

SPRING FOOTBALL NEWSLETTER



Queen's
University

March 2024



Welcome to the first edition of our quarterly newsletter, covering the exciting seasons of spring, summer, fall, and winter! We're thrilled to bring you updates on upcoming events, insights from our team captains, and exciting news from the world of Queen's University athletics. Stay connected with us as we dive into the latest happenings and celebrate the achievements of our incredible athletes. Let's kick off this journey together!

Coming Up

Our Spring Football period began Friday, March 22, 2024 at Richardson Stadium. We will have fully padded practices, strength, and conditioning testing, culminating with the Gold Game.

Now streaming on [Bell Fibe TV1: the We Are Golden Docuseries](#) Seasons 1 and 2! Dive into a compelling narrative of rich history, unbreakable brotherhood, decades-long rivalries, and a legacy of championships.

Sunday, April 7, 2024 - We will host the Gold Game, our Spring intra-squad scrimmage to finalize Spring practices. The game is open to fans and alumni at 3:00 pm at [Richardson Stadium](#).

We are looking for special alumni guests for the Gold Game. If you're interested please email [Coach Snyder](#).

Thursday, July 25, 2024 - The Annual Queen's Football Golf Tournament will be hosted at the nationally ranked public course [Black Bear Ridge Golf Course & Resort](#). This enjoyable event is presented by [Engel & Völkers](#). Registration will open in April around "The Masters". This event is a foundational engagement opportunity in Queen's Football, and the feedback we have received around this event has been tremendous. It is accessible to alumni from all eras, hosted at a great venue, and will have good food, prizes, and a silent auction, making it an engaging event.

If you're interested in a sponsorship package for the Golf Tournament, please contact [Kim Wilkinson](#).

[2024 Schedule](#) has been released. We look forward to seeing you in the stands.

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024 - Save the date! Athletics Giving Day.

Recruiting Class

Our 2024 recruiting class was another strong class highlighted by great size on the line of scrimmage and speed on the perimeter.

The recruiting focus for our 2024 cycle was to:

- Improve scouting strategies (less subjected evaluations per position)
- Increase Prospect Day attendance (more evaluations early in the recruiting cycle)
- Increase unofficial visit information (mirroring official visits)
- Increase focus on target regions we labelled as our “backyard” or “pipeline regions.”

Our positional needs for the 2024 class were Offensive Line (7 commits), Running Back (4 commits) and Defensive Back (6 commits). Our Prospect Day Camp produced the highest level of returns as 86% of our Ontario high school commits attended Prospect Day. With the increased focus on our backyard and pipeline regions, we had an increase in commitments from those regions. With more recruits committing due to the proximity factor, we believe this drove a decrease in commitment due to specialized academic programs.

20 per cent of the class is from Ottawa, 17 per cent from our backyard (Kingston to Brockville) and our out-of-province pipeline BC produced 14 per cent of the class.

Our staff believes this to be one of our best recruiting classes we have brought in, while also being the most efficient process we have moved through to close the class.

Awards Night

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024 - The annual Queen’s Football Awards Night was held at The Grand Theatre in downtown Kingston.

Our community food vendor partners and parents club helped us with a first-class event.

Incredible finger foods were available during the pre-event social, guests were welcomed by members of the Queen's Pom Team, as well as our beloved Queen's Bands. The event was kicked off with a performance from the Bands.

We had several special guests and alumni in the building to help present awards and, as always, previous award winners and legendary names were celebrated throughout the evening. We encourage everyone to stay tuned for information on attending next year's event in January of 2025.

A truly Golden evening for Queen's Football.

Ride Forever.

THE JUSTIN SCHWIEG MEMORIAL TROPHY	Presented Annually to the Most Improved Player	Niklas Henning
BOB HOWES TROPHY	Presented Annually to the Most Outstanding Special Teams Player	Raheem Balogun Jr
HAL MCCARNEY TROPHY	Presented Annually to the Most Dedicated Player	Eric Colonna
DOUG HARGREAVES TROPHY	Presented Annually to the Most Outstanding Offensive Player	Jared Chisari
BILL MIKLAS TROPHY	Presented Annually to Most Committed to Academics, Athletics & Queen's	Ashton Miller-Melancon
BERK BREAN MEMORIAL TROPHY	Presented Annually to the HS Coach of the Year	Ruben Brunet
THE LOU BRUCE TROPHY	Presented Annually to the Most Outstanding Defensive Player	Justin Pace
ORRIN-CARSON TROPHY	Presented Annually to the Most Outstanding Lineman	Theo Grant & Van Wishart
THE JOHNNY EVANS	Presented Annually to the Most Valuable Player	Darien Newell
ROYAL TODD MEMORIAL TROPHY	Presented Annually to the Rookie of the Year	Brady Hennigar
COREY TRUDEAU STRENGTH & CONDITIONING AWARD	Presented Annually to the Strength & Conditioning Athlete of the Year	Brady Spafford
SHOW TEAM PLAYERS OF THE YEAR	Presented Annually to the practice players of the year	Luigi Stubbert, Ian St Arnault, & Alex Tuck

Winter Training

We finished a successful 6-week training block to start the winter.

From Jan. 8 to Feb. 16, 2024, our players lifted weights in the High Performance Center 4 days a week with our Strength & Conditioning staff. Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat.

In addition to these lifts, we had a full-team speed and compete circuit workouts on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 am. Our team was challenged to develop a championship mindset around our approach and execution to this winter phase. We saw the highest compete levels and intent that we have had since we have been here at Queen's. Overall, this Winter-1 phase was a major success as there was also a huge emphasis on team building.



Community Engagement

Community and campus engagement are a key pillar.

We initiated and hosted the first annual KASSAA Football Awards Event.

We invited the top high school players and coaches from every program in the Kingston area to be recognized at The Lang Pavilion in February. This event celebrated the 2023 KASSAA Football All-Stars. We also introduced the first annual KASSAA Coach of the Year as well as Player of the Year awards.

Overall, a major positive for community outreach and commitment to growing the local football product.

Our team has been volunteering with ExtraAwesome here in Kingston. We have also been attending other athletic events on campus, including the men's basketball playoff run, where our guys definitely made a difference!

We are also heavily involved with Women's Football here at Queen's. A member of our coaching staff is heading the Women's Program, and we hope to see continued growth in our partnership.

We also organized 60+ complimentary tickets for our players to attend a Kingston Frontenacs game.

Coach Snyder & Liberatore supported the Queen's Bands fundraising initiative this year, as we consider the Queen's Bands a cherished friend of the program.

We brought in a guest speaker for Black History Month, Augy Jones, the Executive Director of African Nova Scotian Affairs (Provincial Government), who spoke to our team, making for a night our entire program enjoyed!

Our team remains deeply committed to enhancing the campus and community experience for everyone.

