

UBC THUNDERBIRD FOOTBALL



ALL-CENTURY TEAM | 1923-2023

Thunderbird Football Association is pleased to unveil the 100th Anniversary “All-Century” team. This select group is represented by PIONEER players | 1920s-1970s and MODERN DAY players | 1980s-2020s who have helped build the Thunderbird legacy. UBC is one of the most celebrated programs in the country having played in 848 regular season-playoff games. Accomplishments: 190 CFL draft picks | 145 academic all-Canadians | 130 conference all-Stars | 100 national all-Canadians | 80 CFL combine invitees | 62 East-West bowl participants | 51 conference award winners | 34 Hardy Cup finals | 23 NFL camps | 17 Conference championships | 17 Shrum Bowl victories | 16 NCAA-NFL Bowl game participants | 16 UBC Bobby Gaul Memorial Awards | 14 Bowl game MVP awards | 13 National award winners | 6 CIAU-CIS Bowl championships | 4 National championships | 4 Hec Crighton Awards. Throughout the 100 years of football at UBC, many great players have taken the field and become legends. To meet the selection criteria, a player must have obtained a minimum of three years as a varsity letterman. Over 2,200 players have achieved varsity status including 143 that have completed all five years of eligibility.

The process to select and celebrate the historic team began in the fall of 2023, with the appointment of a blue-ribbon panel consisting of former UBC head coaches, team captains, members of the national championship teams, committee members of the UBC Sports Hall of Fame and the Frank Gnuip Wall of Honour. Each panel member has a deep appreciation for the history of the sport at UBC, and the legacy of its teams and players. The panel recognizes that many of the pioneer era athletes starred at multiple positions and named them to one position to strengthen the overall team. A team that would challenge some of the very best from all other Canadian University teams in a championship game. The unifying theme of the 55-players selected is that their performance on the field changed the game. They embodied the spirit of the Thunderbird and their talent was undeniable, each impacted how the game is played and the expectation of their positions.

The panel recognized the many talented players who played significant roles and impacted games as a special teams captains and the elite players who lettered in only one or two seasons: Norm FIELDGATE | TE-LB 1953, Don VASSOS | RB 1957-58, Doug MITCHELL | LB-DE 1959, Barry CARKNER | QB 1961-62, Peter KEMPF | K 1962, Peter LEWIS | OL-DL 1962-63, Dave GIBBONS | LB 1962-63, Laurence “Chip” BARRETT | DB 1965-66, Al CAMERON | OL 1975-76, Dave KIRZINGER | OL 1976-77, Glenn WALLACE | RB 1976-77, Tom REIMER | DB 1976-77, Paul PEARSON | WR 1977, John MACKAY | RB 1978, Steve HARRISON | LB 1981-82, Tom DIXON | K-P 1983-84, Mike TORRESAN | OL 1983.84, Bob SKEMP | OL 1984, Ron CRICK | DL 1986, Shea EMRY | LB 2007, Victor MARSHALL | REC 2010, Donovan DALE | DL 2013-14, Terrell DAVIS | LB 2014-15, Taylor LOFFLER | DB 2015, Mitch BARNETT | LB 2015, Nick CROSS | LB 2019, Jerrell CUMMINGS | DB 2023-24, and Sam DAVENPORT | WR 2023-24.



Don ADAMIC Bruce BARNETT Mark BEECROFT Jack BEETSTRA Mike BELLEFONTIANE Theo BENEDET Bob BEVERIDGE Herb CAPOZZI Sam CARINO Bill CRAWFORD Chris DAVIES Marcus DAVIS

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ALL-PURPOSE (10)

Gordon "Cokie" SHIELDS | 1927.28.29
 Doug REID | 1942.46.47.48.49
 Jack HENWOOD | 1956.57.58.59
 Al CHORNEY | 1975.76.77.78
 David SINGH-SIDOO | 1978.79.80.81.82
 Lou DESLAURIERS | 1980.81.82.83
 Matt PEARCE | 1985.86.87.88
 Mike BELLEFONTAINE | 1985.86.87.88
 Roger HENNIG | 1987.88.89.90.91
 Grayson SHILLINGFORD | 1993.94.95

Honourable Mentions | All-Purpose:

Doug MCINTYRE | 1929.31.32.33
 Jim STEWART | 1987.88.89.90
 Vince DANIELSEN | 1989.90.91.92.93
 Sandy BEVERIDGE | 1999.00.01.02

KICKER | PUNTER (2)

Gary METZ | 1974.75.76.77.78
 Quinn van GYLSWYK | 2013.14.15

Honourable Mentions | Kicker-Punter:

Duncan O'MAHONY | 1997.98.99.00
 Shawn McISAAC | 2005.06.07.08

RETURNERS (2)

Marcus DAVIS | 2014.15.16.17
 Derek TOWNSEND | 2003.04.05.06.07

Honourable Mentions | Returners:

Spencer BETTS | 2008.09.10.11
 Alex MORRISON | 2013.14.15.16.17

RUNNING BACKS | (3)

Gordon PENN | 1972.75.76.77.78
 Glenn STEELE | 1981.82.83.84
 Mark NORHA | 1993.94.95.96.97



Al
CHORNEY



Dave
CORCORAN



Brad
COUTTS



Lou
DESLAURIERS



Dwayne
DERBAN



Jerry
DOBROVOLNY



Andrew
ENGLISH



Mike
EMERY



Curtis
GALICK



Javier
GLATT



Billy
GREENE



Leo
GROENEWEGEN



Roger
HENNIG



Jack
HENWOOD



Jack
HIROSE

Honourable Mentions | RB/H-Back:

Tommy WILLIAMS | 1936.37.38.39
 George PUIL | 1948.49.50.51.52
 Akbal SINGH | 1996.97.98.99
 Chris CIEZKI | 2003.04.05.06.07

QUARTERBACKS (3)

Danny SMITH | 1974.75.76.77.78
 Billy GREENE | 2008.09.10.11.12
 Michael O'CONNOR | 2015.16.17.18

Honourable Mention | Quarterback:

Jordan GAGNER | 1984.85.86.87.88
 Shawn OLSON | 1996.97.98.99.00

FULL BACK | HB (1)

Dave CORCORAN | 1966.67.68.69.70

Honourable Mentions | FB-TE:

Pat CANTNER | 1979.80.81.82
 Julian RADLEIN | 1999.00.01.02
 Lucas ROBERTSON | 2019.21.22.23

TE | FLANKER (6)

Evan JONES | 1975.76.77.79
 Chris DAVIES | 1975.76.77.78.79
 Rob ROS | 1981.82.83.84.86
 Andrew ENGLISH | 1992.93.94.95
 Brad COUTTS | 1996.97.98.99.00
 Trivel PINTO | 2015.16.17.18

Honourable Mentions | TE-Flanker:

Tom VLASIC | 1984.85.86.88.89
 Craig KELLER | 1985.86.87.88.89
 Jordan GRIEVE | 2008.09.10.11.12
 William WATSON | 2014.15.16.17

OFFENSIVE LINE (8)

Bill CRAWFORD | 1955.56.57.58.59
 Jerry DOBROVOLNY | 1979.80.81.82
 Don ADAMIC | 1981.82.83.84.85
 Leo GROENEWEGEN | 1983.84.85.86
 Bob BEVERIDGE | 1993.94.95.96.97
 Dakota SHEPLEY | 2014.15.16.17
 Theo BENEDET | 2019.21.22.23
 Giovanni MANU | 2019.21.22.23

Honourable Mentions | O-Lineman:

Hank STRADIOTTI | 1936.37.38.39
 Bob BRADY | 1952.53.54
 George BRAJCICH | 1962.63.64.65.66
 Pieter VANDEN BOS | 1979.80.81.82

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Evan JONES



Stavros KATSANTONIS



Kevin KONAR



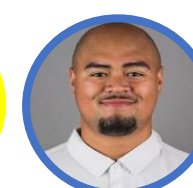
Jordan LEITH



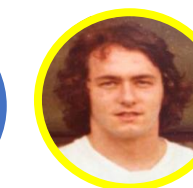
Dave MACFARLANE



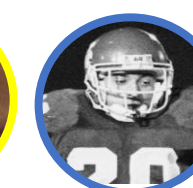
Scott MCCUAIG



Giovanni MANU



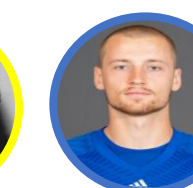
Gary METZ



Mark NORHA



Mark NORMAN



Michael O'CONNOR

DEFENSIVE LINE (6)

Herb CAPOZZI | 1945.46.47
 Roy SHATZKO | 1960.61.62.63.64
 Jason RILEY | 1979.80.81.82
 Dwayne DERBAN | 1982.83.84.85.86
 Tyson St. JAMES | 1996.97.98.99
 Scott MCCUAIG | 2005.06.07.08

Honourable Mentions | D-Lineman:

Roy JOKANOVICH | 1955.56.57.58
 Daaron MCFIELD | 1996.97.98.99
 Connor GRIFFITHS | 2015.16.17.18
 Kyle SAMSON | 2019.21.22.23

LINEBACKERS (6)

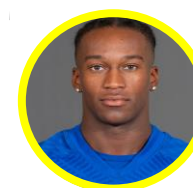
Ralph "Hunk" HENDERSON | 1934.36.37.38
 Dave MACFARLANE | 1948.49.50.51
 Kevin KONAR | 1976.77.78.79
 Mike EMERY | 1979.80.81.82
 Jack BEETSTRA | 1982.83.84.85.86
 Javier GLATT | 1999.00.01.02



Matt PEARCE



Gordon PENN



Trivel PINTO



Jason RILEY



Rob ROS



Roy SHATZKO



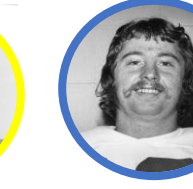
Dakoda SHEPLEY



Gordon SHIELDS



Grayson SHILLINGFORD



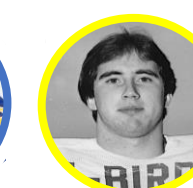
Danny SMITH



David SINGH-SIDOO



Tyson St. JAMES



Glenn STEELE



Derek TOWNSEND



Quinn van GYLSWYK

Honourable Mentions | Linebacker:

Ray WICKLAND | 1960.61.62.63
 Cal MCINTOSH | 1991.92.93.94
 Dan ELLIOTT | 1994.95.96.97.98
 Ben HLADIK | 2017.18.19

SECONDARY (8)

Jack HIROSE | 1977.78.79
 Mark BEECROFT | 1978.79.80.81.82
 Bruce BARNETT | 1981.82.83.84
 Mark NORMAN | 1983.84.85.86
 Jordan LEITH | 1984.85.86.87
 Curtis GALICK | 1993.94.95.96.97
 Sam CARINO | 2007.08.09.10.11
 Stavros KATSANTONIS | 2015.16.17.18

Honourable Mentions | D-Backs:

Bernie GLIER | 1978.79.80.81.82
 Mark NYKOLAICHUK | 1985.87.88
 Chris HOOPLE | 1996.97.98
 Malcom LEE | 2015.16.17.18

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LEGENDS BOWL vs CIAU ALL-STARS

The 100th celebrations profiled many of the greatest players, teams and seasons in school history. Inevitably the question was asked, who would win in a game between the T-Birds all-decade teams?. 1950s vs 1970s, 1980s vs 2000s, or the Vanier Cup teams | 1982 vs 1997 or 1986 vs 2015 and what team was the best in school history 1939 or 1982. Then the prognosticators wondered how UBC would match-up in a hypothetical game against many of the stars of Canadian University football. A game similar to the present day U SPORTS East-West Bowl, a Thunderbird roster filled with many of the most prolific players in school history for a “Legends Bowl Championship”. What-If...

Exhibition Game: Headline reads “UBC WINS... dominates both sides of the ball versus a talented Canada-West squad”. Special teams coach Paul ORAZIETTI praises the kicking of Quinn van GYLSWYK and Gary METZ. Two key highlights were a blocked punt by Roger HENNIG and the long missed field goal return by Lou DESLAURIERS. The play of the game was by Derek TOWNSEND, Grayson SHILLINGFORD and “Cokie” SHIELDS as they executed a triple reverse on the opening kickoff behind the key blocking of Dave CORCORAN, Jack BEETSTRA and “Hunk” HENDERSON. The strength of the ‘Birds was evident early as they showed their offensive weapons and versatility opening with the read option series utilizing the ball handling skills of QBs Billy GREENE, and Jack HENWOOD with the triple threat backfield of Mark NORHA, Glenn STEELE and Gordon PENN. QB Michael O’CONNOR led all passers hitting receivers Evan JONES, Rob ROS, Brad COUTTS and all-purpose back Doug REID for touchdowns. Leading up to the game the CW defensive front got most of the headlines but it was the T-Birds offensive line that proved to be the difference as Bill CRAWFORD, Don ADAMIC and Bob BEVERIDGE repeatably opened holes for the star studded backs while limiting the their opponents to just 1-QB pressure. The defence was stout as the front held WIFL rushers to just 75-yards. Bruce BARNETT blocked a field goal, Dwayne DERBAN and Tyson St. JAMES each had a QB sack in the contest. Linebackers Mike EMERY and Kevin KONAR led all T-Birds with 8 solo tackles each. The secondary was flying around all game with the two-deep match coverage of Mark BEECROFT and David SINGH-SIDOO. DBs AI CHORNEY, Stavros KATSANTONIS and Mark NORMAN combined for multiple pass break-ups and had 2-interceptions.



Photo credit: Dan O’Connor UBC Communications (‘83)

Legends Bowl Championship: Headline reads "UBC stars defeat the CIAUs best with a spectacular last minute drive". Second down with the ball on the ‘Birds 15-yard line the CIAU team faked a power lead and as the QB dropped back he is forced out of the pocket by a blitzing Javier GLATT and is sacked by Jason RILEY and Scott MCCUAIG. Setting up the craziest play of the game – the ball is scooped up by Herb CAPOZZI who laterals the ball to Sam CARNIO, following the blocking of Jordan LEITH and Jack HIROSE just before going out of bounds he tossed it to Curtis GALICK who is finally tackled on the 45 yard line. First down UBC with just 35 seconds remaining in the game. From the spotters booth Coach Casey SMITH and offensive coordinator Shawn OLSON deploy the extra receiver no-huddle package they had worked on since training camp. With the protection of the stellar O-line led by future NFLers Giovanni MANU, Dakoda SHEPLEY and Theo BENEDET, QB Danny SMITH called “90 Read”. He then meticulously marched the T-Birds down the field - hitting flanker Andrew ENGLISH on a slant, Mike BELLEFONTAINE on a drag route and speedster Trivel PINTO down the sideline moving the ball to the 2-yard line with just 5-seconds remaining on the clock. The ensuing time out was filled with deception and intrigue as the ‘Birds aligned in three sideline huddles and personnel groupings. Coach Frank SMITH had the RBs, TEs and FBs, coach Blake NILL had the offensive line and jumbo package subs Roy SHATZKO and Dave MACFARLANE. Frank GNUP had all three QBs, the receivers and both kickers. Back in training camp when many of the players were reminiscing past gridiron glory, the coaches were comparing “Do-Over” plays from past seasons in preparation for just this moment. When the T-Birds ran onto the field they had shifted to an unbalanced line 3-TE heavy package with all-purpose backs Marcus DAVIS and Matt PEARCE behind all eight offensive lineman. When the whistle blew to start the play, the T-Birds perfectly executed a flip formation motion and leaked the both backs, causing the CIAU defenders to track and switch coverage while adjusting their linebackers and down lineman in the run gaps versus the over shifted alignment. CW had scouted past Shrum Bowl games and double covered star redzone target Chris DAVIES, SMITH went under center to show QB sneak then he reversed to fake a sweep to DAVIS and hit uncovered tackle eligible Leo GROENEWEGEN to WIN THE GAME. A game for the books answering the “What-If” and beginning the legacy stories at alumni events for years to come with “Remember-When”.