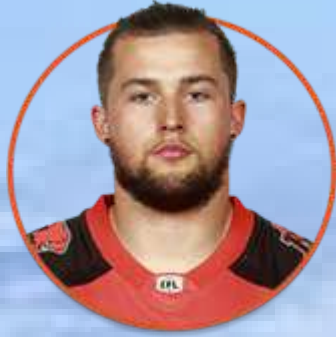


June, 2023

GRIDIRON GREATS

Presented by the
Thunderbird Football Alumni

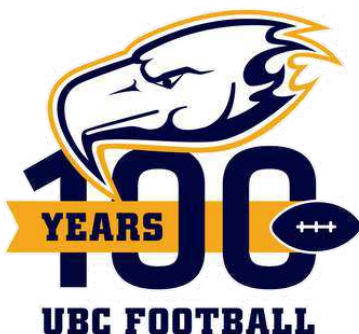


100 YEARS OF THUNDERBIRD FOOTBALL

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Thunderbirds Football, the Thunderbird Football Alumni (TFA) presents the following historical timeline, which points to a few of the many significant and intriguing moments in the Thunderbirds' history.

NOTABLE T-BIRD 100'S

- 100th game played: The 1938 Hardy Cup, a 2-1 victory over the Saskatchewan Huskies at Homecoming on Sat. Oct. 22, led by #28 Ralph “Hunk” Henderson.
- 100th game coached by Frank Gnuip: Sat. Nov. 6th vs. the Santa Clara Broncos ('65)
- 100th overall CFL draft selection: Tony Ricci (OL) by the BC Lions ('76)
- 100th game coached by Frank Smith: Sat. Sept. 16th vs. the Calgary Dinos ('83)
- 100th player selected as a team captain: K.C Steele ('83)
- 100th T-Bird player named Canada-West conference All-Star: Ron Huryn ('87)
- 100th career victory by Frank Smith: vs. Manitoba (46-25) on Oct. 22nd ('88)
- 100th T-Bird drafted in the CFL: Jordan Gagner (52nd overall by the Calgary Stampeders) ('88)
- 100th ranked player in the Top-100 Careers: David Boyd ('16)
- 100th player named USPORT/CIS all-Canadian Academic: Kaishaun Carter (Sauder Business School) ('21)
- 100th Big Block celebration: April 15th ('21). The evening also introduced the '21 UBC Sports Hall of Fame class, which featured former Thunderbird running back Akbal Singh.



Research by Pat Tracey, sourced from UBC Athletics historian Fred Hume's “The First 50 Years”, as well as from UBC collections and The Ubyyssey.

1948-1952: This stretch saw UBC register a 3-35-2 record playing in the Pacific Northwest Conference before moving over to the equally tough Evergreen Conference. Under three different coaches (Don Wilson, Orville Burke, and Hjalmer "Jelly" Anderson) UBC was over-matched for these five years, at least in football, despite having some good athletes on its roster; George Puil, Bob Hindmarch, Dave MacFarlane, Rae Ross, Vic Chapman, Cal Murphy and veteran Doug Reid, four of whom are UBC Hall of Famers and several, future CFL'ers.



Bob Hindmarch.
UBC Athletics.

Bob Hindmarch – Hindmarch was a multi-sport athlete at UBC. He received the Dr. Gordon Burke Award in 1952 and was presented the Bobby Gaul Memorial Trophy as the university's graduating Male Athlete of the Year in 1953.

1951: October 20th would be an important day for fans of the Royal Family. Princess and soon-to-be Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, while visiting Vancouver, arrived in their limo to a packed Varsity Stadium to witness their very first Canadian football game – Thunderbirds vs. Eastern Oregon. "Fascinating . . . but it's a dashed peculiar game" the Prince was heard to say as the Royal couple left the stadium.



The Royals arriving at Varsity Stadium. Alamy Stock Photo.

According to the CBC, there was a minor security incident at the game – somebody presented a football to Prince Philip to get his autograph, but his security detail intervened and snatched the ball away, deflating it to check for threats before allowing the signature.

1953: In September 1953, a 28-year-old graduate of the University of Washington by the name of Don Coryell was introduced as UBC's newest head coach.

Despite fine play from Bob Brady and Bill Kushnir, as well as one year from future CFL great Norm Fieldgate, these two seasons were lackluster save for the Pep Band's lusty renditions of "Hail UBC!" Coryell would then leave for the US.



Thunderbirds Head Coach Don Coryell talking strategy with star players Gordy Flemmons (left), and Roger Kronquist while line coach Dick Mitchell looks over Roger's shoulder.

In a few years, he became one of the NCAA's most celebrated coaches, which was followed by a stellar career as an NFL head coach which led to his being enshrined in the NFL Hall of Fame.

Don Coryell: Coaching Record

YEAR	W-L-T	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST	ACHIEVEMENTS
1953	2-7-0	117	209	
1954	0-9-0	44	157	

1953: UBC began playing exhibition games against eastern universities such as McGill, Western Ontario, and the University of Toronto.

1954: Professional football arrived in B.C. with the formation of the BC Lions. Because UBC was B.C.'s only university at the time, it was a primary source of Canadian football talent for the Lions during their early years. For 1954, 1955, and 1956, for example, at least half of the Lions' roster of Canadians was constituted by former T-Birds.



Head Coach Frank Gnupe.

1955: Gordon Shrum personally went to Hamilton, Ontario to hire former CFL player and junior football coach Frank Gnupe. Gnupe did an excellent job of promoting and selling football to both the campus and the community. Riding to campus on his bike, the opera-loving, cigar-chewing coach was one of, if not the most, recognizable figures on campus from the late 1950s through the 1960s.

1957: The bright spot of this season was the emergence of players such as Jack Henwood, Bill Crawford, Don Vassos and Roy Jukanovich. Vassos would set UBC records and play in the CFL as would Jukanovich. Crawford would go directly from UBC to play with the New York Giants and later in the CFL while Henwood would eventually be inducted into the UBC Sports Hall of Fame.

1958: UBC finally defeated the University of Puget Sound 13-7, the first win in 13 attempts dating back to the 1920s.

1959: Alberta and Saskatchewan reinstate football in August; Manitoba rejoined the conference in 1962; the new University of Calgary became the fifth member in 1964. UBC won the Hardy Cup



THE TFA HUDDLE



Second Annual Thunderbird Football Alumni Legacy Golf Classic

The 2023 TFA Legacy Golf Classic will be a great opportunity for Alumni to get together for a day of Golf and Connection with Football Alumni from all eras.

As Alumni, your participation will directly benefit current players. We have committed to raise \$100,000 for scholarships along with other important needs for our student-athletes this year. Your participation will have an immediate impact on the Educational and Athletic aspirations of our current players.

The TFA Legacy Golf Classic is limited to 133 golfers so register your foursome now! Don't wait, Early Bird Prices end on June 15.

For information on Sponsorship opportunities, please contact Taylor Nill (taylornill2@gmail.com) or Dan Smith (smity12@gmail.com).



TFA LEGACY GOLF CLASSIC

Thursday July 6, 2023

1pm Shotgun Start

Tsawwassen Springs
Golf Course



Click here to register now!



THE TFA HUDDLE



\$100K For 100 Years

2023 will be a statement year for Thunderbird Football. Coach Nill believes we have the best coaching staff in the country, especially with the addition of O-Line Coach Dan Dorazio. He also believes that the talent on the field can match up against any program in USports.

It's a fact that almost all USports football operating budgets are comparable. What separates the top-tier teams that are consistently competing for the Vanier Cup from the rest of the pack is the strength of their alumni, plain and simple.

That's why, to celebrate the 100 Year Legacy of UBC Football, the Thunderbird Football Alumni has committed to raising \$100,000 to help our Football Student-Athletes actualize their Educational and Athletic potential.

It's the support from their Alumni that provides the additional resources needed to optimize our athletes' performances and gain a competitive advantage. We need our alumni to be engaged if we're truly dedicated to being one of the country's premier programs!

We encourage all Alumni to join the effort of the TFA by participating in our two Primary Events this year: The Legacy Golf Classic (July 6th) and the Legacy Gala Dinner (October 20th, save the date!).

We also encourage all Football Alumni to become members of the Thunderbird Football Alumni. As a member of the TFA, you can help ensure the Football Program will continue to create outstanding legacies that we can all be proud of well into the future.

[CLICK HERE TO BECOME A TFA MEMBER](#)

led by RB/QB Jack Henwood and linemen George Turpin, Bill Crawford and future BC Lion and CFL Commissioner, Doug Mitchell.



The 1959 Hardy Cup Champions.

1962: UBC dominated the west, outscoring Manitoba 55-0 over two games and Saskatchewan 64-0 over two games. 'Birds Barry Carkner was the best QB to come along in a long time while several future pros were on the roster during these early 1960s, including Peter Lewis, Peter Kempf, Tom Thomson, George Brajcich and Roy Shatzko. In fact, the CFL drafted seven players from the 1963 UBC roster that boasted 10 conference All-Stars.

Frank Gnuip: Coaching Record

YEAR	W-L-T	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST	ACHIEVEMENTS
1955	1-6-1	25	149	
1956	2-7-0	65	238	
1957	1-9-0	91	394	
1958	3-6-0	156	190	
1959	6-4-0	206	173	Hardy Cup Champions

1960	3-6-0	79	131	
1961	5-3-1	130	133	Hardy Cup Champions
1962	6-4-0	185	129	Hardy Cup Co-Champions
1963	5-4-0	146	106	
1964	5-4-0	192	149	Hardy Cup Finalists
1965	2-5-2	78	111	
1966	5-3-1	158	104	Hardy Cup Finalists
1967	1-7-0	48	210	
1968	0-8-0	21	259	
1969	2-6-1	89	223	
1970	1-8-0	44	277	
1971	3-7-0	84	218	
1972	3-7-0	102	247	

1966: The 'Birds handily defeated Alberta, Saskatchewan, Calgary, Whitman, and Portland State. They were led by QB Dick Gibbons, Lance Fletcher, two-way star "Chip" Barrett and exciting young running back Dave Corcoran. The only blemish was a season-ending 34-0 loss to Manitoba.



Bill Crawford #75, George Hoar #50, and Jack Henwood #40.

1967: This season turned out to be the beginning of a decline with just one win in eight games. One of those games, the evening of October 16th, was the first-ever SFU/UBC football clash labelled the Shrum Bowl. The Shrum Bowl was designed to ignite the rivalry



between the two universities under the banner of "Big Time Football." It would also be a test of two football philosophies – the traditional UBC way, academics first, athletics not quite first, versus SFU's desired American model of scholarships and US competition and rules. The game was played before 15,000 at Empire Stadium in what would be the largest crowd ever to witness UBC play football, at least locally. The score: SFU 32, UBC 13.

The decade of the 1960s enjoyed four trips to the Hardy Cup championship game – 1961, 1962, 1964, and again in 1966. The Thunderbirds set several team and individual records including: 115 yard interception return by Ray Wickland vs. W. Washington Sept. 23rd ('61); 86 yard interception return by Stanley Knight vs. Seattle Oct. 21st ('61); 106 yard fumble return by Kee Lee vs. Manitoba,

Oct. 1st ('62), 34 carries in a game by Ron Fowler vs. SFU on Oct. 20th ('69); 362 team rushing yards vs. Pacific Univ. Nov. 1st ('69), including a 267-yard performance by Dave Corcoran.

THE OPENING OF VARSITY STADIUM

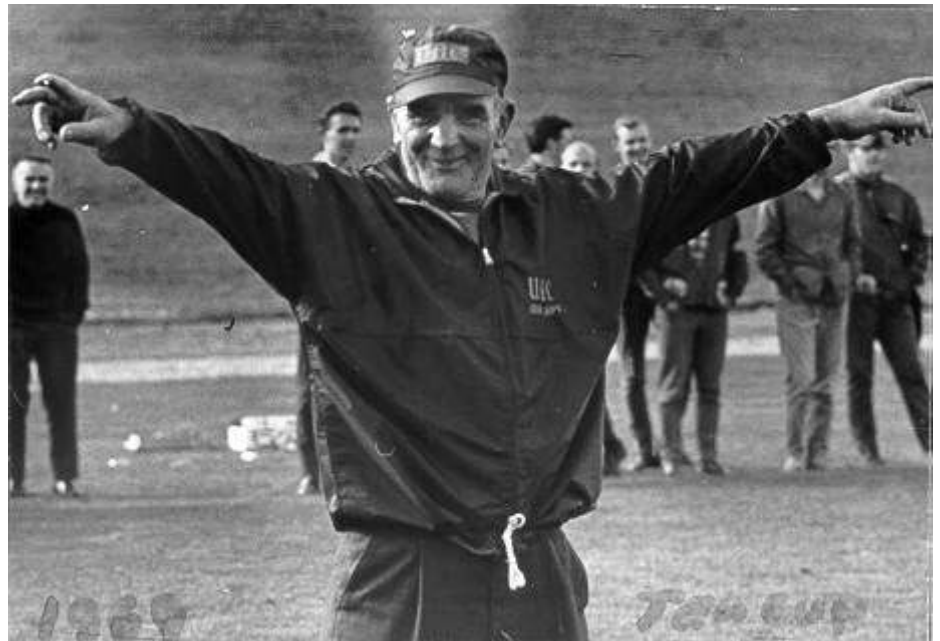
A variety of factors dictated that UBC's home to football and rugby, Varsity Stadium, which was located approximately where the Student Union Building now stands, should be replaced. The thinking of the day was that the campus would be swiftly growing in a southerly direction, so building a state-of-the-art football stadium near the southwest corner of campus seemed to make sense.

Formally opened on October 7, 1967 by Allan McGavin, a member of the UBC Board of Governors, the 3,500-seat (bench seating) Thunderbird Stadium is an aesthetic



structure that has stood the test of time. The stadium's roof, the most unique feature in the stadium's design, is suspended on cables supported by twelve concrete columns topped with large concrete Thunderbirds.

1972: Following another losing season, Frank Gnuip stepped down as Head Coach and was replaced in 1973 by one of his former players and Assistant Coach, Norm Thomas. Gnuip was dejected. He would remain on the UBC staff as an instructor in the Physical Education faculty. He had coached both football and baseball at UBC, was a father figure and mentor, dedicated to helping the community and assisting in player's career paths from 1955 through 1972. This was his life and he along with his wife really missed it.



Norm Thomas: Coaching Record

YEAR	W-L-T	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST	ACHIEVEMENTS
1973	2-8-0	122	298	

1974: This season proved to be the preview of a major change of fortunes for the UBC football program. The 1974 season saw two new “appointments”: the recruitment of a new quarterback in Danny Smith, and the introduction of a new Head Coach in Frank Smith. Frank had played in the CFL in the 1950s and had extensive college and high school coaching experience on both sides of the border.



The selection of Smith as coach was a popular one facilitated by a committee consisting of Bus Phillips, Bob Osborne and the student head of Men's Athletics, Bruce Kiloh.

Coach Smith secured a young Bob Laycoe to be his Defensive Coordinator, a move that proved to be profound. A few fresh-faced rookies joined the team this year, including Marshall Macleod, Digby Leigh, and Gary Metz who along with Danny Smith, Gordie Penn and others,

would lead UBC four years later to its first Shrum Bowl victory. Meanwhile, this 1974 season turned out to be dreadful but . . . change was about to happen.



Bob Laycoe in his coaching and playing days.

Frank Smith: Coaching Record

YEAR	W-L-T	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST	ACHIEVEMENTS
1974	1-8-0	89	341	
1975	6-4-0	293	215	
1976	6-5-0	272	258	Hardy Cup Champions
1977	5-5-1	270	174	Hardy Cup Finalists
1978	10-3-0	365	164	Hardy Cup Champions, Vanier Cup Finalists
1979	6-4-0	169	162	Hardy Cup Finalists

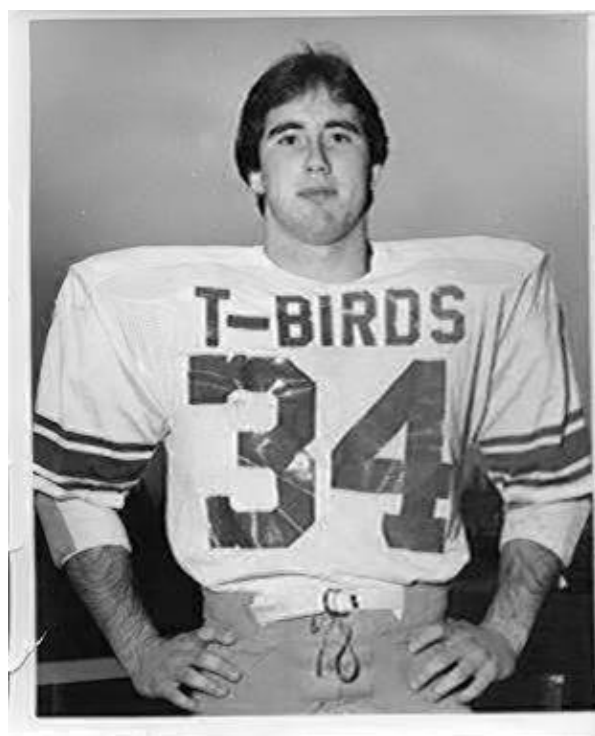
1976: September 27th, a heart attack claims the life of 59-year-old Frank Gnut. That fall, the 'Birds capture the 40th edition of the Hardy Cup on home turf, defeating the Saskatchewan Huskies 36-10.



1978: Quarterback Danny Smith becomes the first two-time conference MVP and leads the 'Birds over the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks 25-16 to win the Churchill Bowl and advanced to their first ever appearance in the College Bowl.

Frank Smith becomes the first UBC coach to be awarded the Frank Tindall Trophy as the CIAU's Coach of the Year. In his remarkable coaching career with the Thunderbirds, Smith was named CW Coach of the Year six times.

1981: Freshman sensation Glenn Steele becomes the first player in Canada West history to win both the Peter Gorman Trophy as Rookie of the Year and the Frank Gnut MVP award. He led the CIAU in rushing yards, setting a new conference record with 951 yards. The Thunderbirds became the first team to capture all four conference awards: linebacker Mike Emery was named the CW/CIAU Presidents Trophy winner as stand-up defensive player of the year, and d-lineman Jason Riley, who led the country in QB sacks, was named the conference's Metras Trophy recipient.



1982: The T-Birds dominated their conference, posting a perfect 8-0 regular season record to become the first UBC football team in 43 years to record an undefeated CW season. The T-Birds won the National Championship for the first time with a 39-14 victory over the OUA Champion Western Mustangs. Steele was named game MVP, rushing for a Vanier Cup-record 236 yards behind a stellar performance in the trenches by the offensive line and a dominating defence. The '82 Thunderbirds experienced a historic season—WIFL Champions, Vanier Cup Champions, Shrum Bowl Champions, and



Sport BC's '82 Amateur Team-of-the-Year. They established a new school record with 14 conference All-Star selections. HC Frank Smith stated his team's success was a product of its tremendous sense of togetherness, caring and family, its excellent overall ability, and the fact that it executed so very well.

1986: The 'Birds went undefeated in regular-season play and outscored CW opponents 237-82. After a monstrous 49-3 victory over the Calgary Dinos in the Hardy Cup, the 'Birds travelled to Lennoxville, Quebec where they defeated the Bishop's Gaiters 32-30 in the Churchill Bowl to win a berth in the Vanier Cup. One week later, they claimed UBC's second-ever Vanier Cup with a thrilling 25-23 win over the Western Mustangs. A total of nine UBC players were



Backup QB Eric Putoto (#13) was named the game's MVP after stepping in to lead the 'Birds on a game-winning drive that culminated in a touchdown grab by slotback Rob Ros with just four seconds left.

named Canada West All-Stars, while three were named first-team All-Canadians (Jack Beetstra, Mark Norman, Leo Groenewegen). Norman was a finalist for the Hec Crighton Trophy (CIS Most Outstanding Player) and the winner of the President's Trophy (CIS Most Outstanding Defensive Player).

1987: November 19th, Quarterback Jordan Gagner becomes the first UBC player to be awarded the CIAU Hec Crighton Trophy. Jordan Leith was named the conference's Presidents Trophy winner as Defensive Player of the Year, and Leo Groenewegen was named

the conference's Metras Trophy winner as the Most Outstanding Lineman. Leo (#66) would become the first UBC Thunderbird to play in the NFL East-West Shrine Game.



1980	3-6-1	124	189	
1981	8-3-0	235	121	Hardy Cup Finalists
1982	12-1-0	466	143	Hardy Cup Champions, Vanier Cup Champions
1983	6-5-0	236	194	Hardy Cup Finalists
1984	4-5-0	178	178	
1985	5-5-0	208	178	
1986	11-1-0	343	175	Hardy Cup Champions, Vanier Cup Champions
1987	11-2-0	335	224	Hardy Cup Champions, Vanier Cup Finalists
1988	6-3-0	226	191	
1989	5-5-0	253	256	Hardy Cup Finalists

1990	5-5-1	207	231	Hardy Cup Finalists
1991	3-7-0	251	223	
1992	7-4-0	309	232	Hardy Cup Finalists
1993	5-5-0	265	254	
1994	1-8-1	231	400	

1994: January: former 'Bird captain and assistant coach Casey Smith appointed Head Coach.

1997: The 'Birds finished the season in a first-place tie at 5-2. They rolled into the CW playoffs with the conference's #1 ranked defence and an explosive offence. After winning the Hardy Cup with a 39-12 victory, they travelled to Halifax for the Atlantic Bowl vs. the Mt. Allison Mounties. QB Shawn Olson passed for 402 yards and 5 touchdowns in a 34-29 victory. Their Vanier Cup opponent was the OQIFC Champion and perennial



Casey Smith: Coaching Record

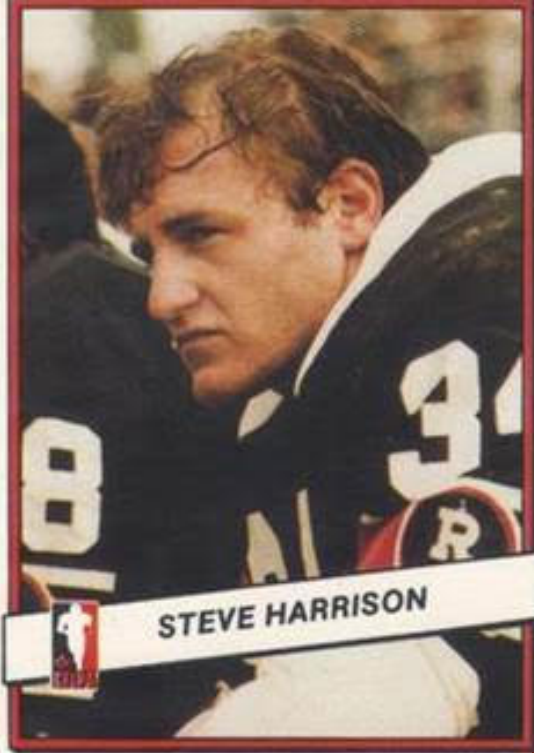
YEAR	W-L-T	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST	ACHIEVEMENTS
1995	4-6-0	303	266	
1996	6-4-0	234	239	Hardy Cup Finalists
1997	7-3-0	321	221	Hardy Cup Champions, Vanier Cup Champions

national powerhouse Ottawa Gee-Gees. The 'Birds defence was at their best, limiting the explosive Gee-Gee's to just seven points for three quarters, while the offence used their power run game and their dominant offensive line to propel CIAU All-Canadian RB Mark Nohra to 120 yards in a 39-23 victory. Nohra was named the Hec Crighton winner.



1998: November 20th: liver cancer tragically claims the life of 39-year-old Casey Smith.

1999: The Courage of Casey Award was established in 1999 to honour Casey Duane Smith (Master Degree—Kinesiology/ Coaching Science), and son of UBC legendary coach Frank Smith and his wife Diane. After Casey's passing, it was awarded to the player who best exemplified the traits that Casey held in the highest regard: Citizenship, Athletics, Scholarly, Excellence, Youth.

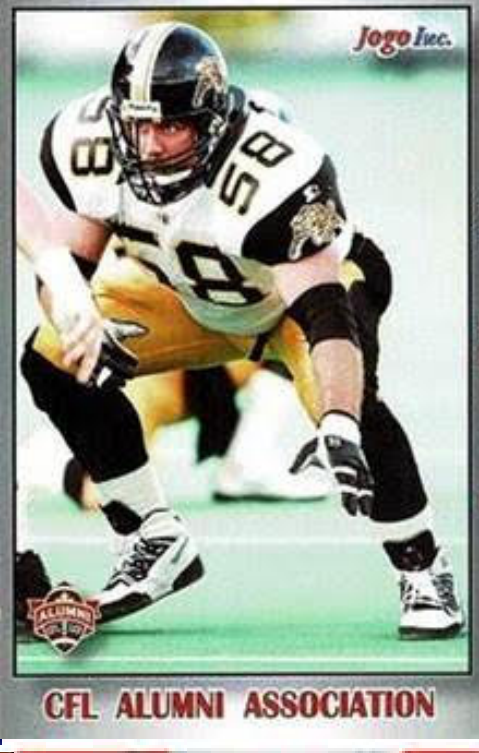


STEVE HARRISON



Eskimos

Mark Norman



Jogo Inc.

CFL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Jason Riley 58



2000

VINCE DANIELSEN

JOGO



JOGO

224

Darron McField



LEO GROENEWEGEN

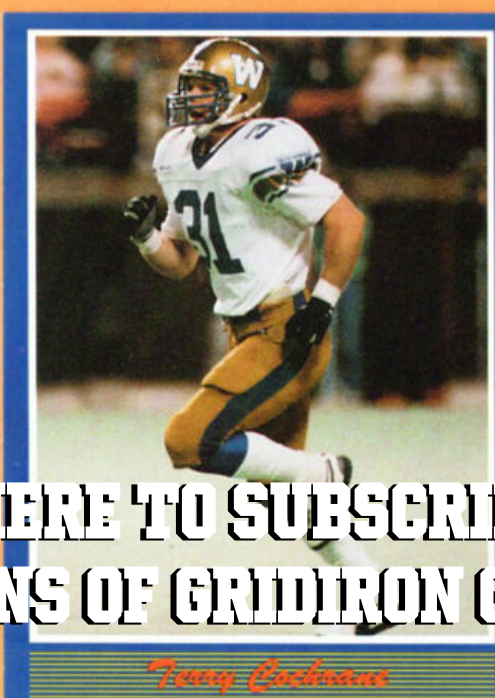
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ROY SHATZKO

EDMON.



Terry Cochrane

W I N N I P E G



PAT CANTNER #33



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