



As we enter the summer with great anticipation for the 2018 football season, we also reflect on the busy month of May that we leave behind. Please enjoy catching up on everything Gryphon Football.

The Gryphons' Lair

Issue 17 - June 2018

What Happened in May?

CFL Draft

This month, we were incredibly proud of our Gryphons who were drafted into the CFL! Those drafted include: Offensive Lineman Andrew Pickett (Ottawa RedBlacks, 22nd overall), Defensive Back Royce Metchie (Calgary Stampeders, 25th overall) Kicker Gabe Ferraro (Calgary, 59th overall), and Defensive Back Nick Parisotto (Hamilton Tiger-Cats, 66th overall). To read all of the players' comments and Head Coach Todd Galloway's comments, click [here](#).



East-West Bowl

The East-West Bowl was an exceptional event for our players in May. We sent Linebacker [Job Reinhart](#), Quarterback [Theo Landers](#) and Offensive Lineman [Eric Starczala](#) to Laval where the 2018 U SPORTS East-West Bowl was hosted. These Gryphons were part of the successful Team West, winning 15-14 over Team East. When speaking to Offensive Coordinator, [Jean-Francois Joncas](#), he said, "All three of our players represented Guelph beautifully. Theo had a tremendous week of

practice at the East-West Bowl! On game day, he was the most productive offensive player on either team with 119 yards passing and 56 yards rushing in only 2 quarters of playing time. We are really excited for him for the upcoming season! Eric left a great impression on numerous CFL scouts during his week in Quebec. He surely positioned himself to be a person of interest for the 2019 CFL draft. Eric will be an instrumental piece of 2018 Guelph OL. As always, Job performed extremely well on Defense and Special Teams. On defense, he recorded 2 assisted tackles throughout the game and accomplished his long snapping duty to perfection. Looking forward seeing Job play his 4th season with the Gryphons. He's a great leader for our young players both on and off the field."

"We are proud of all three guys for representing the University of Guelph extremely well. They have each put in a lot of work and have now positioned themselves well to potentially be playing pro next year," Said [Head Coach Todd Galloway](#). To read more about the Gryphons' success at the East-West Bowl, click [here](#).



Proudly standing together on the field at Laval, from left to right: Jean-Francois Joncas, Theo Landers, Eric Starczala, Job Reinhart and Adam Grandy.

Vanier Winner Becomes Guelph Hall of Famer

Rob Pavan was recently inducted into the Guelph Sports Hall of Fame. Pavan is a Guelph native who helped our Gryphons bring the Vanier Cup home in 1984. He went on to play for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and Ottawa Rough Riders before bringing his coaching expertise back to Guelph, where he helped our team win a Yates cup in 1996. To read more about Rob Pavan's induction, [click here](#).



Players Participate in MEtoWE Trip

Every year, Gryphon Football sends a couple of our players to participate in the annual MEtoWE trip. This is a 2-week trip to explore and volunteer in Ecuador. This year, [Walker Breen](#) and [Graham Brodie](#) were granted this amazing opportunity thanks to the Joan Hewitt Scholarship. This is the 5th year we have been able to send our players on a trip like this. Our players appreciate the opportunity enormously. To read more about their experience in Ecuador and see a full slideshow of their photos, [click here](#).



Annual Football Gala

On the 5th of May, we held our 8th Annual Gryphon Football Gala. This year, we celebrated the Grey Cup Gryphons who are the former Gryphons, who were part of the 2017 Toronto Argonaut Grey Cup Championship Team. The Toronto Argonauts in attendance were: Alex Charette, Jeff Finley, Curtis Newton, Jake Reinhart and Cam Walker. The Grey Cup even made an appearance at the Gala!

It was an extremely successful event that was enjoyed by all. During the event, we welcomed our new Head Coach, Todd Galloway, and set a gala record of over \$35,000 raised for the program. We also announced our Honour Jersey recipient and Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. Gerry Organ was named the 2018 Honour Jersey recipient and Don Ziraldo was named the Distinguished Alumnus. To read more about the event, [click here](#).



Gryphon Grey Cup Champions



New Additions to our Pavilion/Stadium

It seems as if we're always adding new things to make our Pavilion the best facility it can be. We've included some photos of our latest additions.



Honour Jersey plaques on the South fence at Alumni Stadium

Coming Back to Gryphon Football

Recently, our former co-op student came back to our program for another co-op work term and she wrote a piece about her experience at Gryphon Football and why she chose to come back.

To read about her experience, [click here](#).



Our co-op student, Alex Zebeljan



At the end of May, we held our annual Meet the Team event. This is an event held at Cutten Fields Golf and Country Club and gives our new commits, their parents and our staff a chance to get to know each other. Each of our commits had an opportunity to be individually introduced in front of the crowd who cheered them on. Then, our Gryphon Football staff and related groups gave speeches to the attendees about Gryphon Football has to offer and what is expected of our new players. The event was really well-received and we really appreciate every commit, player, staff and volunteer who took time out of their day to attend this event and make it an incredible success.

To read more about our Meet the Team event, [click here](#).

To watch a video in which our incoming rookies [Noah Jones](#), [Uriel Kalenga](#) & [Eric Stranz](#) sit down with us to discuss meeting their rookie class for the first time, choosing Guelph and their expectations coming into their first season, [click here](#).



Our new commits for 2018 in front of the new Pavilion



This year's annual theme will be "Rise as One" and I think it's a big one! I launched it at our annual gala this year and we got our big sign up on the field recently. It represents everything that this team has gone through and our incredible potential to come back even better and stronger. This team has faced adversity, like last season, when we had the potential to go very far, but we were defeated. I chose "Rise as One" because it has multiple meanings. It represents our team coming together as one to defeat our opponents. It represents teamwork, cooperation and family. It also represents being number one! This year, we will rise up and come back stronger than ever. We have limitless potential.

As far as the month of May, we're in the process of wrapping up a great recruit class. We have 35 new amazing athletes joining us and it's the most national recruiting class we've had in terms of provinces represented. Summer workouts have started up as well. We have a great group of guys coming in multiple times a week and it's a nice opportunity to work with them closely.

Lastly, I am super excited to have been named the Head Coach of Gryphon Football. I've been a long-serving member of the staff and this position feels like the right fit for me. It's amazing to see the players be so enthusiastic for the coming season, it makes me feel energized and I want to work even harder to make them proud.



"Rise as One" sign on the hill near Alumni Stadium



The off season can be very long for the players and coaches but just as long, if not longer, for the parents. There are many ways POP keeps connected and May was a great month for that. May started with the CFL draft, followed by the successful and exciting Gryphon Football Gala and ended with the 2018 Meet the Team event! Coming up, POP will be at the Gryphon Golf Tournament on Friday, July 27 and we hope many of the parents will join in too! It is a fantastic day, filled with golf, socializing with players and coaches, as well as, great chances to win some very cool prizes. NEW this year, you can opt to just attend the dinner for \$40, if golf is not your thing or you're not able to golf. Please consider joining us as it's going to be an awesome event!

To register as a team or individual, [click here](#). Reminder that Early Bird closes on June 17th!

Make sure to follow POP:

Facebook - Gryphons POP Group

Instagram - @gryphonpopgroup

Don't get our emails? Send your email address to gryphonspop@gmail.com



Members of the POP Group pose during a pre-game tailgate. From left to right: Dale Roberts, Bruna Ferraro, Jane Lewis, Terri Pickett, Christine Korol and Stephanie Lewis.

Gryphons in the Community

Grey Cup Tour

On the 4th of May, four incredible former Gryphons took part in the Grey Cup Tour. These athletes are none other than Cam Walker, Jake Reinhart, Curtis Newton and Jeff Finley, members of the 2017 Grey Cup Championship team. Because of their latest victory in the CFL, these athletes decided to return to Guelph and tour of showcase the Grey Cup. They visited John Galt Public School, Guelph Collegiate and Vocational Institute and Willow Road Public School. At these schools, the four Argonauts, dressed in their Gryphon jerseys, spoke to students and signed autographs. Both the former Gryphons and the students really enjoyed the visit. The Gryphons even had the opportunity to visit Guelph City Hall. They received a warm welcome everywhere they went, and they were glad to be back in the city that started it all for them.

To see the full slideshow of their visit and watch a video of the Grey Cup Tour highlights, [click here](#).



Grey Cup Champions visiting schools



Grey Cup Champions visiting City Hall

Celebration

This month, we'd like to celebrate the two new staff we have hired as part of the Gryphon family! We are thrilled these incredible individuals join us and help further our program's success.

[Dave Wright](#)

We are very excited to announce that Dave Wright will be our new Head Athletic

Therapist! We spoke to Dave to get his perspective: “I’ve always really liked the Guelph campus. I’ve felt so welcomed here, I really appreciate that I’ve been so well-received.”

“I have an appreciation and understanding of where Gryphon Football is heading and I see so much growth in this program. I really want to help the whole athlete; physical health, strength and conditioning and overall well-being.”

“I’ve had a lot of experience working in sports and it’s been refreshing to work at the collegiate level. I also love how Gryphon Football works. They have a good atmosphere and they put effort into having open communication which I appreciate.”

Shea Pierre

In addition, we are excited to announce that Shea Pierre will be our new Strength and Conditioning Coach! We spoke to Shea to get his perspective: “I am very familiar with Guelph as my wife attended school here, so I spent a lot of time in Guelph! The city of Guelph is so beautiful, and they have an amazing University. Furthermore, the Gryphon Football program is very special. They are changing the way football in Canada is being seen and played and I want to be a part of this amazing culture of players and coaches that are striving for greatness! I train a lot of pro football players but there’s something special about working with collegiate players and having a direct impact in helping them grow that makes me want to be in the collegiate system.”

When asked what he’s looking forward to, Shea said: “I’m looking forward to spicing up the training program and helping this football team be the most explosive football program in the country! My training philosophy emphasizes real game reaction and dynamic movement, while also focusing on the bodies’ ability to move effectively with maximal speed and power at all times to be the complete football player!”



Every month, we feature a great Gryphon Alumnus and this month, we would like to feature UBC Thunderbirds’ Defensive Coordinator, Pat Tracey. Pat started his football journey in Guelph back in 1982 as a Defensive Back. He played with the Gryphons until 1986, even winning the 1984 Vanier Cup during his time. He went on to coach for the Gryphons for over 10 years, helping us win the Yates Cup twice. He has gone on to help the Queen’s Gaels and UBC Thunderbirds win Vanier Cups as well coaching CFL teams like the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

When asked what he liked about being a Gryphon, Pat said: “I was with Gryphon Football, in various capacities, from 1981 to 1999. For me, the best part of being a Gryphon is the lifelong friendships and being a part of the resurgence of the program. Certainly, winning the National Championship as a player was the ultimate accomplishment and being able to follow that with Yates Cup wins as a member of the coaching staff was a unique experience. What made playing and coaching at Guelph rewarding and so enjoyable were the people I have been associated with, legendary coaches, talented teammates and the history of outstanding players who

laid the foundation for future decades. Each season the torch was passed - Bill Mitchell, Robbie Keith, Gerry Organ, Mark Brown, Sam Benincasa, Dan Wicklum, Mike Shoemaker, Steven McKee, Gerrit Stam, Jeremy Oxley, Rob Maver and many more outstanding voices for the program.”

Pat still uses what he learned as a Gryphon every day. He is very grateful that he started out his career in Guelph. “This will be my 37th season of football as a player and coach and it would not have been possible without the University of Guelph and specifically the football program. I owe much of my success to Dick Brown who was my positional coach and taught me the intricacies of coaching defense, he also played a key role with my offer from the admission department. The skills and knowledge I obtained playing, recruiting and coaching at Guelph opened the door to multiple opportunities. My coaching career has taken our family across Canada, Europe with Team Canada and the Grey Cup with the CFL.”

When asked how he stays connected to the Gryphon community, Pat said: “After leaving Guelph I continued to follow the program and the players that I recruited as a rival coach at Queens and UBC. There have been numerous opportunities to stay connected – the continued efforts of Stu Lang and Randy Dimitroff with the alumni association and current Gryphon Coach Brian Cluff. The alumni Glory Bowl, the FOGF Golf Tournament, and the Gala Dinner are all special events and allow us to reflect.

There are many great seasons to remember including our multiple trips to the Yates Cup together, but it is the players that I coached and recruited that stand out as my fondest memories. So many successful, hardworking, young men who took a chance and came to Guelph, played varsity football and opened their doors to the future.”



Featured #FOGF Member

Each month, we like to feature one of our Friends of Gryphon Football Members and this month, we would like to feature Dan Crabbe. He is currently a teacher, program leader for the arts and Head Football Coach at Guelph Collegiate and Vocational Institute. Dan also runs the Specialist High Skills Major Program (SHSM) which focuses on career development, skills and techniques for each economic sector. Dan is also a Gryphon alumnus who helped us win the 1996 Yates Cup.

When asked what he likes about being a Gryphon, Dan said: "I love being a Gryphon because of the friends and connections I've made when and since I played. So many of the people I know are a part of the Gryphon family in one capacity or another. I have been in contact with many of the guys I played with for over twenty years. There is something very special about being a Gryphon and the bond that is formed between players that spans generations. Being a Gryphon taught me a lot about perseverance, how to adapt, and be flexible. I originally came into camp as a Linebacker and when that didn't pan out, I had to reinvent myself as an Offensive Lineman. There really aren't very many similarities between the two positions. I had to learn a whole new skill set and system to be recognized as a potential contributor come game day. Eventually it happened and I'm proud to this day to be a part of the offensive line that won the 1996 Yates Cup championship."

Dan also told us that he is very proud to be part of FOGF because it allows him to stay in contact with friends and up to date on Gryphon Football events. "I'm actively involved in most of the Gryphon events: golf and poker tournaments, tailgating, galas and games. I'm a part of the FOGF executive and enjoy being a part of the organization. My wife, Andrea, who has watched most of my games since we started dating in high school, helps me run the annual Chili Bowl Competition. Next year will be our eighth year for the contest. I really love going to homecoming and running into old players, coaches and friends. It's great way to spend a Saturday. I love being an FOGF member because it keeps me connected to buddies as well as an opportunity to meet new people. One of the FOGF goals is to keep alumni connected and to expand our membership. I like having an opportunity to be a part of this and to play it forward. The game of football has given me a lot and I know how much of an influence it can have in the development of young people. The Gryphon Football organization is a top-notch program with a lot of great people and coaches that make a difference in the lives of these athletes. It's just great to be a part of that."



Save the Date

THE GUELPH GRYPHONS HOST THE TORONTO ARGONAUTS & OTTAWA REDBLACKS

  

PRESEASON ARGONAUTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 7TH, 2018 | KICK-OFF 7PM | ALUMNI STADIUM - UofG

Toronto Argos vs. Ottawa Redblacks Pre-Season Game – Thursday, June 7th

FOGF Golf Tournament – Friday, July 27th

F.O.G.F.
GOLF TOURNAMENT
ESTABLISHED 1997

JULY 27TH, 2018 | REGISTRATION & LUNCH: 11:00AM | SHOTGUN: 1:00PM | GUELPH LAKES GOLF CLUB

Includes: BBQ Lunch, Scramble Format, Cart, Golf, Prizes, Steak Dinner, Silent Auction
\$150 per golfer | \$600 per foursome
Early Bird sale starts May 15, 2018 | Use code: EARLYBIRDOGOLF2018 (\$50 off per golfer)

Captain's Reunion – Sunday, August 12th

Guelph Gryphons vs. Laval Rouge et Or – Saturday, August 18th
Held in Quebec City

Family BBQ – Monday, September 3rd (Post-First Home Game)

Decades' Dinner – Thursday, September 20th

Homecoming – Saturday, September 22nd

To stay updated on our upcoming events, click [here](#).

2018 GRYPHON FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

HOME GAMES

 YORK LIONS SEPT. 3	 QUEENS SEPT. 22 <i>HOMECOMING</i>	 T OCT. 13	 WATERLOO WARRIORS OCT. 20
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AWAY GAMES

 M AUG. 25	 G SEPT. 8	 L SEPT. 15	 LAURIER GOLDEN HAWKS SEPT. 29
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FOGF Memberships

The Friends of Gryphon Football Membership has now completed its first year. To every person who is currently a member, we want to sincerely thank you. Because of you, Gryphon Football can continue to be one of the best collegiate football programs in the country. In this first year, thanks to our 69 members, we have raised \$14,000 dollars. That is an incredible feat for our first year. We are very proud of what we have achieved together and we want to thank every one of our valuable members. As well as valuing your support, we value your input. We have incorporated our members' input when planning our FOGF Membership Year 2 launch. The additions we made based on your suggestions are as follows:

- Gold Member Season Pass
 - Every one of our FOGF Gold Members gets a Season Pass to all our home games included in their package. This season pass includes the Homecoming game as well.
 - Furthermore, a second season pass is available to all Gold FOGF members for a discounted rate of \$30. Not only does it pay to be a Gold Member, it pays to be friends with a member too.
 - Details about this offer (how to pick up season pass and buy second season pass, etc.) will follow in a private email to Gold Members.
- New Swag Items
 - All swag items (shirts, hats, sweaters) this year will mimic current team issue items
- Priority Invitation to FOGF Events
 - This month, Gold FOGF members that were at the Gala were included in a onetime offer to watch the Argos vs. Redblacks Game from the rooftop of the brand-new Pavilion. Other special events to follow.
- Upcoming Discounts
 - Additional discounts with the presentation of FOGF Membership Card for our members are still in the works, details to follow in an email during the month of August so be on the look out!

We invite all our members, to our first annual AGM that will held at Cutten Fields Golf and Country Club at Wednesday, July 11th at 5pm, more details to follow.

To register for a membership, [click here](#).



	RED PRIMARY	BLACK ASSOCIATE	GOLD PREMIER
	\$5 /mo (or \$60/yr)	\$20 /mo (or \$240/yr)	\$50 /mo (or \$600/yr)
Membership Card	Yes	Yes	Yes
Primary Swag Item (T-Shirt)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Glory Bowl Alumni Game Invite & T-Shirt	Yes	Yes	Yes
Associate Swag Item (Hat)	-	Yes	Yes
Gryphon Football Challenge Coin	-	Yes	Yes
18 Holes & Meals at Annual Gryphon Football Golf Tournament	-	1 Ticket	2 Tickets
Premier Swag Item (Hoodie)	-	-	Yes
Season Pass to all Gryphon Football home games*	-	-	Yes
Discount privileges at partnering restaurants and stores	-	-	Yes
Gryphon Football Gala Ticket	-	-	Yes
Priority Invitation to FOGF Special Events	-	-	Yes

* General Admission; 2nd Season Pass available @ discounted rate of \$30 // Prices shown subject to HST // All proceeds go to Gryphon Football and are managed by FOGF

JOIN THE FAMILY

TO REGISTER, VISIT: gryphons.ca/FOGF

CONTACT, BILL BROWN: 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.

Obituary

Obituary of Dr. Patrick Lett

DR. PATRICK LETT PhD, LLD

Patrick (Paddy) in his 70th year died on Thursday, May 24, 2018. Son of the late Stephen and Audrey Lett. Paddy leaves his best friend and wife of over 50 years, Jane. He adored and appreciated his children; Victoria Brock (Colin), Andrew (Sue) and Tristram (Eva). He was so proud of all his beautiful grandchildren; Teagan and Fraser Brock, Leah and Jamie Lett, Hanna and Kilian Lett. He leaves his brothers; Tristram Lett and Michael Beverley (Perry) as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. Paddy was extremely proud and generous to both friends and academia. He complimented us and gave us strength. "The Joy is in the Giving".

If you wish, please donate to the War Amps in lieu of flowers. A service will be held at St. Luke's Anglican Church, (1382 Ontario Street, Burlington, Ontario) on Thursday, June 14th at 1:00 p.m.

Our most sincere sympathies to the family and friends of Dr Patrick.



The University of Guelph plays their collegiate football in the city of Guelph. The Guelph Gryphons football program started their collegiate football program in 1950 (prior to 1968 they were known as the OAC Aggies). But much like other football programs in Canada, Guelph started playing rugby-football in the late 19th century. The first significant date in Guelph history was in 1925 in which Guelph fielded an intercollegiate rugby team in which they were group champions for that year.