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## *The Gryphons' Lair*



Issue 14 – March 2018

### *What Happened in February?*

#### **Florida's IMG Academy**

The Gryphons travelled down to the Sunshine State in February. The team went down south to Florida's state-of-the-art [IMG Academy](#) to endure an intense, five-day training camp. The weather and IMG facilities were absolutely beautiful and the week served as an excellent bonding time for the team in addition to a great training period for the upcoming season. Our co-op student, Taylor Floris, provides greater insight on what the week entailed in her piece titled Gryphons in Florida: Through My Eyes. Click [here](#) to read.



## D to San Francisco

Last month, we sent our talented Videographer, Dhanung Bulsara (also known as “D”), to the [Social Media Strategies Summit](#) in San Francisco. This conference had a variety of guest speakers, case studies, workshops and round-table discussions with other participants in order to strengthen one another’s social media skills. The Social Media Strategies Summit is “the longest running, most comprehensive social media conference in the US”.

Here’s what D had to say when asked about the conference: “the social media strategies summit was a unique and insightful experience. It was great to be surrounded by like-minded individuals who were eager to master social media and get ahead of the competition. Social media is constantly evolving, so it was interesting to see how major brands were tackling the constant changes in this new age of marketing. It also served as a rewarding experience as I had the unique ability to expose our incredible program and shine some light on what we are trying to achieve with our own social media.”

During his visit, D had the opportunity to meet with Dominic Simons, who is the Assistant Director of Digital Strategy and Operations at Stanford University.

“I found this meeting to be one of the highlights of the trip, not only visiting the beautiful campus but having the ability to ask Dominic anything and everything I wanted to know. To speak to someone as passionate about social and marketing as Dominic was, was very helpful. Also assuring me that our work was on the right path to success. I’m incredibly grateful for the time Dominic spent with me.”

Congratulations D on this amazing opportunity to help take Gryphon Football's social media to the next level.



### Early Morning Workouts

The road to improvement begins with the fundamentals. Our boys have been putting in work early in the morning with our 7 a.m. speed training, and Rise and Grind workouts. These workouts take place bi-weekly and focus on a full-body strength workout designed to increase speed and strength.



### Wildman Trophies: The Meaning Behind the Name

Last month, we celebrated our annual Wildman Awards dinner. Seventeen awards were given out to talented Gryphons. Most of these awards are named after an individual affiliated with the University of Guelph football team. These people deserve to be recognized as well for their success and contributions to Gryphon Football. Below you will find a description of the named trophies.

### *Richard P. Kohler Perseverance Award*

Richard Kohler graduated from the University of Guelph. Here, he was a member of the Guelph Gryphon football team, and helped his team win the Vanier Cup in 1984.

### *Ted Wildman Memorial Trophy*

Ted Wildman graduated from the OAC in 1922. During his time at the University of Guelph, he was a very involved athlete who took part in wrestling, boxing, track and field, and of course, football. Ted Wildman was a Canadian champion in shotput and was part of a back-to-back winning Gryphon football team in 1919 and 1920. Ted Wildman tragically passed away after an automobile accident. He was inducted into the University of Guelph Athletics Hall of Fame in 1986 and had the Wildman trophy donated in his honour following his death.

### *Donald Forster Trophy*

Donald Forster was a Canadian academic, who served as the President of the University of Guelph between 1975 and 1983. There is a [Sculpture Park](#) on the University of Guelph campus that is dedicated in his honour and has grown to be one of the largest in Canada.

### *Tom Dimitroff Defensive Player of the Year*

Tom Dimitroff graduated from the University of Guelph in 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He played for the Gryphons throughout all five of his years, and was named captain for three seasons. After graduating, Dimitroff moved out west as the national scouting co-ordinator for the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Fast-forward a bit and Dimitroff found himself in the scouting department of three different NFL teams, finally landing with the New England Patriots, where he helped the Patriots claim back-to-back Super Bowl victories in 2003 and 2004. Dimitroff left to join the Atlanta Falcons in 2008, where he was named the General Manager for the team. He has since been named the NFL's executive of the year in both 2008 and 2010.

### *Stu Lang Offensive Award*

Stu Lang played football at Queen's University, while studying chemical engineering. He played both varsity hockey and football for the Gaels, which resulted in him being inducted into the Gaels' Hall of Fame. Lang moved on to play for the Edmonton Eskimos, where he won five Grey Cups between 1974 and 1981.

Stu Lang took on the Head Coach role for Gryphon Football in 2010. Within his time as Head Coach, Lang led the Gryphons to three Yates Cup games in four years, including

a winning title in 2015. Between these years, the Guelph Gryphons won more league games than any other OUA team and were undefeated at home with a 20-0 record.

### *Kyle Walters Trophy*

Kyle Walters is another University of Guelph alumni (1992-1996) and is currently the General Manager for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Walters has worked his way up to this position, as he was previously the Assistant General Manager and the Director of Canadian Scouting for the Blue Bombers. During his time at Guelph, Walters was named team captain in his senior year and was part of two Yates Cup Championship winning teams. Once graduated from the University of Guelph, Walters went on to play for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and was named team captain during his final three seasons.

### *Tom Mooney Lineman of the Year*

Thomas Mooney joined the OAC and the OVC in 1956 where he served as the Head Coach for multiple University of Guelph teams, including football, basketball and wrestling. Mooney passed away in June of 2014. While Head Coach of the football team, Mooney brought the team to a 7-0 season, leading them to two league championships. He was inducted into the Gryphon Sports Hall of Fame in 2002.

### *Pflug Family Community Service Award*

Doug Pflug has been a member of the Guelph Police Service for over 28 years. Throughout his career, he has contributed to the community in various ways, such as his involvement with the Special Olympics, volunteering his hours to local organizations, as well as coaching and mentoring.



Our list of talented #NextGryphons continued to expand last month, along with the addition of more talented CJEP players. Congratulations and welcome to [Jake Bennett](#), [Emmanuel Ituara](#), [Anthony Hall](#), [Joel Stenning](#), [Eric Stranz](#), [JP Cimankinda](#), [AK Ismail](#) and [Willy Pierre Dimnongji](#).

For a full list of our 2018 recruits thus far, please [click here](#).



“When our sons start at the University of Guelph we are really told very little, they choose their courses, put their schedule together with football in mind and are magically in their first year. One-on-one we can talk about academics. Not so with football, it belongs to the players. With POP, we feel included, appreciated, kept in the loop and in the end, we feel we are a part of something great. We are parents, yet we are included in a supportive way. When I had questions about things I felt I had a way to get answers. POP has been a terrific resource for us. And, hey, the tailgates are the bomb!” – Michele Funk, Mother of 1<sup>st</sup> year Gryphon, Kyle Funk

“What POP has meant to me....becoming an active member of the POP committee was the best decision we made when we all joined the Gryphon family. The friendships gained at all the wonderful tailgates, games and events will last a lifetime and it was great seeing all the parents, family and friends come together to support the team and the University. Although our son graduated after the Yates cup win in 2015, these are some of the best memories that we will cherish forever and we will always be part of the Gryphon family...once a Gryphon, always a Gryphon!” – Lori & Cam Wilhelm, POP Committee (2012-2015)

## *Gryphons in the Community*

### **Guelph Food Bank**

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, four of our Gryphons went to Guelph’s Food Bank. [Jaylan Guthrie](#), [Andrew Pickett](#), [Kyle Funk](#) and [Ahmad Imtiaz](#) volunteered their time to help organize the inventory.



## Celebration

### CFL Combine Invites

This month we'd like to take a moment to recognize our players who have been invited to the CFL combine. Congratulations to [Royce Metchie](#) and [Andrew Pickett](#) who will be attending the CFL National Combine in Winnipeg from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 25<sup>th</sup>, as well as [Luke Korol](#), [Orion Edwards](#), [Gabriel Ferraro](#), [Riley Baines](#) and [Nick Parisotto](#) who have been invited to the CFL Regional Combine in Toronto, on March 9.



### Reinhart and Chaves Medal in OUA Wrestling Championships

A huge congratulations goes out to two of our players who medaled in the OUA wrestling championship last month. Third year Linebacker, [Job Reinhart](#), came back from a 7-0 deficit at the beginning of his match to win 18-7 and capture the gold medal in the 100kg weight class. First year Defensive Back, [Simon Chaves](#), won the bronze medal for the 90kg weight class. In addition to his gold medal, Job Reinhart was awarded the 2018 OUA Outstanding Wrestler Award and was named the Gryphon MUSCLE MLK Athlete of the Week for the second week of February. We are so proud of these hard-working young men who continue to demonstrate excellence beyond the football team.



### Grey Cup Visits the Pavilion

Gryphon alumni, and Defensive Lineman [Jeff Finley](#) of the Toronto Argos made an appearance at his old stomping grounds to share the Grey Cup with his second family. Players and coaches were able to admire the trophy and snap some pictures as well. We're very proud of our 2017 Grey Cup champion! Congratulations Jeff.



## *Save the Date*

**Elite O-Line & D-Line Camp** – Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

**Elite Skills Camp and Specialist Camp** – Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

**Red/Black Weekend** – Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> & Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Gala Dinner** – Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

**FOGF Golf Tournament** – Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>

**Captain's Reunion** – Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>

**Family BBQ** – Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> (Post-First Home Game)

**Decades' Dinner** – Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>

**Homecoming** – Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

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



**\$175**  
PER TICKET  
SAVE \$25 OFF EARLY BIRD  
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*You're invited to...*

**8TH ANNUAL**  
*Gryphon Football*  
**GALA**

**HONOURING THE 2018 GREY CUP GRYPHONS**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018 | 5PM | CREELMAN HALL, U OF G**  
**FORMAL ATTIRE | SILENT AUCTION | 3-COURSE DINNER | HOST BAR**

*A block of rooms is available at the Guelph Delta Hotel & Conference Centre for a preferred group rate. Please book by April 4, 2018.*

For more information, please contact: 519-824-4120 ext. 56027 or [jgreen15@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jgreen15@uoguelph.ca)

**Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets!**

Save \$25 off your ticket until Feb 28, 2018, use code 'FOOTBALLGALA2018'

## *Featured Alumni*

We are so pleased to celebrate Harley Deeks as our Featured Alumni for the month of March. Harley graduated from the University of Guelph in 1950, and will be celebrating his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday in June. Harley started at right tackle or “middle” for every game throughout his four-year career.

His favourite memory from his time as a Gryphon took place on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1948, after their exhibition game against McGill at Molson Stadium in Montreal. On the way home, the bus stopped at a local store where the players all purchased beer for the trip home. Once they got back into Ontario, the bus was stopped by three police cars who confiscated all of the beer and escorted the players to the Justice of Peace who fined the team with \$100 for the alcohol. The boys created a collection system which consisted of \$3 for the guys who were drinking, and \$1 for the non-drinkers. The coach at the time, Bill Mitchell, was driving home in a separate car and the team managed to keep this incident a secret from him for about a week. "I think we won every game after that for the coach. It was kept quiet from the rest of the students that year".

This story of playing at Molson stadium, as well as purchasing beer is a little bit ironic for Harley as he moved on to work in the beer industry after his time at Guelph. Harley ended his business career as the Vice President for all of Western Canada for Molson Breweries Ltd.

He has attended at least 25 Grey Cup games in Canada. During his time as President for Saskatchewan and Alberta, Molson Breweries sponsored the Saskatchewan Rough Riders, the Edmonton Eskimos and the Calgary Stampeders. Harley personally worked with the Edmonton Eskimos to start the Coach of the Year in the Canadian Football League, which allowed him to shake the hands of many coaches over the years. When Harley retired in 1990, the Molson Breweries started a scholarship in his name. He used to go on convocation day and personally give out the \$1000 reward. Now, he always receives a letter from the recipient.

Harley has 7 kids (2 girls and 5 boys), as well as 18 grandchildren, and 24 great grandchildren. He married Barbara Herring, a cheerleader at the University of Guelph. Barbara passed away six months ago. They would have been married 70 years this March. In August, Harley is planning on travelling back to Ontario with his kids to visit the OAC and Mac Hall, where he lived and played football. He is very excited to view Alumni Stadium, as they played on Johnston Green, as well as our new Pavilion.

- **Waiting on pictures**



- **Waiting on a responses**



Friends of Gryphon Football offers memberships to support Gryphon Football. Memberships grant access to all Gryphon Football sponsored events, as well as team issued swag. For more on FOGF memberships, please click [here](#).

***Did You Know?***

Champions Corner, which is located on the corner of Lang Way and College Avenue is another aspect of our beautiful new renovations. This alcove is named Champions Corner as it features individual bronze plaques for every University of Guelph varsity sports team who has won a Canadian championship.



***Let's Get Social!***

