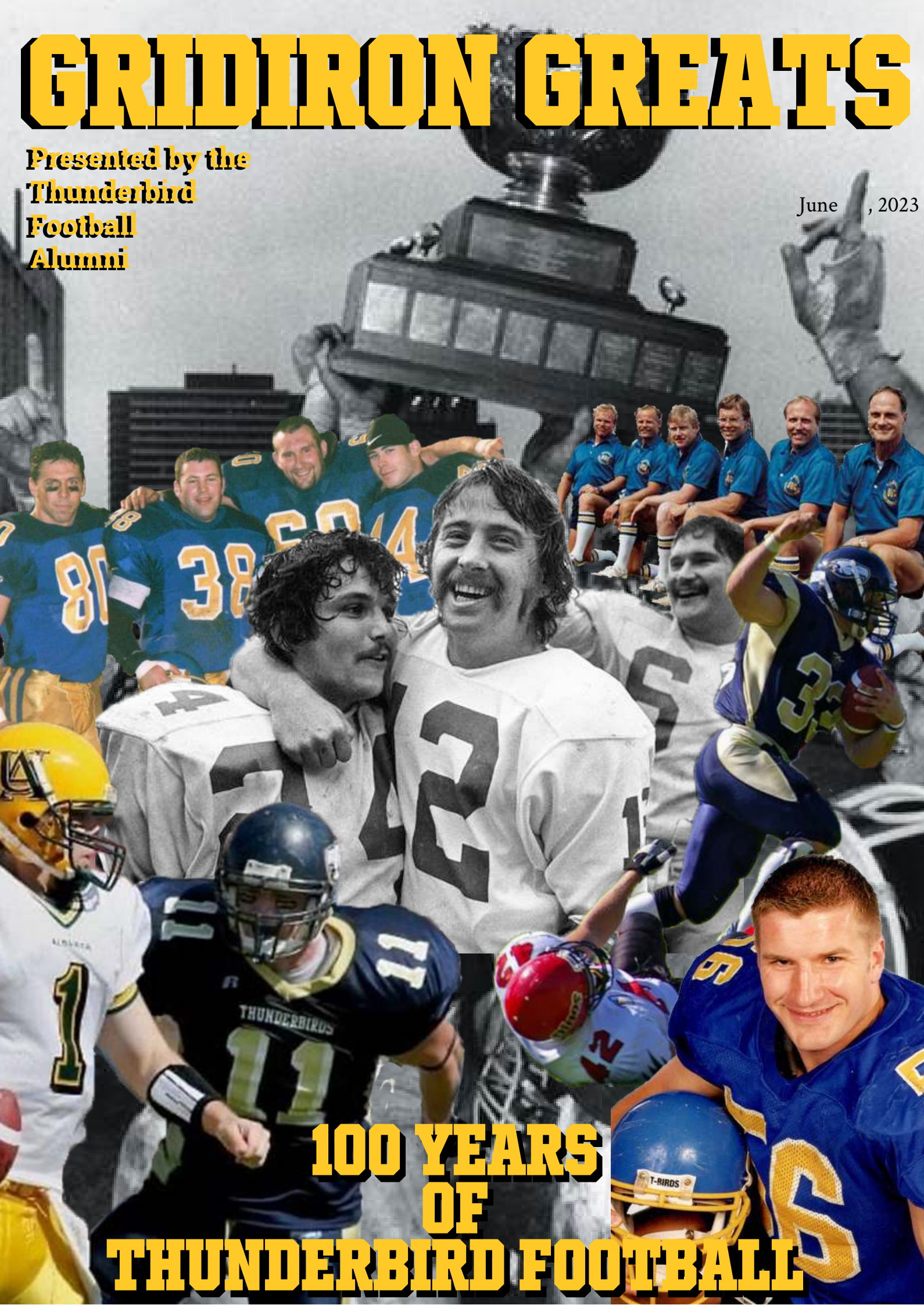


GRIDIRON GREATS

Presented by the
Thunderbird
Football
Alumni

June , 2023



100 YEARS
OF
THUNDERBIRD FOOTBALL

T-BIRDS FOOTBALL TURNS 100

Since 1923, more than 2,200 players have donned the Blue and Gold of UBC. This year marks the 100th season of Thunderbird Football and celebrates all those who have left their mark on the program.

Legendary coaches have developed UBC into one of the winningest programs in Canadian University Football history. From the heroics of the past gridiron legends to the talented athletes of today, Thunderbird football has captured the spirit of champions for generations.

Over the past century, the program has accumulated: 350 conference wins, 250 conference All-Stars, 185 CFL draft picks, 129 Academic All-Canadians, 94 National All-Canadians, 74 CFL combine participants, 49 Wall of Honour inductees, 48 conference award winners, 24 national award winners, 19 UBC Athletics major award winners, 17 UBC Sports HOF inductees, 17 Shrum Bowl victories, 16 players signed to NFL contracts, four National Championships, and four undefeated seasons.

The uniforms and logos may have changed over the decades, but what remains the same today is that each player carries the spirit of the Thunderbird as they run onto the field.

The following historical timeline points to a few of the many significant and intriguing moments in the Thunderbirds' football history. The war years of 1943-44 and the pandemic-cancelled 2020 season are excluded.



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.

1923: B.C.'s first official football league consisted of YMCA, Ex-King George, St. Marks, and UBC. Fall practices were led by Art Anglin and captain Lever Bates in preparation for exhibition games being played on December 25, 1923. UBC's first league game took place on January 12, 1924. Since UBC participated in B.C.'s original football league of 1923/24, and the other teams have long since ceased to exist, UBC has the record as the longest continuous football team and program in B.C. history.



1929 Hardy Cup Champions. Photo source: UBC Athletics

1925: Led by Dr. Gordon Burke, Canadian Rugby-Football was adopted as a minor sport on campus.

1928: A motion is put forth by the Men's Athletic Committee to adopt Canadian Rugby-Football as a major sport on campus. The student vote was 205-119 in favour.

1929: The forward pass is allowed for the first time, provided the pass was not within 25 yards of the goal line. UBC was a small university but was blessed with a number of outstanding athletes on campus at this time. Two of them, Gavin Dirom and "Cokie" Shields, alongside team captain Oliver Camozzi, led the Blue & Gold to two victories over Saskatchewan to capture the 1929 Hardy Cup.

1930: It was Gordon Shrum who led UBC to inclusion into the Western Canadian Inter-University Athletic Union, meaning UBC teams in several sports including football would be in competition with the Universities of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In the fall of 1930, following training camp at Bowen Island, UBC opened with an exhibition game against the defending Grey Cup champion Hamilton Tigers.

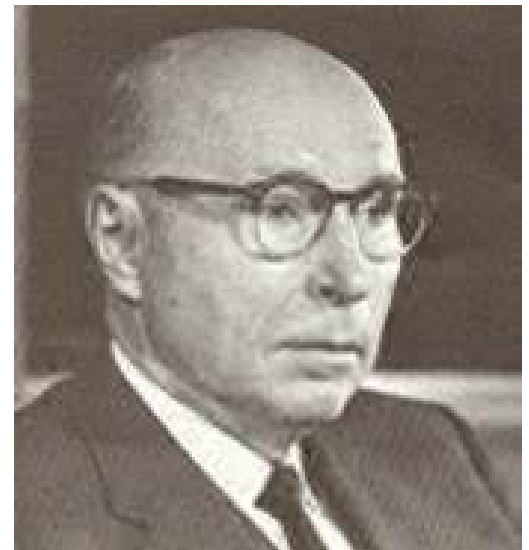


Photo source: UBC Athletics

Dr. Gordon Burke: Coaching Record

YEAR	W-L-T	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST	ACHIEVEMENTS
1925	1-3-0	16	136	
1926	0-3-0	6	50	
1927	4-3-1	55	62	B.C., Upton Cup Champions
1928	6-2-1	151	58	B.C. Champions
1929	7-2-0	103	35	Hardy Cup Champions
1930	6-4-0	96	99	
1931	3-4-1	29	49	Hardy Cup Champions
1932	1-5-0	13	76	
1933	2-3-1	32	42	Hardy Cup Champions
1934	0-7-0	17	176	
1935	0-4-0	0	237	
1936	0-4-0	12	34	

During his twelve years as Head Coach, "Doc" led the University to three Hardy Cup Championships and two B.C. titles. Burke was a medical doctor who found time within his ongoing professional practice



to coach not only the varsity team but also the junior varsity and intermediate football teams. Burke was very much respected by his players. He was a serious man and in his talks to his players would plead with them with tears in his eyes. He was honoured in 2013 with induction into the BC Football Hall of Fame.

1934: The name Thunderbirds was chosen and adopted by UBC's teams. Years later during halftime at the Homecoming football game ('48), this initiative was acknowledged and official permission to use this name was granted by the West Coast native peoples for whom this powerful and revered mythical creature meant so much.

1937: October 2—Varsity Stadium opens at the centre of UBC campus.

Maury Van Vliet: Coaching Record

YEAR	W-L-T	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST	ACHIEVEMENTS
1937	3-4-0	34	49	
1938	9-2-0	134	56	Hardy Cup Champions
1939	10-0-0	163	40	Hardy Cup Champions
1940	1-3-0	25	42	
1941	0-1-0	5	12	

1938: Tommy Williams scored three touchdowns as UBC beat the University of Alberta for the Hardy Cup. The following season, Coach Van Vliet won his second consecutive Hardy Cup by defeating Saskatchewan 27-9 over two games.





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 (taylor_nill2@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](#)

1939: The team emerged to be one of UBC's best ever. It was UBC's first undefeated football team, going 10-0 and being crowned B.C. "Big Four" champion to go with its Hardy Cup. It was a win against Victoria led by Williams, Freddie Smith, Hank Stradiotti, Johnny Pearson, and UBC Hall of Famer Jim Harmer that gave UBC, the "Wonder Team," this hard-fought 1939 title.



"Wonder Team" 1939 Champions. Photo source: UBC Athletics

1940: A team was organized this year but did not compete for the Hardy Cup despite the fact the Cup was resting in UBC's trophy case in the Main Library. Football seemed to be the one major sport that was all but eliminated during the war years.

1942: UBC played six exhibition games, three of which were against Canadian Army teams.

1945: Football was fully back on campus and it featured players such as Hall of Famers Herb Capozzi and Reg Clarkson, along with Dimitri Goloubef, all three future CFL players. This year the 'Birds took their

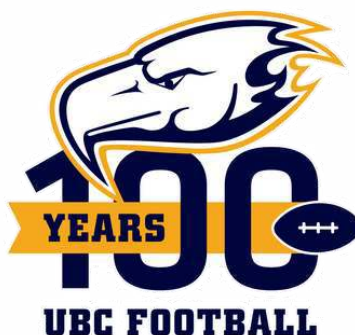
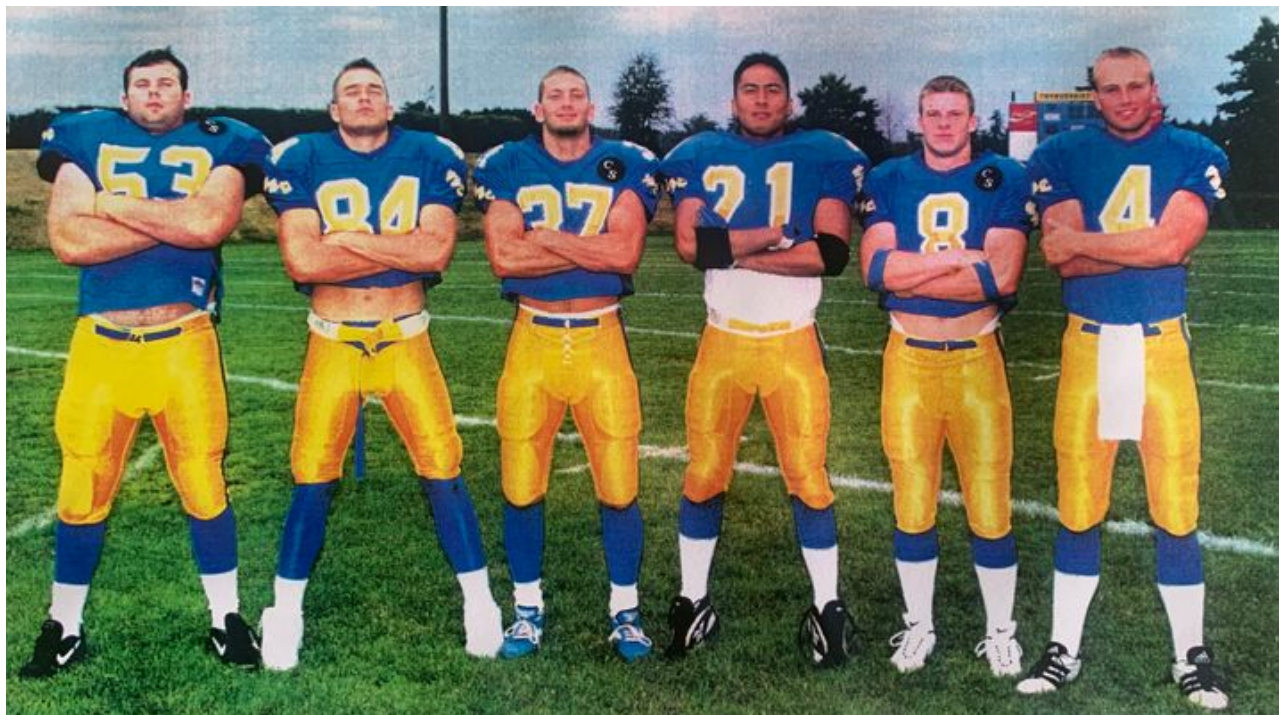
sixth Hardy Cup, defeating Saskatchewan before beating Alberta 36-16.

1946: UBC joins the US-based Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference. UBC's new football coach was Greg "Hardrock" Kabat.

Greg Kabat: Coaching Record

YEAR	W-L-T	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST	ACHIEVEMENTS
1945	2-2-0	42	23	Hardy Cup Champions
1946	0-7-0	39	169	
1947	1-7-0	65	183	

Stay tuned for the next 77 years of UBC Football history in the upcoming issues of Gridiron Greats.



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GRIDIRON
GREATS**

