Surya swapped out his Gryphon colours to represent Team Ontario at the Canada Cup in Edmonton, Alberta. Established in 1995, the Canada Cup is the premier national tackle football championship. Team Ontario had 40 strong on their roster and were coached by a standout group of football experts.

Team Ontario had a tough loss against Saskatchewan in the semi-final with a final score of 15-12.

Read more [here.](#)



*Pictured left to right: Coach Surya and Football Ontario Player (Jayden Gurzi-MacDonald)*





## ***FEATURED PLAYER***

“Seeing my last name stitched on my jersey has been one of the best memories I’ve had as a Gryphon Football player.”

We’re thrilled to feature Milton native, [Kumail Khilji](#) for this month’s edition of the Gryphons’ Lair.

Kumail spent 3 years at Football North during high school and began his recruiting process to the U of G in 2019/2020.

“There was a group of us who came to Guelph for our recruiting visit and we got to watch a game and also tour all of the facilities. At that time the Performance Centre was still under construction, but we were still blown away with everything Guelph had to offer. For me, it was really the people that drew me to Guelph. I built great relationships with the coaches, even back when I was in Grade 11 and was just starting out the process of connecting with universities. I initially started chatting with Coach Joe Sardo at a Football North Camp, and then once I switched positions, I connected with Adam Kania, former Strength and Conditioning Coach. I committed in December of 2021 and I’ve thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Gryphon so far.”

In their rookie year, most first year student-athletes take the first semester or year to settle into their sport and academics before adding in other extra-curriculars. This gives them a chance to transition from high school into university. That wasn’t the case for Kumail, he dove right in and got very involved in first year at the U of G. Once the football season ended, he started coaching the Women’s Flag Football team.

“Being in university has exposed me to a lot of different things. Being around all of the coaches and seeing the impact they can have, it’s piqued my interest in working with people, and so that is why I decided to coach the women’s flag football team here at Guelph.”

This past winter, the Lang School of Business, in partnership with the College of Engineering and the Football team joined hosted a gender equity talk on campus, as part of the HeForShe movement, which was initiated by the United Nations in 2014. The purpose of the movement is to breakdown gender stereotypes and improve gender equity. We’re proud to have many of our athletes supporting women in support and gender equity.

Check out this [video](#) that was shared at the event – it highlights the important work we are doing in support of gender equity within the Football Program and the University.

Outside of coaching and training, Kumail has a very busy academic workload. He is studying in the Bachelor of Computing program, majoring in software engineering. A

typical semester of courses includes programming, software design, and linear algebra. This upcoming semester, he will also be taking some of his elective courses in Studio Art.

And if he wasn't busy enough, he recently started a non-profit with his friends, SummerBlitz Foundation, which is empowering local athletes through fundraising tournaments. When asked about how he manages his times and balances everything, he noted that he gets a lot of joy out of being busy. He adds a lot to his plate, but they are all things that he's passionate about.

"I am a big believer in paying it forward. Most of my football career would not have happened if weren't for other people paying it forward and being generous to me. I didn't play football until grade 10, as the sport has a high cost. After I played my first year of high school football, I got recruited to play for the Burlington Stampers. Turns out, someone anonymously paid my registration fees. To this day, I still don't know who it was. I will remember that generosity forever, and I am so grateful that someone gave me the opportunity to play football. I always keep that in the back of my mind, and as a reminder that I need to give it my all, every day both on the field and in the classroom. Someone else trusted me, they invested in me, and I want to make it worth it."

Thank you, Kumail for all your effort and dedication you put into our program! We're proud to have you part of our Gryphon family and look forward to watching your journey, both on and off the field!



Fast on the field and fast on the track, our alumnus feature for this month is dual-sport athlete, Dan Mayhew!

Dan grew up in Belleville, Ontario and began his university career in 1993 and studied Human Kinetics in the Bachelor of Science program.

On the field at Alumni Stadium Dan was a Defensive Back playing at the corner and safety position. Once the season ended, Dan shifted his mindset to indoor track where he ran the 60m.

“Although I didn’t have the greatest individual success on the team, we had team success with the Yates Cup Victory in 1996. At the end of the day, I might have not

played a big role on the field, but overall, we succeeded together as a team, and that is what matters.”

Dan continued his venture into playing sports at a competitive level, and switched his focus to Bobsleigh where he spent five years on the Canadian Team. A few other Gryphons have jumped into the sport of bobsleigh, including [Orion Edwards](#) who was featured in the April 2022 [newsletter](#). This past year Dan and Orion were able to get together in Calgary for a visit and Dan noted how special it was that gryphon alumni are all over the country and how fun it is to connect with former teammates and even players from different eras of Gryphon football as they all have something in common, the brotherhood of Gryphon Football.

Often, when we chat with alumni and interview them for this newsletter, we ask them what their favourite part of their university career was and, more often than not, the response is always the friendships they got to build, and the skills they developed, both on and off the field.

“Bobsleigh is a team sport and football is a team sport and there are a lot of similarities and a lot of very big differences as well. High level sport, such as at the university level, teaches you those things like how to be a good teammate, how to deal with people that maybe you don't really like but you have to be teammates with. In life we deal with a lot of people we don't like all the time and so it's that's certainly a good lesson to learn. And then obviously there's the lessons of striving to be better and balancing your time because it's busy, you've got to balance trying to graduate, trying to get all of the credits you need, attending practice and so on. I played two sports and so as soon as football ended, I started to do another sport right away, so trying to figure all of that out was challenging. I tell you though it was a good lesson and it certainly set me up for the success I've had since then.”

After graduation, Dan started working in the corporate office for Shoppers Drug Mart. Although he initially thought of going into physiotherapy, he started his post-university career in marketing. Dan is currently the National Manager for Cook Medical, international medical device company.

Dan's work often involves travel across the country and this past June he had a work trip in Ontario and so he was able to come back to his alma mater and the city of Guelph.

“Anytime I am back in town, I always get together with my former roommate and teammate, Bill Brown. It was great catching up and reliving the days that we spent at the U of G. I also was able to line up my visit so I could attend a Varsity Track Team reunion party. It was great to be back in person at the event, and get to meet some of the current athletes, and former track athletes as well. Due to living on the West Coast, I am not always able to attend those types of in-person events, so one of the silver linings of covid, was that I got to reconnect with many of my former teammates, as there were

many football events that were virtual. I'm a proud Gryphon and so it was great to be able to re-connect with some people that I hadn't seen in a long time.

We've added some great west-coast talent to the 2023 roster, and Dan was able to coach two of our incoming recruits, Tom Rodehutsors and Chris McLarty.

"I chatted with them a fair bit about the U of G, and I am so excited to see them in a Gryphon jersey for the next 4 or 5 years. I always try to pump the tires of Ontario Football, specifically U of G and will always continue to do that recruiting when I can."

For recruits who are from outside of Ontario, they are not only making a big decision of where they want to attend school, but they are picking a new home and making a big move across the country. Local athletes, or folks who are from the surrounding area, are able to go home on the weekends every once in a while, and have that chance to visit family. That gets a little bit more complicated for out of province athletes and so the decision of where to commit is extremely important.

"Guelph, it's a university town and a smaller city that focuses on things happening at the U of G. There is great connection between the city and the school. The campus itself is contained in one area, which makes it easy to get around. Beautiful old buildings, the fall colours, all great things that I remember from my time as a student. I am really excited for Tom and Chris to begin their university career at the U of G and I can't wait to see what they accomplish, both on and off the field."

Thank you, Dan for taking the time to connect with us! We hope you can make it out to a game to see your former players out on the field wearing a Gryphon jersey!



***FEATURED FOGF MEMBER***

# Frank Tersigni



FOGF FEATURE  
GRYPHONS' LAIR

## **Current Career:**

EQUIPMENT MANAGER FOR GRYPHON FOOTBALL, RETIRED GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

## **Favourite FOGF Event:**

IT HAS GOT TO BE THE GOLF TOURNAMENT – I'VE BEEN TO A LOT OF GOLF TOURNAMENTS IN MY TIME, AND THE FOGF TOURNAMENT IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITES. THE VIBE IS SO POSITIVE, IT'S A FUN DAY, AND THE ORGANIZATION DOES A REALLY GOOD JOB OF HAVING GREAT ACTIVATIONS ON THE HOLES, SUCH AS CONTESTS AND SAMPLINGS. ITS ALWAYS GREAT TO CONNECT WITH GUYS WHO PLAYED IN THE LATE 60'S/EARLY 70'S. IT WAS FANTASTIC TO SEE SOME OF OUR YOUNGER AND RECENT ALUMNI, SUCH AS ANTHONY HALL AND MATTHEW FAMUREWA AT THE RECENT TOURNAMENT!

## **Reason for joining the FOGF Membership Program:**

EVEN THOUGH I AM NOT A GUELPH GRAD, I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE PROGRAM SINCE THE 70'S. FROM BEING A SPECTATOR, TO JOINING THE TAILGATES AND TO NOW WORKING WITH THE TEAM AS THE EQUIPMENT MANAGER. THIS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM IS A GREAT WAY TO STAY CONNECTED TO PEOPLE WHO ARE FROM ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM. I PLAYED AGAINST GUELPH IN UNIVERSITY AND GOT TO PLAY AT ALUMNI STADIUM. I WAS A SPECTATOR AT THE GAMES AFTER I GRADUATED, AND NOW AS A GUELPH LOCAL, IT WAS A NO BRAINER TO JOIN THE FOGF MEMBERSHIP.



## **MR. CASASANTA'S HISTORY CLASS**

Welcome to GFB – 100. Welcome back to the Summer School August 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@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 without further ado, let's begin.

For this month's lesson we will continue with our pictorial retrospective of Gryphon Football. The focus for August will be from 1985-1990. Thanks to the staff of 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.

Published: March 4, 1986.

## Football draftees

The 1985 Guelph Gryphons football team had four players selected in the recent draft by the Canadian Football League. They were: defensive back Jeff Volpe, defensive end Blaine Schmidt, wide receiver Scott Lecky and offensive guard Brian Cluff.

Volpe and Schmidt were second round picks with Lecky and Cluff get-

ting selected in the fourth and fifth rounds respectively.

The 20 year old Volpe was chosen by the Edmonton Eskimos. He brings with him an impressive list of credentials, including first team all star picks in the OUAA in the 1983 and 1984 campaigns as well as a second team choice in 1985. He should be a good

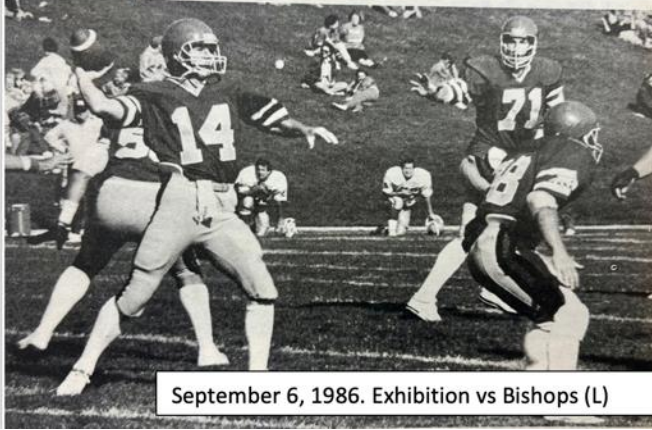
bet to make it in the CFL if he can stay healthy.

Blaine Schmidt may finally be getting the recognition he deserves after also getting picked by the Eskimos. He formed an integral part of the Vanier Cup winning team with his rough house style of play on the line. The 6'4", 260 pound native of North Bay comes to the Eskimos with two second team OUAA all star selections under his belt. Those were in 1984 and 1985.

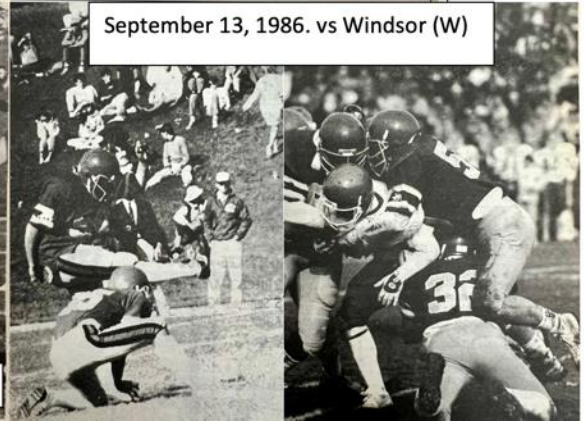
Lecky, who had some pretty big shoes to fill this past season after the departure of Parri Ceci, will have another unenviable task trying to crack

the line-up of the Grey Cup championship team, B.C. Lions. Lecky returned to the Gryphons this season after taking a one year hiatus. In 1983 he was a second team all star.

The only disappointment for the Gryphons in the draft this season is that of Brian Cluff. He is one player that should definitely have gone much higher than what he did. Cluff showed his remarkable two-way ability by switching to offense this year after working as a successful tag team partner on defense with Blaine Schmidt in 1984. The Argos look like they have a good one in this 245 pounder.

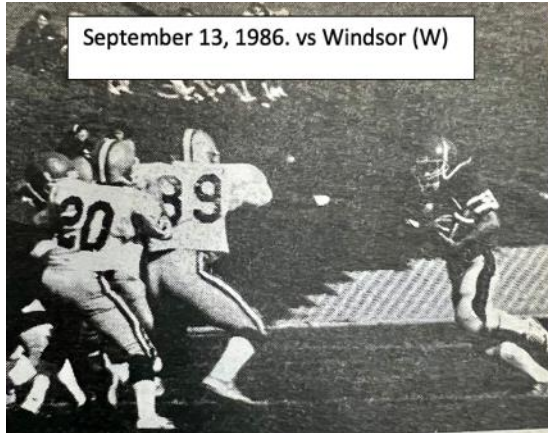


September 6, 1986. Exhibition vs Bishops (L)

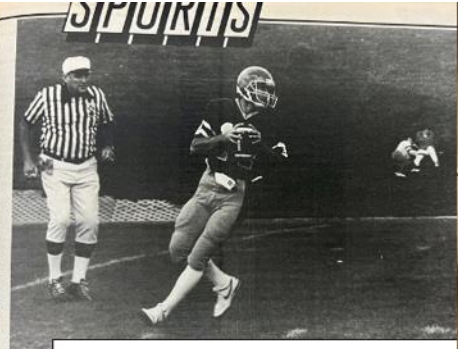


September 13, 1986. vs Windsor (W)



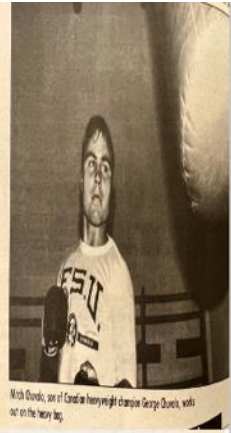


September 13, 1986. vs Windsor (W)



September 20, 1986. vs McMaster (W)

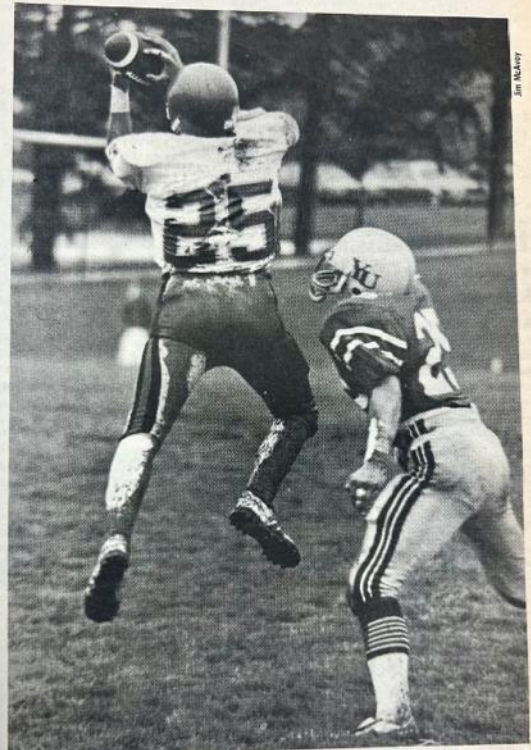
The start of something good?



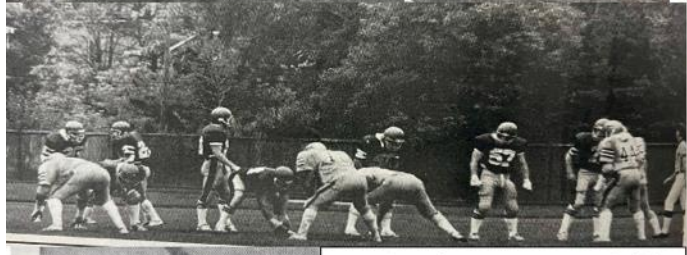
Mitch Givoko, son of Canadian heavyweight champion Gerry Givoko, walks out on the heavy bag.



September 27, 1986. vs Laurier (W)

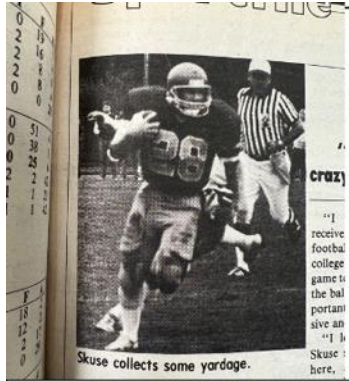


Al Anonech snagged 13 tosses at the Homecoming Aquabowl and set an OUAA record for the most catches in a single game.



October 4th, 1986. HC vs York (L)

OUAA Football		OUAA Football				
		Team	GP	W	L	T
Thursday, October 9th		Western	5	5	0	0
Guelph 29, Waterloo 23		Guelph	5	4	1	0
		Laurier	5	3	2	0
Saturday, October 11		McMaster	5	3	2	0
UWO 51, Windsor 1		Toronto	5	2	3	0
McMaster 22, Laurier 23		York	5	2	3	0
		Windsor	5	1	4	0
		Waterloo	5	0	5	0



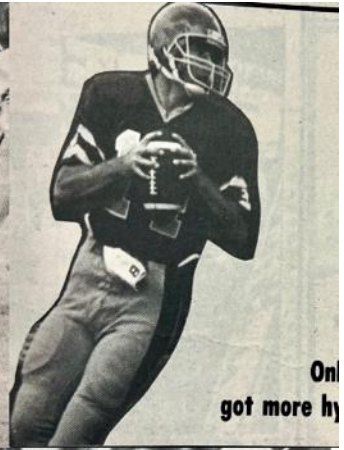
October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1986. vs Waterloo (W)

Skuse collects some yardage.

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I receive football college game the bal portant sive an 01 b Skuse here.



October 25, 1986. vs Western (L)



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got more h



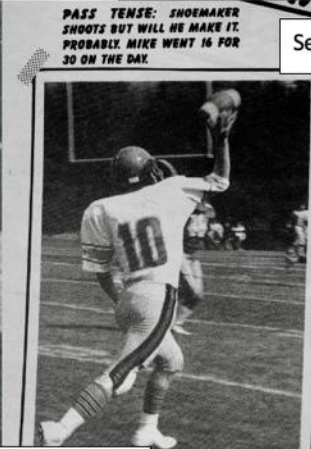
November 1, 1986. PO vs Laurier (W)



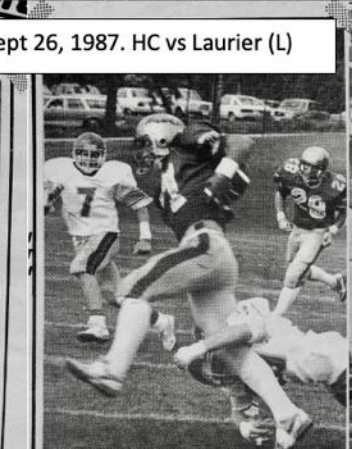
November 8, 1986. Yates Cup vs Western (L)



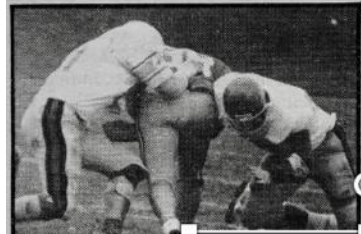
September 5, 1987. Exhibition vs Carleton (L)



PASS TENSE: SHORMAKER SHOOTZ BUT WILL HE MAKE IT. PROBABLY. MIKE WENT 16 FOR 30 ON THE DAY.

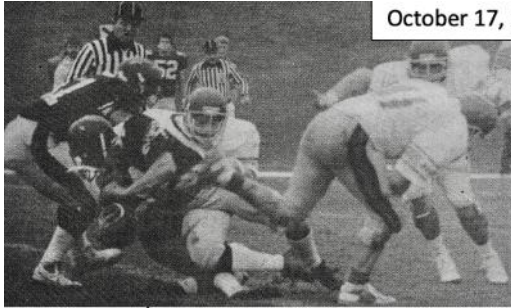


Sept 26, 1987. HC vs Laurier (L)

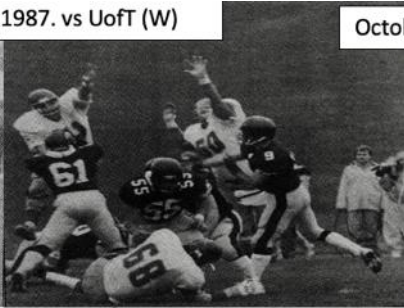


October 3, 1987. vs Windsor (L)

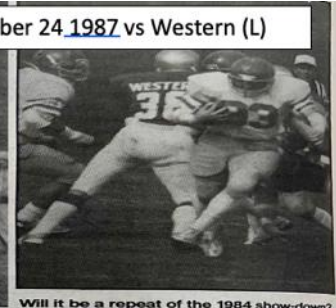




October 17, 1987. vs UofT (W)



October 24 1987 vs Western (L)



Will it be a repeat of the 1984 show-down?



October 31, 1987. PO vs Western (W)

Western is one thing, but will the Gryphons be able to handle the ever-improving Laurier Golden Hawks? Perhaps one player answers this the best: "The best is yet to come!" - Chris Minard.



**Additional spoiler, Guelph is back**

October 23, 1987

**GRYPHS BURN STANGS 22-20**

**Western needs athletic supporters**

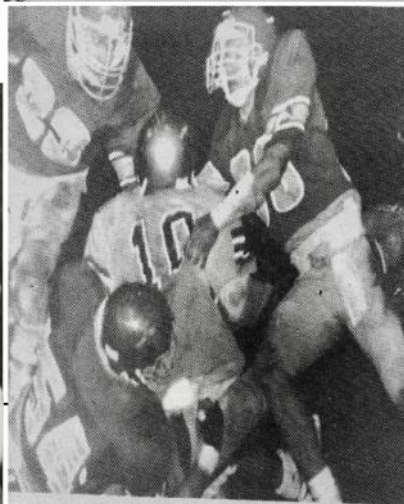
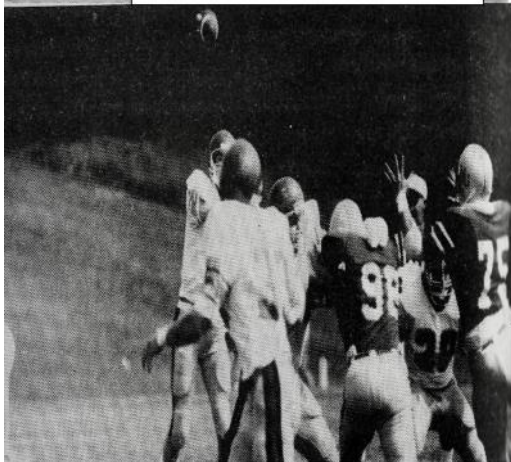
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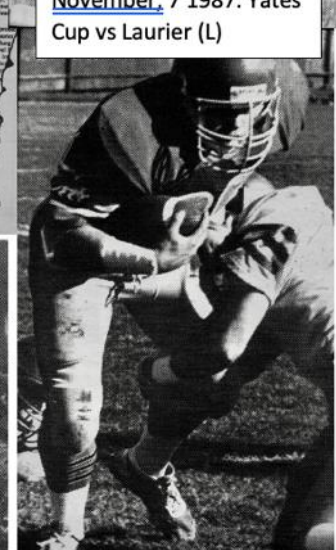
November 7 1987. Yates Cup vs Laurier (L)



September 10, 1988. vs York



Jamie Killingsworth



Guelph Gryphons 1987 OUA A Football All-Stars

First Team Offence  
Tight end - Jim Farrell  
Slot back - Rick Kohler

Second Team Defence  
Lineman - Mike McLarnon  
Linebacker - Dan Wicklum  
Back - Tom Dimitroff



October 15, 1988. vs UofT



October 22, 1988. vs Western (T)

# Gryphs tie Blues



February 28, 1989.

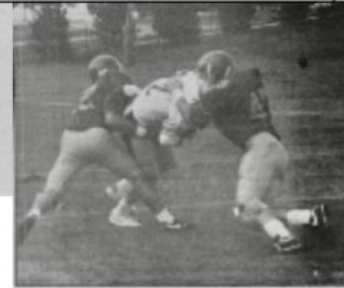


## Former Gryphons join the CFL

Two members of the Gryphons football were selected in the CFL amateur draft held last Saturday in Hamilton. Both were linebackers and both were selected by the B.C. Lions. Pat Nield, was taken in the 5th round of the draft while Wayne England was selected in the 6th round. Both were OUAA All Stars with the Gryphons last season.



September 2, 1989. Exhibition Game vs Ottawa (L)



Gryphons Pat Sterkelio (43) and Rob Digravio (23) take down Ottawa's Mike Gosselin



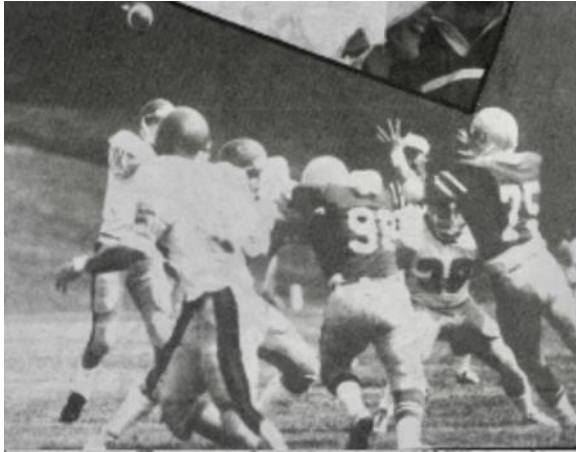
September 9, 1989. vs York (W)



Chris Minard had a big day Saturday with two interceptions, including one for a TD.



September 16, 1989. vs Windsor (W)



September 23, 1989. vs Waterloo (W)



September 30, 1989. HC vs McMaster (W)

**•SCOREBOARD•**

**OCAA Football**

	G	W	L	T	F	A	P
Western	6	5	1	0	226	41	10
<b>Guelph</b>	6	5	1	0	123	74	8
Toronto	6	4	2	0	125	83	8
Laurier	6	3	3	0	95	74	6
Waterloo	6	3	3	0	102	122	6
Windsor	6	3	3	0	98	99	6
McMaster	6	1	5	0	69	180	2
York	6	0	6	0	47	205	0

The Gryphons will need another stellar performance from defensive front 7 against U of T next Saturday

*Guelph forfeits two points in Week 1 vs. York. York does not get the two points.*



**AND THEY'RE OFF . . .** Gryphon defensive linemen Calvin Nigh (55) and Matt Rolle (64) get set to tee off against Toronto. Despite great defense, Toronto won 19-13.

October 14, 1989. vs UofT (L)



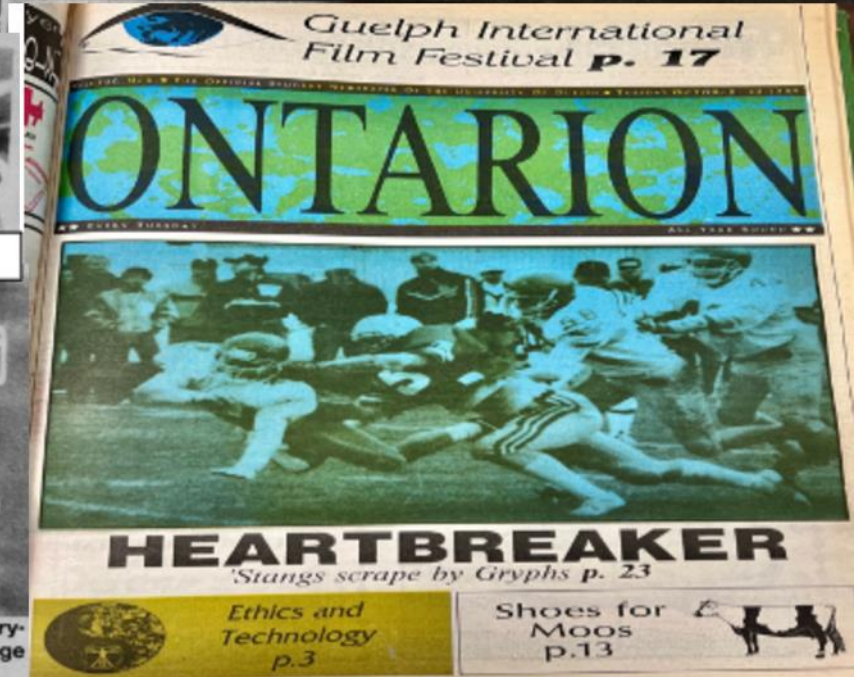
**THIS ONE'S MINE!** Gryphon rookie standout Frank Maroff (19) hauls in a Mike Sho



October 28, 1989. PO vs UofT (L)



DAN TOCHER was one of several Gryphon vets that ended their college football careers against Toronto.



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.

### Gryphons Gone Pro

This month's Gryphons Gone Pro feature is [Coulter Woodmansey](#). He was drafted to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the first round, fifth overall in the 2020 draft. Coulter plays the OL position and wears #64.

Coulter's younger brother, [Curtis](#) is a current member of the Gryphon Football roster and plays Defensive Line.

Coulter frequently comes back to visit his former teammates and coaches at the U of G, and recently helped at our Junior ID camp back in April.

All the best with the rest of the 2023 season, Coulter!



*Pictured left to right: Coulter Woodmansey, Eric Starczala, AJ Allen, Jared Beeksma*



We're thrilled to announce the addition of Jevuan Jacobsen and Trevon Sealy to the roster. Welcome to the Gryphon Family!

NAME	POSITION	HOMETOWN
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Jevaun Jacobsen	DB	Coquitlam, British Columbia
Trevon Sealy	WR	Burlington, Ontario



Did you know that Training Camp for the Gryphon Football Program begins in less than 2 weeks? We are eager to have the players back on home turf and gearing up for the 2023 season. Football is back, Gryph Nation! We hope to see you at our home opener at Alumni Stadium on August 26<sup>th</sup> where we will face off against the Varsity Blues.





*Pictured: Nathan Condello*



## ***SAVE THE DATE***

### HOME GAMES

- Saturday, August 26th @ 1 PM vs. University of Toronto
- 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

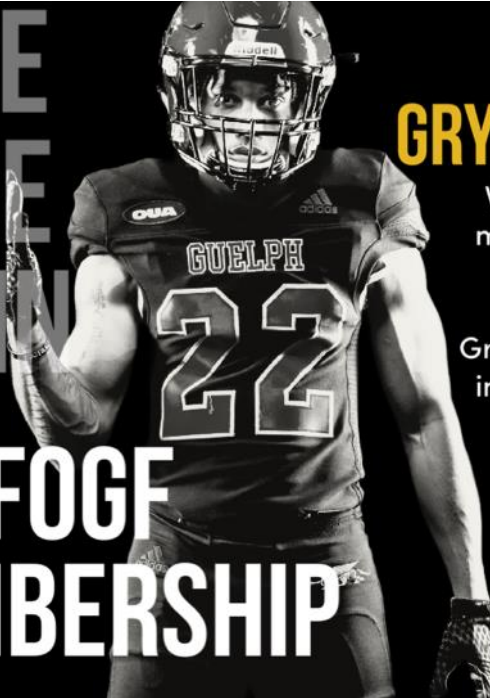
Season tickets and single tickets can be purchased at [gryphons.ca/tickets](http://gryphons.ca/tickets)



## ***FOGF MEMBERSHIP***

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)

**INSPIRE  
ENGAGE  
SUSTAIN**



## **FRIENDS OF GRYPHON FOOTBALL**

VISION: Identify through membership a proud and inspired community of alumni and friends of Gryphon Football, positively influencing the success of the football program.



**FOGF  
MEMBERSHIP**

**JOIN  
NOW**



***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.