

TIGER-CAT Q&A

Name: Leo Ezerins

Birth date (M/D/YY): August 10, 1956

School/Jr. Football: Whitworth University, Spokane WA; Winnipeg Hawkeyes Junior Football Club (before University)

Position(s): Tight End, Linebacker

Years with Tiger-Cats: 1983–1987

CAREER

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

Playing punt, pass, and kick and the local schoolyard. Started playing organized 6 man football at age 10 because my friends were playing. I eventually wound up playing junior football at the age of 16. It is significant because the max age was 22 so I was playing with guys a lot older. Actually a few University grads with family. I did not have a driver's license when I started so my Dad was still driving me to practice for training camp.

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

I was a "territorial" protection for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

3. Do or did you hold any records?

All time interception leader for Canadian linebackers. The most receptions as a linebacker (started my career as a tight end).

4. Do or did you have a nickname?

I did and do but cannot say in a public forum.

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

Getting to our home games early to talk to King Clancy and Harold Ballard, celebrating our Grey Cup win in 1986, Al Bruno's speeches, going to the Grey Cup 3 consecutive years, Pigskin Pete and our cheer.

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

Grover Covington, Mike Walker, Mitch Price, David Sauve, and Rod Skillman, my D-line. They protected me from the

opposing team's O-line and prolonged my career.

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

Al Bruno. He surrounded himself with good people. Although we did not have great regular season's he found a way to get the job done and get us to the CUP. He was a good man. RIP Al.

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

1986 Grey Cup. Walking onto the field after half time intermission. The score board showed the stats at the half. One number stood out. It was in RED. It was -1 total yards offense. The other number was 29-0. The score of the game. It was men against boys!

POST CFL CAREER

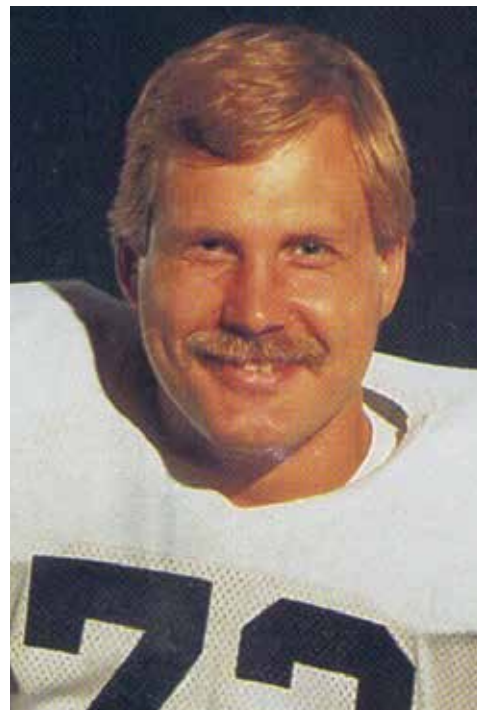
9. Tell us about your life and career after playing/working with the Tiger-Cats or CFL?

I spent the 5 years immediately following my career in my hometown of Winnipeg. Then moved out to White Rock, BC where I remained until 4 years ago. I am now a resident of the Hammer. I have 2 great children, KT and Dillon, living in BC. Dillon was born here at Joseph Brant Hospital. A career sales person and now privileged to be heading up the CFL Alumni Association. I along with a few key guys (including former teammate Ralph Scholz) founded the CFLAA back in 2009.

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

Enjoy the outdoors. Mostly hiking/walking. Enjoy peeling back the layers of the onion and getting to the truth. Sharing memories with family and friends The CFL. Going to concerts and football games especially where I have never been before.... especially with my life partner, Hamilton native and Aldershot High School's very own, Sandy Shields.

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



I have travelled Canada and the US pretty extensively. I have experienced a couple of health challenges which has taken to me to many different places.

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..." –Dr. Seuss, *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*

Being the "man behind the curtain" in the Angelo Mosca and Joe Kapp brewhaha at Grey Cup in 2011.

THE GAME

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

How wide open the game is with all the motion and different offensive schemes. You need to have a certain level of intelligence to play the Canadian game, on both sides of the ball.

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

The punt return. Allow the fair catch. Too many. Way way way too many penalties. It really slows down the game.

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

Work hard. Have fun. Good things will happen.