

MEN IN BLUE



May 28, 2022

'59 THUNDERBIRDS HEADLINE WOH GLASS OF '22

#84—Dave Barker

#47—Dave Lee

WALL OF HONOUR EDITION

Presented by the THUNDERBIRD FOOTBALL ALUMNI

OUR SPONSORS



COACH'S NOTE



Football alumni carry a unique status in the world of university football, north and south of the border. The sheer numbers alone are overwhelming, but when you compare the passion football alumni represent, and their life-long commitment, you quickly realize their true significance.

Led by Coach Pat Tracey, UBC Football has committed fully to our past, protecting the legacies of excellence passed down through almost 100 years of varsity football. When you think about it, this is a daunting task, but a necessary responsibility. In doing so, the culture of playing and representing those who wore the uniform previously is established.

With that in mind, please accept my sincere congratulations to the Class of 2022 being inducted onto the Frank Gnup Wall of Honour. Especially the 1959 Hardy Cup Champion Thunderbirds coached by Gnup himself. To our builders who are identified through their leadership during and after their playing careers. and to those recognized for excellence on the field, I hope this is a special moment for you and your families.

Let's all celebrate Thunderbird Football excellence this upcoming October 22 during the Casey Smith Legacy Game vs. the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

—Head Coach Blake Nill

INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

BC Lions

QB-Michael O'Connor #11

LB-Ben Hladik #46

Edmonton Elks

K-Greg Hutchins #43

Calgary Stampeders

DL-Elliott Graham #37

DB-Malcom Lee #20

FB/LS-Tom Schnitzler #48

Saskatchewan Roughriders

OL-Diego Alatorre-Montoya #50

Winnipeg Blue Bombers

OL-Brandon Sanford #56

Hamilton Tiger-Cats

DB-Stavros Katsantonis #30

LB-Nic Cross #39

LB-Jaxon Ciruolo-Brown #75

Toronto Argonauts

LB-Dan Kwamou #47

T-Birds Alumni Showing Out At CFL Camps

Alumni new and old have been proving their mettle at training camps across the country. As for the NFL, Dakota Shepley will be returning to the Seattle Seahawks camp.



UBC Well Represented at East-West Bowl

UBC showed up in numbers at the 18th edition of the East-West Bowl held at McMaster University on Saturday, May 7th. After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the top prospects showcased their talents for coveted spots on the CFL Scouting Bureau Top 20 Prospects List. Representing the 'Birds on Team West were REC-Edgerrin Williams (2), OT-Giovani Manu (77), OT-Theo Benedet (72), and DE-Lake Korte-Moore (49). The West won the game 11-8.

Watch a replay of the game here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8a3_hTat-M



THE COURAGE OF CASEY

The Courage of Casey Award was presented in 1999 to honour the former Thunderbird team captain and 1997 Vanier Cup Championship Head Coach Casey Duane Smith, son of UBC legendary coach Frank Smith and his wife Diane. After his passing, it was awarded to the player who best exemplified the traits that Casey held in the highest regard, especially during his time as a Thunderbird.

Citizenship, Athletics, Scholarly, Excellence, Youth

He was well respected in the coaching world for his knowledge, his commitment and for tirelessly promoting the Thunderbirds. In 1998, the players affixed decals onto each helmet with the words "Courage for Casey" and the number 51, his jersey number in his playing days. Casey was awarded the Arthur W. Delamont Service Award in 1999, which is presented yearly to those who exemplify Delamont's contribution of service, goodwill and cheerfulness to students and athletes. Thunderbird Football is proud to present this prestigious award and to recognize the contributions of these most deserving individuals. The commemorative plaque will be on display in the football team facility as a symbol of excellence for future Thunderbirds to strive for.



2022 WINNER: JAMES ENS

- Business and Computer Science (Sauder Business School)
- 5th-year Defensive Back
- Sherwood Park, Alberta



James exemplifies the traits that Coach Casey held in the highest regard: he is a 3-time U SPORTS Academic All-Canadian, made the Dean's honour roll ('19, '20, '21), and was the recipient of multiple scholarships and awards. James was a 3-year starter, playing halfback, cover linebacker, and free safety, as well as excelling on special teams. In 2021, he battled through a shoulder injury to make 22 defensive tackles and a key touchdown-saving pass break-up vs. rival Saskatchewan. He amassed 120 defensive tackles over his career with a season-high 21 solo tackles in 2018. Ens is a model student-athlete, a positional leader, and unit captain in film meetings; he's a coach on the field. James was a Varsity Team Academic coach, and Co-op student mentor working with other student-athletes helping them balance sport, school, and personal wellness.

"It is an honour to be added to this decorated list of players. It would not have been possible without the support of the coaching staff, the unrelenting work of the therapists and academic staff, as well as all the players past and present paving the way for my journey. I know the lessons I learned from football are truly everlasting and I hope to continue to grow in all aspects in life, building the next communities I am fortunate to be a part of. Being a Thunderbird is a lifelong commitment which I am grateful to have had the opportunity to join in. Thank you again for this honour."

–James Ens #31

WALL OF HONOUR INDUCTEES



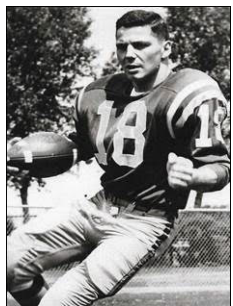
Builder: Pat Cantner (FB)

Pat has been a critical supporter of the program. Hardy Cup finalist ('81), Vanier Cup champion ('82). CFL-drafted 4th Rd, 43rd overall ('83) and a Grey Cup champion ('84).



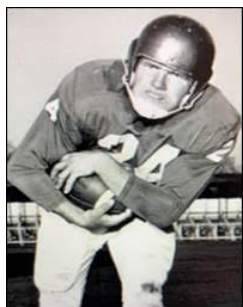
Builder: Dr. Stanley Knight (QB/DB)

Hardy Cup ('59). Two-sport athlete football ('59-'61), rugby ('60-'62). Chairman of Big Block and the Athletics Council.



1950's: Don Vassos (RB/KR/REC)

"Speedy-Don" led UBC in total yards and rushing touchdowns ('57); led UBC in rushing and scoring ('58). CFL-signed as an undrafted free-agent to BC ('59).



1960's: Ray Wickland (FB/LB)

2-time CWIAU All-Star ('61, '62). Bobby Gaul Athlete of the Year Award ('63). Drafted to the CFL in the 3rd Rd, 27th overall ('63). Two-sport athlete, rugby captain.



1970's: Al Cameron (OL)

Hardy Cup Champion ('76), 2-time CW Conference All-Star ('75, '76). CFL-drafted in the 6th Rd Pick, 49th overall to Sask.

Dominant run blocker.



1970's: John Turecki (DL)

Hardy Cup champion ('76), Hardy Cup finalist ('77). Led UBC in Sacks and TFL's ('76, '77), 3-time CW All-Star ('75, '76, '77). CFL draft—2nd Rd, 29th overall ('76).



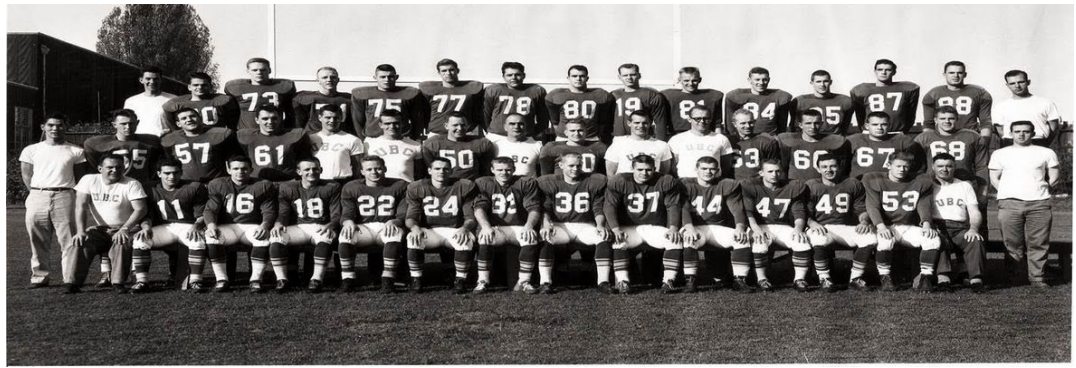
1980's: Bruce Barnett (DB)

CW All-Star ('83, '84), CFL—2nd Rd, 14th overall ('85). Inducted into the BC Football HOF. Vanier Cup champion ('82). Shrum Bowl Defensive MVP ('82).

1959

Hardy Cup Champions

Coach Frank Gnutwold guided the T-Birds to an undefeated WCIAU regular season and a



Hardy Cup title, beating Alberta 21-19 in the final. They had the league's top-scoring offence, and the stingiest defence, a unit Coach Gnutwold referred to as "the wall." Season highlights included a dominating 39-7 Homecoming victory over the SSK Huskies.



1980's: Rob Ros (TE/REC)

Hardy Cup finalist ('81, '83), Vanier Cup champion ('82, '86). CW All-Star ('81, '83, '86). Led UBC in receiving yards for four seasons. CFL draft 9th Rd, 79th overall ('85).



1990's: Dan Elliott (LB)

Hardy Cup finalist ('96, '98), Vanier Cup Champion ('97). Led UBC in solo tackles—61 ('96, '97), led CW in total tackles—34 ('96), led CW in INT-4 ('98), CW All-Star ('96, '97, '98), CIAU All-Canadian ('98).

1990's: Vince Danielsen (REC/QB)

Hardy Cup finalist ('89, '90, '92). Led CW in passing percentage ('90), yards-1,644 and touchdowns-14 ('91). CFL Draft 1st Rd, 3rd overall ('94). All-Canadian ('93).



2000's: Chris Ciezki (RB)

Led CW in rushing—1,100, YPC-8.9 and TD's-15 ('06). Led UBC in rushing ('04—'07). CW All-Star ('04—'06), CIS All-Canadian ('06), CFL-signed as an undrafted free-agent ('07).



THE TFA HUDDLE

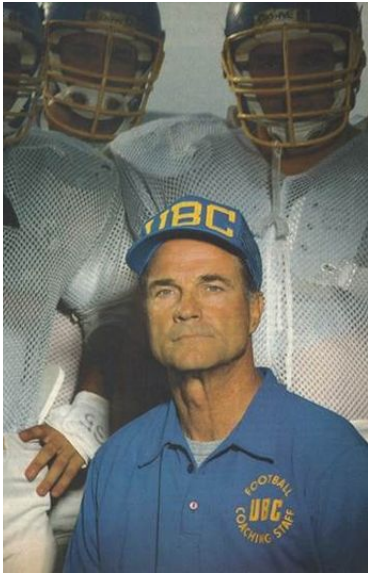


Organizing important Alumni social events is one of the primary objectives of the “NEW” Thunderbird Football Alumni. After a long difficult period of Social Distancing we are pleased to be able to have our first Alumni social event: “The TFA Legacy Golf Classic.” The precursor to this event was the Frank Gnupe Classic, which ran for over 25 years. It was always the first Thursday in July and was always sold out. Alumni from several decades came together for a day of camaraderie, Golf, Fun, and Fund raising. The Gnupe Classic was not only a great Alumni social event, it also raised a lot of money for the Thunderbird Football program.

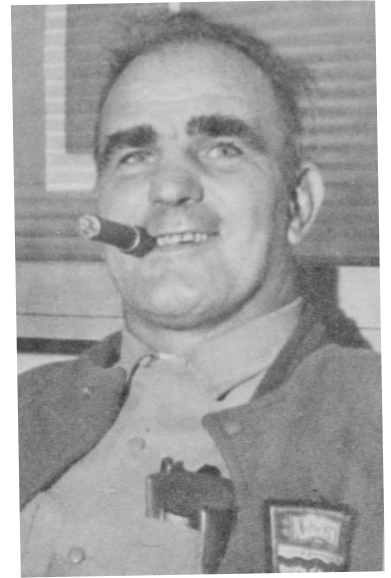


Several Alumni have asked the TFA to start or restart what was once a Great Thunderbird Football Alumni Tradition and we have responded by organizing the newest Football Alumni Classic, “The TFA LEGACY CLASSIC!” The focus of “The Legacy Classic” will be to bring Alumni together for a day of Camaraderie, Competition, Reunion, Fun—raising and Fundraising. We intend the TFA Legacy Classic to leave as great a legacy as the Gnupe Classic did for over 25 years.

We are now calling on Alumni to step up and register



themselves, or preferably a team of 4 in the Legacy Classic. Also, we are looking for Event Sponsors to help financially in putting on the “TFA Legacy Golf Classic.” We are looking for 1 Presenting Sponsor, 2 Premium Sponsors, 18 hole Sponsors as well as other sponsor opportunities. If you can help with any type of sponsorship for the TFA Legacy Classic, or would like

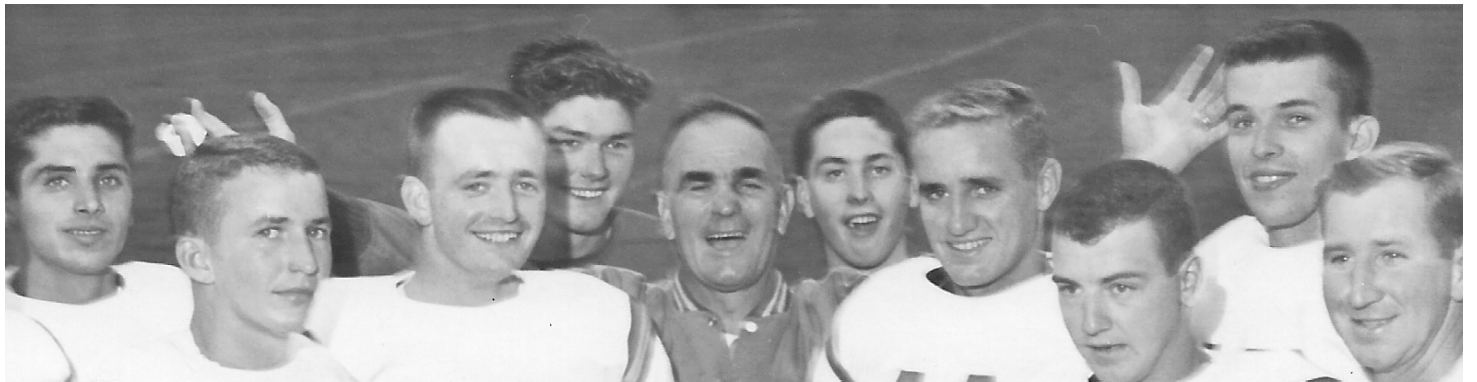


more detailed information, please contact Braydon Hobbs: braydonhobbs@hotmail.com

or Dan Smith: smity12@gmail.com

Let's all help the Inaugural TFA Legacy Classic get off to a great start.

**CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR THE TFA
LEGACY CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT**



The Courage of Casey Thunderbird Football Award

1999

AKBAL SINGH

2000

SHAWN OLSON

2001

BILL CHAMBERLAIN

KIT CHANSAVANG

2002

JULIAN RADLEIN

2003

LEON DENENFELD

2004

MATT NELSON

2005

BRADEN SMITH

2006

BLAKE SMELSER

2007

DEREK TOWNSEND

2008

GRAHAM BEST

2009

SAM CARINO



Citizenship
Athletics
Scholarly
Excellence
Youth



2010

DEVIN KAVANAGH

2011

DAVE BOYD

2012

JORDAN GRIEVE

2013

THOMAS HARRIS

2014

JOEY GABRICK

2015

BRENDON DESCHAMPS

2016

WILLIAM LATU

2017

TANNER FRIESEN

2018

DAVID HABASHY

2019

DIEGO ALATORRE

SAEED HOSAIN

2020

ZACK VINT

In memory of Casey Duane Smith former
Thunderbird team captain and Head coach
of the 1997 Vanier Cup championship team