



TIGERtales

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Dec 2013

Year in Review – “HTCAA Strong and Growing!”

The Hamilton Tiger-Cat Alumni Association once again had a very active year and continued to build on the momentum of their increased profile since the launch of their website www.htcaa.ca in June of 2010. Since its inception the site has received over 85,000 visitors and 170,00 page views from Tiger-Cat fans around the world.



This year also saw the launch of our brand new “Tigertales” Alumni newsletter. It now consists of a 16 page magazine style format that highlights Alumni events and activities in the community as well as many stories, information and photos. The newsletter is published 3 times per year and distributed

to all Alumni and via email link to Tiger-Cat season ticket holders and is also available for viewing online on the website. A special “Members only” insert focuses on business directly related to Alumni members.

Revenue for the Association primarily derives from two major fundraising events along with membership fees, advertising and autographed merchandise. The annual golf tournament is consistently almost sold out and the Wall of Honour Dinner in October is the feature event of the year. This year, the Association is partnered with the Canadian Football Hall of Fame to celebrate its 50th Anniversary by honouring those Tiger-Cats inducted into the Hall.

The HTCAA continues to make its presence felt in the community through both donations and Alumni appearances. The Association is a major supporter of the MS Society and Camp Maple Leaf which sends underprivileged children to camp. They also continue to support minor football and the McMaster Marauders through donations, sponsorships and special events. The HTCAA annually purchases group season tickets that are donated to “Community Living” and this year also sponsored a team from British Columbia visiting Hamilton so that they all could attend a Tiger-Cat game.

Alumni members in the community made several appearances on behalf of the Tiger-Cats as well as many independent community events. The Alumni annually provides over 20 members to help out on Tim Horton’s Camp Day. Other events include the Steel City Bowl and Play Action Awards Banquet along with numerous dinners, golf and other events totalling over 30 this year.



The membership base continues to grow with over 170 members with a goal to reach 200. Relations with the Club are strong as both continue to build and see value in their partnership. The Association is looking forward to 2014 and the launch of the new stadium and the 145th consecutive season of Hamilton Football!



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.

Wall Of Honour Dinner



This year's Wall of Honour dinner was held on Oct. 24th at Carmen's Banquet Centre. In a year of transition with no stadium and no "Wall" in place, the Committee partnered with the Canadian Football Hall of Fame's 50th Anniversary to recognize all Tiger-Cat Hall of Famers at this year's dinner.

There was once again an outstanding turnout of both Alumni and guests. Hall of Famers present were Angelo Mosca, Peter Neumann, Less Browne and Ben Zambiasi along with

2013 Hall of Fame inductees Miles Gorrell and Jake Ireland. Hamiltonian Peter Della Riva, a Hall of Fame member, was in town and a very welcomed guest at the dinner.

Also acknowledged were members of the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Grey Cup teams from 1943, 1953 and 1963. It was an extra special night for 94 year old Paul Petersen, the last surviving member of the '43 team who received a standing ovation from all those present.

Bob Dawson and Peter Neumann, represented the 1953 Tiger-Cat Grey Cup team.

Willie Bethea, Zeno Karcz, Bob Krouse, Angelo Mosca, Pete Neumann, Joe Pikula, Rene Riopelle, Dave Viti and Joe Zuger, represented the 1963 team. All of the many Tiger-Cat Alumni attending the dinner were also recognized.

It was a great night for everyone and guests and fans alike were able to mingle with past Tiger-Cat legends.

TIGER-CATS HOST PLAY-ACTION AWARDS DINNER

At Hamilton Place, the Tiger-Cats hosted their 3rd Annual Play Action Awards dinner. The event is a fundraiser that helps put money back into local grass roots football programs.

A number of Alumni were honoured to have their name attached to a number of awards given out that evening. Each minor football association linked to the Play Action program was asked to nominate a deserving individual for the following awards:

THE BOB KROUSE VOLUNTEER AWARD is given to an association volunteer who has selflessly devoted their personal time to support the initiatives of an amateur football association. Winner – Barb Watts

THE LESS BROWNE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT is awarded to a player who consistently displays effectiveness, intensity and passion on the playing field. Winner – Leo Hernandez

THE DANNY McMANUS LEADERSHIP AWARD is given to the player who exemplifies

leadership/mentorship on and off the field. Winner - Erich Foerster

THE ROCKY DiPIETRO BUILDER AWARD goes to a coach, executive or board member with Play Action member association for a lengthy and distinguished career in support of the game of football. Winner – Jim Gamble, President HMFA.



CFHOF INDUCTION WEEKEND



What a weekend! Over 1,100 attended the Edmonton Eskimos Gala Dinner in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame celebration and the Induction Ceremonies for the class of 2013.

Dave Randorf and Matt Dunigan co-hosted the induction portion of the evening to honour this year's inductees which included former Tiger-Cats Earl Winfield and Miles Gorrell along with long-time Argo Dan Ferrone, Eskimo Brian Fryer. Also inducted was referee Jake Ireland and CIS – St. Fx Coach Don Loney.

Events started with the jacket presentations on Wednesday evening, the bust unveiling on Thursday morning, Induction dinner and speeches Thursday evening then the Hall of Fame Game Saturday afternoon.

High praise was given for the entire organizing committee and the Hall of Fame for putting on an outstanding event!

Hamilton's strongest football brands unite to create the ultimate football partnership: the "Play Like The Pros" Skills Camp

Hamilton Wentworth Minor Football (HWMFA), the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and the CFLPA have partnered with CYO Crusader Athletics, Hamilton's NFL 5 on 5 Flag, McMaster Football, Hamilton Hurricanes, DBFA Football Academy and Sports Specific training have all partnered together to create the "Play Like The Pros" Skills Camp.

This powerful partnership will bring Hamilton football families together and will touch most of the grassroots football families in the city for a 7 week non-contact winter Skills "Play Like the Pros" football camp. The camp will have current and former CFL players and coaches along with current coaches and players from McMaster University, the Hamilton Hurricanes and local high school coaches.

"This powerful combination is very unique in minor sports and will unite and bring together Hamilton's best football people, coaches and training



experience to the youth of our region" said former CFL'er Joe Sardo and HWMFA minor director.

David Watkins of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats feels "the partnership with HWMFA has been a model for growth in the local football community. "The support of grassroots football through the Play Action program and getting more kids involved in the sport benefits all football families in TigerTown. The working relationship with Hamilton Wentworth Football and the other partners in Play Action continues to grow."

The camp and partnership has a goal to educate and teach the fundamentals of football to kids and their families. It

is focused on teaching how to play the game in a manner that will minimize risk and injury to the player. Regardless if you play flag, tackle or are new to football, the HWMFA Tiger-Cats skills camp promises to be a fun-filled, educational experience to introduce your child to the sport or enhance their skills if they are currently playing.

Each player will receive 7 weeks of hands-on instruction as they participate in drills and new techniques. The camp is designed to focus on the fundamentals of football, specific player positions as well as strength and conditioning.

CFLPA President Mike Morreale along with several Tiger-Cat Alumni and current CFL players will be on hand to teach these young kids the fundamentals of Canadian football. "The HWMFA has done great work on organizing the skills camp! You really do "play like the pros! I am looking forward to the sessions to help the young receivers get better. I hope to see them in a CFL jersey in the future!"



CAMP INFORMATION

Ages: 7-14

Cost: \$135

Location: Redeemer University College Sport Complex

Date: Saturdays, January 11– March 8
11am–1pm

Register: www.HWTICATS.com

Email: ticsatfootballcamp@gmail.com

Dear Fellow Alumni, CFLAA Board of Directors, local Alumni Presidents, and friends...

By Leo Ezerins



By all counts this year's Grey Cup Festival was the best ever and for the Alumni without question we received the best VIP treatment EVER.

There is always the risk of leaving people out of the thank you list but I would like to start with the acknowledgement a couple of gentlemen (Alumni themselves) who were a major contributing factor in the success of the Festival, the Riders, and the first class treatment of Alumni **Jim Hopson** and **Steve Mazurak**. A big shout out to **Greg Fieger** (former player Riders/Stamps) for his leadership as Chair of our Luncheon! Greg's objective was to raise the bar for Alumni and it was through his leadership that the bar was raised! As well, thank you to **Terry Bulych**, President of Riders Alumni, for his leadership and inspiration.

This was the first year the CFL Alumni Legends Luncheon was integrated into the

Grey Cup Festival Program fulfilling an objective since its inception. Its importance cannot be overstated. One of the results was 800+ attendees and the other was that we raised over \$50,000 which will be divided equally between the CFLAA and the CFL Alumni Support Fund.

Others who deserve to be recognized are led by **Neil Donnelly** the Executive Director of Grey Cup Festival, **Linda Sinclair**, responsible for Alumni hospitality, **Jill Rhead**, executive assistant to Neil, **Wendy Northwood** who managed the game and event tickets (no easy task), **Kelly Forsberg** (live and silent auction), **John Donnelly** (producer of the Legends Luncheon) and our friend **Rod Black** who volunteered his time to host the "hot stove" at the Legends Luncheon. Last but not least **Linda Wood Edwards** who has contributed a great deal of time and energy to the governance of the CFLAA Board of Directors since we began, she has kept the "herd" in line.

In a nutshell here is a breakdown:

- Early bird opportunity to purchase game and discounted event tickets (March '13)
- Direct access to the Festival ticket manager for last minute purchase and other considerations



- CFL Alumni winter jackets
- All Access event pass to all team parties with Queensbury Convention Center
- VIP transportation
- Alumni Lounge - incredible food provided in a quiet room within the Queensbury Center/Riderville
- Post Parade Reception - Mackenzie Gallery
- Free entry for Alumni into the CFL Alumni Grey Cup Luncheon - (open bar)
- Hotel room inventory (all alumni)
- Game tickets inventory
- Pre Legends Luncheon for alumni and sponsor

Thank you to all the guys in town who participated and supported the Grey Cup Festival. I guesstimate we made over 300 individual player appearances!

Cheers, Leo



Memorabilia

The 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.

A Steeltown Christmas Wish List

By *Wray Perkin*

It's that time of year when everyone is making their Christmas lists, and for head coach and general manager Kent Austin, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats are no different.

The Tiger-Cats are definitely on the "Nice" list after surprising the Canadian Football League fans by making it all the way to the Grey Cup game in Regina, and with the Ottawa Redblacks' Expansion Draft in the books and free agency just around the corner, here is a positional breakdown of the Tiger-Cats' wish list.

Quarterbacks: Henry Burris is a pending free agent. Please, Santa, give Smilin' Hank a new contract in the black and gold.

Running Backs: With Chevon Walker and John Delahunt both gone to Ottawa in the expansion draft, some more depth at running back would be nice to complement C.J. Gable and Dahrran Diedrick. Maybe someone like pending free agents Stu Foord (B.C.) or Chad Simpson (Winnipeg)?



Receivers: The whole crew from 2013 is intact, for now. Our wish is to keep it that way!

Offensive Line: The heart and soul of the line, and arguably the team, is gone to Ottawa in Marwan Hage. Might this be a chance for practice roster player Mike Filer to step into the starting centre role?

In any case, another veteran free agent signing wouldn't hurt. Maybe Dmitri Tsoumpas (Calgary) or Luc Brodeur-Jourdain (Montreal).

Defensive Line: This group found their groove late in the season, but couldn't stop the run in the Grey Cup game. A new contract for pending FA Torrey Davis would be nice, as well as another big name signing like Alex Hall (Saskatchewan), Keron Williams (B.C.) or Ted Laurent (Edmonton).

Linebackers: Jamall Johnson is a pending FA. We'd like to see him rock and roll for more years in the black and gold. Should he sign elsewhere, there is no shortage of tale



through free agency, including Shea Emry and Marco Brouillette (Montreal), Robert McCune (Toronto), Juwan Simpson (Calgary), Damaso Munoz (Edmonton), and former 1st overall pick Henoc Muamba (Winnipeg).

Defensive Back: Marc Beswick is a force to be reckoned with on special teams, so we'd appreciate it if that force doesn't find its way on another CFL roster since he's a pending free agent. Adding someone like Billy Parker (Montreal) or Jovon Johnson (Winnipeg) wouldn't hurt either, and maybe Craig Butler (Saskatchewan) would like to come closer to home and join another high-profile Western Mustangs alumnus on the Tiger-Cats?

Special Teams: Luca Congi is slated to be a free agent, but there are other free agent kickers out there if Coach Austin can't re-sign him. They include Swayze Waters (Toronto), Sean Whyte (Montreal) and Chris Milo (Saskatchewan).



TIGER-CAT Q&A

Name: DALE SANDERSON

CAREER

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

Four years at Sherwood High School and one yr. of Jr football with the Hurricanes got the notice of Tiger-cats assistant coaches. A phone call from Gunther Cunningham to Dom Capers at the University of Tennessee led to a visit and a full scholarship offer.

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

Selected by the Cats in the 1985 draft.

3. Do or did you hold any records?

Linemen don't receive awards normally, but I did make division all-star and was nominated three times for top lineman in the CFL during my career. Our breed just want to be recognized for being the best among our peers.

4. Do or did you have a nickname?

Team mate Mike Campbell called me Sandman

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

Most of the best memories happen off the field away from the game. Some of the practical jokes in the locker room or hotels while on the road were priceless. These are the things one remembers long past the playing days.

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

Rocky DiPietro, Ben Zambiasi, Earl Winfield, Grover Covington to name a few I could go on

all day mentioning the guys that set the bar and dared or challenged others to follow.

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

Head coach Al Bruno and positional coach John Salavantis. Most of us would have died for these two men.

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

Played in three Grey Cups. Lost two and won the 1986 Cup. Obviously, nothing can compare to the joy, the thrill of winning it all!

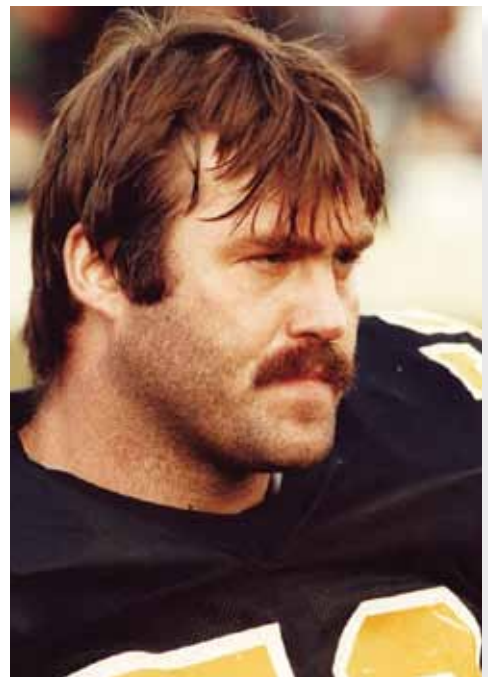
POST CFL CAREER

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

I always believed when I was playing that nothing would ever match or replace the excitement of playing a sport professionally. I was right! Managers in the workplace now all preach about TEAMWORK! I usually laugh and walk away. They have no clue of what real teamwork is about, it seems to be a corporate buzz word they like to throw out from time to time to impress their bosses!

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

Always loved the outdoors, fishing, hunting, archery, bike riding. I'm afraid to stop moving, might not be able to get in gear again if I shut it down. Had to give up golf however. When it comes to hitting a small white ball, I just suck.



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

Been all over North America. Love L.A. , Florida and Vegas, been there four or five times. Standing inside the Alamo, where Davey Crockett met his end gave me goosebumps.

THE GAME

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

Three down football is a much faster game than four down. I've played both. The football gets snapped twice as many times and changes possession twice as many times during the course of the game. The game is never over until the final gun, anything can happen at any time!

WHAT'S COOKING?

OREO FOOTBALL COOKIE BALLS

Recipe courtesy of Kraft Foods

INGREDIENTS

- 6oz. (3/4 of 8-oz. pkg.) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
- 1 pkg. (15.25 oz.) OREO Chocolate Creme Cookies, finely crushed
- 4 pkg. (4 oz. each) BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate, broken into pieces, melted
- 1Tbsp. white decorating icing

INSTRUCTIONS

- MIX cream cheese and cookie crumbs until well blended.
- SHAPE into 40 (1-inch) football shapes. Freeze 10 min. Dip in melted chocolate; place in single layer in shallow waxed paper-lined pan. Use icing to draw laces on footballs.
- REFRIGERATE 1 hour or until firm.

KRAFT KITCHENS TIPS

How to Melt Chocolate: Place chocolate in



microwaveable bowl. Microwave on HIGH 2-1/2 min. or until chocolate is completely melted, stirring every 30 sec.

How to Easily Dip Cookie Balls: To easily coat cookie balls with the melted chocolate, add balls, in batches, to bowl of melted chocolate. Use 2 forks to roll balls in chocolate until evenly coated. Remove balls with forks, letting excess chocolate drip back into bowl. Place balls in prepared pan; let stand until chocolate coating is firm.

How to Store: Store in tightly covered container in refrigerator.

TC-75 FOR 145 ORIGINALLY AUTOGRAPHED PRINTS

The Ultimate gift for Tiger-Cat fans. Renowned Canadian sports artist Gary McLaughlin created the original painting depicting 75 of the greatest CFL 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 the 145th season of Hamilton football in 2014 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 many Alumni of this select group.

Autographed prints sell for \$295 and are available online at www.htcaa.ca or from the Tigertown store.



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. They can be ordered online from our ebay store for \$20 plus shipping and handling or at the Tigertown store.



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 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.



FROM THE VAULT

CLASSIC TIGER STRIPE JERSEY

This classic Tiger stripe jersey was worn in the late 1960's by Ed Turek. Ed was a versatile player playing both RB and DB for the Tiger-Cats from 1967-71. He was also a member of the 1967 Grey Cup Championship team.



"TC 75



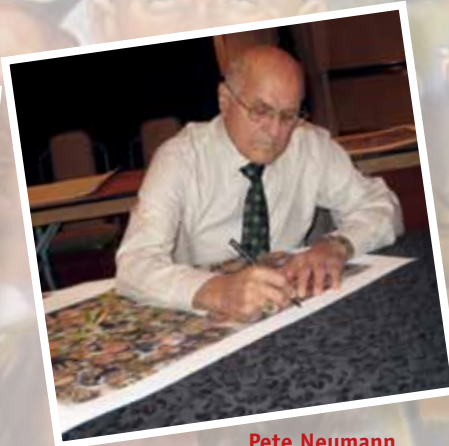
Dave Hack



Zeno Karcz



Henry Waszczuk



Pete Neumann



Less Browne



Garney Henley



Ellison Kelly



Rocky DiPietro



Don Sutherin



Tommy Joe Coffey



Dale Sanderson

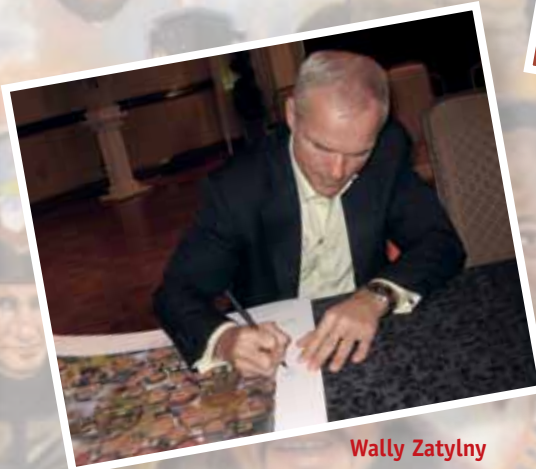
See back cover for details on purchasing signed, Limited Edition prints of this unique Ti-Cats artwork.

for 145"

PHOTOS FROM OUR AUTOGRAPH SESSIONS



Bernie Custis



Wally Zatylny



Jason Riley



Willie Bethea



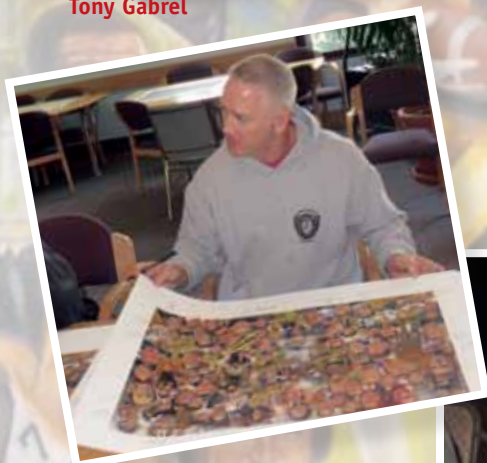
Tony Gabrel



Bernie Ruoff



John Bonk



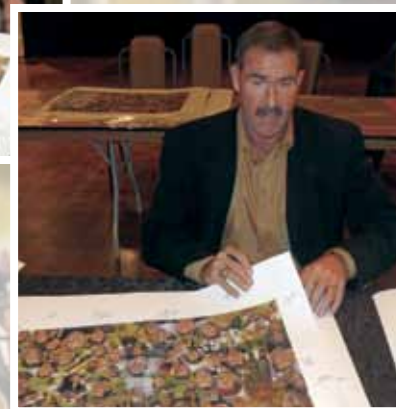
Matt Dunigan



Angelo Mosca



Lee Knight



Dave Sauve

Print features Hall of Fame & Wall of Fame Inductee's, Walk of Fame and Fans All-Time Team members.

Turning Dough into Dough

By Brian Snelgrove



The recent announcement that the new stadium in Hamilton would be known as Tim Hortons Field ties together two of Hamilton's best known assets – the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and Tim Hortons.

Former Tiger-Cat players have a long association with Tim Hortons as well – no fewer than five former players including Frank Robinson, David Sauve, John Malinosky, Andrew Grigg and Walter Bender – have Tim Hortons franchises in either the United States or Canada.

THIS IS WALTER BENDER'S TIM HORTONS STORY

Sometimes dreams do come true.

For Walter Bender, who owns five Tim Hortons franchises in the Detroit area, the dream started nearly 30 years ago.

"I always wanted to be involved in Tim Hortons as far back as my rookie year

(1984)," says the former CFL'er. "As a rookie we always had to bring the donuts to practice. I remember telling Carl Brazley that my dream was to play 6-10 years in the CFL and then own four or five Tim Hortons franchises when I retired."

Bender when on to play for five different teams in the CFL – Toronto (1984-85) Hamilton (1986) Saskatchewan (1987) and Winnipeg (1988) before finishing up his career with Ottawa in 1989.

The running back was traded to Hamilton in 1986 and couldn't find a place to live. He became friends with Grover Covington and stayed with him. "Even back then we would talk about Tims all the time," says Bender. "I saw the potential in Tims even back then. My teammates were an integral part of it."

Bender spent a lot of time with teammate John Malinosky who was a Tim Hortons franchisee.



He returned to his birthplace in Detroit, Michigan in '86 and later worked at two sporting goods stores: The Foot Locker for 13 years as well as at The Finish Line. That employment gave him the chance to put together a financial stake to get started on his Tims venture.

In 2008 decided to take the plunge and called and went to meet again with Malinosky. "I was ready to learn the ins and outs of the business," says Bender. "I had saved enough money through football and working that I had enough to send in my application. I got approved and bought the franchises one at a time, acquiring all five over about 16 months. Over the next three years I was working on average about 75 hours per week."

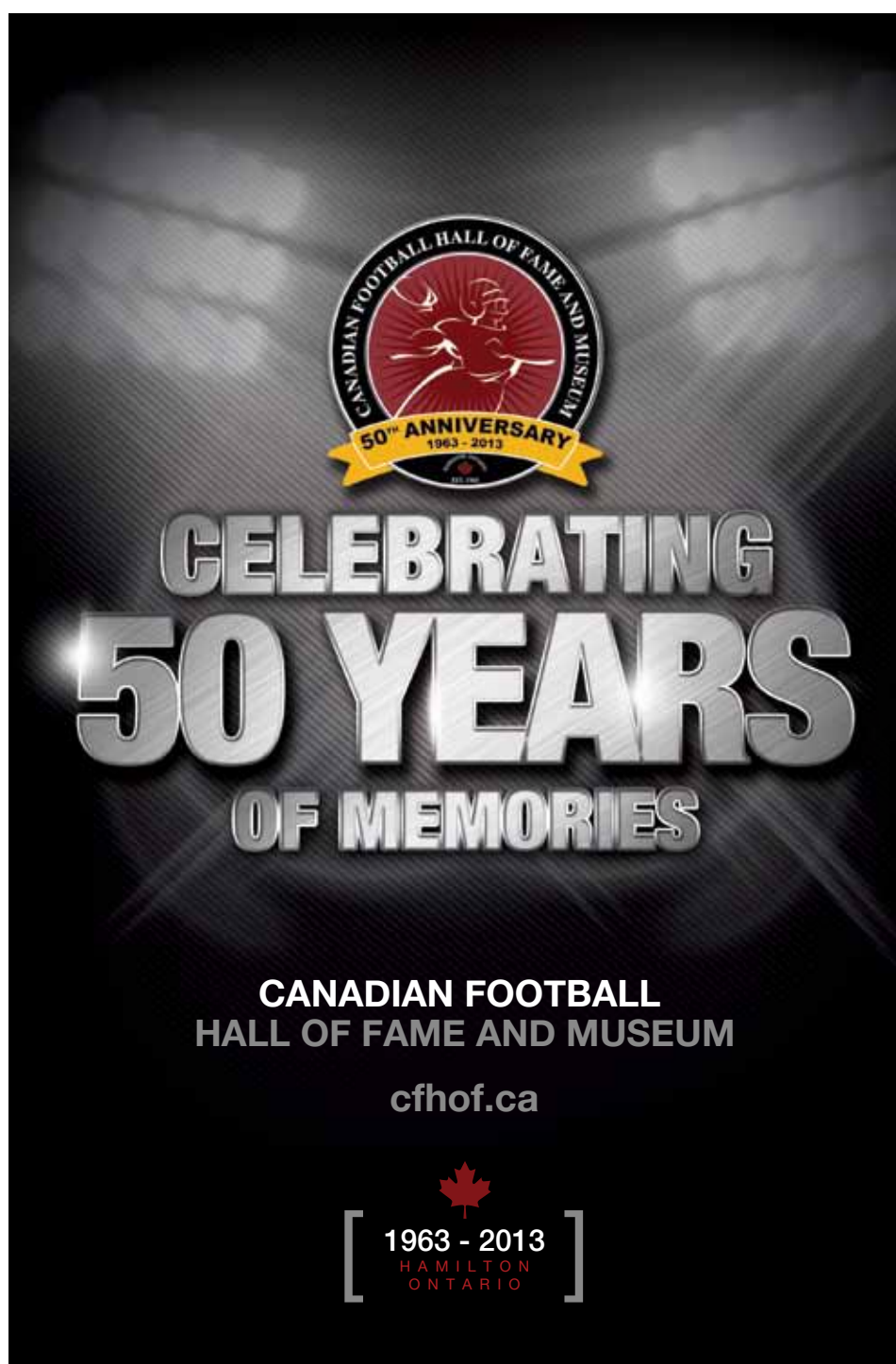
"This is the hardest thing I have ever done but also the most rewarding and the most gratifying," says Bender. "I have been able to do two things in life that I love – playing football at a professional level and owning Tim Hortons".

"As far as naming the new stadium in Hamilton Tim Hortons Field, I think that is great, adds Bender. "The very first one was in Hamilton and it fits like a glove. It's a blessing from Heaven."

*Story courtesy of www.CFLAA.ca
Be sure to visit for more Alumni news.*



Canadian Football Hall of Fame & Museum announces Commemorative 50TH Anniversary Book



The CFHOF is pleased to announce the publication of a book that commemorates the stories of each of the 264 honoured members enshrined in the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and Museum.

The Inductee Bio Book is a collaborative effort between the CFHOF and the Canadian Football Research Society (CFRS) in celebrating the greatest names in Canadian Football History

This project came about because of the fact that the CFRS purports to be an entity driven by people who are passionate about the history of Canadian Football.

They were entrusted with this project by the Hall of Fame and looked at it as an opportunity to have an impact in promoting the game and its history, which is what the CFRS is all about.

Never before has such an undertaking been produced. A group of six members took almost two years to conduct their research. CFRS President Paul Bruno expresses his sincere thanks to Lori Bursey, Jack Morrow, Bruce Findley, Mike Martin and Josh Budish, for joining him as passionate fans of Canadian Football, who worked on the biographies that are contained in this beautiful volume.

They believe that this recognition of the honourees is long overdue and are proud to have been integral in putting it together.

The book will take readers on a walk down memory lane, as they recall the highlights associated with the career of each honouree. As well, the book includes pictures of each member and is presented in a soft-cover, easy to handle coffee-table volume that should be a fixture in the home of Canadian Football fans everywhere.

The book is currently available for sale (\$50 + tax) at the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and Museum in Hamilton, Ontario and will soon be made available in retail bookstores as well.



BRUCE SMITH, Age 63
Died: January 3, 2013
– Hamilton Tiger-Cats
1972–73

Bruce began his CFL career with Hamilton in 1972 with a Grey Cup Championship. Bruce also played with Edmonton and Ottawa before playing his final four seasons with the Argonauts. Upon retirement Bruce began a successful career in Real Estate. He was also a man of faith, serving as the Chaplain for King Bay Chaplaincy and Upper Canada College's Chaplain Service. He spent a lot of time as a public speaker and was a children's book author.



LEN "PUDDGE" CHANDLER, Age 79

Died: March 10th, 2013 – Hamilton Tiger-Cats
1959–60

Len was a six year CFL Veteran having played for Hamilton in the late 50's, Ottawa early 60's and finishing his career in Toronto. Len



was an Inaugural Member of the Brantford Sports Hall of Fame, as well as the founding President of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats Alumni Association

Remembering those Alumni who passed away in 2013



ART DARCH, Age 81

Died: April 2, 2013 – Hamilton Tiger-Cats
1952–58

Art was an originating member of the Alumni Association and long-time member of the Executive Committee. He was a tireless volunteer and in 2012 he was among the first recipients to receive the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Alumni Associations "Award of Distinction" for Recognition of His Outstanding Contribution to Community Groups and the HTCAA. Art Darch was also elected into the Niagara Virtual Hall of Fame in 2003.



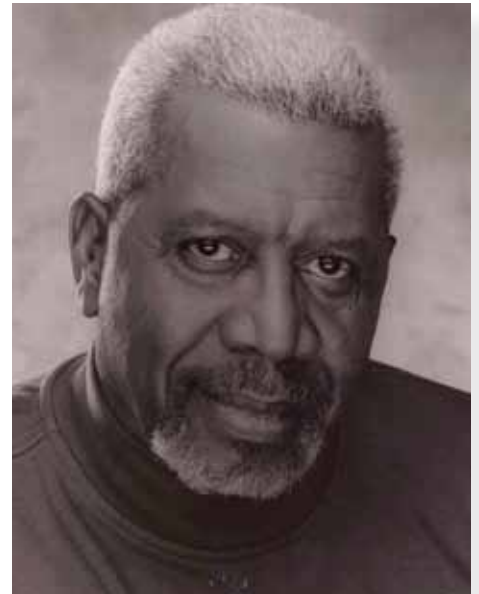
JEFF CROONEN,
Age 46

Died: July 29th,
2013 – Hamilton
Tiger-Cats 1991

Jeff played in the CFL from 1989 to 1995 including 1 year with the Tiger-Cats in 1991. He won Grey Cups with both the Edmonton

Eskimos and Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Jeff retired after receiving a career ending injury while playing for the Ottawa Rough Riders.

Subsequently, Jeff had a very successful sales career in the pharmaceutical industry. Jeff's true passion was as an Author, Inspirational Speaker and Coach



DICK COHEE, Age 73

Died: October 11, 2013 – Hamilton Tiger-Cats
1965–68

Dick played 9 injury plagued years in the CFL with Montreal, Ottawa, Saskatchewan and Hamilton. He was a versatile player who played halfback, linebacker, running back and kick returner. His best years were with Hamilton with which he won Grey Cup championships 1965 and 1967. Cohee scored the first touchdown of the 1965 game when he took a pitchout from quarterback Frank Cosentino. In 1966 he led the Ti-Cats in rushing as well as the east division in kick returns.

Post career he sold cars and raised chinchillas before getting into the acting business. Here he was quite successful appearing in many commercials as well as bit parts in television shows and movies. His resemblance to actor Morgan Freeman earned him roles as a stand in and photo double for many years.

Flying Wildcats Soar to 1943 Grey Cup

By Brian Snelgrove. Photos courtesy of "The Spectator"



Seventy years ago much of the world was locked in the most devastating war in the history of mankind. The Second World War had passed the halfway point with no relief in sight.

Against this backdrop the Hamilton Flying Wildcats took to the field before 16,423 fans at Varsity Stadium in Toronto to face the Winnipeg RCAF Bombers in the 1943 Grey Cup.

The Flying Wildcats were founded in 1941 to fill the void left by the Hamilton Tigers who had folded as many of their players had departed for military service. The club nickname was in recognition of the many members of the RCAF that were on the team.

The Wildcats had finished first in the ORFU with a record of eight wins one loss and one tie. They advanced to the championship game by virtue of a 7-2 victory over Toronto

Balmy Beach in the ORFU Final and a 7-6 win against the Quebec champions Lachine RCAF in the Eastern Final. The Wildcats were led by Head Coach Brian Timmis (who had been a member of the Hamilton Tigers 1932 Grey Cup championship team) and future Hall of Famer Joe Krol.

In the first quarter a nine yard run by Paul Peterson set up a one yard touchdown plunge

Die Company in Kitchener. We made parts for the war effort. I worked from seven in the morning until five at night and then went to practice. Games



were on the weekend."

"I played the whole game both ways," says Peterson. "I carried the ball a few times but was mostly effective on defense. We did well in the first half but just sort of held on for the rest of the game. They were a pretty tough team. Not that big but husky. It was a tough game. We were the underdogs."

"We had two rooms at The Royal York Hotel to change into before the game," Peterson adds. "We took a bus to Varsity Stadium and came back after the game and celebrated with coca-cola back at the hotel."

Future Hall of Famers Jimmy Simpson and Len Back were also on that championship team.

Note: This past season the Hamilton Tiger-Cats paid tribute to the Flying Wildcats historic 1943 Grey Cup victory by donning replica jerseys for their game against the BC Lions in Guelph, Ontario on September 7. Perhaps the ghosts of Wildcats past helped the present-day Tiger-Cats to a 37-29 victory. Paul Peterson attended the game with his son and other members of his family.



by Mel Lawson to give the Wildcats a lead they would never relinquish. The Wildcats led 18-7 after the first quarter and despite a late comeback by the Bombers held on for a 23-14 victory. "King" Krol had a royal day with a field goal, three converts and a single for Hamilton. He also threw a 30 yard touchdown pass to Doug Smith.

"Joe was a really nice guy," says Peterson the only surviving member of that historic team. "He had a fluid movement. If anybody came to tackle him he just swayed away from them."

Winnipeg had 250 total yards to the Wildcats 165. Hamilton completed just two of 10 passes while Winnipeg could manage just three completions in 26 attempts. Jimmy Fumio had a touchdown for the Wildcats while Garney Smith and Jim Berry each had a major for Winnipeg.

Peterson, now 92, was a 22 year-old running back in 1943. "We had about eight players that were in the Air Force and a few in the Navy as well," says Peterson. "I was in the reserve and worked at The Ontario



Mike Morreale

By Brian Snelgrove



He was born in Hamilton, played high school (Cardinal Newman) and university (McMaster) football in Hamilton and spent most of his CFL career with the Tiger-Cats.

Perhaps it is only fitting then, that he would be named Most Valuable Canadian in the Ti-cats last Grey Cup victory.

The year was 1999 and Mike Morreale was named winner of the Dick Suderman Trophy. The Ti-Cat slotback grabbed three passes for 51 yards including one for a key 32 yard gain. Ironically Morreale's recollection of his best play of the game was a shoestring tackle of Marvin Coleman on a Calgary punt return. "It was at an important part of the game and I wasn't normally on special teams," says Morreale. "That was a highlight for me."

"It was a year of redemption," says the former Ti-Cat star of the 1999 edition of the Hamilton Tiger Cats. "Beating the same group of guys that had beaten us a year earlier; helping contribute to a winning team in a Grey Cup; and winning for the City of Hamilton were all

redemption in many ways. What a great year."

"To a man we knew we were going to beat them," he says of that championship team. "We knew we had their number. We were very confident without being cocky."

It was Morreale's second Grey Cup ring as he garnered one in 1996 with the Toronto Argonauts. "I was really a back-up in '96," he says. "I played much more of a role in this one and it was more special. My season wasn't up to par with '98 and I never really found my groove."

1998 was a season in which Morreale topped the 1,000 yard receiving mark, yet the Hamilton native still managed 46 receptions for 573 yards and one touchdown in the '99 regular season.

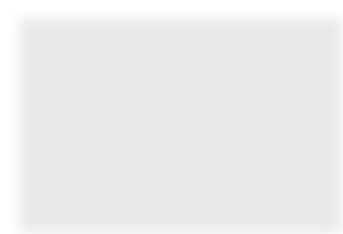
"They were a tough team," Morreale says of the Stampeder squad. "Alondra Johnson (linebacker) was one of the toughest guys I ever played against."

"It was one of those teams that just jelled," says Morreale of the '99 Tiger-Cats. "(Head Coach) Ron Lancaster said from day one that he hoped that the

guys that were here now would be the same ones that were here at the end of the season. And for the most part, other than injuries, it was the same guys."

Morreale enjoyed an outstanding 12 year career in the CFL including eight seasons with the Tiger-Cats (1997-2001, 2004-06). He was named the league's Most Outstanding Canadian in 1998 and was also the Ti-Cat nominee in 2004. In his Hamilton career he caught 402 passes for 5,179 yards. He is fifth on the team's all-time receptions list with 402. He is ninth in team career receiving yards with 5,179.

Today, Morreale lives in Ancaster with his wife and young daughter and is President of the Canadian Football League Players Association. "Life is busy but lots of fun," says the former Tiger-Cat Grey Cup hero. "I don't miss the game as much as I miss the guys. We weren't necessarily the best athletes but we were totally unselfish. It didn't matter if you caught ten passes or one. I have never played with a better group of guys."

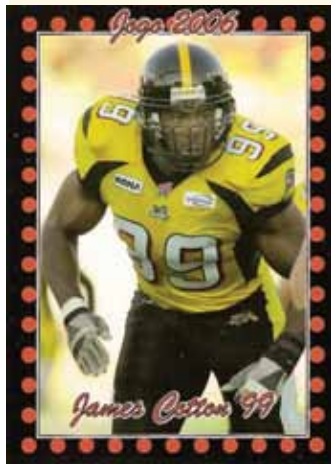


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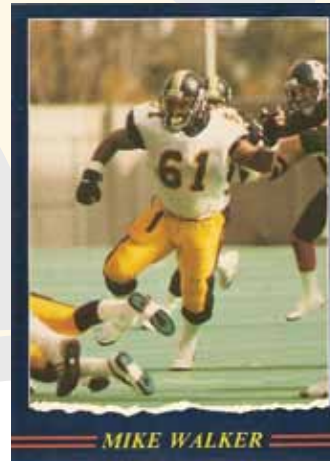
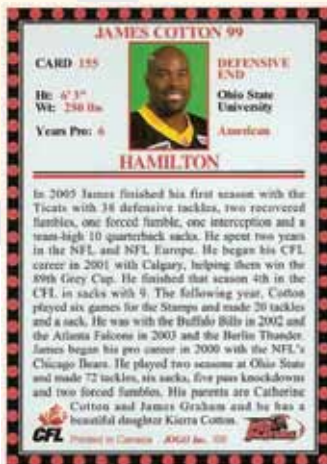
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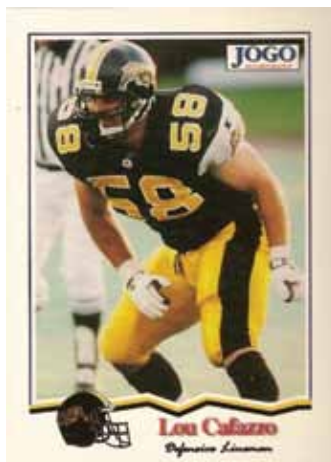
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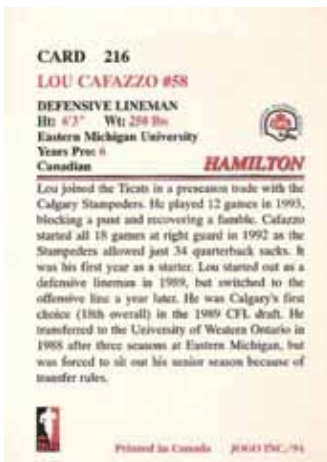
James Cotton, 1999



Mike Walker, 1989



Lou Cafazzo, 1994



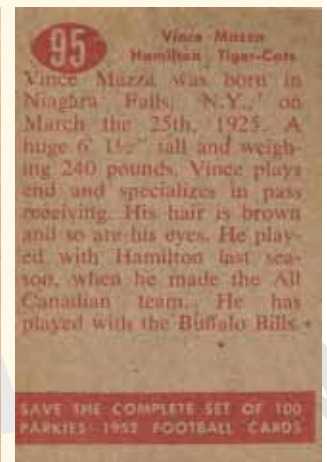
Willie Bethea, 1970



Zeno Karcz, 1962



Vince Mazza, 1952



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