

HAMILTON TIGER-CAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



TIGERtales

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Sept 2016

1986 GREY CUP CHAMPS REUNION

Thirty years after the most memorable Grey Cup upset victory in Club history, members of the 86' Championship team gathered in Hamilton for a weekend filled with reunion events. The weekend kicked-off with a wonderfully catered social gathering hosted at the home of 86' team member David Sauve where the game was shown outdoors on the big screen.

On Saturday, August 20th a special pregame tailgate party was hosted by the Alumni Association where fans could mix and mingle

with the Championship team. Afterwards, team members were welcomed at the new Alumni Clubhouse at Tim Horton's Field and recognized on field at half-time. The team pitched in with a spirited effort defeating the Roughriders 53-7.

On Sunday, the team hosted a special tour of the stadium and brunch in the Champions Lounge overlooking the field to conclude a spectacular weekend.



**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.**

HAMILTON TIGER-CAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2nd Annual Alumni Social

Friday, October 21st

ALUMNI CLUBHOUSE AT TIM HORTON'S FIELD

Enter via Security Gate 1A

RECEPTION: 6pm DINNER: 6:30pm

Watch Tiger-Cats @ Redblacks: 7pm



Complimentary tickets for all Alumni & spouse/significant other.

Tickets: \$30 for additional family

***Attendees must RSVP in advance to:
admin@htcaa.ca or (905) 570-6105***



COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Fans gathered at Tim Horton's Field for a special community day where they were able to take in a number of events including the opportunity to meet some of their favourite Alumni and get some autographs



TIM HORTON'S CAMP DAY



Tiger-Cat Alumni once again stepped up to participate in the Annual Tim Horton's Camp Day Fundraiser. Various Alumni were at Tim Horton's locations around the city to lend a hand.



SOFTBALL CLASSIC



Tiger-Cat Alumni were on hand to participate in the Tiger-Cat Community Softball Classic at Bernie Arbour Stadium on May 15th.



EVENTS

WALK OF FAME DINNER

Many Alumni, family, friends (and enemies?) gathered at Carmen's Banquet Centre to help induct and roast new Walk of Fame inductee Mike Morreale. "Brother" Rob Hitchcock provided an entertaining speech to honour his former teammate. The Cats Claws Fan Club holds their annual dinner in the spring to induct Alumni who made a lasting impact both on and off the field during their time as a Tiger-Cat.



TIGER-CAT ALUMNI ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Now in its 31st year and an annual tradition at the end of May, the HTCAA hosted their Alumni golf tournament at the MontHill Golf and Country Club in Caledonia. Momentum seems to be growing for the tournament as many Alumni are returning for this annual gathering.

Along with some great golf, weather and steak dinner....Alumni, friends and fans were able to have fun and participate in some great contests and take in some complimentary "refreshments". Hope to see all of you and more again next year!



Hamilton Tiger-Cat Alumni Wear

Items in various sizes are in stock and can be picked up and paid for on game day at the new Alumni Clubhouse at Tim Horton's Field.

Order Alumni merchandise by completing an order from online at www.htcaa.ca and emailing to admin@htcaa.ca.

Embroidered Athletic T-Shirt



\$25

Embroidered Hat



\$20

Embroidered Golf Shirt



\$35

Embroidered Jacket



\$70

**"Property of" design
for friends & family of Alumni
Available in Grey or Black**



T-shirt \$15, Sweatshirt \$25

Embroidered Long Sleeve Dress Shirt



\$45

Football T-Shirt



\$15

Football Sweatshirt



\$25

Tiger Head T-Shirt



\$15

Tiger Head Sweatshirt



\$25

TIGER-CAT Q&A

Name: Ryan Donnelly

Birthday: December 13, 1978

School: McMaster

Position(s): Guard/Tackle/Center

Years with Tiger-Cats: 6

CAREER

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

I didn't play football until my final year of high school. I have the high school football team to thank for starting my career as 3 years of making fun of me for playing volleyball paid off and I made the switch. I decided to try out for the McMaster Marauders in 1997. I was only 190lb and was not recruited. Apparently tall, skinny, slow guys that can't catch are not hot commodities. I walked into McMaster and met with Greg Marshall and he told me "well..... you have a good frame but you're a bone rack!" He told me to gain weight and come to training camp. I bulked up to a massive 195lb and walked on. I started at TE and quickly was asked to join a depleted offensive line which endured injuries in training camp. Two games into the season I was the starting left tackle at 200lbs. The bravest man on the football field was QB Ben Chapdelaine as he had to stand behind me! I enjoyed a great first year which capped off tying the #1 ranked Western Mustangs in the last game of the season.

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

I was drafted by the Hamilton Tiger Cats in the 4th round 28th overall

3. Do or did you hold any records?

Is a career rushing total of 3 yards a record?

4. Do or did you have a nickname?

Rhino

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

I lived in Winnipeg and Hamilton growing up and was fortunate to play in both of those cities.

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

A teammate and opponent I admired the most was Joe Montford. Joe lined up against me in my first training camp at Brock University.

I must have closed my eyes because when I opened them he was sacking the quarterback. That was my first one on one pass rush and Joe welcomed me to the league. I always knew how good he was but when he moved on to Toronto I had to find out first hand. He was definitely the best player I have ever played against.

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

Ron Lancaster was my first coach in the CFL. He cared about you more off the field then on. Always had time to tell me a story, say hi and make you feel part of the team. He did more than just coach the Tiger Cats and the ones who had him were the lucky ones.

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

Missed the 99 Grey cup by 2 years... :(

POST CFL CAREER

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

I am now a regional manager for GoodLife Fitness in southern Ontario. I have 3 beautiful children Logan (6) Lucas (4) and Reese (2). They are my world and make everyday a better one. My wife Nikki and I have been together since my Tiger Cat years.

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

I love to build. I finished my basement top to bottom last year and love the sense of accomplishment tackling carpentry/home improvement. I have many projects on the go, it is my way to get alone time.

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

Not many people know I spent 4 years living in India in the Himalayan Mountains. My father's job took our family over there. We lived along-side 30 other Canadian families and assimilated into the Indian culture. We went to a convent to be taught by nuns. Monkeys routinely mugged us for food. I rode elephants to school. When I tell people my Forrest Gump stories they rarely believe me. I could spend hours telling stories.



THE GAME

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

The 3 downs is the only way to play football. As a lineman I love to run block but the excitement of always being in a passing down situation is what gets me out of my seat as a fan.

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

The instant replay for pass interference. That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever seen.

FINAL THOUGHTS

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

You are way better than you think. When I came into the league I never got beat at Mac. I felt I had to do the same in the CFL but that's just not the case. The first few years I always doubted my ability but I realized everyone has plays they want back. You get better from the ones you wished never happened.

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

A story for you. John Macdonald and I were roommates in our first year. We were rookies and came back to our hotel room to our room floating in water. The guys welcomed us to the CFL with a mattress full of water and everything we had for the trip floating in water. It was a tough night sleep that night!

One thing I always loved was the fact I was able to be teammates with so many of my McMaster Marauders. Jesse Lumsden, Kojo Aidoo, Ray Mariuz, Fabio Filice, Mathew O'Meara, Kyle Koch and Chris Rankin. It was a testament to such a strong program from 1999-2002.



TIGER-CAT ALUMNI CLUBHOUSE

Thank you Alumni members who have stepped up to contribute to our fundraising efforts to help create the best Alumni Clubhouse in the CFL. The Clubhouse is open to all paid-up Alumni members and their guests each game and for special events.

A complimentary pre-game meal is provided to our members and guests each game along with free coffee, popcorn and discounted alcoholic beverages. Abundant seating and numerous big screen TV's also provide the comfort of watching the game indoors. The room is almost complete with some minor updates still to come. We will have a photo feature of the room in our December issue of Tigertales.

We are still fundraising and will require funds for ongoing maintenance and services for our members.

To recognize our members' contributions we have created a large donor wall to thank all of you who have pitched in. We will be accepting donation to the end of the season and will then be updating our list of names on the donor wall.

It's not too late to help out. We have various contribution levels to match everyone's budget. Every little bit helps.

LEVELS

Platinum	\$5,000 +
Gold	\$1,000 +
Silver	\$500 +
Bronze	\$100 +

You can make your contribution online on our website www.htcaa.ca using your credit card via PayPal.

You can also send your cheques payable to "HTCAA" to:

HTCAA
57 Sunning Hill Ave
Hamilton, ON L8T 1B6

ALUMNI DONORS

THE HAMILTON TIGER-CAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING DONORS
WHO'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE MADE OUR ALUMNI CLUBHOUSE POSSIBLE

PLATINUM LEVEL

Hamilton Tiger-Cats Football Club	Terry & Lorraine Anshen	Bernie Faloney Family	Al Merlo	Angelo Mosca Family
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GOLD LEVEL

Tom Clements	Dan DuImage	Steve Hnuel	Dave Lane	Mike Philbrick	Joe Sardo	Smith & Long Ltd.	Michael Walker Family
Mike Collymore	Leo Ezerins	Gary Inskeep	John Malinosky	Jason Riley	Dave Sauve	Gerry Sternberg	
Rocky Di Pietro	Andrew Grigg	Lee Knight	Dave Marler	Mike Samples	Ralph Sabo Family	United Trophy	

SILVER LEVEL

Sandy Beveridge	Mark DeNoble	Bill Graham	Brian Hutchings	Terry Lehne	John Pellizzari	Mike Sienna	Glenn Timlock
Mark Bowden	Rudy Florio	Joe Guhnis	Bob Krouse	Mike McCarthy	Mike Robinson	Joe Siepi	Ben Zamboni
Ernie Caterini	Todd Fryer	Garney Henley	Bill Kyle	Jim Papai	Pete Robson	Rod Skillman	

BRONZE LEVEL

Wipe Rimes	Patric Cheron	Bob Dawson	Daniel Remy	Zeno Karto	John MacDonald	John Sabarwal	Ed Wilmberg
Jack Ellis	Dave Clarke	Frank Biko	Jeff Hovell	Steve Karamo	David Malik Family	Dana Segin	Dave Yik
Pat Brady	Tara Clugston	Chris Banks	Jim Hix	Elaine Kelly Family	Doug Mitchell	Bob Sticker	Dick Wilmberg
Bob Butler	Sam Cook	Chuck Edley	Terry Inwood	Peter Kostyk	Alan Muzky Family	Glen Gifford	Bob Wilmberg
Ed Chalupka	Bob Chornomura	Dick Eastman	Rag Jones	Craig Labin	Nick Pollak	Ed Sank	Joe Ziger
Richard Chambers	Bill Derychuk	Tony Hakkarin	Larry Jandano	Bob MacDonald	Frank Robinson	Joan Tegen	Ed Ziger

1986 Grey Cup Champions Meet Again

By Brian Snelgrove

It was a reunion three decades in the making.

The year was 1986 and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats were decided underdogs in the Grey Cup against the heavily-favoured Edmonton Eskimos. Most pundits predicted a one-sided affair – and they were right – Hamilton won 39-15 in one of the biggest upsets in Grey Cup history.

Thirty years later nearly 40 members of that 1986 championship team gathered in Hamilton to share memories and swap stories from that historic contest. The players, coaches and staff were honoured at the Tiger-Cats home game on August 20 against the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

“It was outstanding,” says Jason Riley (OL, 1984-93) one of the event organizers. A lot of time and planning went into putting this together. On the Friday night we had a fantastic party at Dave Sauve’s with over 100 people, including the team, support staff, coaches and spouses. There were guys from all over North America. On Saturday there was a tailgate party before the game at the Polish Hall over at Balsam and Barton. There had to be 300 people, with fans taking pictures and getting autographs and everybody had a great time. What a wonderful way to spend the day. Then we went to the brand new clubhouse at the stadium. It was phenomenal. A lot of guys hadn’t seen it. Guys were blown away by it. It’s been a great partnership with the team. They put a lot of resources into it, as did the Alumni. We were all introduced at halftime



of the game and went back the next day for a brunch they gave us in the executive suite at the new stadium. It was very rewarding and then we all went our separate ways.

“There was so much character on that team,” Riley adds. “The whole O-line from the Grey Cup was there. There was an amazing sense of camaraderie. Al Bruno was a master at bringing the team together. He galvanized the team and everybody liked each other. I hadn’t seen Howard Fields or Ron Ingram in 30 years.

“We loved being underdogs,” says Riley of the ‘86 game. “We knew we were going to win that game come hell or high water. If you watch the intros we were all business, we came out like animals, completely focused. We were very proud of the whole team effort. It was a total team effort right until the end. We were going to die on that field to win. Edmonton was at the wrong end of a perfect storm.”

Riley currently resides in Hamilton and is the offensive line coach for the McMaster Marauders.

“The reunion was a sort of validation over time of what you were a part of,” says Paul Bennett who was a defensive back for the Tiger-Cats from 1984-87 and now lives in Winnipeg. “When you’ve reached the pinnacle of what you have strived for your entire career it becomes more emotional and deeper and more appreciated. When you work hard and that’s your profession and then you look up at the guys that made it happen. It was just a really nice sense of accomplishment.

“We were huge underdogs,” Bennett says in recalling the game. “We were determined not to let that happen that we would lose three in a row. It was such a complete team effort. There was that underlying fear of losing three in a row. Edmonton had a great season and we were .500. It’s like a horse race, when you get too far behind you can’t catch up. We caught





them early. We were prepared and we were motivated and really came together. It wasn't a fluke. We were really ready. I remember at half time even though we were up 29-0 thinking never ever let up even for a moment."

Bennett is a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and is the founder of Our Manitoba Heroes, a gala event celebrating "ordinary people doing extraordinary things". The former Ti-Cat is also considering a return to coaching high school football.

"It was great to get everybody back," says slotback Rocky DiPietro, a Hall of Famer and Ti-Cat star for 14 seasons (1978-91). "It was a great welcome by the fans and great treatment from the team. We've got a nice new alumni room. It was nice to see a lot of the regular guys as well as a lot of guys from out of town. We shared a lot of memories at Dave Sauve's house the night before, remembering things you've forgotten over time. Certain things jog your memory.

"I think it was our defense that dominated the game," DiPietro says about the '86 contest. "They came to play. We were huge underdogs. Some of us still had bad memories of our loss to Winnipeg two years earlier. Probably about ten minutes into the second half we were pretty

sure we were going to win. One thing that stands out I guess was standing on the podium with the Grey Cup with Harold Ballard and King Clancy. Ballard was at almost every practice and he treated us very well. He took care of us and I was glad for him."

DiPietro currently lives in Foothill and recently retired as a high school teacher.

"Its 30 years but this group has always been together," says former Assistant GM Mike McCarthy. "We had reunions after five, ten, 20, 25 years but this one was special. The Tiger-Cats really got behind it and a lot of effort went in to organizing it. Jason Riley did a fantastic job coordinating the whole reunion.

"We were huge underdogs going into that game," says McCarthy. "We came back in the two-game total point Eastern Final against Toronto after losing the first game badly. King Clancy passed away during training camp and we were wearing our black helmets with the shamrock on them for King. We destroyed the Eskimos. I think the defense still holds a lot of Grey Cup records. There were a lot of big plays. The guys were so relaxed and believed they could do it. The players all believed in Al Bruno. I remember walking with Harold Ballard all the way around B.C. Place after the

captains got the Cup. He took everybody in the organization out to the game."

McCarthy lives in Stoney Creek and is the General Manager of the Ohio franchise in the new developmental spring league, Major League Football.

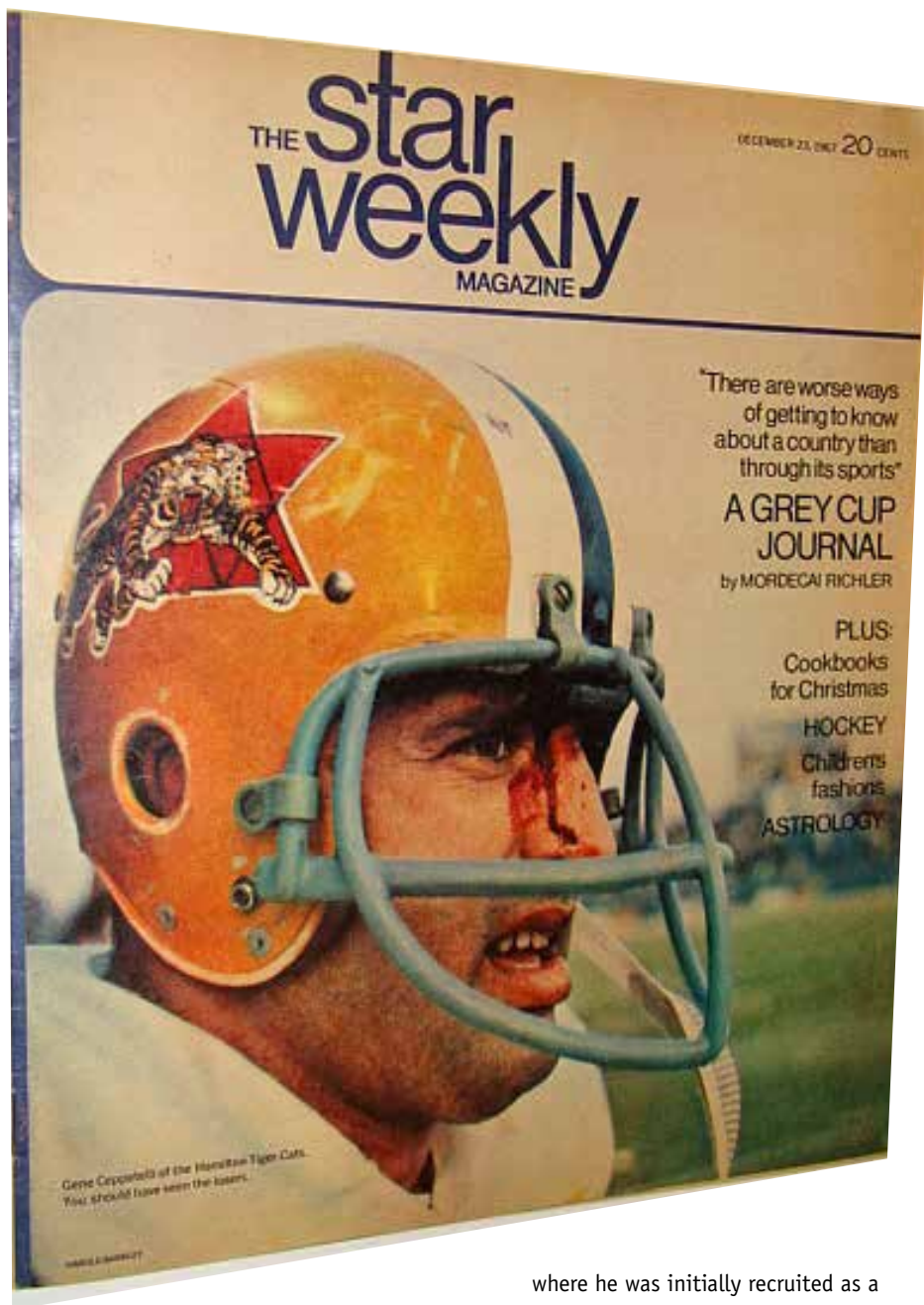
Attending the weekends' events were:

Al Friday, Ben Zambiasi, Bernie Ruoff, Bob Krouse, Dale Sanderson, Dan Huclack, David Levy, David Sauve, Frank Kovacs, Frank Robinson, Greg Irvine, Howard Fields, Jason Riley, Jeff Howe, Jim Rockford, Joe Zuger, John Eakins, John Malinosky, John Salavantis, Ken Zachary, Lee Knight, Leo Ezerins, Leon Lyszkiewicz, Less Browne, Marv Allemang, Michael McCarthy, Michael Robinson, Mike Derks, Mike Walker, Miles Gorrell, Mitchell Price, Pat Brady, Paul Bennett, Paul Clatney, Paul Osbaldiston, Ralph Scholz, Ray Jones, Rocky DiPietro, Rod Skillman, Romeo Komer-sky, Ron Ingram, Steve Jackson, Terry Lehne, Wayne Lee, Walter Bender.

BRIAN SNELGROVE has written extensively for the CFL, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and the Toronto Argonauts.

In Conversation With... Gene Ceppetelli

By Chris Durka



I recently had an enlightening conversation with Ti-Cat great Gene Ceppetelli, a two time CFL Eastern All-Star in 1967 and 1970 and Grey Cup Champion with Hamilton in 1963, '65 and '67. Gene was originally from a rural community just outside Sudbury, Ontario called Waters Township. After high school he attended Villanova University in Pennsylvania

where he was initially recruited as a running back but due to his aggressive head butting running style, he was converted to the offensive centre's position.

Upon graduating from University, Gene had an opportunity to try out for an NFL team but Jim Trimble; the Hamilton coach at the time intervened and invited him to attend the Tiger-Cat spring training camp instead. Trimble had been scouting Gene and was impressed with his performance particularly in the 1962 Liberty Bowl game. Hamilton already owned Gene's Canadian territorial rights so there were

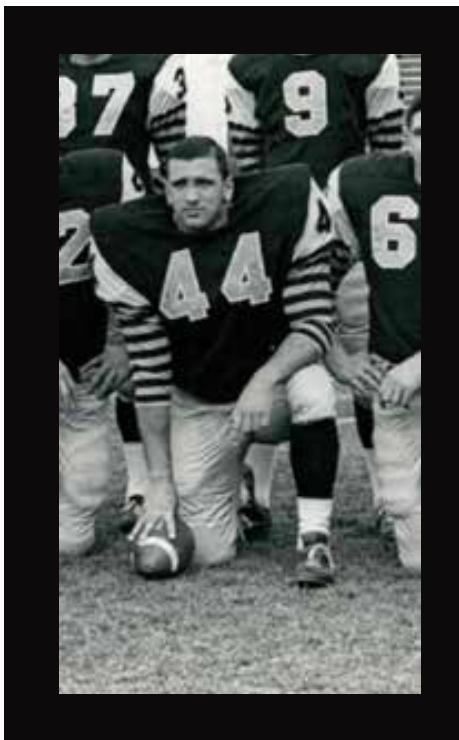
no complications in signing him to a contract.

Gene made the 1963 Hamilton Tiger Cats as a defensive tackle and as a backup centre. In his rookie year he won a Grey Cup Championship which he stated was one of his many highlights. He mentioned how great the people back in Sudbury reacted and celebrated his accomplishment.

During that game he was involved in the infamous Angelo Mosca tackle that knocked the Lions outstanding running back Willie Fleming out of the game and labelled Mosca as the meanest player in the CFL. Ironically it was Gene who initially tackled Fleming and according to Gene, all Mosca did was exactly what he was supposed to do and that was to assist on the tackle. Gene went on to say that in conversation afterwards, Mosca stated that it wasn't his intent to hurt Fleming or, for that matter any other player, because like him they all have to make a living.

Although he was recruited by Jim Trimble, Gene never got to play for him because in 1963 Trimble moved on to Montreal and Ralph Sazio became the Ti-Cat coach. Like previous players that played for Sazio, Gene described him as a no nonsense coach whose emphasis was focused on a hard work ethic and a dedication to achieve the ultimate goal of winning. He went on to say that Sazio was a CFL version of a Vince Lombardi type coach. He said that Sazio never yelled but spoke firmly to the players. If the coach noticed something that a player was doing wrong he would call that player into his office and go over it with the player and not call him out in front of his team mates. Another strong quality that Sazio possessed was how he would study game films so intensively that he would be able to figure out the other teams plays by detecting simple signs which the other team didn't even realize that they were doing. These detected signs would give away their plays and Gene said that during a game situation against Ottawa, when their players were coming off the field, Gene overheard them say to each other that Hamilton knows their playbook.

Gene said that there were numerous memorable moments during his football career in Hamilton. The obvious was playing in 4 Grey Cup Games with Hamilton and



winning 3 of them but what he valued and stressed the most over and over was having the opportunity to play with his Ti-Cat teammates. He said that they were successful because they played as a team; there were no individuals on those teams. He said that they believed and supported in each other which developed a never say die winning attitude. He went on to say that the veterans on the team such as Ang Mosca, Pete Neumann, Zeno Karcz just to mention a few, would stay after practice to mentor and help him become a better player. He said that there was nothing selfish about these great players that he played with and that is why the team unity was so strong. When you made a good play the veterans on the team would acknowledge it and if you made a bad play the veterans would not criticize you but they would help you to prevent it from happening again.

Gene mentioned Jake Gaudaur who masterminded outstanding trades in which the Ti-Cats acquired players such as Teddy Page, Billy Ray Locklin, Chuck Walton, Billy Wayte and Hal Patterson. He said that Gaudaur traded for players with heart and players that he knew would fit in with the character of the Ti-Cats.

Gene stated that when he played offensive centre he was fortunate to play with outstanding guards such as Ellison Kelly, Chuck Walton and Jon Hohman. He mentions the leadership of Angelo Mosca who he bunked with. The hard-nosed players like Ralph Goldston, John

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GENE WAS
SELECTED TO THE
ALL-EASTERN TEAM
IN 1970.

ALL-EASTERN

GENE FUT UNE
ÉTOILE DE L'EST
EN 1970.

**GENE
CEPPETELLI**

Non-Import
6'1"—205 lbs.
Centre

Canadien
6'1"—205 lb.
Centre

Ceppetelli came out of Sudbury to play for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in 1963 and over the next five seasons established himself as one of the top Centres in the CFL.

Ceppetelli quitta Sudbury pour jouer pour les Tiger-Cats de Hamilton en 1963; durant les cinq saisons qui suivirent, il établit sa réputation comme l'un des meilleurs centres de la L.C.F.

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Barrow and Dave Fleming and also the leadership of his quarterback Joe Zuger. He said that Joe Zuger off the field was soft spoken but on the field and in the huddle his character changed and he firmly asserted himself, always making his point well known.

I raised the question about the frozen field conditions at Landsdowne Park for the 1967 Grey Cup game and Gene said that a number of players had to change from their cleats to running shoes during the course of that game. He also pointed out the importance of Bob Krouse's interception in the end zone in that game. Saskatchewan was driving and not only did that interception prevent them from scoring it was a game changer because Hamilton never looked back after that and went on to win the Grey Cup.

Gene went on after 1967 to play in the NFL for the Philadelphia Eagles for two years and the New York Giants for one year. He said

that those teams were not successful because unlike the Hamilton players that played as a team, the NFL players played as individuals, showing no unity as a team.

Gene returned to the CFL in 1970 and '71 to play for J.I. Albrecht and the Montreal Alouettes where he won another Grey Cup in 1970.

After football Gene settled south of the border in Pennsylvania where he eventually started his own business. He still kept in contact with football by coaching a local younger age minor league team. He not only taught them football skills but encouraged the kids to follow their dreams and strive to be the best at what they choose to do.

It was indeed a pleasure once again to have had this opportunity and honour to talk to another great former Hamilton Tiger Cat Legend.

FOOTBALL DAY IN HAMILTON



Monday September 5th marked a very special day of football in Hamilton. For the first time ever, McMaster Marauders and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats hosted a football double-header at Tim Horton's Field.

In the early game McMaster defeated the University of Toronto Blues 32-5. In the late game, the Tiger-Cats completed the sweep of our Toronto neighbours as they defeated the Argonauts 49-36.

Between games the Club hosted a concert in the south plaza featuring chart-topping country artist Tim Hicks.



IN MEMORIAM

Dave Lane



Dave passed away suddenly on May 18th at the age of 65.

He was a long time Board member and former President of the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Alumni as well as a Board member and Secretary/ Treasurer of the CFLAA and a member of the Tigertown Council.

Dave was a star player at the University of Guelph and a Tiger-Cat player in 1975.

He will be remembered as a tireless worker helping to support the Tiger-Cat Alumni as well as many other causes in Hamilton in his position of Executive Director of the John Howard Society.

Dave volunteered hundreds of hours participating in events like the Alumni Food Drive and Tim Horton's Camp Day. He was a leader in building support, recruiting sponsors and participants for events like the Annual Tiger-Cat Alumni Golf Tournament and Wall of Honour.

Joe Lucas

"JL" Peacefully passed away at the age of 83 on Thursday, July 7, 2016.

Joe played competitive football including professional football with the 1955 Hamilton Tiger Cats. He took great pride in coaching sports and mentoring young athletes and was well respected by those he taught and worked with.

Danny Nykoluk

We sadly announce Danny's passing on July 29, 2016 at the age of 83. Danny was a Toronto Argonauts

Football offensive tackle whose career spanned 16 full seasons from 1955, 1957-70. He retired in 1970, then was needed to help the team and played part of the year in 1971, with his last game being the 1971 Grey Cup. Danny was honoured by being chosen as a member of the 50 year All Star Argo team, as well as the All Time Ever Argo team. He is one of only 5 Argos to have their number (60) retired in 105 years.



He also coached football at York University and was 1st Assistant Coach of Hamilton Tiger-Cats under Head Coaches George Dixon and Bob Shaw in 1976/77.

HALL OF FAME WEEKEND BACK IN HAMILTON



The Canadian Football Hall of Fame Induction returned to Hamilton this year as the class of 2016 was introduced at halftime and inducted into the Hall during the Tiger-Cats' home game against the Montreal Alouettes on September 16th at Tim Hortons Field.

This year's class included Don McDonald in the Builder category, and CFL greats Doug Brown, Rodney Harding, Derrell "Mookie" Mitchell and James West as players.

Prior to the game fans were able to meet and mingle with both the new inductees and many other Hall of Fame members.

A new Hall will be built in the north end zone to house all of the inductee busts.





This year saw the passing of many former players. One of which was former Ticat player David Lane. Dave was Ticat Alumni Past President and Executive member of the CFLAA Board of Directors. Our condolences go out to his family and friends. He will be fondly remembered.

We would like to thank key supporters for their financial support over the course of the year. These generous groups include the CFL, local football clubs, the individual team Alumni Associations, sponsors, along with individual and corporate donors. You are invaluable to our ongoing operations.

We especially like to thank Commissioner Jeffrey Orridge for his leadership, guts and determination in making some major needed changes to the League so it remains relevant in the jam-packed world of professional sport. We look forward to continuing our strong relationship with the CFL, under the leadership of Commissioner, and the Board of Governors, led by Jim Lawson.

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

We have expanded our support to those Alumni who are experiencing unusual life circumstances and could use a few dollars to give them not only some needed financial support but also some emotional support. We have created the CFL Alumni Emergency Grant. Please check out our website for more info.

The level of activity of Alumni in their respective communities is unprecedented. We have been united. Our next step is to actively engage former CFL players residing in the United States. We have a number of strategies in place to engage them in all that is CFL. Did you know that 75% of all rostered players since 1936 are from the United States?

We are excited about what we have accomplished and for the men we have helped.

- **Canadian Sports Concussion Project.** We have had over 75 former players go through neuro cognitive testing at Toronto Western Hospital. Also, we have 25 former players who donated their brains.

The research team is led by one of the world's preeminent neurologists, Dr. Charles Tator. We still need more participants to assist with the ongoing research.

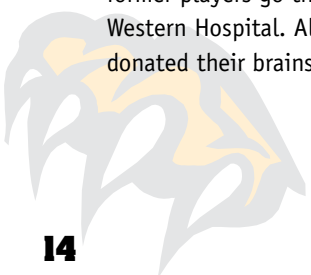
<http://tgwhfonline.ca/braincampaign/cscp/index.html>

- **Never Alone Rose Project** – partnership with the Never Alone Foundation (<http://www.neveralonefoundation.ca>) founded by former Bomber, Lyle Bauer. The Never Alone Rose was created by the Canadian Nurseries and Landscape Association. The CFLAA has supported the sale of the rose across Canada. We are led by cancer survivors Hector Pothier, James Murphy, and Lui Passaglia. The CFL Alumni Support Fund has received a donation of \$20,000.
- **Grey Cup 104/CFL Alumni Legends Luncheon (Toronto, ON).** The event continues to be one of the “go to” events at Grey Cup. This year's CFL Alumni Man of the Year will honor Peter Martin and Michael “Pinball” Clemons.
- **Mike Ditka's GridIron Greats Induction Weekend (Las Vegas, NV).** This year former Ticat Danny McManus was inducted into this prestigious Hall of Fame. He joined Angelo Mosca, Hugh Campbell, George Reed, Matt Dunigan and Ray Elgaard. www.gridirongreats.org
- **United Way/Servus/CFLAA Golf Tournament (Medicine Hat, AB).** The event completed its 18th year of operations. It is put on by and to support United Way of Southeastern Alberta. As well, a portion of the proceeds goes to support the CFL Alumni Support Fund. Each year between 40–50 CFL Alumni are participants.
- **Grey Cup Festival Reunion (Toronto, ON).** The CFLAA partnered with the Toronto Junior Board of Trade Alumni to host this first time event to celebrate the history of Grey Cup Festival. The event was held at the prestigious Albany Club (founded by Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister). The keynote speaker was Tony Gabriel and included attendees Commissioner Jeffrey Orridge and Toronto Argos CEO/President Michael Copeland.

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

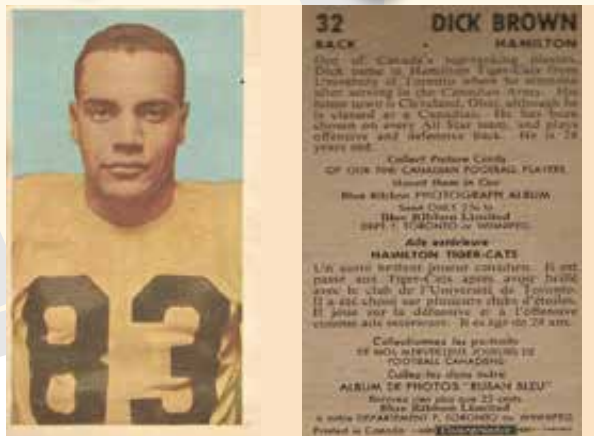
See you at the Cup!

Leo Ezerins, Executive Director
CFL Alumni Association





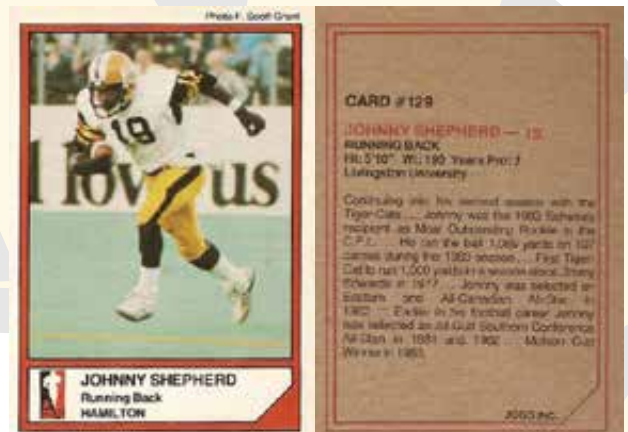
CARD COLLECTOR



Dick Brown, 1954



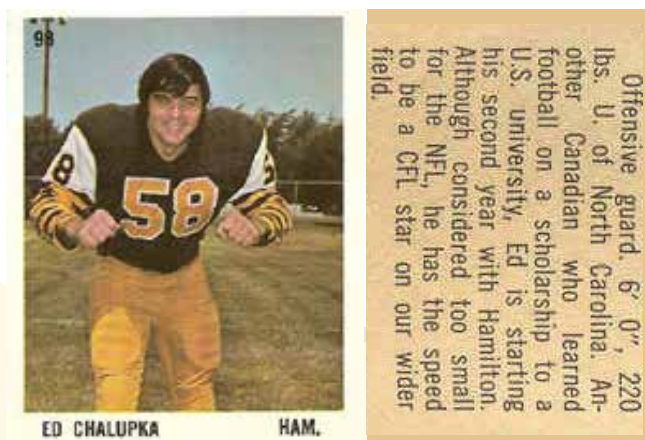
Dick Cohee, 1965



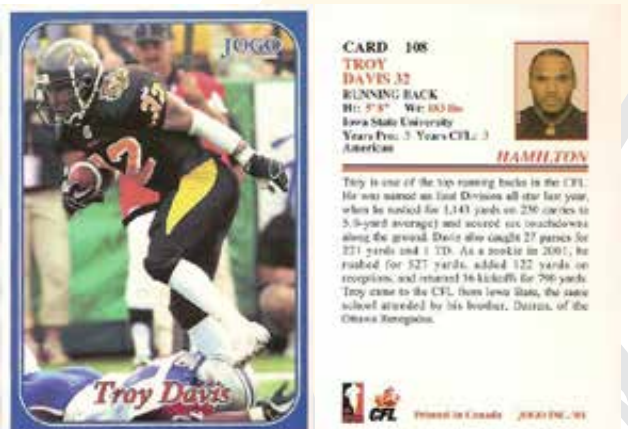
Johnny Shepherd, 1984



Earl Winfield, 1991



Ed Chalupka, 1971



Troy Davis, 2003



What Do I Get For My Membership Fee?

- **Access to Alumni Clubhouse on game day at Tim Horton's Field**
- **Tigertales newsletter published 3x / year**
- **Email updates throughout the year**
- **Access to members section on website and Alumni contact info**
- **2 for 1 Tiger-Cat Tickets, Season, Flex Pac, Single game**
(limit 4 tickets in total – 2 full price, 2 free)
- **2 for 1 Wall of Honour Dinner Tickets**
- **Discounted Walk of Fame tickets**
- **50% Discount at the Tiger-Cat Shop**
- **Alumni Social at AGM – Annual General Meeting**
- **Year End Alumni Social**
- **Participate in Alumni community and special events**
- **Free web listing on our Alumni business network**
- **Automatic membership to CFLAA & associated benefits**

Membership fees also go to help maintain and improve our website, which is a diverse historical database of Hamilton and Tiger-Cat football.

Membership: \$25 / year, \$65 / 3 years or \$100 / 5 years

Seniors (65+) \$20 / year, \$50 / 3 years, or \$100 / 6 years

TO BECOME A MEMBER, REGISTER & PAY ONLINE @ WWW.HTCAA.CA

Or send cheques payable to "HTCAA"

57 Sunning Hill Ave. Hamilton, ON L8T 1B6

Email: admin@htcaa.ca

FOR SEASONS TICKETS CONTACT:

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