



TIGERtales

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER May 2015

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE...

TIGER-CATS POISED FOR CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

The past 2 seasons, the plate has been set and the meal served, but the Cats have not been able to finish the course to come home with a Championship. Now in his 3rd season with the Tiger-Cats, Kent Austin has his Club focussed on capturing the Cup.

Tim Horton's Field is finally finished and for the first time since 2012, the Club will have a place to call home for a full season. The Club is undefeated at home in their new stadium from a partial season last year and look to continue that record this year.



The team will play the first part of their season on the road as the Pan Am Games soccer will occupy the stadium for the month of July and the Clubs regular season home opener will be played on Monday, August 3rd vs. the Toronto Argonauts.

WALK OF FAME DINNER

The Cats Claws Fan Club will host their annual Tiger-Cat Walk of Fame dinner on Thursday, **May 21st** at the Carmen's Banquet Centre.



This year, Mike Philbrick will be inducted into the Walk of Fame. The Charlotte Simmons Humanitarian Award will be presented to Tiger-Cat Mike Filer. Tickets are \$65 and can be purchased by calling Carol at (905) 664-6117 or crose@cogeco.ca.

30TH ANNUAL TIGER-CAT ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Tiger-Cat Alumni will be hosting their 30th annual golf tournament on Monday, **May 25th** at Monthill Golf and Country Club in Caledonia. The tournament was a near sell-out last year as many fans joined dozens of Alumni on hand for a beautiful afternoon of golf.

It's a great time to re-connect with some old teammates as well as other Alumni. As always, there will be lots of great prizes and chance to win \$10,000 for a hole-in-one.

REGISTRATION

Registration is only \$160 which includes lunch, steak dinner and golf. Registration forms can be accessed online at www.htcaa.ca and emailed to mark@relevent.ca. Payment can also be made on line via PayPal.

Contact Mark Bowden at (905) 981-9409 for more information.

TigerTales is the official newsletter of the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Alumni Association. It is published 3 times per year in May, September & December. For more information visit our website at www.htcaa.ca.

TWO TIGER-CAT ALUMNI TO BE INDUCTED INTO HAMILTON SPORTS HALL

The Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame recently announced the names of this years inductees. Among the group are Tiger-Cat greats Joe Zuger and Rocky DiPietro. This year's induction dinner will be held on **September 17th** at Carmen's Banquet Centre.



MCMASTER FOOTBALL GALA

The 18th Annual McMaster Football Gala was held on **May 5th** at the David Braley Athletic Centre. Hamilton Tiger-Cat "Caretaker" Bob Young was the keynote speaker at the event. In attendance among the 500 plus supporters was representation from both the Tiger-Cat football Club and the Tiger-Cat Alumni.



2015 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wed. May 20 – Canadian Football Hall of Fame Golf Tournament at Copetown Woods: 1pm	
Thur. May 21 – Cat Claws Walk of Fame dinner at Carmen's Banquet Centre: 6pm	
Mon. May 25 – The HTCAA Golf Tournament at Monthill Golf & Country Club: 12:30pm	
Friday May 29 – Steel City Bowl High School All-Star game at McMaster Ron Joyce Field	
Wed. June 3 – Alumni appearances at Tim Hortons locations to raise money for "Camp Day": 7:30am	
Sun. June 7 – Community Open House at Tim Hortons Field: 10 am	
Sat/Sun. July 11/12 - Season Seat Pick Up Event at Tigertown store, 1 Jarvis St.	
Mon. Aug. 3 – Hamilton Tiger-Cat home opening game verses Toronto Argonauts: 7 pm.	
Wed. Aug. 26 – Angelo Mosca Tribute at Carmen's Banquet Centre: 6 pm	
Wed. Sept. 9 – Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame Golf Tournament at Chedoke-Beddoe: 1 pm	
Thur. Sept. 17 – Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at Carmen's Banquet Centre: 6pm	
Thur. Oct. 29 – Wall of Honour dinner at Carmen's Banquet Centre: 6pm	

MCMASTER HOSTS "UP FRONT LINEMAN CAMP"

Now in its seventh consecutive year, Tiger-Cat Alumnus and current McMaster Marauder offensive line coach Jason Riley hosted his "Up front Lineman camp" at McMaster University this past month.

It is the premier camp for kids ranging from 13 to 18. Over 125 O/D Linemen participated in a full day of training on and off the field.

The camp features two sets eight separate offensive and defensive skill and drill stations designed for both the running and passing game. The camp also features two seminars on nutrition and strength and conditioning. The players get to finish their day with some live one on one contact drills to put what they have learned to practice.

Players are put through the paces by an experienced staff of former Tiger-Cat and CFL players, current and past McMaster Marauders and other guest coaches.

Tiger-Cat Alumni that participated included: Ryan Donnelly, Darrell Harle, Brian Hutchings, Ralph Scholz, John Malinosky, Dave Richardson, Leo Ezerins, Ben Zambiasi & John Salavantis.



CHAMPIONS AT THE ROUND TABLE



Pete Neumann, Angelo Mosca, Willie Bethea, Ellison Kelly, Zeno Karcz, Bob Krouse, Joe Zuger

Local Alumni from the 1963 Tiger-Cat Grey Cup Championship team recently got together for dinner to reminisce about old times. The group, now well into their 70's and not without their aches and pains, were sharp with their memories. When talking about the best they ever played with, the general consensus among the group was that Hal Patterson led the way.



TIGER-CAT Q&A

Name: Leo Ezerins

Birth date (M/D/YY): August 10, 1956

School/Jr. Football: Whitworth University, Spokane WA; Winnipeg Hawkeyes Junior Football Club (before University)

Position(s): Tight End, Linebacker

Years with Tiger-Cats: 1983–1987

CAREER

1. Tell us about how you got started in football and your amateur career.

Playing punt, pass, and kick and the local schoolyard. Started playing organized 6 man football at age 10 because my friends were playing. I eventually wound up playing junior football at the age of 16. It is significant because the max age was 22 so I was playing with guys a lot older. Actually a few University grads with family. I did not have a driver's license when I started so my Dad was still driving me to practice for training camp.

2. How did you get started in the CFL (draft, free agent, trade etc.)?

I was a "territorial" protection for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

3. Do or did you hold any records?

All time interception leader for Canadian linebackers. The most receptions as a linebacker (started my career as a tight end).

4. Do or did you have a nickname?

I did and do but cannot say in a public forum.

5. Tell us about some of your fondest memories with the Tiger-Cats or in the CFL.

Getting to our home games early to talk to King Clancy and Harold Ballard, celebrating our Grey Cup win in 1986, Al Bruno's speeches, going to the Grey Cup 3 consecutive years, Pigskin Pete and our cheer.

6. Who were some of the teammates and opponents you admired the most and why?

Grover Covington, Mike Walker, Mitch Price, David Sauve, and Rod Skillman, my D-line. They protected me from the

opposing team's O-line and prolonged my career.

7. Which coach did you respect or enjoy playing for the the most and why?

Al Bruno. He surrounded himself with good people. Although we did not have great regular season's he found a way to get the job done and get us to the CUP. He was a good man. RIP Al.

8. Tell us about some of your favourite Grey Cup memories.

1986 Grey Cup. Walking onto the field after half time intermission. The score board showed the stats at the half. One number stood out. It was in RED. It was -1 total yards offense. The other number was 29-0. The score of the game. It was men against boys!

POST CFL CAREER

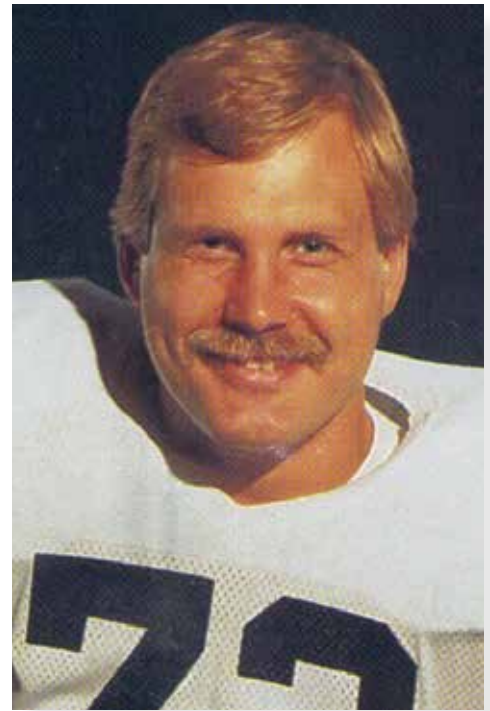
9. Tell us about your life and career after playing/working with the Tiger-Cats or CFL?

I spent the 5 years immediately following my career in my hometown of Winnipeg. Then moved out to White Rock, BC where I remained until 4 years ago. I am now a resident of the Hammer. I have 2 great children, KT and Dillon, living in BC. Dillon was born here at Joseph Brant Hospital. A career sales person and now privileged to be heading up the CFL Alumni Association. I along with a few key guys (including former teammate Ralph Scholz) founded the CFLAA back in 2009.

10. Tell us about your interests, hobbies, your passion or anything else you would like to share about yourself.

Enjoy the outdoors. Mostly hiking/walking. Enjoy peeling back the layers of the onion and getting to the truth. Sharing memories with family and friends The CFL. Going to concerts and football games especially where I have never been before.... especially with my life partner, Hamilton native and Aldershot High School's very own, Sandy Shields.

11. Share with us some of the places you've been or things you have experienced.



I have travelled Canada and the US pretty extensively. I have experienced a couple of health challenges which has taken to me to many different places.

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..." – Dr. Seuss, *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*

Being the "man behind the curtain" in the Angelo Mosca and Joe Kapp brewhaha at Grey Cup in 2011.

THE GAME

12. What aspects of the Canadian game do you like the most?

How wide open the game is with all the motion and different offensive schemes. You need to have a certain level of intelligence to play the Canadian game, on both sides of the ball.

13. Is there any aspect of the game you would change if you could?

The punt return. Allow the fair catch. Too many. Way way way too many penalties. It really slows down the game.

14. What advice do you have to either young players or those just starting out in the CFL?

Work hard. Have fun. Good things will happen.

SEASON PREVIEW – “THE INS AND OUTS”

By Ed Valtenbergs

When you play in two consecutive Grey Cups, you know you're doing things right. When you lose both of them, you know there is still room for improvement. With a good core group, the Club knew going into the off-season the goal was to re-sign some of their key free agents, tweak a little with some upgraded talent in free agency and hopefully find a few gems to contribute from the draft and try-out camps

Coach/GM Kent Austin started off by re-signing some of his key free agents including WR/KR Brandon Banks, RB Nic Grigsby, DL Justin Hickman and WR Bakari Grant. He signed or traded for some veteran CFL talent in OL Ryan Bomben, RB Anthony Woodsen and DB Johnny Sears JR.

Key losses included DB Delvin Breaux who left for the NFL and QB Dan Lefevour who signed with Montreal. Lefevour could be a costly loss as he provided excellent depth at QB should Zach Collaros falter.

Hopefully these changes result in the Cats hoisting the Cup with November, the first time since 1999.

MAJOR RULE CHANGES FOR 2015

CFL.ca Staff

TORONTO – Significant changes to the convert, passing rules and the pace of the game will be in place when the new Canadian Football League season kicks off this June.

The CFL is modifying the convert that follows a touchdown to make it less predictable.

A kick for a single point, which took place from the 12-yard line in past seasons, will now be kicked from the 32-yard line.

If a team opts to run or pass the ball into the end zone for a two point convert following a touchdown, the ball will be scrimmaged from the three-yard line, instead of the five-yard line, which may entice more coaches to “go for two”.

To open up the passing game, the Governors approved a change designed to create more room for a passing offence.

It will allow a defensive player to contact a receiver that is in front of him within five yards of the line of scrimmage, but it will not allow either player to create or initiate contact that impedes or redirects an opponent beyond five yards.

The Board agreed that on a punt play, when the ball bounces on the ground and a five yard no yards penalty is called, the penalty will automatically be added to the end of the return, or from the point the ball was first touched by the return team, whichever is better.

In the past, the receiving team had to choose between the five-yard penalty or the yards gained on the return.

It is believed that making the penalty more punitive could reduce the number of no yards penalties.

To increase the tempo of the game, at any time

TEAM NEWS

in the game the offence will now be allowed to signal to the Referee that it doesn't want to substitute and it wants to use a tempo offence.

The officials will then blow the play in immediately upon the ball and yardsticks being set for play.

This new protocol will be combined with a rule change made last year – which meant the offence no longer had to wait for the defense to substitute before initiating a play if the offence had not substituted.

Together, the changes create an opportunity for the offence to dictate the pace of the game.

Also to improve game flow, the CFL is removing the ability of a coach to request a measurement, leaving it to the Referee to measure when he is unsure if a first down has been made or not.

On punts, a rule change will prohibit the five interior linemen on the kicking team from leaving the line of scrimmage until the ball is kicked.

This should reduce the number of illegal blocking and no yards penalties, while increasing the amount of room the receiving team has to set up a return.

There would be a ten-yard penalty for violating this new rule.

The CFL is maintaining the ability for a coach to challenge Defensive Pass Interference, an innovation introduced last year. But the Board of Governors rejected a proposal that Offensive Pass Interference also be made subject to video review.

It approved no longer giving the receiving team the option of demanding that a team kick again after one of its kick offs goes out of bounds. The receiving team will now either take the ball where it went out of bounds, or at a point 30 yards in advance of where the ball was kicked off, whichever is better.

THE INS:

OL – Ryan Bomben (Alouettes), DB – Johnny Sears Jr. (Bomb-ers), WR – Seydou Junior Haidara (Lions), RB – Anthony Woodsen (Argos), WR – Spencer Watt (Argos), DB – Nick Brassell, DL – Adrian Robinson, WR – Lamont Bryant, WR – Deon Anthony, OL – Everett Benyard, DB – Ellis Lankster, DB – Julian Posey, DB – E.J. Woods, LB – Larry King, LB – Jonathon Sharpe, DL – Mathieu Girard, DL – Stephen Mawa, DL – Martin Pesek, DE – Everton Williams, SB – Drayton Calhoun, DB – Taylor Mack, DB – Arthur Williams, WR – Tiquan Underwood, WR – Terrence Toliver, WR – Tim Smith, RB – Jeff Scott, LB – Christopher Johnson, LB – Pawel Kruba, DL – Adewale Ojomo, DL – Dan Giordano, LB – Dan Molls, QB – Jeff Mathews

THE OUTS:

OL – Everett Benyard, WR – Lamont Bryant, WR – Cary Koch, DB – Taylor Mack, DL – Adewale Ojomo, RB – Sam Ojuri, LB – Jonathon Sharpe, DL – Brandon Thurmond, DB – E.J. Woods, DB – Delvin Breaux, LB – Marcellus Bowman, OL – Marc Dile, WR – Greg Ellingson, WR – Sam Giguere, DL – Marc-Antoine Fortin, QB – Dan Lefevour, OL – Greg Wojt, QB – Stephen McGee

2015 DRAFT PICKS

PICK	PLAYER	POS	SCHOOL
Round 2			
# 17	Archambault, Byron	LB	Montreal
Round 3			
# 20	Langda, Jonathon	LB	St. Mary's
Round 4			
# 29	Omara, Ron	LB	St. FX
Round 6			
# 51	Ellefsen, Everett	DL	McNeese St.
# 52	English, Daniel	WR	UBC
Round 7			
#61	Huggins, Preston	LB	Western

HTC-75 ORIGINALLY AUTOGRAPHED PRINTS

The Ultimate gift for Tiger-Cat fans. Renowned Canadian sports artist Gary McLaughlin created this original painting depicting 75 of the greatest players to ever wear a Hamilton uniform. Included are all Hall of Fame and Wall of Honour inductees as well as members of the Walk of Fame and Fans All-time team.

In recognition of last year's 145th season of Hamilton football and the launch of a new stadium, 145 limited edition numbered prints were created to commemorate this event. Each print was then originally autographed by over 25 Alumni of this select group.

Originally autographed "28 x 33" prints sell for \$150 and are available online at www.htcaa.ca or from the Tigertown store. Poster prints "16 x 24" are now also available for only \$20.



SOUVENIR "LAST GAME AT IVOR WYNNE" PRINT

Saturday, October 27th 2012 marked the last Tiger-Cat game at Ivor Wynne Stadium. To commemorate the event, almost 40 Tiger-Cat Alumni present at the game signed this special framed matte. We inserted a photo from the actual game and marked it with the date and final score to create this treasured keepsake.

The original will be displayed inside the Alumni Lounge at the new stadium, but we will make a limited number of copies to share. Prints measure 16" x 20" to easily fit inside your own frame of choice. Posters can be purchased for \$20 at the Tigertown store, 1 Jarvis St.



WALL OF HONOUR SIGNS FOR SALE!

If you're a big Ti-Cat fan, here's your chance to get a big piece of authentic Tiger-Cat Alumni memorabilia for just \$200.

For sale are the ORIGINAL Wall of Honour signs that were displayed on the press box at Ivor Wynne stadium.

Signs measure 3' high and length depends on each name. Signs are available for purchase at our ebay store, pick-up only. Signs still available are Willie Bethea, Less Browne, Tommy Joe Coffey, Bill Danychuk, Jake Gaudaur, Pete Neumann, Paul Osbaldiston, Ralph Sazio & Don Sutherin.

Visit our website or email admin@htcaa.ca for more info or to order.

ALUMNIWEAR

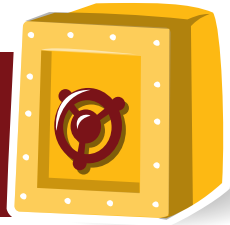
The HTCAA now has a number of items for its members including dress shirts, golf shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets and hats. They are great for members to wear casually or any Club events to proudly display your Alumni membership.

We also have specially branded "Property of HTCAA" t-shirts and sweatshirts for friends of the Alumni.

All items can be ordered from our website at www.htcaa.ca.



FROM THE VAULT



DOUG SMITH

Doug Smith played mainly halfback and flying wing and was also an excellent punter. Coach Brian Timmis brought Smith to Hamilton in 1943 to play for the Wildcats. Smith shared the backfield and punting duties with the great Joe Krol, and the Wildcats would go on to win the Grey Cup that season. Smith was in the Canadian Navy in 1944 and 1945 and returned to Hamilton after the war and played four seasons for the Hamilton Tigers from 1946 to 1949. In 1950, he joined the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, who were formed by combining the Tigers and the Wildcats.

Here is a collection of artifacts from the family of Doug Smith.



Memorabilia

Tiger-Cat Alumni are on a quest to collect photos of "Team Memorabilia" to display on our web-site. Please ensure the item is displayed on a plain white background. We are also looking to collect unique items that you may want to lend or donate to the Alumni Association to put on display in the "Alumni Room" inside the new stadium. If you have anything you feel may be of interest, please contact us at admin@htcaa.ca.

We are also looking for "Game Program Covers" to complete the set on our web-site. If you have any programs from the past, please scan the cover and name the file with the year and opponent and send to us via email, admin@htcaa.ca.



1965 Grey Cup a Windy Affair

By Brian Snelgrove

The hills were alive with The Sound of Music, The Rolling Stones couldn't Get No Satisfaction and Get Smart was one of the most popular shows on television.

Has it really been a half Century since the Hamilton Tiger-Cats won the famous Wind Bowl?

The year was 1965 and two familiar foes squared off for the 53rd Grey Cup before 32,655 fans at Exhibition Stadium in Toronto. The Hamilton Tiger-Cats and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers were meeting in the big game for the sixth time in nine years. Winnipeg had won four of the past five.

Hamilton had finished in first place in the East with a record of 10-4. After winning their last four regular season games, they knocked off the Ottawa Rough Riders by a combined 35-20 count in the two-game total point Eastern Final.

Like many Tiger-Cat squads of the 60's, the backbone of the 1965 Grey Cup team was the defense. Hamilton's defensive roster was led by CFL all-stars John Barrow, Garney Henley, Zeno Karcz, Billy Ray Locklin, Bronko Nagurski and Billy Wayte. Other key players included Don Sutherin, Angelo Mosca, Bob Krouse, Bobby Kuntz and Herb Pattera. On offense, Ti-Cat head coach Ralph Sazio also had an arsenal of talent at his disposal including Tommy Grant, Willie Bethea, Gerry McDougall, Hal Patterson and Joe Zuger.

The Blue Bombers had an impressive line-up as well, led by signal caller Ken Ploen and running back Leo Lewis.

Strong, gusty winds of 50-60 km per hour prevailed for most of the game. CFL officials and both teams agreed to change the rules so that punts into the wind would be ruled dead as soon as the receiver touched the ball.

"The wind was the biggest factor in the game," says Zuger, who served a dual role as both quarterback and punter. "I was always conscious of the wind both for kicking and passing. It was very strange my first few years up in Canada – the Fog Bowl in 1962, the Angelo Mosca, Willie Fleming incident (1963) and then the Wind Bowl."

"It was continuous pretty much the whole game," adds Krouse. "The ball would virtually

stop because of the wind. The kickers tried to kick it high but it would come back almost behind them. Being by the water in the Fall caused a lot of controversy in Toronto, first with the fog in '62 and then with the wind in '65."

The weather would ultimately play a role in the outcome of the game. In those days a team giving up a safety touch retained possession of the ball. Going into the wind in the first and third quarters, Blue Bombers head coach Bud Grant opted to concede three safety touches with the ball deep in Winnipeg's territory. Although some have said the strategy backfired and cost the Bombers the game the reality is had Winnipeg punter Ed Ulmer kicked into the wind, the Ti-Cats undoubtedly would have received excellent field position. In all likelihood they would have scored some points off those punts. At any rate, the six conceded points became the margin of victory as the Tiger-Cats hung on for a 22-16 win.

"Ralph (Sazio) never conceded points," says Zuger. "We're not giving anything away he would say. Make them earn it."

All the points were scored with the wind. The Tiger-Cats trailed 13-10 at half-time but scored 12 unanswered points in the third quarter. Heading into the final frame Hamilton clung to a precarious 22-13 lead. Fortunately for Ti-cat fans, the Bombers could muster just a field goal by Norm Winton with the wind in the final quarter.

The wind played havoc not only with the kicking game but also when it came to throwing the ball. The two teams combined for just 17 passing attempts but ran the ball a combined 80 times. The wind was so strong that Hamilton attempted just five passes.

In fact, Willie Bethea was the only Tiger-Cat to catch a pass – he pulled in both completions by Zuger for 71 yards. One of Bethea's receptions was good for a 69 yard major in the third quarter. "It was an unbelievable catch," says Zuger. "He got his hands right around the end of the football and caught it from behind. It was incredible." Bethea led the team in both receiving (two catches for 71 yards) and rushing (12 carries for 68 yards).





Dick Cohee also had a strong ground game for the Ti-Cats as he picked up 44 yards on four carries and scored the game's opening touchdown on a seven yard run in the first quarter.

Interestingly, the Tiger-Cats picked up just seven first downs in the game compared to the Bombers 18.

The key play of the game occurred late in the fourth quarter when the Bombers began their final drive, trailing by six points and the wind at their backs. Fullback Art Perkins was stopped short on a critical third down and one gamble by Mosca and Pattera and the ball was turned over to the Tiger-Cats. Hamilton ran down the clock and held on for the victory.

The Grey Cup was the fourth for the Tiger-Cats (1953, 1957, 1963) since the merger of the Tigers and Wildcats in 1950.

Though many Grey Cups since have been affected by strong winds, the 1965 Classic truly was the original Wind Bowl.

Postscript: As a result of the Blue Bombers strategy in the 1965 Grey Cup, CFL rules were changed the following year. Starting in the 1966 season, when a team was scored upon via a safety touch they would no longer retain possession of the ball. They would have to kick the ball back to the opposing team.

BRIAN SNELGROVE

Brian Snelgrove is a life-long fan of the CFL and has written extensively for the CFL, the CFL Alumni Association, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats as well as the Official Grey Cup magazine.

In Conversation With... "Rufus Crawford"

By Chris Durka



The Hamilton Tiger Cats have been fortunate over the years for having very talented special teams / all-purpose yardage players. One of these great players

was No. 21 Rufus Crawford. Rufus played running back, slot back, punt returner and kick returner. He demonstrated his football talents at Virginia State University and began his professional football career with the NFL Seattle Seahawks.

Rufus ended up in Hamilton after a stint with Seattle. His rights were picked up by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers who in turn, after a short period of time, sent him to Hamilton on an apparent loan basis. Whoever heard of such a thing, was he traded or not? Ray Jauch the Winnipeg coach called him in and informed him that's exactly what it was. The rest is history, Rufus arrived in Hamilton and showed off his football skills from 1979 to 1985.

Rufus said that he was happy to leave Winnipeg because he had never been so cold before in his entire life. He was raised in North Carolina and the weather in Winnipeg was nothing like he had ever experienced before.

Rufus was met at the airport in Toronto by Joe Zuger who at the time was the running back coach with the Ti-Cats. Rufus said he quickly found out that Coach Zuger was a man of few words because on the drive from Toronto to Hamilton Coach Zuger might have said five words to him at the most. However, when they approached downtown Hamilton Coach Zuger asked him what he thought about the downtown area. All Rufus could remember was that they drove through it before he could articulate his thoughts. He couldn't get over how small it was in comparison to the American cities that he was used to. Once in Hamilton Rufus said with much sarcasm that he had the distinct pleasure of staying at the luxurious City Motor Hotel which was located in the east end of the City.

I asked Rufus what he remembered about the coaches that he played for here in Hamilton. Frank Kush immediately came to his mind. He said that Coach Kush would constantly make the team run and run and run, not only laps, but up and down the stadium steps. Rufus said Coach Kush would also join in and run too because he would not make the players do something he would not do.

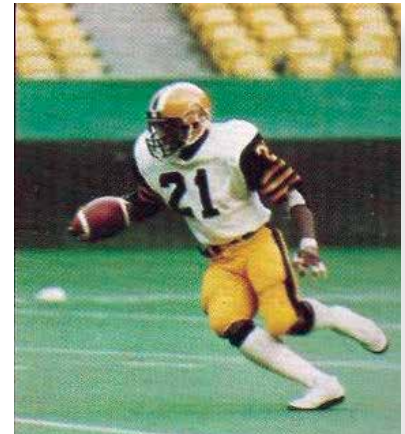
Rufus went on to say that his team-mates such as Ben Zambiasi, David Shaw and Howard Fields were the locker room team leaders which contributed to the stability of the team. Howard Fields was also known as H-Bomb because you just never knew when he would explode. Rufus mentioned that during his career in Hamilton he developed strong friendships with a number of players such as Obie Graves, Johnny Sheppard, David Shaw, Less Browne, Grover Covington, but Felix Wright, who played defensive back for the team, became his closest friend with the Ti-Cats.

When I asked him who was his favourite quarterback in Hamilton Rufus adamantly answered Tom Clements. He said that Tom was a very talented and intelligent quarterback that he really enjoyed playing with. He said when Clements wore his glasses he reminded him of Clark Kent, the original superman.

Rufus's most memorable experiences were numerous, he said that the Labour Day games against the Toronto Argos was definitely the most important league game of the year. He said that it seemed everything else came to a standstill.

Other great memories were his relationship with Ti-Cat fans, the Grey Cups that he participated in and obviously the 1984 football season when he broke the CFL all-purpose yardage record that had been held by Hal Patterson for 28 years. Due to this outstanding achievement he won the Eastern Outstanding Player Award and represented the Eastern Conference for the prestigious Schenley Award.

I asked Rufus who he felt was the toughest player he had ever played against in the CFL and he stated that Eskimo's all-star linebacker Dan Kepley was the toughest by



far. Rufus recalled a funny situation during a game against the Eskimos. He received a pass from Clements beating Kepley's coverage and turned up down field for a 50 plus yard touchdown when everything suddenly went dark. The lights at Commonwealth Stadium went completely out and stayed out for about 45 minutes.

Rufus's playing days ended in 1986 and although he was not physically part of the Tiger Cat team that won the Grey Cup that year his heart and support was with his team mates and therefore felt very much part of that Grey Cup team.

Rufus Crawford was successful as a professional football player and is also a successful in life after football. He currently lives in Newmarket and has become an accomplished actor with numerous impressive credits to his name. When he is not acting he keeps busy working at a Fitness Club in Markham.

Rufus was exciting to watch with his elusive moves and his dashing speed. His versatility made him a multiple offensive threat from anywhere on the field. He was an exceptional player and a true example of Hamilton Tiger Cat football.

CHRIS DURKA

Chris is a long-time Tiger-Cat fan, season ticket holder, historian and collector of Tiger-Cat memorabilia and autographs. Over the years, Chris has had the honour to speak with many Tiger-Cat players whom he now recalls in conversation.

JOHN BARROW

John passed away on February 17, 2015 at the age of 79. John is considered one of the greatest Tiger-Cats of all time. He has been inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and the Tiger-Cat Wall of Honour. John played 14 seasons with the Tiger-Cats (1957–70) and was a 4 time Grey Cup Champion and 6 time CFL All-Star. He played both Offensive and Defensive Tackle and was named to the All-Time Tiger-Cat team at both positions.

A special "Celebration of Life" was recently held in his honour at the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.



Joe Pikula

JOE PIKULA

Joe passed away on April 26, 2015 at the age of 70 after a battle with cancer. Joe played Tackle for the Tiger-Cats in 1963/64 and was a member of the 1963 Grey Cup Championship team.

PETER MURPHY

Peter passed away on March 30, 2015 at the age of 77. Peter was a long-time member of the Alumni Association and played on the "Tiger-Cat B's" in the late '50s.



*W. Bethea, R. Schultz, P. Neumann,
R. Riopelle, B. Krouse*



R. Jackson & John Barrow Jr.

WHAT'S COOKING?

CORN & CHEESE DOGS

Here's a great snack, whether you're watching the game at home or warmed on a BBQ while tailgating. Use the batter to dip both hot dogs and cheese sticks.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 2/3 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for hot dogs
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper
- 4 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- Vegetable or peanut oil, for frying (about 2 quarts)
- 12 hot dogs
- 12 + Cheese sticks (chedder, Monterey Jack, Havarti)
- 24 + wooden skewers

DIRECTIONS

1. Whisk together cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, and 1 teaspoon pepper. Stir in eggs and milk. (You will have about 5 cups batter.) Fill a large heavy pot, Dutch oven, or deep fryer with enough oil to submerge hot dogs; heat until a deep-fry thermometer reaches 360 degrees.
2. Meanwhile, pat hot dogs dry, and insert a 10-inch bamboo skewer through each lengthwise; roll in flour to coat.
3. Dip 1 hot dog into batter, turning, until completely coated; let any excess batter drip off, and wipe away extra batter using your fingers so that hot dog is coated evenly. Lower hot dog into hot oil. Immediately repeat with 2 hot dogs.
4. Cook corn dogs, turning to cook evenly, until deep golden brown, 5 to 7 minutes. Transfer to a paper-towel-lined tray,



turning to blot oil. Working in batches of 3, repeat with remaining hot dogs and batter.

5. Repeat with cheese stick skewers. Serve with ketchup and spicy mustard for dipping.

MESSAGE FROM THE CFLAA



I WOULD LIKE TO THANK the CFL Alumni Board of Directors, Hector Pothier (President), JT Hay, Bill Johnson, Terry Bulych, Brett MacNeil, David Lane, Peter Martin, Dave Supleve and Jim Cain for the volunteer work over the year, and to Linda Wood Edwards, who handles our governance, and many other critical board issues and Brian Snelgrove for his work on our media releases and contribution to our Alumni Update magazine.

A special thank you to Dave Lane for his support and work as the Ti-Cat Alumni designate to the CFLAA Board and to Dave Richardson and the board for their leadership.

On behalf of the CFLAA Board of Directors, we also like to thank our dream team of professionals for their support, legal counsel Jim Cimba, Vernon Pahl and Robert Sokalski. As well as our chartered accountant Paul Kwiatkowski CA, who provides us an audited financial statement each year.

We also thank our key supporters for their financial support over the course of the year to support our ongoing operations. These include the CFL, the local football clubs and the Alumni Associations, sponsors, and donors, both individual and corporate. We especially like to thank Mark Cohon for his leadership in bringing the League back with vengeance! With a new TSN deal, CBA, and stadiums hopefully ALL the owners will be rewarded for their investments in the CFL, their local communities and Canada. We owe his wing men Michael Copeland and Kevin McDonald deep debt of gratitude for being our “go to” guys.

We look forward to a continued strong relationship with the CFL under the leadership of our new Commissioner, Jeffrey Orridge.

The main reason we began and exist is to support our own through the CFL Alumni Support Fund and the CFL in general. The fund goal is to be a last resort for those of our unfortunate colleagues and families that have fallen on bad financial times due to medical challenges regardless whether football related or not.

One of the benefits of the CFLAA has been to unite the local Alumni Associations. Before we began most Associations did not have a fund in place but now most either have their own support fund in place or funds allocated to help. This is the good news. The even better news there has not been a great demand for support.

The level of activity amongst the associations in their communities is unprecedented. We have been united.

We are excited about the year(s) ahead. We feel this will be a break out year. Why? We have a couple of new initiatives and a couple of old which continue to grow.

- **We will be working with the Mosca Family children to present “STILL MOSCA”.** A thank you to their father for the work he has done in the community, his career and for just being a great dad. The event will be held at Carmen’s on **Wednesday, August 26**. Proceeds to benefit Alzheimers and the CFL Alumni Support Fund. More to follow but, mark your calendar. Not just another sit down dinner. We promise!

- **Alone Rose Project** (partnership with the Never Alone Foundation (www.neveralonefoundation.ca – founded by former Bomber, Lyle Bauer)

We have scheduled over 30 appearances by Alumni across the country. We are led by cancer survivors Hector Pothier, James Murphy, and Lui Passaglia.

- **Lake of Bays /Pigskin Pilsner partnership** (www.lakeofbay-sbrewing.ca/our-beer/pigskin-pilsner). Launched last year as a test during the playoffs. This year Pigskin Pilsner will be launched during the football season. A special “Legends Edition” featuring CFL Great Chris Walby will be available in Manitoba in time for the playoffs.

- **Grey Cup 103/CFL Alumni Legends Luncheon** – Winnipeg, MB. The event continues to be one of the “go to” events at Grey Cup. We will also be supporting the CFL Fans Fight Cancer. This year along with the presentation of the CFL Alumni Man of the Year the Canadian Football Hall of Fame will announce the 2016 Inductees.

- **Mike Ditka’s GridIron Greats Induction Weekends** (Las Vegas & Detroit) Ray Elgaard will be inducted in Las Vegas in June. He joins Angelo Mosca, Hugh Campbell, George Reed and Matt Dunigan. He will also be the first Canadian to enter the Hall. He will also enter with former Oakland Raider and Montreal Alouette, Fred Bilitneko. (www.gridirongreats.org)

- **Canadian Sports Concussion Project.** We have over 40 former players go through neuro cognitive testing at Toronto Western Hospital. The research team lead by Dr. Charles Tator are still looking for more participants. (www.solveconcussions.ca) Please check out our website www.cflaa.ca for more info.

We often hear the “League needs to get younger”. It is important that we reach out to our younger Alumni in each of our cities and encourage them to participate and take on some of the roles necessary to keep our organizations vibrant. Careers are short, lifestyle is unique, and adjustment to a post career is an inevitable challenge for ALL those who have played. Some disguise it better than others. The fellowship experienced through membership is the key to helping through the inevitable transition. Our lives are lived in reverse and at an accelerated rate. We achieve great success and adulation at a very young age. When we “retire” we have between 40–70 years to go. Now what?

Again our primary goal is to support those Alumni and fans that brought us here. To those folks we THANK YOU!

Leo Ezerins, Executive Director
CFL Alumni Association

Original Paintings for Sale

Artwork by renowned Canadian sports artist Gary McLaughlin

For sale are two CFL paintings by renown Canadian sports artist Gary M. McLaughlin (www.garymclaughlin.gallery). *"Grey Cup – Our Game"*, was completed in 2012 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Grey Cup and highlights some of the greatest Grey Cup hero's of the past Century. *"HTC-75"* was completed in 2013 and features 75 of the greatest players to ever wear a Hamilton uniform. Both paintings are 4' x 6' oil on canvas, created to last...many lifetimes. Please contact admin@htcaa.ca for more information.



Grey Cup – Our Game



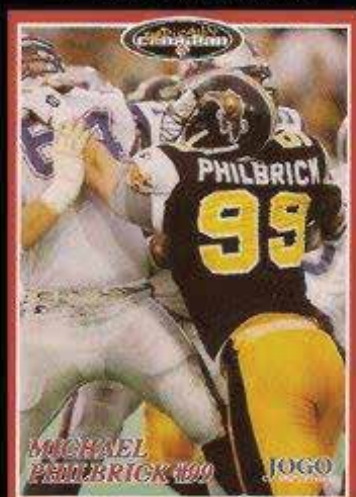
HTC-75



Walk^{of} Fame Dinner

Inductee

Mike
Philbrick



Charlotte Simmons HUMANITARIAN Award

Honouree

Mike
Filer



Ray Johnson - Marauder LEADERSHIP & SERVICE Award

Declan
Cross



Thursday, May 21/15

Carmen's Banquet Centre

1520 Stone Church Rd., E St. Hamilton, ON L8W 3P9

+ Cocktails 6pm + Dinner 7pm + Silent Auction + Cash Bar

\$ 65 Per Person or Table of 8 - \$455

For Tickets: Carol 905.664.6117 crose@cogeco.ca

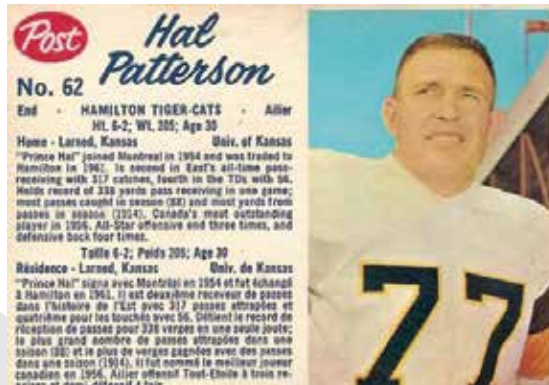
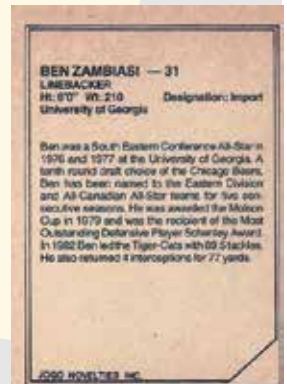
CARD COLLECTOR



John Barrow, 1958



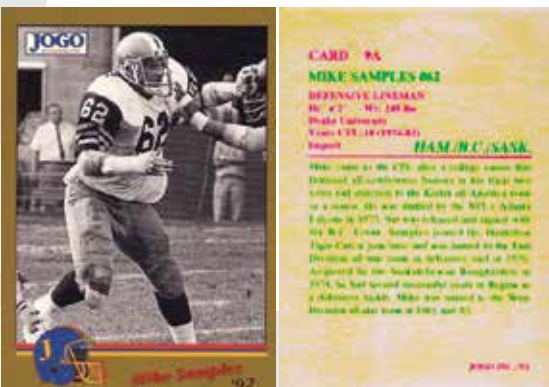
Ben Zambiasi, 1983



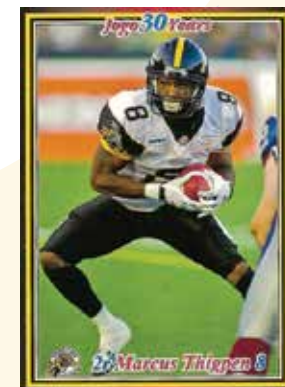
Hal Patterson, 1962



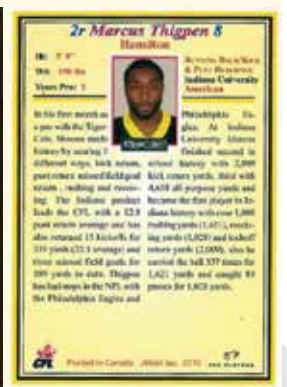
Brett Williams, 1993



Mike Samples, 1974



Marcus Thigpen, 2010



HAMILTON TIGER-CAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 30TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY MAY 25, 2015



MontHill Golf & Country Club | 4925 Highway #6
(formerly Sundrim Golf Course)

Caledonia, ON N3W 1Z6



\$160 PER GOLFER / \$640 PER FOURSOME

You do not have to be an Alumni member to play. Registration includes:

REGISTRATION GIFT · LUNCH · GOLF · CART · DINNER & PRIZES

Registration - 11 am | Shotgun start - 12:30 pm sharp!

Please RSVP by May 15, 2015 to:

Mark Bowden
905 - 981 - 9409 or email golf@relevent.ca
www.htcaa.ca

