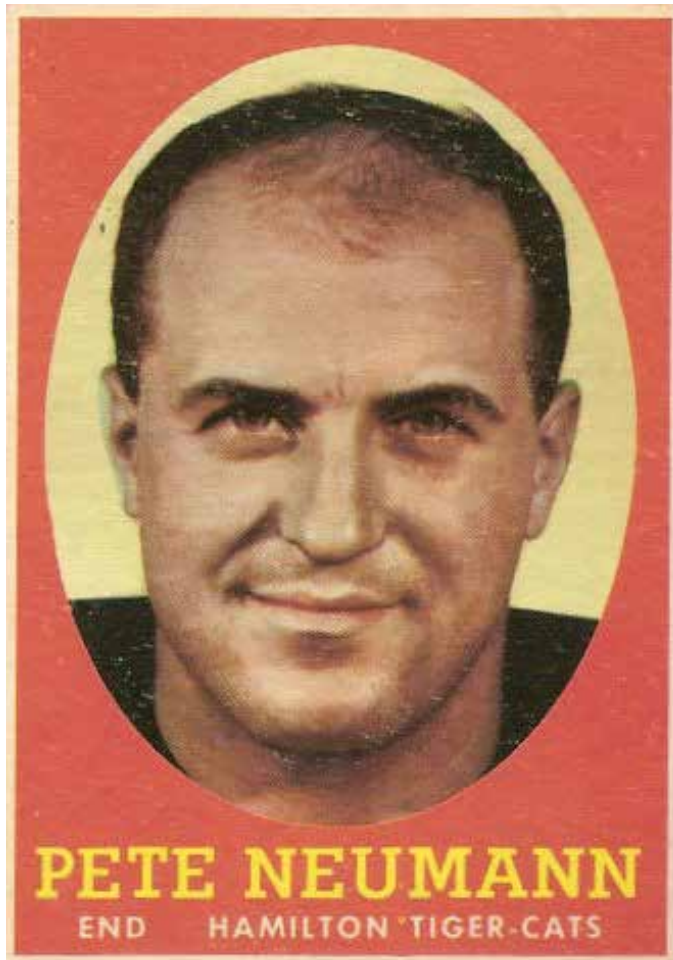


In Conversation With... Pete Neumann

By Chris Durka



I had the distinct pleasure of having a conversation last week with Hamilton Tiger Cat legend #74 Pete Neumann. Pete had an illustrious 14 year CFL career all with the Tiger Cats. During those years, he was named the CFL Eastern All Star 9 times and the CFL All Canadian All Star in 1964 (this award did not begin until 1962). He played in 8 Grey Cup Games, winning 3 in 1953, 1957 and 1963 and was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1979. In 2011 he was inducted into both the Hamilton Tiger Cats Wall of Honour and the Cats Claw's Walk of Fame.

Pete started his football path by playing for his home town high school, St. Catharines Collegiate where he was nicknamed "board hands". At the tender age of 19 he was scouted and recruited by Carl Voyles who was the head coach of the Tiger Cats at that time. He also had the opportunity to sign with the Toronto Argonauts who were interested in him but Pete chose Hamilton instead. Pete not only made the team in 1951 he also started for the Black and Gold and ended up playing beside

Ralph Sazio, who would be his coach one day.

Pete played for 3 head coaches during his career in Hamilton. Carl Voyles was his first head coach followed by Jim Trimble and then Ralph Sazio who, according to Pete was the best coach of the three that he played for. He said that he really enjoyed playing for Sazio. Voyles was a hard-nosed coach that would not even allow the players to have a drink of water during a football game and Trimble he said was your typical American full of bull type coach.

Pete, as previously mentioned, played in 8 Grey Cup games, winning 3, however he said that there could have been at least a couple more Grey Cup victories if it was not for some unfortunate circumstances that had occurred during those games. One example was the unfair ejection of Ralph Goldston during the 1958 Grey Cup game that seemed to dramatically changed the momentum of the game in favour of the Blue Bombers. Then in the 1959 Grey Cup against the same Blue Bombers, Vince Scott blocked a 3rd down punt which bounced into the Bomber's end zone. Although the Ti-Cat players outnumbered the Bomber's player by at least 6 to 1 in the area of the ball, it was the Bomber's player that recovered it. This gave the Bombers a definite lift because instead of giving up a touchdown and



7 points they got away with only giving up a single point which ultimately was a game changer in favour of the Bombers.

I asked Pete which of his teammates he roomed with during the out of town games. He said that during his 14 years there were a number of roommates that he had but Hal Paterson definitely stood out in his mind. Pete said, like many former players have, that Paterson had to be the most talented and greatest player that he had the good fortune to play with.

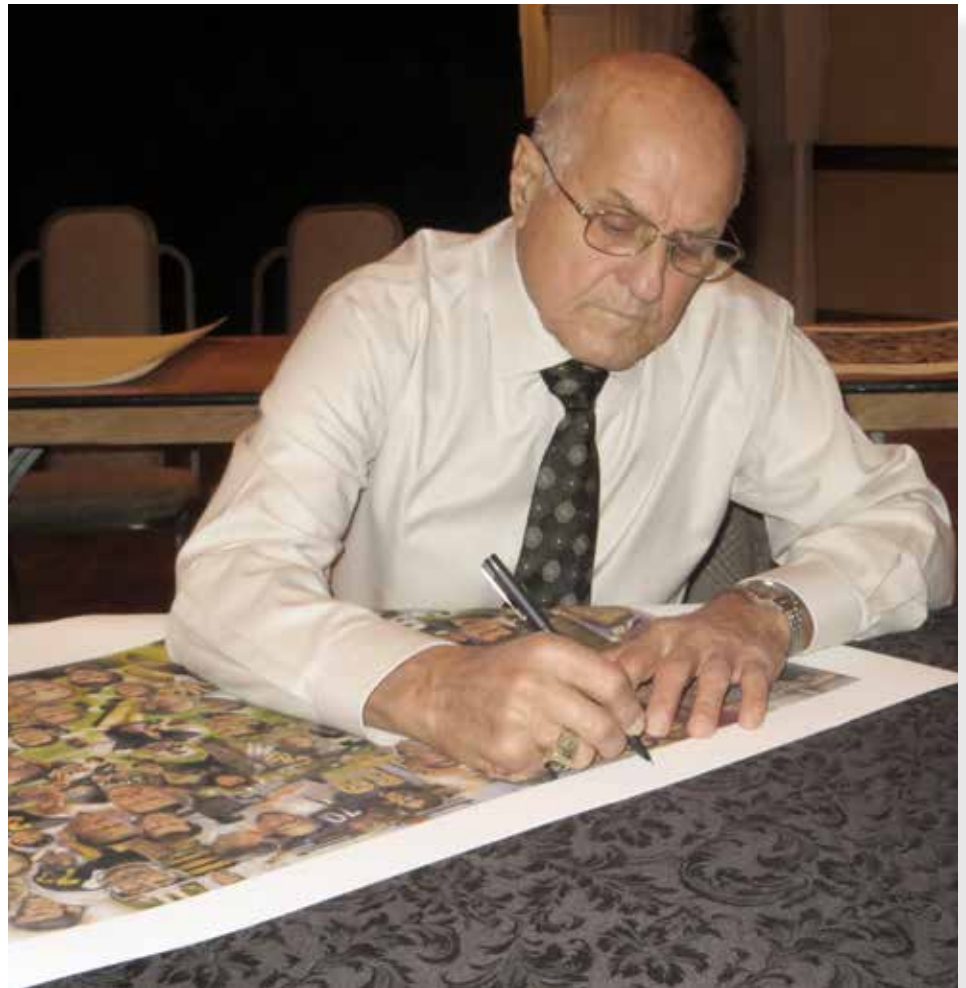
When asked who some of the toughest players he had ever played against Pete mentioned Tex Coulter with the Alouettes and Buddie Tinsley with the Bombers. Another was actually a team mate of his by the name of Jack Carpenter who almost knocked him cold during a team practice session. Pete stated that Carpenter was a big lineman from Buffalo that was a real strong physical sort and that he was certainly glad that Carpenter was on his side at game time.

Pete said that he had the distinct pleasure to play with a number of great players during his time in Hamilton. He mentioned that he was particularly close to Bernie Faloney, Hal Patterson and John Barrow. It was John Barrow that gave Pete the ultimate compliment during a Tiger Cat Wall of Honour event by stating that Pete Neumann was the best defensive end that he had ever played beside.

Pete Neumann retired after the 1964 season and settled back to his hometown of St. Catharines. He achieved what most professional football players dream of. He had a long career playing a game that he loved, a multiple Grey Cup Champion, a multiple CFL Eastern All Star, a CFL League All Star and inducted member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

Pete Neumann is another outstanding Hamilton Tiger Cat legend who contributed substantially to the rich Canadian Football tradition in Hamilton.

I have had the honour to know Pete Neumann for a few years now and have always enjoyed his humour especially when I would ask him for an autograph. He would always candidly tease and give me a difficult time about it but yet he would always nicely give in. I have met a number of great Tiger Cat legends during the past years and would most definitely place Pete Neumann in the top end of that very special list.



37 PETER NEUMANN
END HAMILTON

One of the finest Canadian players in the game, Pete comes from St. Catharines, Ontario, and has played for several years as an end with Tiger-Cats. According to Carl Voyles, defensive ends don't come any better.

Collect Picture Cards
OF OUR FINE CANADIAN FOOTBALL PLAYERS
Mount them in Our
Blue Ribbon PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM
Send ONLY 25c to
Blue Ribbon Limited
DEPT. F, TORONTO or WINNIPEG

Aile extérieure
HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

L'un des meilleurs Canadiens dans le football. Il est originaire de St. Catharines, Ontario. A joué durant plusieurs saisons comme aile extérieure à Hamilton. Selon Carl Voyles il n'existe pas de meilleures ailes sur la défensive que Neumann.

Collectionnez les portraits
DE NOS MERVEILLEUX JOUEURS DE
FOOTBALL CANADIENS
Collez-les dans notre
ALBUM DE PHOTOS "RUBAN BLEU"
Envoyez rien plus que 25 cents
Blue Ribbon Limited
à notre DEPARTEMENT F, TORONTO ou WINNIPEG
Printed in Canada **Colorgraphic** TORONTO