



# TIGERtales

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER *May 2017*

## ALUMNI CLUBHOUSE A SUCCESS ALL AROUND!



The HTCAA Board and Clubhouse Committee would like to thank all the Alumni and supporters who stepped up with donations to our Fundraising campaign, Over \$80,000 was raised to complete our Clubhouse with wonderful amenities including a large full service bar, multiple big screen TVs, along with plentiful and comfortable seating.

Our Donor Wall will be updated this spring to recognize all the additional contributors who continued to make donations throughout the offseason.

We will also be completing up-dates to personalize the room including photos and plaques to recognize our Wall of Honour inductees, Walk of Fame inductees and larger photos of our Grey Cup Championship teams. We will also be adding more photos and filling two display cases with Tiger-Cat team and player memorabilia.

Only Alumni who have paid up their membership dues will have accredited access to the room. Guests must be accompanied by Alumni. If you do not have an "Alumni Clubhouse" membership card, please email [admin@htcaa.ca](mailto:admin@htcaa.ca)

## MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership base sits at 180. This includes 40 members over the age of 80 who are no longer required to pay annual dues. We also have 60 members whose annual fees are due this year.

We are constantly recruiting, so please encourage your old teammates to join.

Membership fees are one of largest sources of revenue to help fund our annual operations. If you have not yet paid this year, you can make your payment online: [www.htcaa.ca](http://www.htcaa.ca).

In addition to multiple personal benefits including ticket discounts and complimentary social events for members, your fees contribute to our season ticket purchases that get donated back to the community as well as support to other community organizations.

## 1957/67 GREY CUP REUNION



This Year marks a very special 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of two of our Grey Cup teams. Events are being planned for the weekend of **September 30<sup>th</sup>** when the Tiger-Cats host the Argonauts. If you are a member of one of these two teams and have yet to be contacted by a member of the organization committee, please email [admin@htcaa.ca](mailto:admin@htcaa.ca).

## 32ND ANNUAL TIGER-CAT ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Tiger-Cat Alumni will be hosting their 32nd annual golf tournament on **Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>** at Southbrook Golf and Country Club in Binbrook. The tournament was a near sell-out last year as many fans joined dozens of Alumni on hand for a beautiful afternoon of golf.

It's a great time to re-connect with some old team-mates as well as other Alumni. As always, there will be lots of great prizes including putting and hole-in-one contests.

## REGISTRATION

Registration is only \$160 which includes lunch, steak dinner and golf. Registration and payment can be made online via PayPal at: [www.htcaa.ca](http://www.htcaa.ca).

Registration can also be made via email at [mark@relevent.ca](mailto:mark@relevent.ca) or call Mark Bowden at (905) 981-9409

**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).**

**The Hamilton Tiger-Cat Alumni Association  
would like to thank and recognize  
the following donors whose financial contributions  
have made our Alumni Clubhouse possible**



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# Season Preview

By Brian Snelgrove

Last year was a forgettable season for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. The Ticats compiled a disappointing record of 7-11 record and tied with Montreal for second spot in the East. They went on to drop the Eastern Semi-Final 24-21 to Edmonton.

Equally discouraging, the Ticats finished a dismal 3-6 on their home turf at Tim Hortons Field.

Hamilton's last Grey Cup victory came in 1999. Patience may be a virtue but sold-out crowds will have high expectations again this year for the Tabbies.

"We only have one goal, the only reason we play is to be the best," said Kent Austin, VP of Football Operations and Head Coach in a 2017 season preview conference call. "If you aren't playing to be the best it isn't really worth the effort, quite frankly. There is no other goal that is worthy of the effort, time, and commitment that everybody in the organization on both sides have to make to this organization to be successful."

For most Tiger-Cat fans being the best means another trip to the Grey Cup – like the back-to-back appearances in 2013 and 2014.

Once again, injuries will be a crucial factor in how well the Cats perform in 2017. Offensively

the squad will be led by QB Zach Collaros, now in his fourth season in black and gold stripes. Despite missing eight games, Collaros threw for nearly 3,000 yards and combined with Jeremiah Masoli for over 5,600 yards. C.J. Gable finished sixth in the league in rushing with 693 yards despite missing three games. Both Andy Fantuz (1059) and Terrence Tolliver (1036) surpassed the 1,000 yard receiving mark. Luke Tasker added 852 in just 12 games.

Despite the loss of some key receivers (see: say goodbye to) Collaros will still have one of the best receiving corps in the CFL. Tolliver, Tasker, Brandon Banks and Kevin Elliott all return. Fantuz, who had his best season statistically, last year hopes to return from a late season knee injury. He recently assumed the role of Player Development Coordinator for the Tiger-Cats. Gable will again carry the load in the backfield.

The O-line will need some help as mainstays Peter Dyakowski, Brian Simmons and Mathieu Girard have vacated.



Defensive End John Chick had an outstanding year in 2016 after joining the Tiger-Cats from Saskatchewan and was named the team's most outstanding defensive player. LB Simoni Lawrence was fourth in the CFL with 90 tackles. DB Emmanuel Davis finished third in interceptions with five. Hopefully DB Craig Butler, who missed all of last year due to injury, remains healthy. He had five picks in 2015.

Kicker Brett Maher is a free agent. He was good on 41 of 50 field goals in 2016 and made 38 of 40 converts. He sported an impressive 45.9 yards per punt. Finding a capable replacement for him will be critical.

**Three keys to a winning season:** Stay healthy. Find a consistent running game. Obtain a reliable kicker/punter.

## SAY HELLO TO:

DB Abdul Kanneh, LB Nick Shorthill, DB Ethan Davis, DB Tristan Doughlin, DB Cheatham Norrils, DB Khalid Wooten, WR Ed Williams, OL Torian White, DB Delonte Hollowell, WR Devon Breaux, OL Malcom Bunche, DB Will Hill, RB Alex Green, WR Gary Chambers, DB Jabari Gorman

## SAY GOODBYE TO:

DB Johnny Adams, LB Byron Archambault, OL Terrence Campbell, WR John Chiles, WR Matt Coates, DB Elroy Douglas, OL Peter Dyakowski, OL Mathieu Girard, QB Jacory Harris, DB Shane Herbert, LB Beau Landry, RB Kendial Lawrence, OL Jeremy Lewis, QB Jeff Mathews, DB Rico Murray, DT Drake Nevis, LB Ron Omara, WR Chad Owens, LB Keon Raymond, DE Louis Richardson, DB Jermaine Robinson, RB Da'Rel Scott, DB Johnny Sears Jr., LB Will Smith, RB Anthony Woodson, LB Frederic Plesius, OL Brian Simmons

## 2017 CFL DRAFT

PICK	PLAYER	POS	SCHOOL	
#4	Connor McGough	DL	Calgary	
#13	Braden Schram	OL	Calgary	
#21	Kay Okafor	DL	St. Francis Xavier	
#38	Justin Vaughn	DL	Fordham	
#47	Jacob Scarfone	WR	Guelph	
#58	Brett Golding	OL	Wilfrid Laurier	
#66	Sean Thomas-Erlington	RB	Montreal	



# TIGER-CAT Q&A

**Name:** Frank Cosentino

**Birthday:** May 22, 1937

**School/ Jr. Football:**  
Cathedral High

**Position(s):**  
Quarterback, End, Guard

**Years with Tiger-Cats:** 1960–1966

## CAREER

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

Other than playing touch and drive 'em back at Eastwood park, my first team was with the North End Argos coached by Art Cousins of the Hamilton Old Boys' Football Association. I was an end at the time (12 years old). It was great because the only thing you had to provide was a pair of sneakers. From there I went to Cathedral High, tried out for three years with the Junior team, made it as a guard and then as a quarterback for two years of senior football. I also played baseball and basketball as I grew up.

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

I was drafted by the Tiger Cats in 1960 as their first draft choice after a four year career at the University of Western Ontario where we won two championships, 1957, 1959, including the first Canadian Intercollegiate championship, '59 of which team I was the captain and QB.

### 3. Do or did you hold any records?

As far as records are concerned they are really team ones: in five Grey Cups, we won two; I coached at the University of Western Ontario from 1970 through '74 and we won two Vanier Cups - 1971 and 1974. I'm in the Western, McMaster and Ontario Universities Athletic Association Halls of Fame and being inducted in York University's Hall of Fame in September 2017. I was also Edmonton Eskimos' selection for the CFL Outstanding Canadian Award in 1967.

### 4. Do or did you have a nickname?

I was always known as "Cos" or "Cossie".

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



From a personal point of view I think 1962 was a defining year. Bernie Faloney got hurt when we were in Edmonton and I had limited playing experience at the time. I went into the game when we were behind and we ended up tying the game (no overtime). We were on a

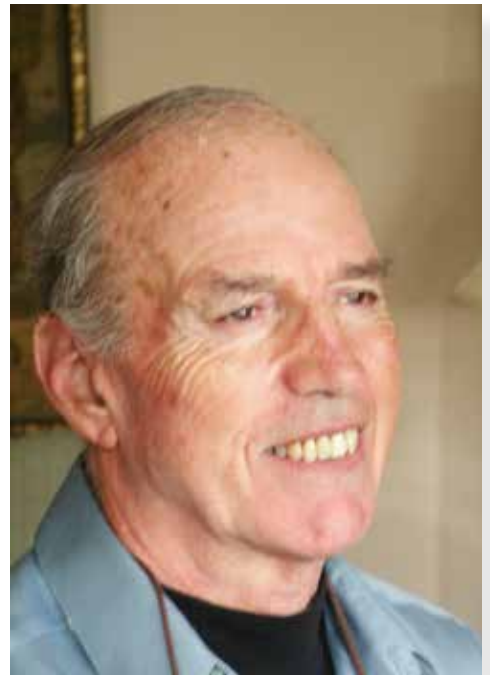
western swing and moved on to B.C. Bernie was sent home to recover. I started and finished the game and we won. Eventually, Joe (Zuger) and I split the season and took the team to the Grey Cup where we lost by one point in the fog bowl. Joe and I pretty well split the quarterbacking in '65 and '66. I was traded to Edmonton in '67 and I probably had my best year as a quarterback that year in Edmonton.

### 6. Who were some of the teammates and opponents you admired the most and why?

I was a little star struck when I first began because being from Hamilton, I'd always read or heard about the TC teams of the late fifties and then found myself playing with them. I had some wonderful team mates whose company I always enjoyed: Zeno Karcz, Tommy Grant, Gino DeNobile, Garney Henley, Willie Bethea, Bronco Nagurski, Ralph Goldston, El-lison Kelly, Hal Patterson, Hardiman Cureton, Joe Zuger, but I like to think that I got along with everyone and have good memories of all. These guys were serious about their preparation and at the same time were able to have a good perspective.

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

I had two head coaches at Hamilton and they each had distinctive personalities. Jim Trimble was loquacious and thought in grandiose ways. He was knowledgeable but also open to spontaneity. I recall once where we played a Sunday game and had a quarterback meeting after he had come from church. He said he had an inspiration and put in a play for that afternoon and it scored a touchdown. Ralph Sazio was probably the most knowledgeable coach. He was very focussed, knew exactly what he wanted to do and how you should do it. The team was always well prepared, especially defensively with Ralph as the coach. Later he got more involved with the offense and brought that same tenacity with him. I also had Neill Armstrong at Edmonton and Leo Cahill at Toronto. Leo always made



things interesting. He asked me to develop a game plan for a game I was starting against Montreal in 1969 and execute it. It turned out really well. We won handily. It probably helped me in deciding I wanted to coach. At University I tried to incorporate the best from each into my approach.

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

Well, I guess the '62 fog bowl where I played the Sunday. I felt I played fairly well but we were still unable to overcome Winnipeg's one point lead. In '65, Joe and I pretty well split the game. I was able to option pitch to Dick Cohee for our first touchdown. It was a windy day and I still recall that Winnipeg came within a hair of making a first down near the end of the game. Our 5-3 defence with Marty Martinello at nose tackle rose up and stopped them to preserve the win.

## POST CFL CAREER

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

I had been going to school for much of my years with the 'Cats and continued after I was traded to Edmonton and later Toronto. I had earned a PhD at University of Alberta and began teaching and coaching football at University of Western Ontario (1970-74). I began as an Assistant Professor, left as an Associate Professor and joined York University in 1976 as Professor and Chairman of Physical Education and Athletics. I retired from York in 1997 and moved to Eganville where I live now with my wife, Sheila.

## HTCAA – OBJECTIVES

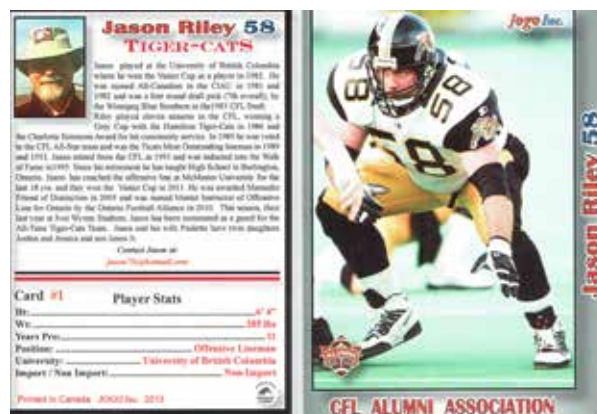
- (a) To promote fellowship among its members
- (b) To retain good relationships with the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Football Club
- (c) To aid in various ways the promotion & development of football in the Greater Hamilton area
- (d) To assist in supporting, organizing and promoting charitable, educational or other benevolent objectives, that this association may see fit to support or sponsor from time to time.
- (e) To assist in the preservation and promotion of the history of Tiger-Cat football

## 2017 HTCAA SLATE OF OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Jason Riley
<b>Past President</b>	Glenn Timlock
<b>1st Vice President</b>	Ryan Donnelly
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	Jim Papai
<b>CFLAA Rep.</b>	Dave Richardson
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<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Campbell Blake
<b>Event Manager</b>	Mark Bowden
<b>Auditor</b>	Rob Agopian

## ALUMNI JOGO PLAYER CARDS

John Bradley from Jogo produced CFL cards for 32 years. Jogo now has an agreement to produce sets of CFL Alumni Cards through its partnership with the CFLAA and team Alumni Associations. Jogo is looking for more players that want to be included and would like to access our membership to see who would be interested in a future trading card. There would be no cost to the individual and they would be provided with an allotment of their card for their own use. Please contact [johngbradley@bell.net](mailto:johngbradley@bell.net) for more info.



## EVENTS



### MIKE DERKS TO BE INDUCTED INTO SUDBURY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Sudbury native and Tiger-Cat Alumnus Mike Derks is being inducted into the Sudbury Sports Hall of fame on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mike had a standout college career for the Cincinnati Bearcats in the NCAA, which he followed with a stellar six-year career with the Tiger-Cats as an offensive lineman. He helped Hamilton win the Grey Cup in 1986.

Derks remains active in the sporting community as head coach of the LaSalle Lancers football team, where he is also a teacher.

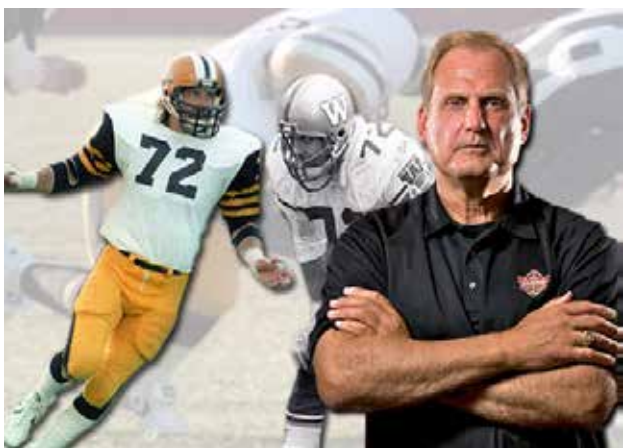
Mike would love to see some of his former teammates at his induction dinner! Tickets are \$55. To order tickets or for more information contact a Chris Sheridan at (705) 522-9682.

### LEO EZERINS TO BE INDUCTED INTO GRIDIRON GREATS HALL OF FAME

Tiger-Cat Alumnus and CFLAA Executive Director Leo Ezerins will be among the latest inductees into the Gridiron Great Hall of Fame.

Leo played ten years in the CFL (1978–82 Winnipeg, 1983–87 Hamilton) and won the Grey Cup with the Tiger-Cats in 1986. He is the all-time interception leader for Canadian linebackers and fifth overall for all CFL linebackers.

He is a founder of the CFL Alumni Association, and currently acts as Executive Director.



The Gridiron Greats group helps former players who need assistance in their post-career lives.

According to the website, some 1,500 former players have received some sort of assistance. Inductees are honoured not just for their careers but also for giving back to the game after they've stopped playing it.

In 2012, Angelo Mosca was the first Tiger-Cat Alumnus and the first former CFL player, to be inducted into the Gridiron Greats Hall of Fame. Other CFL alumni since inducted include Tiger-Cat Alumni Danny McManus and Matt Dunigan, George Reed, Hugh Campbell, Ray Elgaard and Marv Levy.

Joining Ezerins in the 2017 inductee class are former NFL Players Matt Birk, Dave Casper, Clem Daniels, Mike Golic, Don Horn, Franco Harris and John Niland

This year's event will be held on Friday, June 23rd at the Red Rock Casino Resort in Las Vegas. Tickets to the induction dinner are \$350 each and are available at [www.gridirongreats.org/halloffame](http://www.gridirongreats.org/halloffame).

## 2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>Mon. May 29</b>	The HTCAA Golf Tournament at Southbrook Golf & Country Club	12:30 pm
<b>Wed. May 31</b>	Alumni appearances at Tim Hortons locations to raise money for "Camp Day"	7:30 am
<b>Sun. June 18</b>	Tim Horton's Field Community Open House	11:00 am
<b>Sat. July 15</b>	Hamilton Tiger-Cat home opener verses B.C. Lions	7:30 pm
<b>Fri. Sept. 15</b>	Hall of Fame game @ Tim Horton's Field	7:00 pm
<b>Sat. Sept. 30</b>	1957/67 Grey Cup teams reunion tailgate & game	2:30 pm
<b>Fri. Oct. 27</b>	Alumni Social at "The Clubhouse" Hamilton @ Ottawa	6:00 pm



## UP-FRONT CAMP

Jason Riley's "Up-Front" Lineman Camp celebrated its' 10<sup>th</sup> year in a new venue. After 9 years at McMaster University, Jason partnered up with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats Pay Action programme and brought the camp to Tim Horton's Field on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Camp specializes in improving the blocking skills for lineman aged 13-18. For the first time coaches from other OUAA teams took part to help coach the kids and exchange ideas. On hand were current Tiger-Cat players Mike Filer, Landon Rice and Ryan Bomben along with Tiger-Cat Alumni Dave Richardson, Lee Knight, Brian Hutchings, Ralph Scholz, John Malinosky, Branko Vincic, Darrell Harle and Bob Macdonald. Current Tiger-Cat line coach Dennis McPhee and former OL coach John Salavantis were also on site to help out.



## TIGER-CATS HOST DRAFT DAY PARTY

On Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> the Tiger-Cats hosted a special Draft Day Party inside the Champions Lounge at Tim Horton's Field. Alumni and fans were treated to complimentary food as they followed the CFL Draft live. Tiger-Cat players and cheerleaders were also on hand as was a special draft day photo booth. Mike Morreale, Jim Tatti and Marshall Ferguson provided onsite analysis of the draft.



## TIM HORTON'S CAMP DAY COMING UP!



Tim Horton's Annual Fundraiser to help send kids to camp is coming up on **Wednesday, May 31st**. Tiger-Cat Alumni traditional take part to help serve up coffee and donuts at various Hamilton locations. Alumni who can take part again this year, please contact [admin@htcaa.ca](mailto:admin@htcaa.ca).

## COMMUNITY DAY AT TIM HORTON'S FIELD

The Tiger-Cats will be hosting their annual Community Day at Tim Horton's Field on **Sunday, June 18th**. Fans will get a chance to go on the field and meet their favourite Tiger-Cat players. Tiger-Cat Alumni will also be on hand to sign autographs and chat with fans. Plan to join us on this fun day!



## SANDERSON'S NEW RIDE

If you see a burly guy riding around town with Tiger-Cat decals on his motorcycle helmet, it's quite likely former Tiger-Cat Centre Dale Sanderson. Dale recently purchased a near mint 1982 Harley Davidson "Sturgis". A friend of his exquisitely maintained the bike and Dale always told him when he's ready to sell, he's your buyer. Congratulations Dale!

# Tiger-Cats Roar to 1957 Grey Cup Victory

By Brian Snelgrove

**A** loaf of bread cost 19 cents, gas was 6 cents a litre and a gallon of milk was a dollar.

The year was 1957 and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats squared off against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in what was destined to become one of the best rivalries in Grey Cup history. It was the first of five Cup meetings between the two clubs over the next six years.

Hamilton finished in top spot in the East in 1957 with a record of 10-4 and knocked off Montreal in the two-game total point Eastern Final, to advance to the championship game.

The Ti-Cats were led by a pair of CFL legends: Head Coach Jim Trimble and General Manager Jake Gaudaur. Hall of Fame quarterback Bernie Faloney directed the offence with a talented arsenal of weapons at his disposal including running backs Gerry McDougall and Carlton Chester "Cookie" Gilchrist. McDougall led the East in rushing in '57 with 1,053 yards while Gilchrist ran for 958. Paul Dekker, Tommy Grant, Ralph Goldston, Harry Lampman, Bill Graham and Ron Howell were on the receiving end of most of Faloney's aerials. John Barrow, Vince Scott, Pete Neumann, Tony Curcillo, Ralph Toohey, Zeno Karcz, Eddie Macon and Ray "Bibbles" Bawel were defensive stalwarts. Many players played both ways in the 50's.

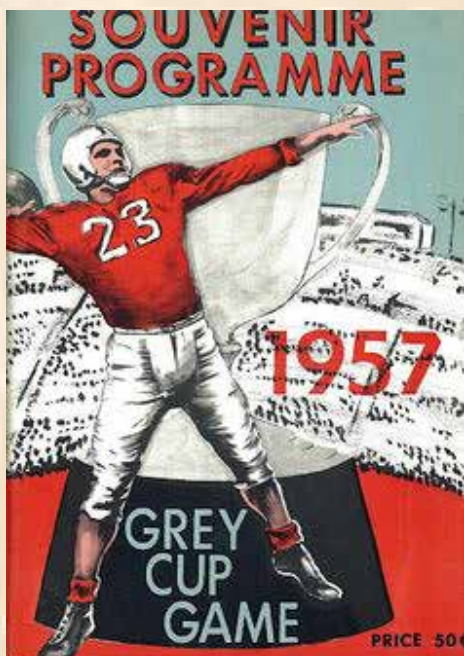
In the Grey Cup, the Tiger-Cats jumped out to a 7-0 lead as Bawel scored the first major on a 50 yard fumble return. Later in the first quarter, Faloney scored on a six yard run and the Ticats led 13-0 at half-time. Gilchrist added a pair of touchdowns and McDougall scored one in the second half as Hamilton built a 32-0 lead en route to a lopsided 32-7 victory.

In the fourth quarter Bawel became the focal point of one of the most famous – or infamous – plays in Grey Cup history. After intercepting a pass intended for Ernie Pitts, Bawel was streaking down the sidelines for a likely touchdown when he was tripped by a fan standing near the Winnipeg bench. Future Superior Court Justice David Humphrey was the "Tripper" ensuring that both he and Bawel would become a part of Grey Cup lore. After a conference, officials moved the ball half the distance to the goal line from where the trip occurred. Fortunately the play did not impact the outcome of the '57 Grey Cup and Bawel, finished the game with two interceptions and a touchdown.

"That should have been a touchdown," says John Fedosoff, who is 84 and lives in Ennismore. "They should have given it to him. That was a given. No one was near him. A fan sticks out his foot and trips







him. But it didn't matter. The game was over by that point.

"The camaraderie on that team was amazing," Fedosoff adds. "If you couldn't handle the cutting and slashing in the dressing room you would die. It was a great experience. It was a friendship thing."

"It was pretty important to us, that we win that game," says Bill Graham, a Mississauga resident who is 81. "It was a tough game. It was a physical, brutal type of game. That was probably one of our best games of the season. About the only play I can remember was making a key tackle on

Kenny Ploen. That was a great team we had, a really great team. It was probably our best team of the '50s. Without a doubt. There was a camaraderie there that I don't think I have ever experienced anywhere else."

Sixty years later, Tony Curcillo also shares his recollections. "To me it was just a normal game," he says. "I know we played a good game and were glad to beat them but I can't really remember much about the game itself. It was 60 years ago. I didn't think we had a very good scouting report. Bernie (Faloney) and I were room-mates and we watched a Winnipeg game on

TV and that was my scouting report. But I must say that all the people in Canada were so wonderful." Curcillo, who is now 86, lives in Murietta, California.

Both the 1957 and 1967 Grey Cup champion Tiger-Cat teams will be honoured at Hamilton's home game against the Toronto Argonauts on September 30.

*Brian Snelgrove is a life-long fan of the CFL and has written extensively for the CFL, the CFL Alumni Association, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats as well as the Official Grey Cup magazine.*



# In Conversation With... Dave Viti

By Chris Durka

Last week I had the pleasure of talking to former Tiger Cat #70 Dave Viti who played his entire professional football career in Hamilton from 1962 to 1969.

Dave was originally from Rhode Island and played collegiate football at Boston University. This is where he caught the attention of Ralph Sazio who was an assistant coach for the Ti-Cats at the time. Ironically Sazio was at the Boston University scouting another player but was so impressed with Dave that he convinced Dave to sign what was supposed to have been a non-binding contract.

This was the understanding because the American football draft had not taken place yet and if Dave was selected in that draft and offered more money by the team that selected him he could then officially sign with them. It turned out that Dave was selected in the 6<sup>th</sup> round of the American Football League draft by Buffalo Bills and in round 9 by the Washington Redskins during the National Football League draft. When Dave was offered more money to play with Buffalo, Sazio, let's just say persuaded him to demonstrate his football talents north of the border and this is how he ended up in Hamilton.

In his rookie year in the Canadian Football League in 1962 Dave mentioned how impressed he was with the passion and support of the Canadian football fans and how this was particularly shown during the Grey Cup Classic. He said the national interest that was demonstrated was second to none, surpassing even the US championship games in the 1960s.

One of Dave's most memorable moments

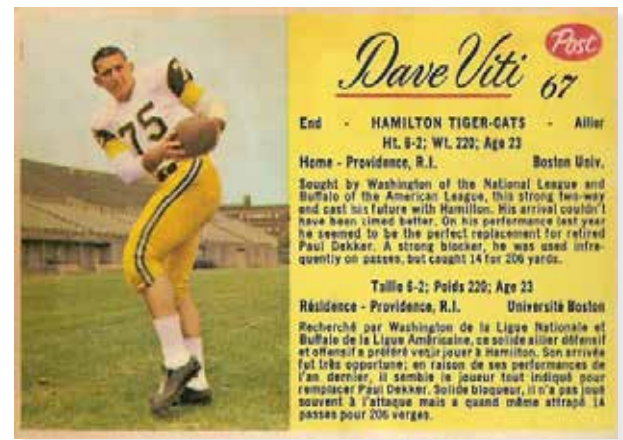
was in fact that 1962 grey Cup game when he caught a touchdown pass. Other great memories were the 5 Grey Cup games in which he participated in, winning 3 of them in 1963, 1965 and especially 1967. The 1967 team was special because he was part of a defence that did not allow an opposition offensive touchdown in their last six games which included the Eastern 2 games total Final and the Grey Cup Game.

Dave initially started as an offensive tight end for the Ti-Cats and then that evolved into playing both offence and defence and then eventually solely on the defensive side as a defensive end. This is where he became a member of one of the most fearsome and formidable front four defensive lines in Tiger Cat history. This infamous line was comprised of Billy Ray Locklin, John Barrow, Angelo Mosca and Dave Viti.

Dave mentioned that the teams outside linebackers, Zeno Karcz and Bob Krouse deserved a lot of credit to the successes of the defence. He said, "how could the front four not play well with trusting linebackers like them watching their backs".

The Tiger Cats had a number of great successes in the 1960s and Dave said this was because the players had complete confidence in themselves and in each other. They understood each other's abilities and capabilities. Another reason was due to the coaching of Ralph Sazio who demanded the absolute best out of each and every player.

There were so many great players Dave mentioned he had the good fortune to play with, Pete Neumann he described as being relentless when pursuing opposition players from sideline to sideline. He described Willie Bethea as a real grinding running back, Art Baker as a big tough fullback, the talented Garney Henley who could play anywhere, the hard nose Gene Ceppetelli, the great Angelo Mosca and John Barrow who was his roommate during the road trips.



Then Dave made special mentioned of Joe Zuger. He said that although Zuger was soft spoken off the field he was assertive and in charge on the field. He was no doubt the team's leader and according to Dave it is totally unbelievable that Joe Zuger has not been inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. He stated that he wanted this point included in this article. He said that he feels that Zuger has been shunned because of his low key demeanor. He continued to say that Zuger never possessed a large ego and never searched out for recognition or popularity; he simply carried himself as a leader and was exceedingly successful at doing just that.

In conclusion, Dave expressed his strong admiration for the strong unity, enthusiasm and support of the fans and for the City of Hamilton as a whole. He said that diversity in the ethnic culture was a mosaic of Hamilton. He remembered how Mayor Copps so strongly supported the football institution in Hamilton and how the local radio station at the time, CKOC, would regularly hold Quarterback Club events that the players were invited to attend and be able to inter-relate with their fans.

It was obvious during our conversation how Dave Viti deeply enjoyed his time in Hamilton and as a Tiger Cat.

Dave Viti is another great former player whose exploits on the gridiron has contributed to this City's rich football tradition. It was again a distinct pleasure to have had the opportunity to talk to another outstanding Ti-Cat legend.

**CHRIS DURKA** 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.





# Bernie Custis

The HTCAA is sad to announce the passing of Bernie Custis on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the age of 88.

Bernie was a star quarterback with Syracuse University and was selected by the Cleveland Browns in the 1951 National Football League draft. Told he would play safety with the Browns, he resisted the move and opted to sign with Hamilton.

He started every game at quarterback in his first season. He moved to running back the next season and in 1953 helped Hamilton win the Grey Cup championship game. Bernie finished his pro career as a running back with the Ottawa Rough Riders in the 1955-56 season.

He later coached at various levels including Burlington Braves of the Canadian Junior Football League, winning three Ontario championships and two Eastern Canadian titles. Over eight seasons as head coach of the McMaster Marauders he compiled a 31-23-1 record. He was named the OUAA Coach of the Year in 1982 and 1984 and was named CIAU Coach of the Year in 1982. He was inducted into the McMaster Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000.

He was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1998 and in 2015 received the league commissioner's award.



# Gerry MacTaggart

Gerry passed away suddenly on January 12, 2017 from heart failure in his 86<sup>th</sup> year.

Gerry was born in Lindsay and raised in Gravenhurst and Orillia. He attended McMaster University until 1952 playing basketball and football where he was later inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame. Soon after graduation, Gerry played for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in their 1953 Grey Cup winning season.







## **What Do I Get For My Membership Fee?**

- **Access to Alumni Clubhouse on game day at Tim Horton's Field**
- **Complimentary pre-game meal & discounted bar**
- **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**
- **30% Discount at the Tiger-Cat Shop**
- **Alumni Social at AGM – Annual General Meeting**
- **Complimentary Year End Alumni Social & dinner**
- **Participate in Alumni community and special events**
- **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: \$35 / year, \$100 / 3 years or \$150 / 5 years**

**TO BECOME A MEMBER, REGISTER & PAY ONLINE @ [WWW.HTCAA.CA](http://WWW.HTCAA.CA)**

Or send cheques payable to "HTCAA"  
57 Sunning Hill Ave. Hamilton, ON L8T 1B6

**Email:** [admin@htcaa.ca](mailto:admin@htcaa.ca)

## **FOR SEASONS TICKETS CONTACT:**

**Bryan Smith | Account Executive, Business Development  
Hamilton Tiger-Cats Football Club  
905-547-2287 X261 | [BSMITH@TICATS.CA](mailto:BSMITH@TICATS.CA)**

# 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](http://www.htcaa.ca) and emailing to [admin@htcaa.ca](mailto: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**



**O**ur world seems to have changed more dramatically over the last few years than the last few decades combined. As Alumni, our main challenge continues to be to stay relevant to our members, current players, football clubs and to the CFL.

We thank the CFL for its financial support but also feel we provide great “value” as a National Association and through our local Alumni Associations as we continue to support the CFL and its efforts to build on the tradition of our history as a League.

Our support is provided primarily on a volunteer basis through our different boards and individuals. **We thank all of you for all you do!**

**GREY CUP UPDATE** An agreement has been reached with the Grey Cup Festival/Ottawa Sports & Entertainment Group (OSEG) for the rights to produce the CFL Alumni Legends Luncheon. Our Luncheon has been a main event at Grey Cup since 2009 in Calgary. In 2013 the host Grey Cup Festival committee secured the rights to produce the event and to include it as a major Festival event. The host committee at every Grey Cup has done the same since. Stay tuned for all the Alumni related activities which will once again include a hosted Alumni Lounge.

**CFLAA SUPPORT FUND** A few changes have been made to our fund. There are now two plans. **PLAN A** (medical expenses up to a lifetime of max. \$10,000) and **PLAN B** (compassionate fund up to lifetime max. \$2,500).

The Funds sits at \$170,000. We have helped former out former players, and in one case a former coach, to the tune of \$30,000. Since inception we have raised over \$200,000.

The primary contributors have been the **CFLAA Legends Luncheon (Auctions)** and

## **Never Alone and Foundation Rose Project.**

### **SUMMARY OF WHO WE HAVE HELPED.**

Rick Sowieta, (former Ottawa Rough Rider, Canadian Football Hall of Fame Selection Committee and VP Operations at Football Canada), was diagnosed with a life threatening pancreatic cancer. A last resort procedure was only available in Germany and no funding was available through the Ontario Health Insurance Program (OHIP). **NOTE: Since OHIP has agreed to cover the procedure on a going forward basis.**

To raise money he started a crowdfunding ([www.youcaring.ca](http://www.youcaring.ca)) campaign with a goal to raise \$65,000. The fund eventually raised \$85,000. The CFLAA Support Fund developed a **matching fund program**. The Fund would match Association and/or member donations to a maximum of \$1000. Six (6) Alumni Associations donated, two of which we matched individual donations. We raised \$8,000, which meant full participation.

### **OTHERS WE HAVE HELPED?**

**PLAN A** Darrhan Diedrick (Cancer), **PLAN B** Baron Miles, Gregg Butler, Kelly Butler, Leo Cahill, Herbert Johnson, and Steve Ferrughelli. (We have several others but they wanted to remain anonymous).

**CANADIAN CONCUSSION PROJECT** - Former BC Lions/Saskatchewan Roughrider Rick Klassen unfortunately passed in December of 2016 (cancer). He will be the first former CFL player to have participated in the Canadian Sports Concussion study who has passed and an autopsy will be performed. Currently about 100 former players are participants and over 20 brains have been donated.

**NEVER ALONE ROSE PROJECT** - The **Never Alone Foundation** was formed by cancer survivor, former Winnipeg Blue Bomber player and executive, **Lyle Bauer**. We have partnered the last 3 years and will continue to do so for

the next 2. To date we have raised \$30,000 for the CFL Alumni Support Fund.

**CANADIAN MEN'S HEALTH FOUNDATION/ DON'T CHANGE MUCH CAMPAIGN** - For the second year we have partner with the Foundation to communicate support to men and their families across Canada. Men's Health Awareness Week is June 11-18. Two former CFL'er players, Troy Westwood, and Etienne Boulay will be highlighted this year.

## **ARLAND BRUCE LAWSUIT UPDATE**

[www.cbc.ca/sports/football/cfl/cfl-bruce-concussion-lawsuit-1.4113112](http://www.cbc.ca/sports/football/cfl/cfl-bruce-concussion-lawsuit-1.4113112)

*In response to the appeal May 3, 2017 in the BC Supreme Court.*

“The CFLAA is not surprised by the outcome of the BC Court of Appeal decision, nor the Plaintiff's last minute decision to abandon the Appeal and Action against Leo Ezerins, the CFLAA, Dr. Charles Tator and Krembil Neuroscience Center. This is clearly a case of work-place safety covered by the terms of the CBA. We have every confidence any Appeal against the CFL Teams and former Commissioner Cohon to the Supreme Court of Canada will meet with the same result.”

**A class action lawsuit has been filed in Ontario (May 29,2015) which is unrelated to the BC Lawsuit.**

[www.tsn.ca/former-players-file-200m-lawsuit-against-cfl-1.300462](http://www.tsn.ca/former-players-file-200m-lawsuit-against-cfl-1.300462)

As teams go into training camp to prepare for the 2017 season we pass along our enthusiasm and support for another great year of CFL football!

Bring it in and bring it on!  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=cySi32bA8-o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cySi32bA8-o)

**Leo Ezerins, CFLAA Executive Director**

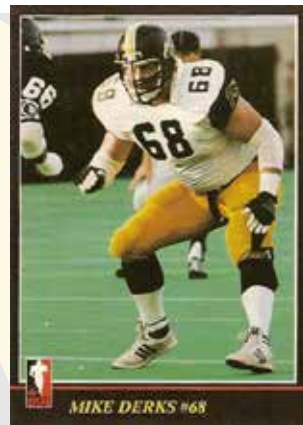




## CARD COLLECTOR



Tip Logan, 1954



Mike Derks, 1986

### CARD 6 MIKE DERKS #68

OFFENSIVE TACKLE  
HT: 6'5" WT: 300 lbs. *Free-Import*  
University of Cincinnati  
Years Pre: 2

Mike started in 8 regular season games with the club in 1985... selected as the "Tiger-Cat" Scholar Nominee for Most Outstanding Rookie of the Year in 1985... Graduated from the University of Cincinnati... saw duty as the offensive guard, tackle and center position for the Cincinnati Bengals from 1986 to 1985... colonist career by being drafted by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats is the 10th round of the 1985 Canadian college Draft. Mike is currently on the Injured Reserve for 1986 due to a knee injury which occurred in the season opener and is looking forward to re-establishing his starting position in 1987.

JOGO INC. 88



Darren Flutie, 1998

### CARD 5 DARREN FLUTIE #82

SLOTBACK  
HT: 5'10" WT: 175 lbs.  
Boston College  
Years Pre: 11 Years CFL: 8  
American **HAMILTON**

Darren is, plain and simple, one of the greatest receivers in CFL history. He entered this season with 566 career receptions for 8,553 yards and 40 touchdowns. Flutie has averaged 81 catches for 1,222 yards a season in his career. He signed with the Ticks in a free agent this year and was one of the main reasons a team that was 2-16 in 1997 jumped out to a 6-1 start this year. Darren caught 89 passes for 1,303 yards and nine TDs with Edmonton last year and made the CFL all-star team. He was also an all-star in 1992, '94 and '96.



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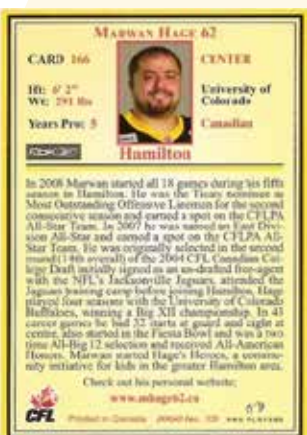
Geno DeNobile, 1962



Doug Mitchell, 1972



Marwan Hage, 2009



# HAMILTON TIGER-CAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2017



Southbrook Golf &Country Club | 4349 Regional Road 56  
Binbrook, ON L0R 1C0



**\$160 PER GOLFER / \$640 PER FOURSOME**

You do not have to be an Alumni member to play. Registration includes:

REGISTRATION GIFT › LUNCH › GOLF › CART › DINNER & PRIZES

Registration - 11 am | Shotgun start - 12:30 pm sharp!

Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 23, 2017 to:

Mark Bowden  
905 - 981 - 9409 or email [golf@relevent.ca](mailto:golf@relevent.ca)  
[www.htcaa.ca](http://www.htcaa.ca)

