

Western University | Western Mustangs

# FOOTBALL

MAY 2024



## INSIDE

- Coaches Message
- Save the Dates
- East-West Bowl
- Football Schedule
- And More

# COACHES MESSAGE

-HEAD COACH GREG MARSHALL



**G**reetings Mustangs alumni, supporters and friends. We have updated the look of our newsletter and I hope you enjoy it. Special thanks to Deborah Coward, Manager of Communications, for her work in changing the format and putting this together.

With the school year now over, we begin the final preparation for the 2024 season. Approximately half our team members stay in London over the summer, the rest heading back home across the country. Our report day for training camp is Friday, Aug 9 and we will begin practicing on Saturday, Aug 10. We open the season on Sunday, Aug 25 in Ottawa against the Gee-Gees. We have a strong group of returning players and are optimistic about the upcoming season. We return our entire offensive & defensive lines and have added some very talented recruits. Running backs Keon Edwards & Keanu Yazbek have both recovered from fractured ankles. Quarterbacks Evan Hillock & Jerome Rancourt have a talented receiving group to work with. All-Canadian safety Jackson Findlay and Linebacker Riley McLeod will lead an experienced defense. Brian Garrity is back to handle the kicking. With the depth and experience we have coming back, I expect a very competitive training camp. The OUA will be strong this year. Queen's, Windsor & Laurier will all be strong again. York, Toronto & Guelph all have new coaching staffs, so we expect significant changes with those teams.

The 2024 Adopt a Mustang Campaign is now underway. I've included the links to donate in this newsletter. Funds raised from this campaign are used to enhance the student-athlete experience for our players. I have also included information on our Athletic Financial Awards or scholarships in this newsletter. We are able to compete at the highest level because of the support we receive from donations. Fundraising events like the Wall of Champions dinner and Golf Tournament raise significant funds, but the majority of our funding comes from individual donations. Any sized gift is sincerely appreciated and goes directly to our football program. If you ever have any questions about donations, please reach out to me directly. Please take the time to consider making a donation to Mustangs football. This tradition of our football program at Western is the best in the country and with your help and support we will continue to build on it each year. The Golf Tournament is on Fri June 14 and is filling up fast. If you plan on playing, please get your registration in soon. The registration link is included in this newsletter.

Thanks for all your support and I look forward to seeing you at the Golf Tournament or at a game this fall.

*Greg Marshall*



## 2024 MUSTANGS FOOTBALL

# SCHEDULE



AUG. 25  
1PM



SEPT. 1  
7PM



SEPT. 7  
5PM



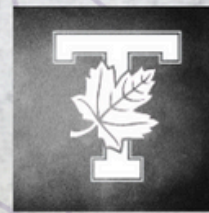
SEPT. 14  
1PM



SEPT. 28  
1PM



OCT. 5  
1PM



OCT. 11  
7PM



OCT. 19  
1PM

AWAY

HOME

[WESTERNMUSTANGS.CA/TICKETS](https://westernmustangs.ca/tickets)

*#RunWithUs*





# Make an Impact: Donate to Western Mustangs Football

Every donation, no matter the amount, is sincerely appreciated and it all goes directly to our football program. Please consider giving to support Mustangs Football. If you are a donor already, thank you so much for the support.

## Athletic Financial Awards (AFA's)

AFA's that we provide to our student athletes are completely funded through donations and fundraising. The university does not fund any of these awards centrally. In order for us to compete nationally and attract the best student-athletes from across the country, we have to be able to offer them an AFA.

We are permitted by OUA rules, to award a maximum of \$5,000 to a student-athlete each year. With the rising costs of tuition and housing, these awards make it possible for our players to afford to study and play at Western.

Our players must be full-time students and achieve a minimum of 70% to qualify. Last year we awarded over \$300,000 in total for these awards and supported 74 student athletes.

AFA's allow our students to spend more time focusing on academic and athletic success. Last year we had over 30 Academic All-Canadians (student athletes who achieved an 80% average or higher). In previous years, incoming freshman student-athletes had to have a minimum of 80% average in their final year of high school. That rule has changed. They now just need to be admitted as a full-time student to the university. This change will not impact us very much. Almost all programs at Western require over an 80% average to be admitted.

## Fundraising Events

Some of our support comes from fundraising events, like our annual golf tournament. Last year we were able to raise enough money through hole sponsorships and the silent auction, to raise over \$20,000 at the golf tournament. This was used to support AFA's. Some awards come from direct donations and others from endowed awards, that generate approximately \$40,000 annually. We are hoping to grow this to support for our student athletes.

Funds from donations and fundraising events are also used to support many other areas of our football program. They are used to support two of our full-time coaching positions and ensure our student athletes have the best training and academic support.

They are also used to provide great nutritional meals to our players through the season and play-offs. Last season, with the help of Murray Faulkner, we raised \$15,000 to help with our post-practice meals.

## Major Gifts & Individual Donations

For a donor to help us create a named award or fund, you have to commit to a minimum pledge of \$10,000 - \$2,000 for a minimum of 5 years for a termed fund or \$25,000 - \$5,000 for a minimum of 5 years for an endowment. We continue to provide our student athletes with an exceptional experience because of the support & donations we receive from you.

All donation amounts are gratefully accepted.

## MAJOR GIFT OR PLEDGE DONATIONS

## DIRECT ONLINE DONATIONS

---

### Dory Mounsey, Director of Development

Sports & Recreation, Western University

t. 519-661-2111 ext. 85568

e. [dmounse@uwo.ca](mailto:dmounse@uwo.ca)

[www.giving.westernu.ca/mustangs24\\_football](http://www.giving.westernu.ca/mustangs24_football)



Riddell

OUA

WESTERN

5

Riddell

SHOCK

Wilson



# Western Mustangs 2024 Wall of Champions Dinner



Former All-Canadians from the '95 team, Patrice Denis and Sean Reade with Mustang supporter Robbie Nash.



Tim Hughes, Roger Dunbrack, Stewart Beak, Sandy McGregor, Billy Panopoulos & Ron Fox.

Over 300 people attended the 2024 Wall of Champions (WOC) dinner on April 26 at the Hellenic Centre in London. Western President, Dr. Alan Shephard, opened the evening with greetings from the university. Tom McConnell was our MC and a part of the '95 team being inducted. It was a great night celebrating the excellence and tradition of Western football. Ted Roman '54 (posthumously), Rob Godley '90, Warren Goldie '95, Matt Norman '12. and Greg Dick '93 were inducted. The 1995 Yates Cup Championship team was inducted in the team category.

There were over 20 members of the '95 team present at the dinner and twelve members of Ted Roman's family attended. Thanks to our WOC dinner committee: Jim Weese, Murray Faulkner, Rob Nash, Mike O'Hagan, Rich Nemeth, Greg Dick, Dan & Dennis Hirschberger, Greg Willson, Sean Blake, James Sifakis, Colin Gagnier and Tricia Thain-Hall.

Special thanks to Paul Gleason who did another tremendous job on the induction videos, Mike Stubbs (CFPL 980) who did the voice over on the videos & Dan Durack who did all the technical A-V set-up.

*Thank you*

**TO OUR 2024 WOC  
DINNER SPONSORS**

Hamilton Tiger-Cats  
The Ceeps  
Harrison-Pensa  
Sports & Recreation  
CIBC - Richard Nemeth  
Lerners  
Western Board of Governors  
London Lightning  
London Jr. Mustangs  
CFL  
Mahan Forms - Josh Malazadeh  
BMO Global Asset Management  
Toronto Argonauts

Niagara Insurance - Zach Bull  
RBC Dominion and Global  
Winnipeg Blue Bombers  
Stikeman Elliot - James Sifakis  
RBC - Dennis Hirschberger  
Andre Maas  
Picton Mahoney  
Versa Bank  
Western Student Experience  
London Property  
Spriet Associates - Andy Spriet  
Canada Life



# Western Mustangs 2024 Wall of Champions Dinner



Inductee Matt Norman with teammate Greg Willson.



Builder Greg Dick being presented by Western VP SE, John Doerkson.



*\*Photos by Gary Tuberville*

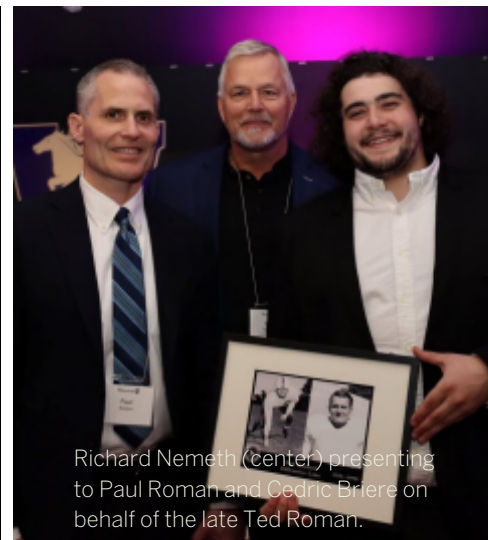
Western President Alan Shepard



Inductee Warren Goldie being presented by Athletic Director, Christine Stapleton.



Inductee Rob Godley being presented by his teammate, Paul Balabuck.



Richard Nemeth (center) presenting to Paul Roman and Cedric Briere on behalf of the late Ted Roman.



*\*Photos by Gary Tuberville*

Members of the 1995 Team-Front Row –L-R: Chris Marcus, Jason McKibbon, Tom McConnell, Sandy McGregor, David Burnie, Joe Jackett, Bernie Tessier. Back Row I-R: Roger Dunbrack, Steve Hunter, Sean Reade, Greg Marshall, Warren Goldie, Chris Harhay, Mark Casselman, Todd McKay, Tim Hughes, Anthony Lane, Patrice Denis, Garrick McBride, Theo Versteegh, Stewart Beak



# Western Mustangs 2024 IRONHORSE Competition

The culmination of our off-season strength & conditioning program was our Ironhorse Competition. Our players were tested on:

- Max. Bench Press
- Bench Press Max 225 reps
- Vertical Jump
- Broad Jump
- Squats
- Chin ups

Attendance was also taken into consideration in qualifying for an "Ironhorse Award". Players qualified for an "Ironhorse Award" by being the best in their position. 10 freshman qualified for the award this year.

NAME	POS	YR	NAME	POS	YR
PHIL COTE	OL	2	KEANU YAZBEK	RB	3
KEEGAN O'NEIL	OL	4	BEN COTTRELL	RB	1
ALEX BERWICK	OL	4	WILL McCHARLES	FB	1
COLE McBRIDE	OL	3	SANDRO PIERINI	FB	3
MAX VON MUEHLDOERFER	DT	3	DANIEL KUBONGO	SB	2
ANGELO LONGO	DT	3	ZAVIER ALLAN	WR	3
MAC RUSSELL	DE	1	ROMAN CAMPANARO	WR	1
KAI BRYDON	DE	3	BRENNAN KEBE	SB	1
NATE GONZALEZ	DE	2	JACKSON FINDLAY	DB	3
CONNOR FRANZISI	DE	2	ANTONIO CUSATI	DB	1
ISAAC SARDO	LB	3	JACOB SAUNDERS	DB	3
JOSH GILLAM	LB	4	SHEADEN BOWERBANK	DB	1
SIMON KING	LB	3	JEROME RANCOURT	QB	3
RILEY McLEOD	LB	3	BREAC MANGAROFF	QB	1
			EVAN CLARKE	QB	1
			OLIVER GRIFFITH	P/K	1

*Mustangs Football*

## Save the Dates

Friday, June 14 at 11:00am  
Sunday, Sept 7 at 7:00pm  
September 27-28  
Saturday, Sept 28 at 7:00pm

Haylor-Semotiuk Alumni Golf Tournament  
Home Opener vs Waterloo  
Western Homecoming Weekend  
Homecoming Football Game





Riddell

YATES CUP  
RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

OUA



WESTERN

11



DRAFT  
2024



# JAMAL & ADUBOFFOUR SELECTED IN 2024 CFL DRAFT

The 2024 CFL Draft saw a pair of student-athletes from the Mustangs Football program learn the next step in their journey.

Mohsen Jamal was selected 65th overall by the Montreal Alouettes. The receiver had a breakout season in 2023, with 760 total yards and 5 touchdowns.

Richard Aduboffour was picked shortly after with the 68th overall selection by the Saskatchewan Roughrider. The impact Defensive Back had 23 tackles in 2023, added 2 interceptions and 7 pass breakups for the Mustangs. "I was excited, I cried in my mom's arms," said Abuboffour of getting drafted. "I hear Saskatchewan is a great community for football. I'm just happy they took a chance on me and believed in me as they showed when I interviewed with them,"

Both Jamal & Aduboffour have headed to their respective teams rookie camps and will look to impress and stay for their teams' main training camps.

For more CFL draft information visit our [Western Mustangs website](#)



# Team West Claims 2024 East-West Bowl

## Team West Wins

Thanks to some stellar play from a trio of star quarterbacks, Team West held on for a 16-1 victory over Team East in the 2024 USports East-West bowl from Warrior Field in Waterloo.

The West pivots were led by Manitoba's Jackson Tachinski, who completed 11 of 15 passes for 152 yards and a touchdown.

Reigning OUA MVP Taylor Elgersma of Laurier added 91 yards on 7 of 9 passes, while McMaster signal-caller Keegan Hall threw for 69 yards.

Saskatchewan's Rhett Vavra hauled in the only touchdown of the afternoon, connecting with fellow Canada West star Tachinski on a 22 -yard major in the second quarter.

Vavra led all receivers with 6 catches for 94 yards, while St. F.X.'s Ben Harrington led Team East with 5 catches and 73 yards.

Team West also dominated the defensive side of the ball, forcing five turnovers. All-Canadian defensive back **Jackson Findlay** from Western grabbed a pair of interceptions.

Team East's defence was just as stout, led by Montreal's Jeremiah Ojo. The Vanier Cup Champion and All-Canadian was a menace all afternoon, with two sacks and three tackles for a loss. Carleton linebacker Xavier Malone led all players with 5 solo tackles and 7 total tackles, and Acadia's Riley Comeau added an interception for Team East.

## Game Recap

Elgersma and Team West came out firing, as they marched the ball down the field for an opening-drive field goal from Western's **Brian Garrity**. Laval pivot Arnaud Desjardins responded with a 47-yard bomb to his Rouge Et Or teammate Édouard Arseneault to set Team East up for a response, but Windsor's Muftah Ageli came up with a strip-sack on the next play to keep the East off the scoreboard.

In the second quarter, Tachinski came in the game and kept the West offense humming. After a highlight-reel 47-yard catch by Toronto receiver Jake Oseen, Tachinski hit Vavra for the major to extend the West lead to 10-0.

On the next drive, **Findlay** picked off AUS MVP Silas Fagnan, and Tachinski led another drive that resulted in a 17-yard Garrity field goal. Concordia kicker Eric Maximuik missed a 34-yard bid as the first half came to a close, but it went out of the back of the end zone to cut the West advantage to 13-1 at the half.

After **Garrity** added three more points early in the third, defense became the story of the day. Team East came up with a huge third-down stop deep in their own territory, keyed by USports stand-up defensive player of the year Harold Miessan and his Montreal teammate Ojo.

The West was up to the defensive challenge themselves, though, as they came up with turnovers on three consecutive Team East drives in the fourth quarter. First, it was hometown defensive back Anesu Latmore (Ottawa, ON/) of the Waterloo Warriors forcing a fumble that was recovered by McMaster's Drake Bodi. Then, Chopper Hippe of Regina picked off Fagnan, before **Findlay** grabbed his second pick of the game on the next Team East possession to salt the game away.

Team West finished with 418 yards of total offense, as they avenged a shutout loss to Team East in 2023. Team West also won the ball control battle with a whopping 35:43 of possession.



## Western's Jackson Findlay Leads the West with Two Interceptions

Jackson Findlay, Western Defensive Back, had a great East-West Bowl leading the West with two interceptions. In the East-West combine, he ran back to back 4.31 sec. in the 40 yard sprint. The fastest 40 in the 2024 CFL combine was 4.51. Only two players in the NFL combine ran faster and their body weights were approximately 170lbs. Jackson is 6'3" and weighs 205 lbs. Jackson was a 2023 1st Team All-Canadian in his first season starting at free-safety. Jackson is a native of Vancouver BC and a graduate of Vancouver College. He is also a three time Academic All-Canadian, studying Medical Science.



# HAYLOR-SEMOTIUK MEMORIAL WESTERN MUSTANGS FOOTBALL ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

**FRIDAY JUNE 14, 2024 @ SUNNINGDALE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB**

- 11:00am REGISTRATION
- 1:00 pm SHOTGUN START
- \$250 REGISTRATION FEE

<https://www.westernconnect.ca/site/Calendar?id=147454&view=Detail>

Registration is now open. Last years tournament was sold out, so get your registration in early.

Last year we raised over \$24,000 that was used to support Athletic Financial Awards for Mustangs football student-athletes. Please contact Greg Dick ([gregdick8636@rogers.com](mailto:gregdick8636@rogers.com)) to donate to the prize table, silent auction or to sponsor a hole.



*Haylor-Semotiuk Memorial*  
**WESTERN MUSTANGS FOOTBALL  
ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT**

# MUSTANGS TOP 10 CAREER SCORERS

With 92 points in 2023, Brian Garrity moves into the 5th all-time spot with 251 total points. Brian is back for the 2024 season and is in his 2nd year at Althouse in the Faculty of Education. Marc Liegghio is currently the kicker for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. Lirim Hajrullahu signed with the Toronto Argonauts for the upcoming season and has spent the last four seasons kicking with various teams in the NFL. Our current kicking coach, Darryl Wheeler, has coached Marc, Lirim & Brian during their careers at Western.



Lirim Hajrullahu



Marc Liegghio



Brian Garrity

1	Marc Liegghio	442	2016-19
2	Lirim Hajrullahu	422	2009-13
3	Frank Jagas	392	1990-94
4	Randy McAuley	256	2003-2007
5	Brian Garrity	251	2019-
6	Andy Fantuz	246	2002-05
7	Rob Pikula	243	2001-04
8	Kevin Rydeard	237	1981-83
9	Derek Schiavone	236	2005-2007
10	Sean Reade	204	1992-96

# MUSTANGS WELCOME NEW COACHES FOR 2024



## **Dennis McPhee**

Dennis McPhee returns to Western as our Defensive Line Coach in 2024. He was our Defensive Coordinator in 2012. Coach McPhee is one of the best and most respected Defensive Line coaches in the country. He has over 39 years of coaching experience in the CFL and in University athletics. He was the Defensive Line coach with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats for 16 seasons. He has also been a head coach at both St. Francis Xavier and Waterloo. Most recently he has spent the last 5 years at the University of Guelph as their Defensive Coordinator.



## **Sean Jamieson**

Sean Jamieson is returning to Western to help coach our Offensive Line. Sean retired from the CFL this past spring, after finishing an outstanding seven-year career with the Montreal Alouettes. He capped it off with a Grey Cup victory last November. Sean was a three time All-Canadian (2014, 15 & 16) Offensive Lineman during his five-year career at Western. A native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sean graduated in 2012 from Oak Park HS. He graduated from Western with an HBA in Kinesiology. He is currently working full time for Game Strat, an in-game video replay system we use at Western.

*Welcome Coaches!*



[Friend us on Facebook](#)



[Follow us on Instagram](#)



[Follow us on Twitter/X](#)



<p><b>Greg Marshall</b> HEAD COACH, FOOTBALL</p> <hr/> <p>☎ 519-661-2111 EXT. 80516 📍 1151 RICHMOND STREET LONDON, ON 🌐 WESTERNMUSTANGS.CA</p> <p>📷 📺 📱 📧</p> <p><i>#Football</i></p>	 <p>WE/ACKNOWLEDGE THE ANISHINAABEK, HADDENOLAINEE, OJIBWEEBAAK AND CROWNATION NATIONS, WHOSE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES ARE WHERE THIS PUBLICATION/RESOURCE/PAPER/ETC WAS PRODUCED.</p>
---	--

Thank you for supporting Mustangs Football. For any inquiries about our program or how you can get involved, please reach out to Head Coach Greg Marshall at [gmarsha@uwo.ca](mailto:gmarsha@uwo.ca)

Release Date: May, 2024