

# TIGER-CAT Q&A

**Name:** Rocky DiPietro

**Birth date (M/D/YY):** Jan. 30, 1956

**School/Jr. Football:** University of Ottawa

**Position(s):** Slotback

**Years with Tiger-Cats:** 14

## CAREER

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

High school – Sault Collegiate Institute – Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (3 years)

Northern Football Conference – Sault Steelers (3 years)

University Of Ottawa – (3 years)

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

Was a protected selection by Hamilton Ti-Cats in the 1978 draft.

### 3. Do or did you hold any records?

Briefly held record for most receptions in the CFL.

### 4. Do or did you have a nickname?

No.

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

Playing in and winning 1986 Grey Cup. Playing with some pretty good Quarterbacks – Tom Clements, Dieter Brock, Mike Kerrigan, Dave Marler.

### 6. Who were some of the team-mates and opponents you admired the most and why?

Besides the Quarterbacks, teammates Miles Gorrell, Ben Zambiasi, Less Brown, Grover Covington.

All are arguably the best players at that position all-time.

Playing against some of the great CFL'ers Dan Kepley, Warren Moon, Ron Lancaster.

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

Al Bruno - treated players like professionals. - Backed his players and took the heat himself.

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

Going to 3 straight Grey Cups – 84, 85, 86. Playing in 89 Grey Cup (Losing that one still a bitter pill to swallow to this day).

## POST CFL CAREER

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

Started teaching High School (Welland Notre Dame) 1985 while still playing.

Started full time in 1991 after retirement from the Cat's

Moved to Lakeshore Catholic (Port Colborne) in 1989 to present.

Taught Physical Education and presently in Special Education for the last 6 years.

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

Have coached High School Football since 1992. Enjoy camping, fishing

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

Camped in some great Parks in Ontario especially Killbear.

## THE GAME

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

Wide open game that is never over until the final gun. 3 downs = more passing

Short time between plays. (20 secs.). No fair catch on punts. Stop time last 3 mins of a half

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

Add more players to roster.

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

Take nothing for granted. Work hard. Remember it is a business. Enjoy the experience, your teammates, fans.



### 15. Is there anything else you would like to share? (thoughts, memories, stories)?

Its great to keep in touch with the guys through our alumni. Also to be able to share stories with players from different eras.

## BIO

Rocky DiPietro has to rate as one of the best slotbacks in CFL history. He was a Hamilton territorial exemption in the 1976 draft and joined the Tiger-Cats in 1978. Rocky played his entire 14 year career (1978-1991) with Hamilton and it included four Eastern All-Star honours (1981, 1982, 1986 and 1989), three All-Canadian honours (1982, 1986 and 1989), two Outstanding Canadian awards (1982 and 1989) and runner-up in 1986. Along the way were three 1000+ yards, with DiPietro's best season coming in 1982 with 95 catches and 1160 yards. Rocky finished his career with 706 catches for 9762 yards and 45 touchdowns. DiPietro was elected to the Canadian Football Hall-of-Fame in 1997.

*Courtesy of [www.CFLapedia.com](http://www.CFLapedia.com)*