



# TIGERtales

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Dec 2014

## YEAR IN REVIEW – “MOMENTUM CONTINUES...”



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](http://www.htcaa.ca) in June of 2010. Since its inception the site has received over 110,000 visitors as it has become a key source of Tiger-Cat history for fans around the world. Our key initiative this year was to compile an all-time online team photo archive of which we have tracked down over 50 to this point.

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 November is our feature event of the year. This year, the Association honoured all past inductees as 15 of the 22 were able to attend. The Club also unveiled the new Wall of Honour on the west side seating façade.



This year we also launched our own line of Alumniwear. Alumni members can now proudly display our colours with a variety of items including hats, jackets, t-shirts, golf shirts and sweatshirts.

Please visit our online store or Don Bowman at Ancaster Embroidery.

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 other community groups. It also continues to support minor football and the McMaster Marauders through donations, sponsorships

and special events. The HTCAA annually purchases 12 season tickets that are donated to various community groups.

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 along with numerous dinners, golf and other events.



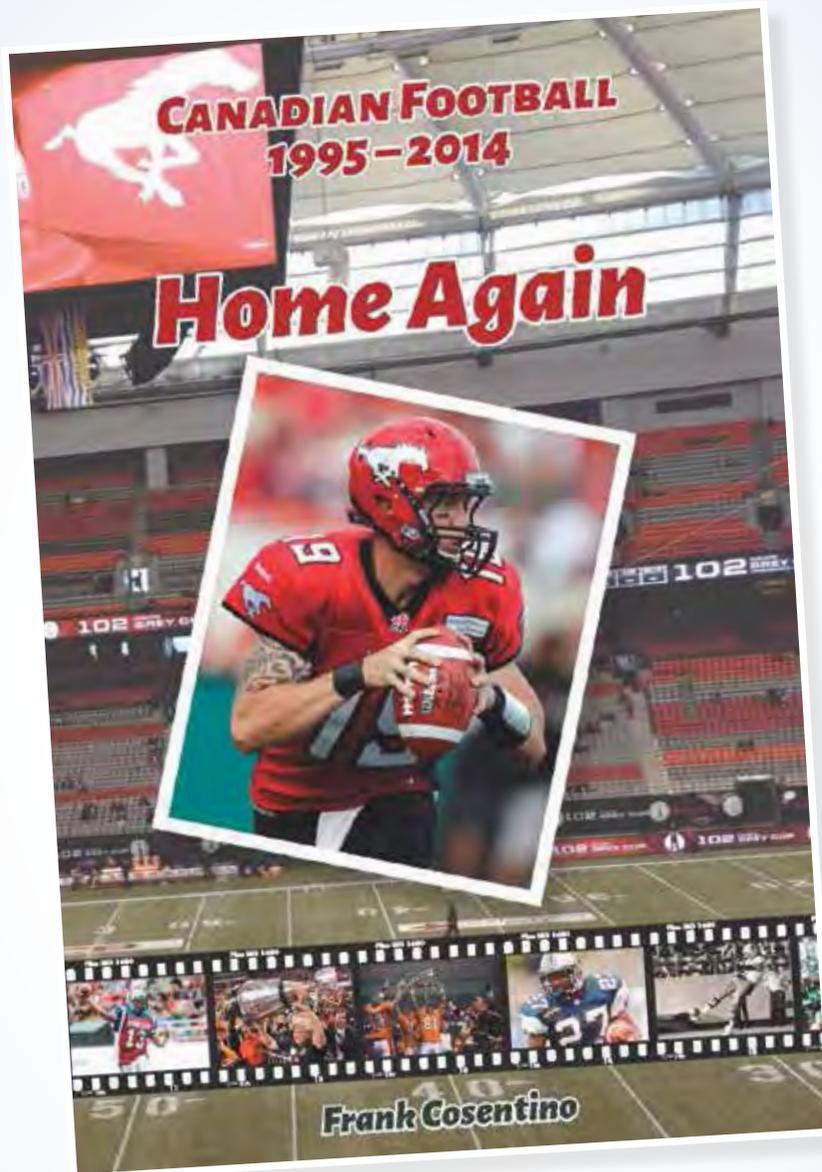
We also say goodbye to two very significant Alumni as “Pigskin Pete” Paul Weiler and former Tiger-Cat head coach Al Bruno passed away.

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 2015 and talks are in the works for the launch of our new Alumni lounge.

**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](http://www.htcaa.ca).**

# Home Again, By Frank Cosentino



## **C**anadian Football 1995-2014:

*Home Again* by Frank Cosentino is the story of the Canadian Football League from 1995-2014. Frank's previous two football books, *Canadian Football: The Grey Cup Years, 1909-68* and *Canadian Football: A Passing Game, 1969-1994*, lead into *Home Again*. The year 1995 represents the only time to this date when the Grey Cup was won by a team outside Canada. The Grey Cup champion Baltimore Stallions, and other American teams, were unable to survive past the 1995 season. The Stallions were resurrected, reincarnated, and resurfaced in Montreal as the Alouettes.

Over a 20 year period, the league reeled, staggered and went through some tumultuous but also glorious times: Seven commissioners and interim commissioners sought to steer the ship.

Commissioners were fired; the League was sued. Tensions existed between owners and the Commissioner's office. Television carriers fluctuated between the CBC and TSN. The Ottawa Rough Riders folded. They were replaced with the Renegades, and, later, the REDBLACKS. The League once again was a nine team operation: The Grey Cup game

southwards, the Grey Cup and the Canadian Football League had rediscovered themselves, and had come Home Again. The book is 272 pages.

Available through bookstores including Amazon.ca, Lulu.com, and Chapters/Indigo.

continued to impress. Three teams which hosted the Grey Cup won the trophy, B.C. Lions, Grey Cup '99, Toronto Argonauts, Grey Cup 100, Saskatchewan Roughriders, Grey Cup 101. A new champion other than the home team, the Calgary Stampeders, emerged from Grey Cup 102 played in Vancouver, November 30. Twenty years after it strayed

**WALL OF HONOUR**

This was a very special Wall of Honour week as we welcomed back all past inductees. The week kicked off with our annual dinner at Carmen's followed by a special reception at the Tigertown Tavern. A full house of Alumni and fans filled Carmen's in a night that included a silent auction, a cheque presentation to MS and a special gift or framed art from the HTCAA to the Tiger-Cats. The Club and fans welcomed inductees at a special half-time ceremony on game day. The players did their part with a spirited 29-15 victory over the Montreal Alouettes.



*FRONT ROW – Ellison Kelly, Angelo Mosca, Pete Neumann, Don Sutherin, Bob Krouse, Bill Danychuk, Garney Henley, Joe Zuger. BACK ROW – Tommy Joe Coffey, Less Browne, Willie Bethea, Rocky DiPietro, Grover Covington, Paul Osbaldiston.*



*Garney Henley and Grover Covington present Tiger-Cat President Glenn Gibson with framed artwork of "Grey Cup" and "HTC-75" by artist Gary McLaughlin.*



*Grover Covington, Paul Osbaldiston, Terry Lehne, Ben Zambiasi, Rocky DiPietro, David Sauve and Less Browne huddle up for a picture.*



*HTCAA President Dave Richardson presents a cheque for \$6,500 to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.*



*Wall of Honour inductees were on hand for a special half-time presentation of the Tiger-Cat Play Action Awards to youth football.*



# 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)*

# The Greatest Play that Never Was

By Ed Valtenbergs

Most of us remember the intro to the old Wide World of Sports program highlighting various athletes who experience the “Thrill of victory” or “Agony of defeat”. We personally may remember Joe Carter’s walk off home run to win the World Series or Scott Norwood’s “wide right” field goal attempt that would have won a Super Bowl for the Buffalo Bills.

It is very rare that a player can experience both extreme emotions in one game. This is what Tiger-Cat kick returner Brandon Banks experienced in the final minute of this year’s 102nd Grey Cup. On the grandest of stages and with the country glued to their TV sets, with just 35 seconds left in the game.... “Speedy



B” returned a Calgary punt 90 yards for the winning touchdown resulting in extreme elation for him and his team-mates, Brandon had just done the impossible and won the Grey Cup Championship for his team with a spectacular play.

But wait...

Moments later, reality hit him like a blindside block knocking him to the ground. A penalty flag negated the play and a despondent Banks fell to the ground in disbelief. What would have cemented his place among Grey Cup laurels as the greatest individual play to win a game was no more.

Although the call was legitimate, the question is, was it warranted. As coach Austin noted afterward, “there is a lot that goes on in a punt return” some if it is called and some not, and some that had no bearing on the play. In review, the block did not appear to be flagrant or one that set Banks free, but



none-the-less, the referee made the call. The penalty left the Cats too far and with too little time, falling 20–16 to the Calgary Stampeders.

It is commonly understood in sports that there is regular season rules and playoff rules, and that refs in almost all sports let the players play the game and decide a champion without their interference except in the more flagrant of penalties.

All we and Mr. Banks can think of is... “What would have been”?

## CFLAA GREY CUP LEGENDS LUNCHEON

In what has become one of the premier events during Grey Cup week, the CFLAA hosted its annual Legends Luncheon on Friday, November 28th at the beautiful Vancouver Convention Centre. On hand was host Rod Smith from TSN and over 60 CFL Alumni, all of whom were introduced individually to kick off the event. Lui Passaglia was honoured as the “CFLAA Man of the Year” and other highlights included the annual Presidents Awards, a “Hot Stove” discussion panel as well as a video montage remembering those Alumni that have passed in last year.

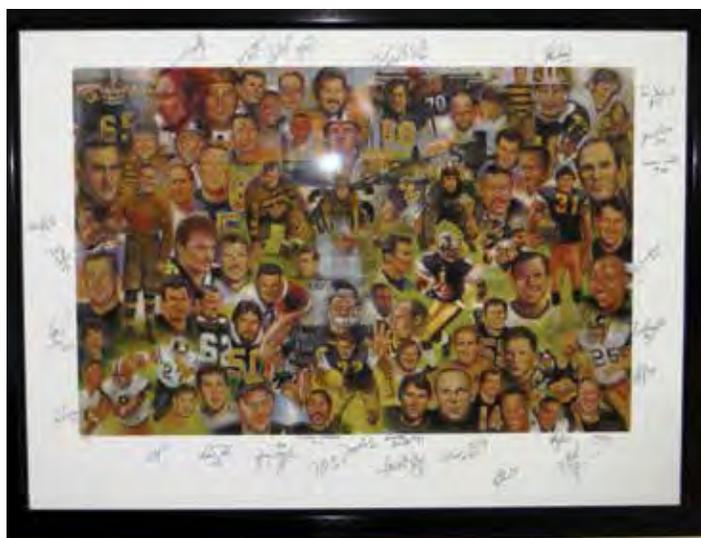


## HTC-75 ORIGINALLY AUTOGRAPHED PRINTS

The Ultimate gift for Tiger-Cat fans. Renowned Canadian sports artist Gary McLaughlin created this original painting depicting 75 of the greatest 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 this year's 145<sup>th</sup> season of Hamilton football 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 over 25 Alumni of this select group.

Originally autographed "28 x 33" prints sell for \$150 and are available online at [www.htcaa.ca](http://www.htcaa.ca) or from the Tigertown store. Poster prints "16 x 24" are now also available for only \$20.



## SOUVENIR "LAST GAME AT IVOR WYNNE" PRINT

Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 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. Posters can be purchased for \$20 at the Tigertown store, 1 Jarvis St.



## 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 just \$200.

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](mailto:admin@htcaa.ca) for more info or to order.



## ALUMNIWEAR

The HTCAA now has a number of items for its members including dress shirts, golf shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets and hats. They are great for members to wear casually or any Club events to proudly display your Alumni membership.

We also have specially branded "Property of HTCAA" t-shirts and sweatshirts for friends of the Alumni.

All items can be ordered from our website at [www.htcaa.ca](http://www.htcaa.ca).



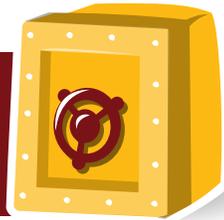
*Tiger-Cat Alumni Grover Covington, Tom Clements and Bill Danychuk take time out to autograph some HTC-75 prints*

## PRESIDENT'S DINNER

On December 4th the HTCAA held their Presidents Christmas dinner at Carmen's Dolce Rooftop Lounge. Many past Presidents were there as well as our notable sponsors and volunteers. Gifts were also collected for the Salvation Army toy drive. It was a nice evening to mix and mingle and celebrate our accomplishments for the past year. Here is a list of our past Presidents.

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2011/13 Terry Lehne    | 1996 Bob Dawson    |
| 2009/10 David Lane     | 1995 Mike Samples  |
| 2007/08 Ralph Scholz   | 1994 Mario Mancini |
| 2005/06 Bob Richardson | 1993 Marv Allemang |
| 2003/04 Bob Krouse     | 1992 Jimmy Stewart |
| 2002 Frank Dilks       | 1991 John Michaluk |
| 2001 Andy Marshall     | 1990 Don Bowman    |
| 2000 Art Darch         | 1989 Dave Marler   |
| 1999 Ellison Kelly     | 1988 Tom Hickey    |
| 1998 Joe Siepi         | 1987 Ron Howell    |
| 1997 Cam Fraser        | 1986 Len Chandler  |

## FROM THE VAULT



### PAUL OSBALDISTON'S 1999 GREY CUP RING

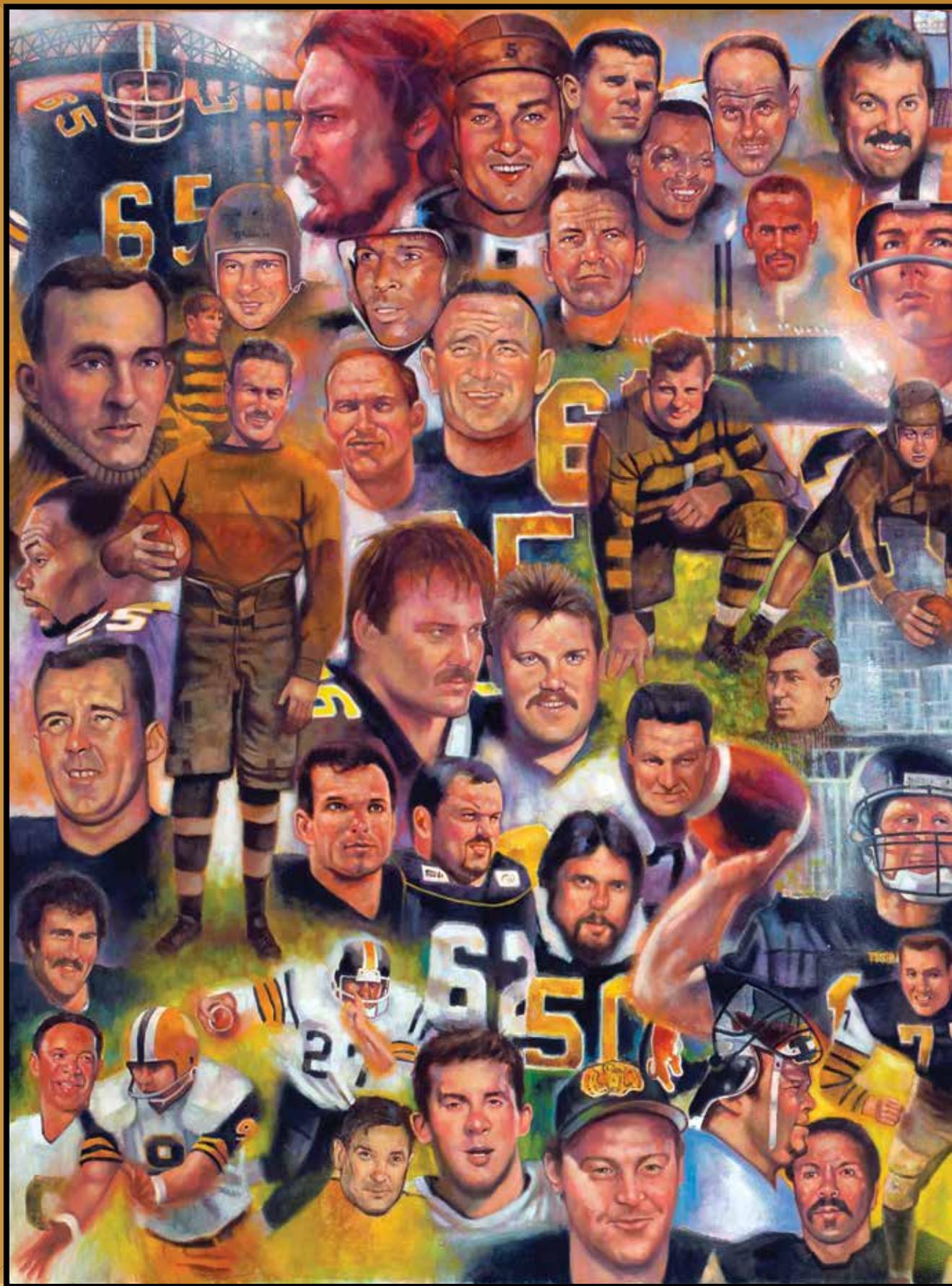
Paul Osbaldiston played 18 seasons (1986–2003) for the Tiger-Cats. He was a three-time CFL All-Star and seven-time East Division All-Star and holds the majority of Tiger-Cat kicking and scoring records. He was a member of Hamilton's 1986 and 1999 Grey Cup championship teams. The 1999 team defeated Calgary 32-21 at BC Place stadium.



## WHO AM I?

- I was drafted by the NY Giants and played their one season before coming to the Tiger-Cats
- I played 13 seasons in the CFL, 11 with the Tiger-Cats and never missed a game; playing in 175 consecutive contests
- I was an 4 time CFL and 8 time Eastern All Star and won 3 Grey Cups
- I had a race horse named after me

*Turn to page 10 for your answer.*





## IN MEMORIAM

Sure I'm biased, but in my mind, Al Bruno was the best coach the Tiger-Cats have ever had. Four Grey Cup appearances in seven full years as head coach and three consecutive Grey Cups with three different starting quarterbacks (1984-86)! That's got to be a professional record. He made the playoffs every year as head coach until the year he was fired. He should be in the CFL Hall of Fame!

One of the biggest disappointments of my career was in 1990 because administration made the worst mistake in franchise history by firing Bruno and replacing him with David Beckman. At the time, we were suffering from a six game losing streak because we had a terrible injury bug with many starters out of the line up – to no fault of Al's. I am confident that if Bruno had been retained that season, we would still have made the playoffs when the team got healthy because he knew how to rally the troops down the stretch better than anyone.

Sadly, Al Bruno, the last man still living who had coached the Hamilton Tiger-Cats to a Grey Cup victory, died of heart failure at 9 p.m. on Sunday, October 5, 2014 in hospital in Port Charlotte, Florida. He was 87.

Bruno, from West Chester, Pennsylvania,



was a spectacular athlete himself, playing for both the football and championship basketball teams at Kentucky. He is one of a handful of players ever to play football for Paul "Bear" Bryant and basketball for Adolph Rupp, both hall-of-fame coaches.

An offensive end, Bruno was drafted by the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles but, like many Americans at the time, chose instead to play in the CFL (with the Toronto Argonauts) because the pay and opportunities were better. He also played for Ottawa and Winnipeg before moving to the semi-pro London Lords, where he soon became a playing coach and local legend. He was head coach of the Tiger-Cats from midway through 1983 to 1990.

Bruno asked me to come to Hamilton in 1984. I quickly learned that he was a family man and a players' coach. He treated us like men first and players second.

We made three straight Grey Cups with three different quarterbacks and that just

doesn't happen anywhere. Unfortunately, we won only one Cup.

That was the 1986 game when we hammered the heavily favoured Edmonton Eskimos. But the Tiger-Cats were also right there until the last second of the 1989 game at then SkyDome, which we lost on Dave Ridgway's field goal. Most Canadian football observers call that The Greatest Game Ever Played ... on either side of the border.

Twelve games into the next season, Bruno was fired.

He was watching football at the time of his death.

A memorial service for Al Bruno was held in Port Charlotte at San Antonio Catholic Church.

Rest in peace, Coach.

**Jason Riley**

*Hamilton Tiger-Cats 1984-93*

## I AM:

*The answer to Who Am I from page 7 is:*

*Ellison Kelly*

# In Conversation With... "Steve Stapler"

By Chris Durka

I recently had a conversation with #80 Steve Stapler who was an outstanding Ti-Cat receiver from 1981 to 1988 and a member of the 1986 Ti-Cat Grey Cup Championship team. Steve currently lives in California and his licence plate reads "86 Grey Cup".

In his total 9 CFL seasons, Steve finished with 353 receptions for 5,848 yards and 40 touchdowns.

I asked him how he ended up in Hamilton and he said that after his college playing days at San Diego State he was signed by the Toronto Argos in 1980 and then traded to the Ti-Cats in 1981. Steve said that he had a number of great memories from playing in Hamilton but the one that stands out the most was the second game of the 1986 Eastern two game total point Final when the Cats came back from a 26 point deficit to beat the Argos in the total point final 59 to 56. He said that huge win carried over and gave the team momentum and confidence going into the Grey Cup game against heavily favoured Edmonton where the Cats won big 39 to 15.

The Ti-Cat team of the day was a close knit group but Steve's closet buddy was Grover Covington who he shared accommodations with and he also gave special mention to Mike Walker and his quarterbacks Mike Kerrigan, Ken Hobart and Tom Porras.

I asked him about his coach Al Bruno and he said that Al was a great player's type coach; he was "one of the guys".

When I mentioned that the 1986 Grey Cup team reunion will be coming up in 2016 and that there are a lot of Ti-Cat fans that would love to see and meet him again including his teammates, he said that he would try to make it here for that event; hopefully he will.

## CHRIS DURKA

Chris is a long-time Tiger-Cat fan, season ticket holder, historian and collector of Tiger-Cat memorabilia and autographs. Over the years, Chris has had the honour to speak with many Tiger-Cat players whom he now recalls in conversation.



## WHAT'S COOKING?

### 12 COCKTAILS OF CHRISTMAS

Courtesy of [mixthatdrink.com](http://mixthatdrink.com)

There are a number of traditional Christmas or winter holiday drinks, but in recent years people have gotten very creative. Some people have created Christmas-themed cocktails from scratch, while others have added Christmas twists to existing cocktail recipes.

1. The Peppermint Stick uses white creme de cacao and peppermint schnapps to get a mint chocolate flavor. Easy to serve one by one or in premixed pitchers.
2. The Christmas Cookie blends the commonly paired Kahlua and Bailey's with an unexpected shot of peppermint schnapps.
3. Had enough of the holidays already? Have a Grinch and feel better.
4. The Santa Shot layers peppermint schnapps, grenadine and green creme

### 12 COCKTAILS OF CHRISTMAS



- de menthe for a beautiful little shot of Christmas spirit.
5. The Chocolate Raspberry Martini is just what it sounds like. Oh, yes, it is.
6. The Red Hot Santa Tini uses chili-pepper infused vodka and a rim that's cocoa

powder mixed with cayenne. Not your typical Christmas fare.

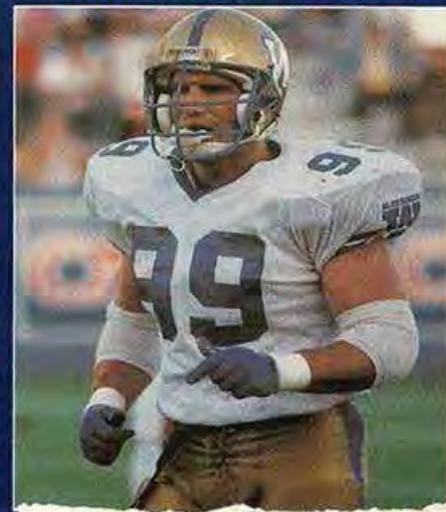
7. Tired of being a grown up? Get a Snowball down you. A blended, creamy drink featuring tequila and cinnamon.
8. The Red Rudolph is a warm drink that features cinnamon, orange and cranberry flavors and gets topped with whipped cream.
9. The Candy Cane blends peppermint schnapps with berry vodka and creme de cacao to make a drink that truly passes for dessert.
10. Eggnog is a tradition for a reason. It tastes great with or without alcohol, which makes it perfect for gatherings that include drinkers and non-drinkers.
11. Hot Buttered Rum is a classic, cuddly sort of drink – perfect for small parties and parties of two.
12. Mulled Wine is a wintertime classic–red wine with sugar and all sorts of spices.

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**HURRICANES FOOTBALL**

2014 Provincial Champions

2013 Provincial Champions



**JEFF CROONEN**

**We Need  
Your Help**

Please Consider a Donation this Holiday Season

WE 'CANES ARE FAMILY. We never turn anyone who can't afford to play away. The Jeffery Croonen Fund is one way we help players who need our help.

Jeff played 6 years in the CFL, winning two Grey Cups with both the Edmonton Eskimos and Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Subsequently, Jeff had a very successful sales career in the pharmaceutical industry. Jeff's true passion was as an Author, Inspirational Speaker and Coach.

Like so many kids growing up in the shadows of Ivor Wynne Stadium, Jeffrey Croonen dreamt of one day playing professional football. Little did he know in those early years as the proverbial underdog would he grow up to one day win two Grey Cup rings. Jeff eventually grew up to be a big guy but even bigger still was his heart. Through his desire and passion to bring joy and love to others, especially children, he would inspire countless of others with his story of determination and drive. Even with his passing, Jeffery continues to help others through his foundation and is proud to sponsor local athletes in their own quest of chasing their dreams.

Jeff was well known for his random acts of kindness and another way to pay respect to his memory would be to "Pay it Forward."

Help us help another aspiring CFL player in the making! We are asking those who have the ability to help if you can help us help those who need it. Please consider donating this Christmas season.

Please visit <http://hamiltoncanes.com/canes-jeff-croonen-christmas-fund-drive> to donate.

HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sincerely your coaches,

**Rob Underhill**

Head Coach HFA Varsity Hamilton Hurricanes

**Bert McCallum**

Head Coach HFA JV Hamilton Hurricanes

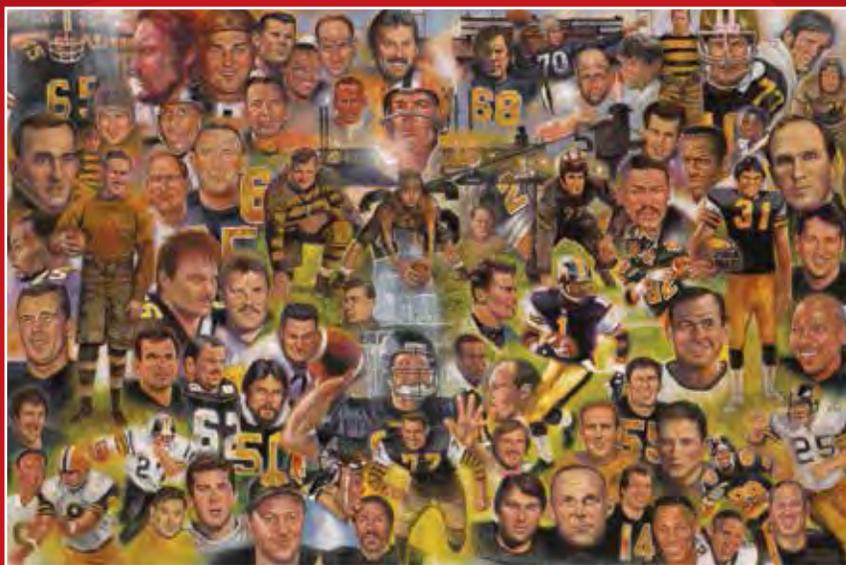
**Nick Lazar**

Head Coach HFA Bantam Hamilton Hurricanes

# HTC 75

**BUY A SIGNED, LIMITED EDITION PRINT  
FEATURING 75 OF THE GREATEST CFL PLAYERS  
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**HALL OF FAME & WALL OF HONOUR INDUCTEES  
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- Only 145 numbered prints available
- Celebrating 2014, the 145<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of Hamilton football
- Original artwork by renowned Canadian sports artist Gary Mclaughlin

**ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHED PRINT SIGNED BY:**

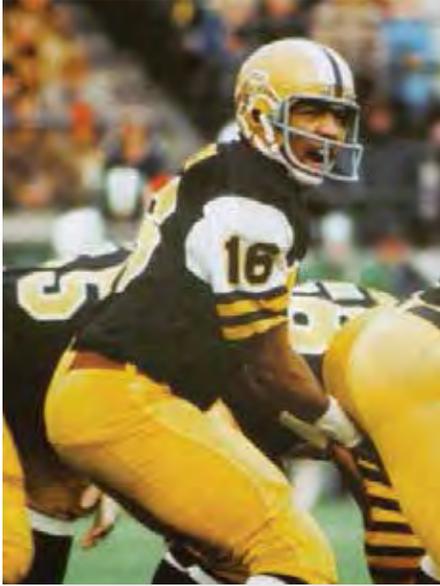
16 Willie Betha	68 Dave Hack	68 Angelo Mosca
48 John Bonk	62 Marwan Hage	74 Pete Neumann
15 Less Browne	26 Garney Henley	58 Jason Riley
75 Tommy Joe Coffey	15 Zeno Karcz	10 Bernie Ruoff
99 Bernie Custis	54 Ellison Kelly	56 Dale Sanderson
23 Rocky DiPietro	25 Lee Knight	22 DonSutherin
16 Matt Dunigan	14 Bob Krouse	50 Henry Waszczuk
77 Tony Gabriel	14 Danny McManus	21 Wally Zatylny
89 Andrew Grigg	77 Grover Covington	9 Joe Zuger

**THE ULTIMATE TIGER-CAT FAN COLLECTORS ITEM!**

Available at the Tigertown Store, 1 Jarvis St. Hamilton for \$150  
*Poster prints now also available for just \$20.*

## Chuck Ealey

By Brian Snelgrove



Chuck Ealey arrived in Steeltown two games in to the 1972 season bringing with him a perfect pedigree from The University of Toledo. Ealey had led the Rockets to an NCAA record of 35 wins and 0 losses over a three year span. Along the way he had also won three straight Tangerine Bowls and was named MVP in each game. His final year he finished eighth in Heisman Trophy balloting and was named the Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) player of the Year for the third straight season.

Ealey was also undefeated for three years at Notre Dame High School in Portsmouth Ohio as he led the team to a perfect 30-0 record and their first ever Ohio State High School Championship in 1967.

"I never even thought I would play professional football," says the former Ti-Cat star. "I could have gone to the NFL at another position but wanted to play quarterback. I really only wanted to play five to seven years and that's what I did."

After inexplicably being passed over in the NFL draft, Ealey came north in the summer of '72. "I was on the Tiger Cats negotiation list and was just finishing school," he says. "One of their scouts came to a game at Toledo and talked me in to coming up to Hamilton. So I did."

After replacing Wally Gabler, Ealey lost his first start against Edmonton 30-27 on August 11. "It really wasn't a big deal" he says of his first-ever football loss. "I knew it would come eventually and I was more like ok we lost; now let's look forward to the next game."

Ealey lost his next start against Montreal and then proceeded to deliver Ti-Cat fans one of the best seasons in team history. He went on to lead the Tiger-Cats to ten straight victories and a first place finish in the Eastern Conference.

"(Coach) Jerry Williams made it easy for me as a rookie," says Ealey. "Not having that extra down was a big thing. There wasn't much room for error. Jerry called some of the plays and that really helped and he got me to look at one side of the field instead of the whole field."

The Tiger-Cats beat Ottawa in the two game total points Eastern Final to earn a berth in the Grey Cup. "I had seen a little bit about the Grey Cup on TV but not to the extent of what it was all about," says Ealey. "There was a big pep rally the week before and a lot of excitement in Hamilton."

Ealey was named Most Valuable Player of the 60th Grey Cup. He was good on 18 of 29 passes for 291 yards and a touchdown and ran

for 63 yards as the Tiger Cats beat Saskatchewan 13-10. In the final two minutes Ealey put together a 68 yard drive to set up Ian Sunter's game winning, last second field goal.

"Winning the Grey Cup was exciting and thrilling," he says. "It means even more after retiring. Both teams put up a lot of yards but the defenses made the big plays at the right time. My best memory was hitting Tony Gabriel with three passes on the winning drive."

Ealey capped his dream season by being named the inaugural CFL Most Outstanding Rookie and was selected an Eastern all-star.

In 1974 Ealey was traded to Winnipeg for Don Jonas and later played with Toronto (1975-78). A collapsed lung hastened his retirement in 1978. He finished his CFL career with 13,326 passing yards and 82 touchdowns. "After Toronto I had a chance to go back to Hamilton but declined," he says. "I had accomplished what I set out to do."

After his playing days Ealey stayed in Canada and continued to live in Mississauga, prior to moving to Brampton a few years ago. "Canada was like our natural home," he says. "It wasn't a major issue going back to the States and I loved the community and loved the area. Toledo was only about four hours away."

As for his days with the Black and Gold, Ealey says, "We had a great bunch of guys and were able to win while having a good time in and outside of the locker room. The people of Hamilton, the fans, were just great. They had an impact of being involved both inside and outside the stadium. They seemed to be the most knowledgeable fans in the league and were very intimate about their city and their team. Playing in Hamilton was one of the most exciting times I ever had playing football."

## Memorabilia

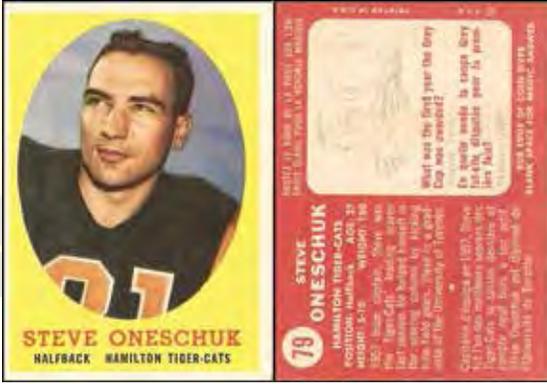
**Tiger-Cat Alumni are on a quest to collect photos of "Team Memorabilia" to display on our web-site. Please ensure the item is displayed on a plain white background. We are also looking to collect unique items that you may want to lend or donate to the Alumni Association to put on display in the "Alumni Room" inside the new stadium. If you have anything you feel may be of interest, please contact us at [admin@htcaa.ca](mailto: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](mailto:admin@htcaa.ca).**

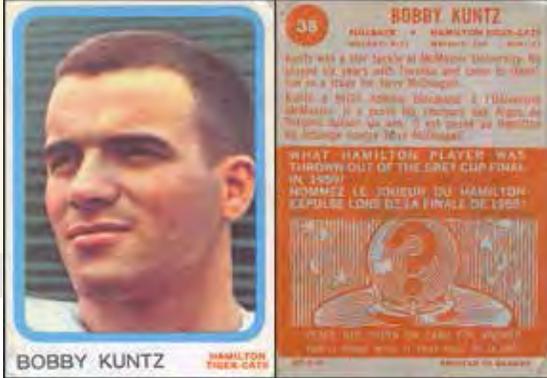




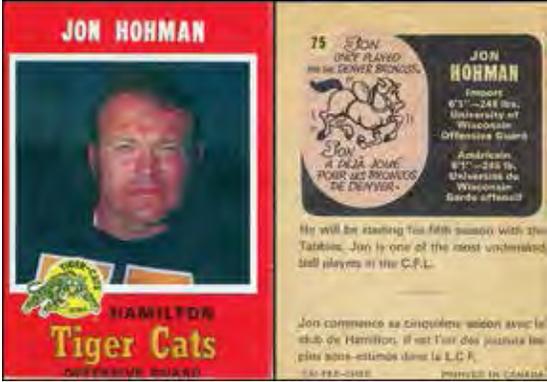
# CARD COLLECTOR



Steve Oneschuk, 1958



Bobby Kuntz, 1963



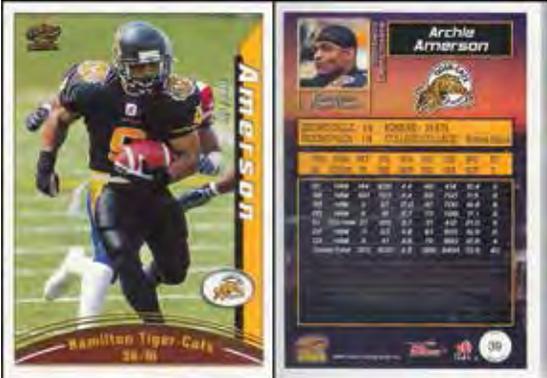
John Hohman, 1971



Mark Bragagnolo, 1983



Derrick McAdoo, 1991



Archie Amerson, 2004



# THIRST DOWN

## INTRODUCING PIGSKIN PILSNER

Lake of Bays Brewing and the CFL Alumni Association proudly present our first collaboration, Pigskin Pilsner. Developed in consultation with more than 200 Canadian football and craft beer enthusiasts who sent us their preferences and suggestions, this refreshing, true-to-style pilsner is made with the finest two-row Canadian and German pilsner malt and Hallertaur hops and presented in a 1.89L growler. The ultimate for sharing, collecting and game-time celebrating (but definitely not for throwing touchdowns. That would be a bad idea.).

## TASTING NOTES

Pours crystal clear with a brilliant golden hue and dense white foam. Aromatics are of fresh-cut hay with slight floral notes and the unmistakable graininess that is the hallmark of a traditional German-style pilsner. The mouth feel is light-bodied with a subtle hint of citrus and the pleasant tanginess of Hallertaur hops. Finishes clean and refreshing.

### AVAILABILITY

October release. Available while it lasts.

### APPEARANCE

Brilliant gold with crystal clarity and dense white foam.

### AROMA & FLAVOUR

Light-bodied with the unmistakable crispness of a traditional German pilsner. Aromas of fresh-cut hay and slight floral and grainy hints.

### MOUTH FEEL

Light bodied and crisp.

### INGREDIENTS

Made with malted barley, hops, toasted wheat flakes, yeast and fresh Lake of Bays water.

### PAIRINGS

Finger foods like wings, nachos and fries; mozzarella, ricotta cheeses. Entrees with milder flavours like ham, sushi.

### SIZES

1.89L Growler

### ALCOHOL & IBUs

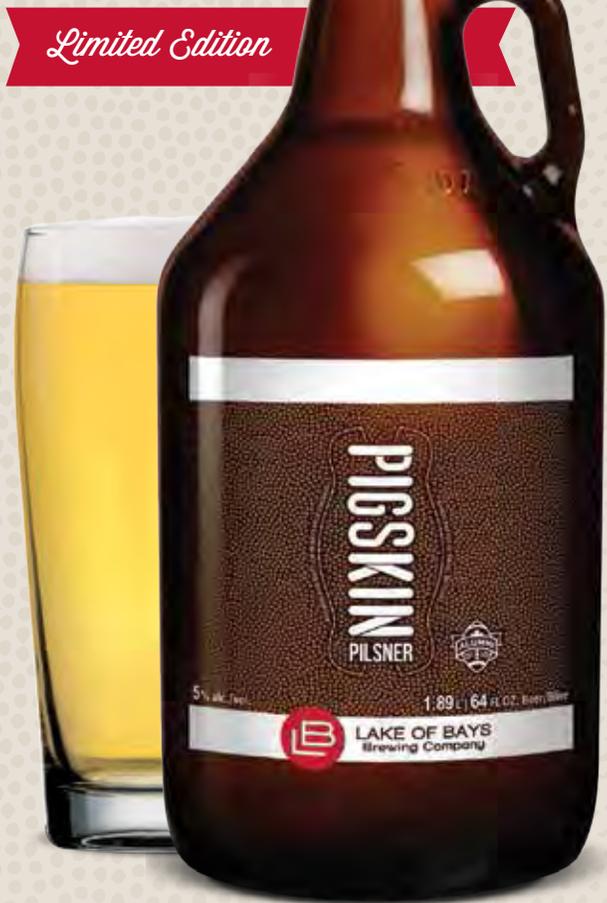
5% alc./vol., 24 IBUs

### LCBO PRODUCT

# 444707

### RETAIL PRICE

15.95\*



LAKE OF BAYS  
Brewing Company

\*Plus applicable taxes and \$.20 deposit. Available for a limited time. Price subject to change.

(855) 311-BEER (2337) | info@lakeofbaysbrewing.ca | Find us: LakeofBaysBrewing.ca | Find our beer:  BeerFinder.ca

