Gryphon Football Virtual Gala Success

Approximately 200 friends and alumni of Gryphon Football attended the online Virtual Gala. We broke Gala records by raising $42,000 for football scholarships. Thank you Gryphon Nation for making our 10th FOGF Gala a night to remember.
Congratulations to Gabriel Ferraro on his signing with the Hamilton Tiger Cats.

Ferraro, 25, appeared in five Canadian Football League games with the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 2019, converting seven of his nine field goal attempts (77.8%) and 11-of-12 extra point attempts. The 5-10, 178-pound native of Mississauga, Ontario also spent time with the Ottawa Redblacks in 2020 and was originally selected by the Calgary Stampeders in the seventh round, 59th overall, in the 2018 CFL Draft. Ferraro attended training camp with the Stampeders in 2018 before returning to University for his final year of eligibility. The University of Guelph product set the U Sports record for field goals made in a season with 33 in 2017, and tied for the most ever through a career after converting 91 of his 117 field goal attempts (77.8%) from 2014 to 2018 with the Gryphons.

To read more of this article written by the Ticat’s staff, click here.
Augustine’s Draft Experience

The following article was written by Ed Tait from the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Just over a week ago Kyle Walters and yours truly were conversing about how the already-inexact science that is the Canadian Football League Draft is that much more imprecise courtesy the global pandemic. The meat of that discussion can be found in this piece. Anyway, it was after that chat when I ventured back to take a look at the 2016 CFL Draft – especially given the consensus in many sports that it takes five years to truly evaluate a draft class.

The Bombers did well in the ’16 Draft despite not having a first-round pick in selecting defensive end Trent Corney ninth, centre Michael Couture 10th, Taylor Loffler 19th, Shayne Gauthier 28th – all of whom suited up for the club.

Yet, just to reinforce the inexact part of all this we need to jump forward one year to 2017. The Bombers had eight picks in that draft, including the first-overall selection, which they used to choose Iowa defensive tackle Faith Ekakitie. The only player from the Bombers ’17 draft class who has made a significant contribution is guard Geoff Gray, grabbed eighth overall.

Still, there’s another player on the Bombers’ roster who made a solid contribution in the Grey Cup season of 2019, including two impressive starts, and has established himself as a quality CFLer. Funny thing about all that… despite shining at the National Combine in 2017, he wasn’t drafted, but instead signed as a free agent afterward with Edmonton. He would make his CFL debut with Bombers, it’s worth noting, but not until being cut by both Edmonton and Saskatchewan.

Ladies and gentlemen… we give you Johnny Augustine.

To read more of this article written by Ed Tait, click here.
Guelph's Tavius Robinson Better Prepared for Second NCAA Season

A year ago, Guelph native Tavius Robinson was working out in a garage with some of his Guelph Gryphons football teammates, who were also his roommates.

The Gryphons’ annual week-long spring camp had been cancelled due to COVID-19, but defensive lineman Robinson had every intention of playing his third campaign for the Gryphons in the fall.

However, that all changed when the Canadian university football season was also called off due to the pandemic.

Determined to pursue the sport professionally, Robinson didn’t want to miss any development time so sent highlight videos to U.S. colleges and eventually ended up suiting up with the Ole Miss Rebels.

Now the Guelph CVI graduate is in the midst of Ole Miss’s five-week spring camp. He missed the Rebels’ off-season last year and had to do a lot of in-season learning and adapting to the NCAA game.

To read more of this article written by Rob Massey for Guelph Today, click here.
Our Featured Alumnus for this month is former offensive line player, Charles Sims.

Today, Charles Sims is a black level FOGF member, during his time at the University of Guelph, Sims was a stellar running back. Graduating in 1992, Charles says that one of his fondest memories with the Gryphons was rookie camp and the balance of his first camp when the returners arrived in August 1988. “I was scared, nervous, homesick, and completely out of my element”, he recalls. “It was a remarkable time with a very special team in '88. Nothing to that point in my life had been so visceral and poignant let alone the size and speed and toughness of these 'men’”, he adds.

After four years as a Gryphon, Charles spent one year in teacher's college at the University of Toronto (1992 - the year our Gryphons won the Yates Cup). He then went on to spend six years teaching at Galt Collegiate Institute (Cambridge, ON) with Gryphon friend Dudley Brown. “I was fortunate to have a chance to move home in 1999 and teach science, math and outdoor education”, says Charles. “I was also so lucky to re-establish
the Mackenzie football program in 2002 and 2003 and become a part of the Mackenzie Trekker program. All three of my daughters (Taylor, Kiley, and Arwen) were born and raised in Deep River and attended/graduated from Mackenzie”.

Today, Sims supports the Gryphons by attending the FOGF Golf tournament on an annual basis. We are so proud of Charles’ contributions to Gryphon Football. Thank you for being our featured alumnus, Charles!

Our Featured FOGF for this month is former Gryphon, Todd Storms.

Todd is an alumnus from the University of Guelph and former Gryphon football player who was a member of the 1992 Yates Cup team. When discussing his time at Guelph with us, he shared
fond memories of the 1992 game but says that his most memorable experience was “being captain in [his] final year”.

Storms says that he joined the FOGF program “to keep in contact with former teammates and to provide support to the program.

Today, he currently works as a grade 7 teacher in Ottawa. As a result of his distance from Guelph, Storms supports the team by attending a game each year and by participating in Gryphon auction fundraisers.

Thank you so much for your support, Todd. We truly appreciate your continued involvement in Gryphon Football. You’re such a valuable member of the Gryphon family.

The May tweet of the month was published by @avokhado. In this tweet, Kha shares some behind-the-scenes pictures of our Gryphon Football, CFL Draft eligible Kosi Onyeka. Check out these shots!
This month’s "Gryphon Gone Pro" is Scott Lecky. Scott played from 1986 to 1989 with the BC Lions. He caught 82 passes for 1,162 yards and 8 receiving touchdowns in his career. He received Guelph Rookie of the Year, won a National Championship with the Ottawa Sooners,
was a CFL Rookie of the Year Nominee with the BC Lions, and played in the 1988 Grey Cup Game. We are so proud of Scott’s legacy.

TRX Equipment to Enhance Training

With the pandemic, keeping our student athletes in peak shape has been a unique challenge. To make sure we achieve this, we've equipped all our Student Athletes with TRX equipment to make sure they don't miss a step.
How NFL General Managers Draft

The following insights were provided by Thomas Dimitroff for the NFL website...

General managers in today's NFL don't have the luxury of time decision-makers had 30 or 40 years ago. Time to build a roster, time to take chances and time to correct mistakes.

Fortunately, I was given -- and earned -- time as the general manager of the Atlanta Falcons, a position I held for 13 seasons. Some of the most important decisions general managers make come in the months, days and hours leading up to the draft each year. With no draft exactly the same, I experienced nearly every phase of the job during my time in Atlanta.

Now, roughly 24 hours ahead of the 2021 NFL Draft, I'm looking back on my own experiences and discussing the challenges current decision-makers face in four common draft scenarios.

To read more of this article written by Gryphon alumnus, Thomas Dimitroff, click here.
The GCVI Train to Gryphon Football

It’s rare that a kid in his first year of high school gets a front-row seat to see what the next level in their sport looks like. Tavius Robinson had that chance. When the towering Guelph native was in grade 9 at Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute, he saw his hometown Gryphons putting in the work at training camp. It gave Robinson a clear sense of what USPORTS football was all about and for a young, impressionable player at the beginning of his journey, the experience was invaluable.

That Gaels freshman would go on to be part of consecutive District 10 championships, enjoy two great seasons at the U of G helping anchor the D line, and then earn the rare opportunity to play NCAA Division 1 ball at SEC powerhouse Ole Miss. That makes Robinson one of the most prolific players to ever come out of GCVI – and he was groomed early on the Alumni Stadium turf.

To read more of this article by David DiCenzo, visit our website here.
Golf Tournament: July 23, 2021*

*Limited to 60 FOGF Members this year due to COVID restrictions.

** Stay tuned for more information if regulations open up.
Become a Member

Interested in becoming an FOGF Member? There are three different tiers to our memberships: Red, Gold and Black. To find out more information about our memberships and what is involved in each level, please click here. For questions about the membership, please contact Bill Brown at brownw@uoguelph.ca.

If you have any news or updates, we would be more than happy to share them in our upcoming newsletter. Please reach out to brownw@uoguelph.ca for any celebrations, announcements of bereavements that you would like us to share.