

TIGER-CAT Q&A

Name: Paul Bennett

Birthday: March 27, 1954

School: W.A. Porter High School (Scarborough), Missouri, Waterloo, Wilfred Laurier

Position(s): QB, RB, DB and all special teams

Years with Tiger-Cats: 1984-87

CAREER

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

I was interested in playing football when I was about 7 or so and about 60 pounds. The game looked like fun and was told to come back next year as I too light. I tried out for the high school team in grade 9 but quit after all my friends were cut. I finally started playing in grade 10.

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

I was a protected choice of the Toronto Argonauts in 1977.

3. Do or did you hold any records?

At the time of retirement I held 3 CFL records: most punt return carries & yards and most interception returns yards.

4. Do or did you have a nickname?

Affectionally known as Badger....a name given to me by Ben Zambiasi during training camp in St. Catherine's.

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

Winning the 1986 Grey Cup after losing in 1984 and 1985.....it truly was a great team....awesome defense, great team leaders and offense that clicked when needed most and a solid kicking game...Ozzie was great! Just as important as the players were the great coaches led by Al Bruno.

I have never been on a team where a coaching strategy was instrumental in overcoming a winning offense strategy - the 1983 Grey Cup Champions Argos and their complicated "Run and Shoot" - special thanks to Rich Stubler and Ted Schmidt for their creative genius.

A big thank you to GM Joe Zuger for putting the winning pieces together and finally, and by no means last, the very supportive Ti-Cat fans!! Oh, one last guy....Ray Jones....thanks

buzzard for keeping us taped up and on the field.

My 2002 induction into the CFHOF was my next most memorable experience.

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

Gee there's really too many to mention and I feel that it would be unfair / disrespectful to leave somebody off of that list....and let's remember that on any team there are so many little contributions made that all add up to equal major contributions.....so let's go with the 1986 team as a whole. Regarding my opponents, how about I go with "our" opponents as there was a great deal of respect for all that we played against.

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

For me there are two....Al Bruno as the HC because he knew how to balance things and his loyalty and respect for his veteran players was very much appreciated. From a strategic perspective it was Rich Stubler. Not just for his creativity, but for his understanding of me as a person and his being OK with letting me play my game within the team concept.

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

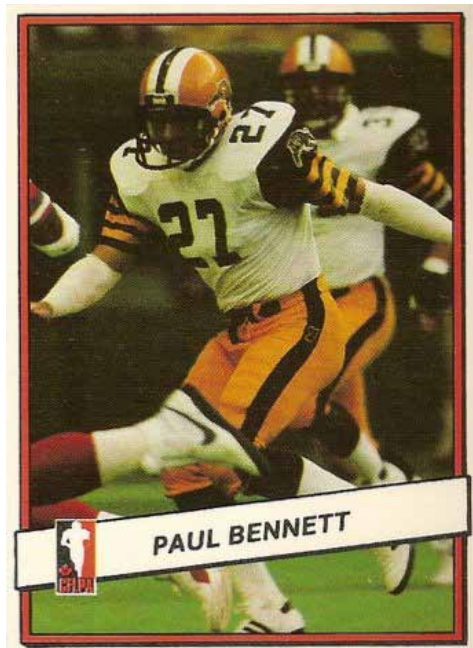
1986...14 to 17 point underdogs as I recall.....watching Mike Kerrigan hit Steve Stapler on an out and up for a TD....WOW!. Ozzie being perfect. Dan Huclack as the game's leading rusher. The feeling of a defense that was not to be denied as 10 turnovers were created against the yet be CFHOF'ers Matt Dunigan and Damon Allen. So much for the yellow haired Nike swooshes!..... finally holding the Grey Cup and surrounded by your teammates.....there's nothing like that feeling.

POST CFL CAREER

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

Worked in jobs at mostly 8 year increments.... radio sales, MTS (now Bell), HR recruitment and now as a part time associate with Home Depot...ya, I am semi-retired.

Married to my high school sweetie, Patti Ling, and we share a blended family that includes 5 adult children; Renee, Dylan, Melissa,



Mackenzie and Kendall plus two grandchildren, Ava and our latest shining star Emma.

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

Co-Founder and Chairman of the Our Manitoba Heroes "Compassion in Action" a celebration of community concept that recognizes the contributions of some wonderful Manitoban's and in support of numerous charities. Too much to tell here so I would ask that you check us out at www.ourmanitobaheroes.ca

Have coached many sports over the years and have enjoyed it all, but coaching with my son, Mackenzie, at Oak Park high school and winning 2 championships was pretty cool.

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

Have travelled extensively over the past 10 + years....Mexico, Europe / Mediterranean Sea, USA - football / hockey games in Denver, Green Bay and Tampa Bay, across Canada, all great places to visit.

Being a grandfather has been an awesome experience.

THE GAME

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

The opportunity to put up a lot of points, the available space and the overall athleticism required to play the game.