

CFLOAA NEWSLETTER November 2019

INSIDE THIS EDITION

CFLOAA MEMBERSHIP	1-2
GEORGE BRANCATO	4-7
THIS DAY IN OTTAWA FOOTBALL HISTORY	8-9
RUSS JACKSON	9-17
LEWIS WARD	18
REDBLACKS NEWS	19-23
MONTHLY HUDDLE	23
LEGEND'S LUNCHEON	24
MEN'S HEALTH	25-26
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	25



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019

*George
Brancato,
1931-2019*

**Former Rough Riders coach and
player George Brancato leaves
behind a championship legacy
>> BAINES, PAGES 30-33**

A LEGEND FOREVER



CFL Ottawa Alumni Association (CFLOAA) Membership

Creating an atmosphere of camaraderie with all who were involved in the long history of professional football in the Ottawa region.

JOIN US!

If you meet one of the following criteria we invite you to join the CFLOAA:-

- ♦ Former CFL players from any team who have played one regular season or one playoff game;
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- ♦ Former Medical Staff, Equipment Staff, Athletic Trainers of CFL teams;
- ♦ Former CFL game officials;
- ♦ Former members of CFL cheer teams;
- ♦ Relatives of current or former CFL players who are/were members of the CFLOAA;
- ♦ Builders who have made significant long-time contributions to the CFLOAA; | Other builders of Ottawa CFL football.

ABOUT US

Reasons to join the CFL Ottawa Alumni Association (CFLOAA):-

1. Camaraderie with former CFL players (Rider/Renegade/Redblacks or other teams) and others who have been involved in the CFL especially in Ottawa.
2. Free ticket for the Annual Coaches luncheon held each March.
3. Reduced green fees at Annual Alumni golf tournament.
4. Monthly Huddles at Local Heroes (1st Tuesday of month).
5. Receive monthly CFLOAA Newsletters by email.
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9. Access to CFLAA Support and Compassionate Funds (former players only).
10. Access to the Canadian Sports Concussion research project/neurocognitive evaluation (former players only).

DUES

\$35 per year (covering the calendar year) or \$90 for 3 years

Please see the attached Registration Form for more information regarding membership.

Please contact me if you have any questions at 613-792-3352 x 104 or by email.

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CFL Ottawa Alumni Association (CFLOAA) Registration Form

Name _____ Partner/Spouse _____

Your background

Former CFL players and/or coaches

Teams (include years with each team such as 2012-2016)

Other applicants

Your connection to CFL Ottawa football (include the years)

Your connection to CFL football such as being a former Game Official (include the years)

Your Contact information:

Address _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Email _____

Payments

Please make all dues payable by either E-Transfer via email to Dan Dever (Our Treasurer) at danwdever@msn.com or make cheques payable to CFL Ottawa Alumni Association via mail to;

Dan Dever

43 McLaughlin Cres., Kanata, ON, Canada.

K2L 2P9, Home phone (613) 254-5420

Picture-New Members In order to supply you with an Alumni ID card please send Dan an electronic version of a recent 'passport' type picture.



GEORGE BRANCATO 1931-2019

NEWS SPORTS

He was one of Ottawa's most beloved sports icons, having won Grey Cups as a player and coach of the Rough Riders. But **George Brancato** is perhaps best described as a family man first, who had a burning passion for football

'He did what he loved'

Ottawa Rough Riders coach George Brancato is carried off after a playoff win against the Montreal Alouettes in this undated photo. Brancato passed away on Tuesday at the age of 88. CPH BULL/POSTMEDIA NETWORK FILE

A LEGEND FOREVER
TIM BAINES THE SUN OCTOBER 24, 2019

Former Rough Riders coach and player George Brancato leaves behind a championship legacy

As a football player, then Grey Cup-winning coach, George Brancato was a legend in Ottawa sporting circles.

But it was who and what he was off the football field — a loving husband, father and grandfather — that really defined Brancato, who died at age 88 late Tuesday.

Married to his wife Barbara for 60 years, family meant everything to him. The couple have a son, George Jr., and three daughters, Cindi, Wendy and Alicia, with eight grandchildren.

"It's been a tough go," said George Jr. "He was a football man, he did what he loved. But I will remember the love he felt for his family, through the kids and the grandchildren. It was unconditional. His family came first ... always.

"(My dad) was kind of your quiet family man, but he had wit. He had that subtle sense of humour. He wasn't that flamboyant type, the focus-of-the-party-type guy, he would just kind of fire out the one-liners from the sidelines. He had a bit of knowledge in all areas, a jack-of-all-trades kind of guy ... he'll be sorely missed."

Inducted to the Ottawa Sport Hall of Fame in 2002, Brancato was the head coach of the Rough Riders in 1976, the last time an Ottawa CFL team had won a Grey Cup until the Redblacks beat the Calgary Stampeders three years ago — a 40-year gap.

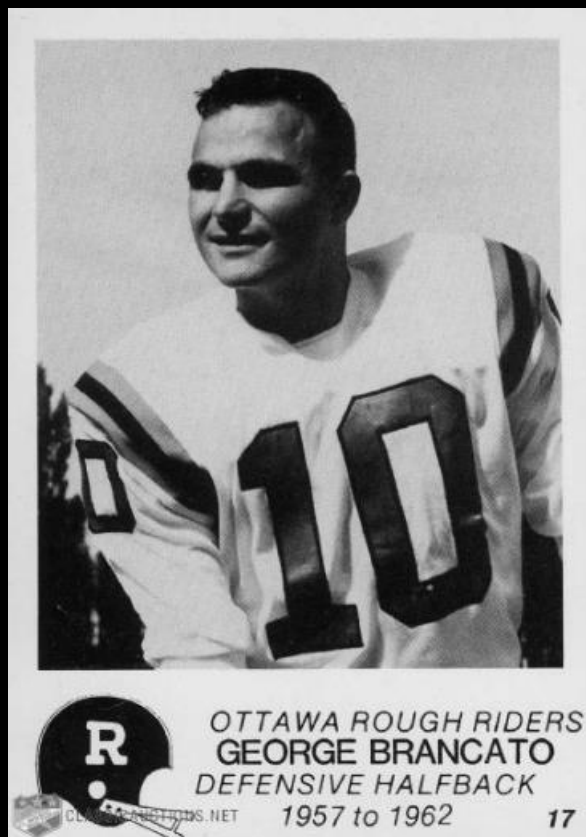
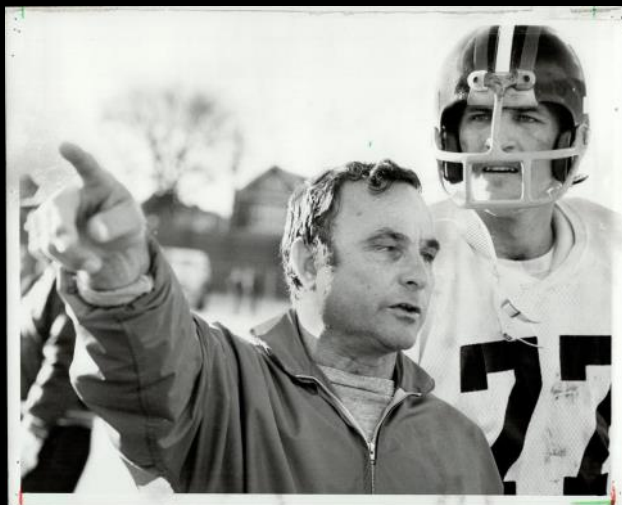
A graduate of Louisiana State University, Brancato, who was born in Brooklyn, came to Ottawa in 1957 after stints with the NFL's Chicago Cardinals and Montreal Alouettes. He led the East Division in interceptions in 1957 and was an all-star in 1961. He retired after the 1962 season.

He became an assistant coach to Jack Gotta in 1970, winning a Grey Cup in 1973, then taking over as the head coach of the Rough Riders in 1974. He stayed in that job until 1984.

In 1981, Brancato's Riders nearly pulled off the biggest upset in Grey Cup history. With a 5-11 record, the Riders turned it on in the playoffs to get to the Grey Cup, where they faced the powerhouse Edmonton Eskimos, who had a 14-1-1 record. Led by quarterback J.C. Watts, the Riders led 20-1 at halftime, but lost the game 26-23 when Dave Cutler kicked a field goal with three seconds remaining.

Brancato returned to Ottawa in 1993 as Ron Smeltzer's special-teams and secondary coach. The next season, he was the offensive coordinator for the Shreveport Pirates. In 1999, he was the defensive coordinator for the Arena Football League's Florida Bobcats. It would be his final coaching job.

"He was a very quiet coach," said Jeff Avery, who played for Brancato with the Riders and is president of the CFL Ottawa alumni association. "You played for him for a few years probably before he really spoke to you. He let the assistant coaches do the coaching. He was the type of coach who got good people to work with him and he let them do the job with the players. Everybody enjoyed





playing for him. He treated you fairly.”

Avery said he got to know his former coach better in the retirement years.

“As a player, you only knew him as the coach,” said Avery. “He and Barb just loved their family, the grandkids. They live in the same house they did when he was coaching us, with a pool in the backyard. He said to me many times that he just loved the grandchildren coming over, laying in the backyard in the pool. He had that family attachment.”

“That was his pride and joy, the kids gravitated to the pool,” said George Jr.

“He knew if he kept the pool perfect, he’d get the grandkids over ... he was smart that way.”

There was another side to the coach as well. He liked a good laugh.

Said Avery: “We were down in Florida visiting (former Gee-gees and Rough Riders coach) Jimmy Clark, myself and a buddy of mine from high school. Jimmy had a good-size fishing boat with a couple of twin 200s on the back. Bobby Simpson and George and their wives used to go down to Florida every year. We took George and Bobby out fishing. George loved to tell stories from a coach’s perspective. George was laughing, ‘Jeff, do you remember we used to run that option with you when we wanted to kill the clock ... because it took you so long to get around the corner?’

“I said, ‘Yeah, George, I remember running the play, I don’t remember that was the reason why.’ He was just laughing away.”

Brancato had a life-threatening septic infection two summers ago and spent a couple of months in the Queensway Carleton Hospital. But, remarkably, he fought it off, and was able to celebrate his 60th wedding anniversary. He even attended a family reunion in Cape Cod this past summer.

Brancato passed at home, a house the family had built in 1976 — in the west end, off Greenbank Rd. — on Tuesday night.

“After spending (the summer of 2018) in hospital, he was kind of done with hospitals,” said George Jr. “He wanted to be home where he was comfortable. The palliative care team stepped in and made it a peaceful journey on the way out.”

The legacy and path that Brancato carved in Ottawa isn’t lost on Redblacks head coach Rick Campbell.

“I have a couple of memories of him,” said Campbell. “We do our alumni thing every year and it’s always great for us to meet the old Rough Riders guys, especially him. I also remember the 1981 Grey Cup — I was young — but he coached in that game against my dad (Hugh Campbell) and they almost pulled off the huge upset. He was obviously a big part of Ottawa football and I have a lot of respect for him.”

George and Barbara were regular churchgoers at St. John

the Apostle Church, where the funeral will be held on

Monday at 11 a.m.



HE DID WHAT HE LOVED!

This Day in Ottawa Football History by Jim McAuley

November 5

1887 Ottawa College (Ontario Rugby Football Union) 10 Montreal Football Club (Quebec Rugby Football Union) 5 at McGill University in Montreal. Ottawa College won the first Dominion Championship.

1892 Ottawa Football Club 6 Montreal AAA 1 at Montreal Amateur Athletic Association Grounds. The game was played in six inches of snow. It was Ottawa's fifth straight win.

1898 Ottawa 48 Argos 6 at Metropolitan Grounds in Ottawa to clinch Ontario Rugby Football Union championship.

1898 Ottawa College 3 Montreal 2. All the points came off rouges.

1932 Hamilton Tigers 29 Ottawa Rough Riders 0 at Ottawa.

1938 Ottawa Rough Riders 23 Hamilton Tigers 9 at Ottawa. The Riders' Wilf Tremblay caught a punt by Hamilton's Bill Strachan on the Ottawa 45. He lateralled to Andy Tommy, who ran to the Hamilton 30, before passing over to Tiny Herman, who went a few yards and gave the ball to Bunny Wadsworth. Bunny didn't take more than a step before getting rid of it to Dave Sprague, who long-legged it the remaining distance for a five-man, 65-yard touchdown play.

1949 Ottawa Rough Riders 19 Hamilton Wildcats 11 at Ottawa. Steve Karrys scored two touchdowns with Ted McLarty getting the other. Ottawa ended the regular season with a record of 11-1-0. They scored 261 points and gave up 170 over the dozen games.

1949 Bob Cunningham, former Ottawa Rough Riders' backfielder, had a 100-yard touchdown run for the Montreal Alouettes against the Toronto Argonauts at Montreal.

1952 Peter Crepin, former Ottawa Sooners and Ottawa Rough Riders' safety from 1974 to 1980, born at Ottawa, Ontario.

1955 Ottawa Rough Riders 36 Toronto Argonauts 24 at Ottawa. Toronto completed 29 passes against the Riders; 27 of the passes were for first downs. Bucky Curtis was on the receiving end of 11 of the passes. Bob Simpson scored two touchdowns with Avatus Stone, on an 80-yard run, Don Pinhey and Bernie Custis scored the other majors. Two of the Riders' TDs came off pass interceptions. The Riders began an eight-game winning streak over the Argonauts.

1956 The Canadian Press Big Four All-Star Team was announced. Ottawa Rough Riders to be named to the team included guard Larry Hayes, offensive tackle Kaye Vaughan, end Bob Simpson, safety Don Pinhey, secondary Ken Vargo and defensive tackle Kaye Vaughan.

1960 Ottawa Rough Riders 30 Montreal Alouettes 14 before 17,987 at Ottawa in the Eastern Conference semi-final. The Riders led 16-14 after three-quarter time, but Gerry Nesbitt and Ron Stewart scored touchdowns in the final frame. Joe Kelly had earlier scored two touchdowns. Gary Schreider had two converts and a field goal. Nesbitt also booted a single. Don Clark scored both Alouettes' touchdowns with Bill Bewley converting them.

1961 Ottawa Sooners 14 Hawkesbury Hawks 4 at Brantwood Park in the first game of the Ottawa and District Intermediate Football League final.

1962 Walter Stanley, Ottawa Rough Riders' wide receiver in 1993 and 1994, born at Chicago, Illinois. He played in the NFL with Green Bay Packers, Detroit Lions, Washington Redskins, San Diego Chargers and New England Patriots.

1972 Al Brenner, former Ottawa Rough Riders' defensive back, tied a Hamilton Tiger-Cats' record, previously set by Don Sutherin, former Riders' defensive back and assistant coach, when he intercepted four passes against the Toronto Argonauts at Hamilton.

1973 Final statistics were released in the Eastern Conference of the Canadian Football League and it confirmed that Ottawa Rough Riders' Gerry Organ won the scoring race with 123 points.

1976 Curt Dewan, a defensive back with the McGill Redmen football team in 1997, born. He previously played with Gloucester Dukes of the Quebec Major Junior Football League.

1978 Ottawa Sooners 29 Burlington Braves 0 at Ottawa to win the Eastern Canadian Junior Football Championship.

1978 The Canadian Football Hall of Fame inductees included former Ottawa Rough Riders' player Kaye Vaughan. Others to be inducted included Ron Atchison (Player), Harry McBrien (Builder) and Paul Dojack (Builder).

1983 British Columbia Lions 40 Ottawa Rough Riders 13 at Vancouver before 40,901 in the final game of the regular season schedule. Crawford had a 44-yard interception return for the Lions. Gerry Organ kicked a 50-yard field goal. Chris Isaac completed a 91-yard completion to Tyron Gray. The victory began a 13-game winning streak over the Riders.

1989 Ottawa Rough Riders 24 Winnipeg Blue Bombers 10 at Ottawa in front of 14,757. Daniel Hunter had a 41-yard interception return for the Riders.

1992 The Ottawa Rough Riders had two players enter the finals of the Most Outstanding Player Award when linebacker Angelo Snipes was selected from the East. He also got the nod as the Most Outstanding Defensive Player Award in the East. Offensive lineman Rob Smith will represent the east in that category. Former Rough Riders' slotback, Ken Evraire of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, was named the top Canadian player in the East.

1994 O-QIFC Final.

1996 Revenue Canada, owed more than \$600,000 by the Ottawa Rough Riders, freezes the team's bank accounts. The Canadian Football League announced it has stopped funding the team and has returned financial responsibility to Horn Chen. Chen had purchased the team in March 1995, but the CFL took over control of the team in July 1996.

1997 Harry Hutchingame, Ottawa Rough Riders' halfback from 1927 to 1934, passed away at Perley and Rideau Veterans' Home in Ottawa, Ontario at the age of 92.

2004 **Howie Turner**, a two-way back with the **Ottawa Rough Riders** from 1947 to 1954, passed away at Ottawa, Ontario of heart failure at age 82.

2005 **Toronto Argonauts** at **Ottawa Renegades**.

2006 **Chateauguay Raiders** 21 **Ottawa Sooners** 6 to win the Quebec Major Junior Football League's semi-final game.

2016 University of Western Ontario Mustangs 51 Carleton Ravens 24 in OUA semi-final game at TD Stadium in London. Western led 35-17 at halftime. Cedric Joseph rushed for four touchdowns for the Mustangs. It was the final Ravens' game for quarterback Jesse Mills. He completed 30 passes of 48 attempts for 426 yards and three touchdowns. The 48 attempts tied the Carleton record set by Sean O'Neill in 1997 against Queens Golden Gaels.



OTTAWA'S FOOTBALL KING: THE ENDURING POPULARITY OF RUSS JACKSON



GORD HOLDER , POSTMEDIA OCTOBER 24, 2019

July 18, 2014 was a memorable evening for professional sports in Ottawa.

The Redblacks had played and lost two previous Canadian Football League regular-season contests, but this home game against the Toronto Argonauts was their first in Lansdowne Park's rebuilt stadium, confirming the CFL's return to the national capital after a nine-year absence.

A capacity-plus crowd of 24,326 included then-prime minister Stephen Harper, a season-ticket holder, and CFL commissioner Mark Cohon, not that it mattered to one unidentified gentleman. Instead, he shuffled past them with a beverage can in his left hand and extended his right to the occupant of the seat on Harper's other side

A living, breathing example of the finest of Ottawa professional football, Russ Jackson exchanged pleasantries with the beverage holder, who then resumed shuffling to his own seat. The Redblacks would eventually defeat the Argos 18-17 on the strength of six field goals by kicker Brett Maher.

'We were like kids'

Three months later, Russ Jackson and his wife, Lois, made the short trip to Hamilton from Burlington for an October contest featuring the Redblacks and the host Tiger-Cats.

After the Redblacks lost 16-6, the Jacksons caught a lift back to their parked vehicle on a bus ferrying sponsors, fans and media to the airport for a return charter flight to Ottawa.

There was some applause as the Jacksons left the bus, the only audible cheers for any Ottawa-connected quarterback that night.

In contrast, many Redblacks players wore “who is that” expressions when Jackson dropped in unannounced at a training-camp workout the following June. He had travelled with Lois on her alumni weekend trip to Ottawa.

Redblacks head coach Rick Campbell certainly knew Jackson, though, and he invited the quarterback of the 1960, '68 and '69 Grey Cup-champion Rough Riders — and winner of three CFL outstanding player awards plus four more as top Canadian — to address Ottawa's newest footballers.

Among the few players who immediately recognized Jackson, then 78, was another Cup-winning quarterback.

“We were like kids, like we walked onto an amateur football field here in Ottawa, and all of a sudden we've got the all-time great Russ Jackson walking on the field,” Henry Burris says.

“For me, I was wide-eyed and with a big smile on my face. I was like, ‘Wow!’ I'd heard so many stories about when he played, I'd seen so many clips from when he made key throws to help Ottawa win the Grey Cup back in 1969 and all the years when this (Rough Riders) team was competitive.”

Campbell, whose father Hugh had been a star receiver with the Saskatchewan Roughriders and later a CFL icon as Edmonton Eskimos coach and executive, briefly introduced Jackson as one of the all-time great Rough Riders, a great competitor and a CFL champion. His goal was to emphasize Ottawa's pro football history for the players on a club entering just its second season.

“It mattered (then), and it still matters,” he says. “It's always good to learn about the people that came before you and the history behind it. It just gives you a whole new level of respect for football in this town and this city and the fans and all that. You can't get enough of that.

“Any time we have a chance to interact with him or (other) alumni, we're going to take advantage of it.”

Mark Goudie, president and chief executive officer of Ottawa Sports & Entertainment Group, says the CFL franchise owners established simultaneous goals to “cut our own swath” and chart a new course for pro football in Ottawa while acknowledging the game's history in the capital, both good and bad, with the Rough Riders (1876-1996) or short-lived Renegades (2002-2005).

To that end, OSEG regularly features Jackson in alumni events linked to Redblacks games.

“We had polarizing views from people, whether they thought we should be the reincarnation of the Rough Riders or have our new identity, and I think we did a good job of kind of walking that line and honouring the past, but looking progressively forward,” Goudie says. “And, when we honour the past, I think Russ Jackson is the best,



most visible example of what Canadian football was in our history by virtue of the fact that he is Canadian, probably the most accomplished Canadian football player in league history, such a gracious man, and had the success that he did and spent his whole career with one team, which was the Rough Riders.”

‘You can’t really escape his legacy’

Brendan Gillanders, a Redblacks backup running back and special-teams regular from Orléans, is only 28 and a generation too young to have seen Jackson in action, but knows the reputation.

“I think there was a stretch of four, five, six years where he was the most exciting player in the league. I don’t think anyone would argue that,” Gillanders says. “He just kind of made things happen. He was a generational player. The city is lucky that we had a franchise player like that to get behind.

“Now you still have awards and stuff like that named after him. It’s like you said: Here in Ottawa, you can’t really escape his legacy.”

An example of that legacy is the Russ Jackson Award, presented annually to a Canadian university football player exemplifying academic achievement, football skill and citizenship. There are four regional winners, one from each member conference of U Sports.

The Ontario University Athletics recipient of the award was among those to be honoured during a luncheon in Hamilton a half-dozen years back when Ettore Lattanzio had his Russ Jackson moment.

“I’m in an elevator with my father and one of our coaches at uOttawa, and this gentleman walks in ... nonchalant, quiet. And my dad goes to me, ‘Hey! You know who that is?’” says Lattanzio, a 28-year-old Ottawa native and Redblacks defensive tackle, lowering his voice to mimic Rosario Lattanzio’s whispers that day. “At the time, I didn’t really know him, I didn’t recognize him. And he goes, ‘That’s Russ Jackson!’ ‘Ohhhh ... I didn’t realize.’ And then I did, and of course I was very, very proper and made sure it was all cool and everything. It was pretty cool to meet him.”
Not always a star, or a QB for that matter

Widely acknowledged as the best Canadian quarterback and perhaps the best Canadian player ever in the CFL, Russ Jackson wasn’t even regarded as the best prospect in the 1958 draft. Two ends, two halfbacks and one tackle were selected before the Rough Riders took the quarterback from Hamilton’s McMaster University ... as a defensive back.

Jackson earned a spot on the 32-man roster as DB, but he was also third-string quarterback, which it turned out the Rough Riders would need that season because of injuries to American Hal Ledyard and Tom Dimitroff. Even so, a few more years — and a memorable 1963 transaction sending fellow hall of famer-to-be Ronnie Lancaster to Saskatchewan — would pass before Jackson entrenched himself as Ottawa’s starter.

Some of that CFL history would qualify as breaking news to Michael O’Connor.

The 23-year-old from Orléans is now a rookie quarterback with the Argonauts, who drafted him in the fourth round in 2019, 61 years after the Rough Riders selected Jackson from McMaster.

“My dad actually speaks very highly of him,” O’Connor says. “I’m definitely too young to have seen him play, but he tells me he’s one of the best ever to do it up here.

“Also, about three years ago, Coach (Pat) Tracey, who’s the defensive co-ordinator at UBC, he was kind of cleaning out his home there, downsizing, and he happened to give me one of his pictures he had, which was a photo of Russ Jackson, Danny McManus and Damon Allen (also long-time CFL quarterbacks).

“Actually, I had that up in my locker for the past three years, just kind of as motivation. Definitely, seeing what he did in his career, it’s something that, as someone I look up to, I look forward to playing one day, and I’m very fortunate to follow in his footsteps.”

Different era, different jobs

A half-century ago, CFL quarterbacking wasn’t a full-time gig, so, before going to practice each day, Russ Jackson went to school.

Hired as a Rideau High School math teacher after his first CFL season, Jackson later became Sir John A. Macdonald High School vice-principal in 1966 and Champlain High School principal in 1970, then Canterbury High School principal between 1973 and ’75.

Because Rough Riders practices were held in late afternoon, extracurriculars were restricted to the morning hours before classes commenced.

“Doing a detention with Mr. Jackson,” Jackson says, “you had to come in the morning because I left as soon as school was out. Within about 15 minutes, I was off to my practice and so on, so, if you were in trouble, the detention was like quarter to eight in the morning, not at four o’clock in the afternoon. That was always the way it was.”

That “way it was” frequently also involved post-practice film sessions focused on upcoming opponents at the behest of Rough Riders head coach Frank Clair.

Thus work days often lasted until 7 p.m., less of a family-related issue when Jackson cracked the roster in 1958, but he and Lois wed in 1960 and then came the births of a son and two daughters between 1962 and ’66.

“One of the reasons I left football was because it was a long day and you didn’t spend much time with the family. During the football season, you were gone from maybe 6:30, quarter to seven in the morning,” Jackson says.

“And the same with the parents. I met with parents in the morning as opposed to after school because I wasn’t able to stay around after school.”

He re-entered the CFL as Argonauts head coach in 1975, but, following two unsuccessful seasons, resumed work as an educator in Mississauga, Ont. He retired in 1994.

“My father (Dr. Harry Pullen), ironically, hired him,” former Rough Riders tight end Tom Pullen says. “First football player ever hired as a full-time teacher in the Ottawa board high school system, and he made a career out of education for himself.

“As fate would have it, I ended up playing with Russ in ’68 and ’69, when we won back to back Grey Cups in my first two years.”

After Pullen retired as superintendent of schools, his son was also hired as an Ottawa teacher, so, like Jackson, he performed double duty until his last season with the 1975 Argos, who held mid-afternoon practices.

“When I started playing with him, when I was in the CFL, you had a following, you had a built-in cheerleading squad throughout the city,” Pullen says.

“I taught at Glebe Collegiate, he taught at Rideau. And Rideau, I don’t know what their enrolment was, but they had parents and so the parents knew that their son was being taught by this guy Russ Jackson, so it was that kind of exposure that he had.

“He was not from Ottawa, but he became like an Ottawa boy.”

Gerry Organ, another Grey Cup winner as a Rough Riders kicker in the post-Jackson years, calls the former quarterback a “centrepiece” of Ottawa football. Similar examples, he adds, include George Reed of the Roughriders and Bernie Faloney of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

According to Organ, that centrepiece status is based not only on performance, but also on character and community involvement.

“Russ played primarily in the ’60s, I played primarily in the ’70s and ’80s, but even in those days we were community members,” Organ says. “Most of us had second jobs, most of us lived here, most of us had homes here, raised families here. That is all gone now. Look at our own (Redblacks) team here: Even in the last two years, everybody bailed and we had to sign a whole bunch of new people and then that didn’t work, so we had to sign another bunch of new people.

“The community aspect is gone, so iconic accomplishments are going to be very rare in the future because players are just not going to stick around. They’ve got one-year contracts, so they can go wherever they want, and the best players always want to go to the NFL, so there’s a bit of a disconnect now between the fan and the player, so it has to be based now on performance and success, not on character and community. That’s a big difference.”

Running wild, even as a QB

Jim Cain was a Rough Riders’ offensive lineman for nine seasons. Like Jackson, he retired following the 1969 championship.

Cain, who also worked at Statistics Canada, knows numbers. When he talks about the 1968-69 squads, he cites 36 athletes in total, but 29 who played both seasons as Rough Riders and eight subsequently inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame: Jackson, Jerry (Soupy) Campbell, Ken Lehmann, Don Sutherin, Moe Racine, Whit Tucker, Ronnie Stewart and Gene Gaines.

Since game rosters then had only 32 players — now 46 — and inter-division road trips featured Friday-Sunday doubleheaders, staying healthy enough to play mattered, and Jackson missed only a single 1960 game because of injury.

He wasn't just a passer, either. Even now, Jackson ranks 41st in CFL history with 5,122 rushing yards from 726 carries. His 7.1-yard average carry is tied for second among the top 70 rushers of all-time.

"Now the TV guys say, 'Oh, so and so called his own number,' when he runs a quarterback sneak," Cain says. "Of course, none of them call their own numbers, but Russ did call his own plays, so all those 5,000 yards that he did, he called those plays and put himself out there to try to get first downs and things. And, if you look at the top 10 rushers of all time, most of them are running backs, but nobody had an average like that."

Rings and other things

When they sat together at a CFL Alumni Association Legends Luncheon during 2016 Grey Cup week in Toronto, Jackson suggested to Cain that the 1968-69 Rough Riders should hold a reunion while enough of them were still alive to suitably celebrate those titles.

"One of the things he said is, 'You know, we never got those '69 Grey Cup rings,' and he said it bothered him, and I said it bothered everybody on the team," Cain says.

"So that led to what was the highlight of our reunion (in August 2018), and that was finally getting 1969 Grey Cup rings."

Jackson says his previous inquiries into those missing rings elicited a response along the lines of, "We got rings in '68. Why do we need another ring?"



“As I investigated, I found that the ’69 team in Ottawa was the only CFL team that hadn’t got rings. Sure, we won back to back, and most of the guys had a ’68 ring, but there were a few guys on that ’69 team that didn’t play in ’68 and they didn’t get a ring, so they didn’t have a ’68 ring to say, ‘Well, I’ve got a Grey Cup ring to show off and show the kids and so on.’ And I thought we need to get rings.”

The 2018 reunion in Ottawa provided an opportunity to highlight the matter again, and it worked. Every ’69 team member received a ring, even those teammates who couldn’t attend the gathering or their families.

“I think it finished the circle for me in terms of my thinking over probably four or five years, that there were some kids that didn’t get rings, and it’s important,” Jackson says. “Today, all you hear is ‘we’re going to get a ring, we’re going to get a ring. I don’t care what sport it is.’”

Cain attributes Jackson’s continuing popularity to his dominance as a player and his standing as a championship QB, but also emphasizes that Jackson played for only one CFL club.

Again using the Redblacks as examples, Cain mentions the 2019 departures of quarterback Trevor Harris and receiver Greg Ellingson as free agents after three and four Ottawa seasons, respectively. “So you look at the Redblacks, and who is the most popular probably or the person we know most, and it’s (receiver) Brad Sinopoli. And certainly he’s a really good player and happens to be a Canadian guy, but the other guys they move around too much.”

Riders were only game in town

Whit Tucker, the receiver on Jackson’s longest Grey Cup pass play — an 85-yarder against Saskatchewan in 1966 — says those Rough Riders owned the spotlight in Ottawa.

“It was fabulous for all the football players,” Tucker says. “We were the only game in town at that point. The Ottawa 67’s didn’t come along until 1967, and there was no (National Hockey League) team. We were the only pro team in town, basically, so we got a lot of attention. It was fun. We had a lot of laughs.”

Some of that laughter would have erupted at the Locanda Tavern, a Laurier Avenue establishment owned by another Ottawa football legend, Bobby Simpson. Rough Riders players had pre-game meals there before heading to the stadium.

“Come game time, though, (Jackson) was dead serious,” offensive/defensive end Ted Smale says, “and, as I say, he would brook no nonsense. He’d take suggestions, but he’d tell you to shut up, if necessary.”

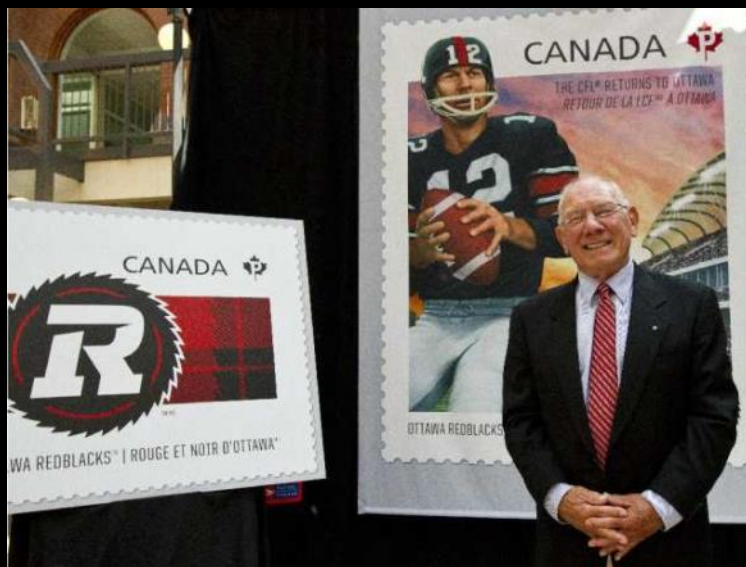
Other former teammates echo that all-business description. Bob O’Billovich, a Rough Riders defensive back and backup QB in the mid-’60s, credits head coach Frank Clair with getting the most out of Jackson’s smarts and athletic ability.

'Cool dude' with a story to match

As a CFL receiver for six of seven seasons between 1963 and 1969, Hugh Campbell and his Saskatchewan teammates beat Ottawa for the 1966 Grey Cup and lost to Jackson and Co. in 1969, so his son knows more league history than most.

As Rick Campbell explains it, Jackson's star still sparkles not only because of his accomplishments as a player, but also because of his off-field reputation. "I had known him by hearing about him through others. He played in the era my dad played and all that, so I learned about football from back then. Just interacting with the guy, he's such a 'cool dude' as I would call him. He's just pleasant to be around.

"And the longer you're in this business, you have a great amount of respect for people that can play the game at a high level for a long time and do as well as he did."



Jim Cain acknowledges that Henry Burris sailed into retirement as a CFL champion following the Redblacks' 39-33 overtime victory against the Stampeders in 2016, but reminds everyone that Jackson did so twice.

For his part, Burris calls Jackson the "Mount Rushmore" of CFL quarterbacks.

"These guys weren't only just players that they cheered for every game day and read about and went to bed with excitement to go see what they were

going to do the very next day, but they were guys that they looked forward to meeting on the street, walking around, in different restaurants, walking around the city, going to a different school," Burris says. "Well, you want to go to that school because that's Russ Jackson's school. He's the principal.

"It's those types of legacies that were created, not only on the field. A legacy to me is bigger than what you do between the lines. It has to do with impacting people's lives. When they talk about you, it's not about how much money you make or how many touchdowns you score, but it's all about the people that you affect.

"Russ Jackson, he impacted so many people's lives, and it's more than what he did on the field. It's also about the people that he touched when he lived here and worked here in the community as well."



REDBLACKS KICKER LEWIS WARD SETS RECORD FOR OTTAWA CFL CLUBS WITH 56-YARD FIELD GOAL

HAMILTON — The legend of Lewis Ward grew a bit more Saturday.

The second-year Ottawa Redblacks kicker booted four field goals, including one from 56 yards out, in a 33-12 loss to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. The 56-yarder broke the record as the longest field goal for any of Ottawa's CFL teams (Redblacks, Renegades and Rough Riders). The record, which had been 55, was held by Chris Milo (twice in 2016), Dean Dorsey (1985) and Wayne Lammie (1996).

It's another record to add to Ward's incredible CFL resumé. The former University of Ottawa Gee-Gee made 69 straight field goals over two seasons, going far past previous records in both the CFL and NFL, before having that streak snapped in mid-August.

"We talked before the game," said Redblacks coach Rick Campbell. "There was a bit of a breeze that particularly affected the punts and field goals. He told me he was good from 55 so I thought I could sneak in three extra feet. Big kick, he proved me right."

other way, I was in the 50s as well. It was just a good hit. Good snap, good hold and a good kick."

Asked about setting another record, he said, "It's always good to see your name up there, it means as an individual you're doing well. I have a role — try and give us a chance to win football games."

TIM BAINES THE OTTAWA CITIZEN OCTOBER 19, 2019

REDBLACKS RESULTS OCTOBER 2019





“IT'S NOT THE LOAD
THAT BREAKS YOU
DOWN. IT'S THE WAY
YOU CARRY IT.”

LOU HOLTZ
(AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACH)

Riddell



BURRIS TARGETS GM: OTTAWA REDBLACKS NEED FIXING FROM TOP ALL THE WAY DOWN

TIM BAINES OCTOBER 30, 2019

A future Hall of Fame quarterback took aim at Ottawa Redblacks GM Marcel Desjardins, his former boss, on Wednesday.

Early in the day, Henry Burris, who led the Redblacks to a Grey Cup win in 2016, told TSN 1200 that Desjardins needs to be accountable for his team's miserable season — they're 3-14 and riding a 10-game losing streak heading into Friday night's CFL regular-season finale at home against Montreal.

Burris spoke about fractured relationships between the football operations department and the players and the coaches. Burris also suggested the GM made some big mistakes by allowing receiver Greg Ellingson, quarterback Trevor Harris, offensive lineman SirVincent Rogers and running back William Powell to leave via free agency in February.

Speaking to Postmedia, Burris said, "You can't take a my-way-or-the-highway approach with your star players. That's what happened. There are still some great players on this team, but there aren't as many as you need. They're not good enough from an experience and talent standpoint. Losing by 30 points to the next-worst team in the league (39-9 in Toronto last Saturday), that clearly shows that. There are some household names on the roster, but not enough.

"Trust me, you can't find a 1,300-yard running back on the street corner to replace William Powell. You can't find a 5,000-yard quarterback to replace Trevor Harris. You can't find a left tackle to replace the best, in my mind, in the game — SirVincent Rogers. You can't replace one of the best receivers in the game, Greg Ellingson. You can't replace those guys. Marcel has to understand personnel, create a better environment. That starts with him."

Tweeted former Redblacks kicker Chris Milo: "I've said it once and I'll say it again. Members of the media/fans want to know the TRUTH? Just ask those who were there! Couldn't agree more with Hank on this."

Burris said this year's on-the-field ineptitude falls at the feet of the GM.

"A lot of the guys are walking around with their head down," said Burris. "You need the type of guys who can come in and spark this unit. You don't have the attitude of an Ernest Jackson, you don't have the leadership of a Chris Williams, you don't have the work ethic of a Greg Ellingson. If you look at the great receiving corps, there's always at least three main guys. One or two guys can't carry a receiving corps, especially when everybody outside of Brad is young."

But it doesn't end with the free-agent losses — the team is falling short in developing a healthy culture, according to Burris

"It starts from the top all the way down," he said. "As a quarterback, when I messed up, I had to take responsibility for it. Marcel needs to do the same and create relationships with the players. It may not be who he is as a person, but he's going to have to work on it for it to get better in this locker room. He's got to improve his face-to-face conversations with the guys. He's telling the players to represent the brand. The players are looking at him and are saying, 'Did you represent the brand?' "

Burris, who signed with the Redblacks prior to their 2014 expansion season, led the team to a Grey Cup appearance in 2015, then led them to victory in the championship game the following season. He retired before the 2017 season, at least partially because he was agitated that the team had signed and promised a starting job to Trevor Harris in the 2016 off-season.

"I took a pay cut (after Year 1) to make sure we got the receivers (Brad Sinopoli, Chris Williams and Ellingson) signed (as free agents)," Burris said. "The next year, I took a paycut so they could sign Trevor. When they guaranteed Trevor a starting job, I didn't like it. I found out about it through my agent ... that shows you how that goes.

"Heck yeah, I was pissed. It's a hard pill to swallow. In Year 2, your team is in the Grey Cup. In Year 3, you win the Grey Cup. And you get forced out. When I found out (Harris was promised the No. 1 job), I knew when I was retiring. You never promise any guy a starting job. Go earn it. If I look at what Trevor and I have achieved — if you look at my resumé, mine supersedes his and it's not even close. It didn't send a good message. I know he had to do what he had to do to get a quarterback, but look at where he is now because of that decision.

"The team sees what's happening. You can't fool the players. If you're asking your main guy, the guy who takes you to the Grey Cup, and you're promising his job to somebody else, how are you going to explain that to your team? How are you going to explain that to the league? Players know everybody, players talk."

Asked what he would do to patch up this team and make it once again competitive in 2020, Burris said, "It starts with making sure Brad is signed. They have to get him re-signed before getting anybody else. If you can't bring him back, it doesn't look good to other guys (you might want to bring in as free agents)."

And what about the quarterback position, where all three of Dominique Davis, Jonathon Jennings and Will Arndt took turns as the No. 1 guy this season?

"I would go after (Calgary Stampeders backup) Nick Arbuckle," Burris said. "And who's the offensive co-ordinator you go for? I say Ryan Dinwiddie (the Stamps' quarterback coach). You get a great package deal, both have worked in the same offence. Nick would be ultra-confident and comfortable working with the same guy."

"You have to bring in guys you know can make plays when plays need to be made. They have to find guys that when you sign them, the fan base in Ottawa goes, 'OK, now they're getting serious again.'

Asked if he was in charge, would he bring back both Campbell and Desjardins? Each has a year remaining on their contract.

"I believe they deserve another year," Burris said. "Rick would get hired tomorrow if he got fired today. That's how big an asset he is. Players want to play for him. When Rick has been given a competent roster, he's taken the team to the (Grey Cup game). He's been there three out of four years. Was he given a competent squad (this season) and put in a position to be successful? Probably not."

"There are things that need to change. They have to create the family environment, an environment that's an extension of Rick Campbell. I said this before the season, 'Things are great when you're winning with a young team like Ottawa has, but when things go awry and you start losing, will you have enough experience to rebound?' They have some talent, yes. But you have to have talent, you have to have youth and you have to have experience."

"Does Marcel need to be fired? I wouldn't say fired, but he needs to be talked to."

Desjardins declined the opportunity to speak to this newspaper on Wednesday.

MONTHLY HUDDLE MEETING

Date: Tuesday November 5th

Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Business 12:00pm sharp

LOCAL HEROES 1400 Clyde Ave

Bleeker Mall (Clyde & Merivale Rd.)

Nepean Ontario

K2G 3J2 | 613.224.3873





**The Canadian Tire CFL Alumni Association Legends Luncheon
Friday, November 22, 2019 - 11:00am - Calgary**

The Canadian Football League Alumni Association (CFLAA), Calgary Stampeders Alumni Association (CSAA) and the Grey Cup Festival have partnered up to celebrate the notorious 10th year anniversary of the Legends Luncheon on Friday, November 22, 2019 at the Big Four, Stampede Park!

Fans are invited to reminisce the history and shine the spotlight on some of the greatest CFL's Legends. During this event, you will hear their tales, cheer on the CFL Alumni Man of the Year "Tony Spoletini" and prepare yourself for a crowd engaging "Legendary" Hot Stove featuring Wally Buono. The Legends Luncheon is well-known for providing our fans entertainment and a personable experience! Over the years this event has been labelled by the fans as the must "go to" event at Grey Cup and sold out last year with 1000 fans!

Come join us and experience one of the most favorable event during Grey Cup Festival, make sure to buy your Legends Luncheon tickets before they sell out!

CFL Alumnus that would purchase tickets please contact Leo Ezerins (leo@cflaa.ca)

Should you have any further questions, please contact **Leo Ezerins, Executive Director, CFLAA, leo@cflaa.ca or 905-464-0007.**

Sincerely,
Co-Chair, Rocco Romano
Co-Chair, JT Hay
tion
Calgary Stampeders Alumni Association

Sincerely,
Brett MacNeil
President, CFL Alumni Associa-

The CFLAA's vision is to support former CFL players, Canadian football, and other communities of interest while fostering collaborative relationships with CFL stakeholders and others that enhance the well-being of our members and friends.



Deflate your spare tire with these easy changes to your football watching routine

CFL fans have some awesome cheers: "Oskee-wee-wee!" "Aaaaaargooooooooos!" and "Let's go H-2-O!"

Let's go H-2-O!?! Is there a new team (with a really weird name) or something? No, that's actually your BODY cheering every time your game-watching routine gets a little bit healthier. Here's how to make that happen with a few small, easy changes:

Drink water for the win!

Enjoying a beer and watching the big game may go hand-in-hand, but so does enjoying a beer and knocking back a glass of water. Chasing every alcoholic drink with some refreshing H2O helps your body process and eliminate alcohol, which will keep hangovers to a minimum.

Drinking plenty of water during and after the game also prevents headaches, fatigue, and dry mouth caused by dehydration. Another way to tell if you're dehydrated is to look at the [colour of your pee](#):

- **Light Yellow:** All good on the urine front. Nothing to worry about!
- **Dark Yellow:** You're healthy, but you should drink some water soon.
- **Amber or honey-coloured:** Darker pee is a sign of dehydration. Get some water into you ASAP.
- **Very dark, almost brown:** You're likely dehydrated and need to get more fluids right away. As this could also be a sign of liver problems, go see your doctor if it doesn't lighten up after a day or two.

Check out the '10-Minute Man Workout'

Get active at halftime by doing the 5 easy exercises in [this new ebook](#). That's right: 10 minutes is all you need for an equipment-free workout that can be in the comfort of your home. Pretty cool, right?

[Download the '10-Minute Man Workout'](#) for free right now!

For each exercise, your goal is to do as many repetitions as you can in 2 minutes. Then you simply move on to the next one until you've conquered all 5! Bust out this 10-minute routine 3 – 5 days a week, and you'll feel better, look better, and reduce the chances of developing a whack of health problems.

Snack for the win!

The Don't Change Much team are such big fans of the CFL that we've created a [special section on our website just for fans!](#) What we don't love, however, is the thought of undermining healthy game-time exercise by eating too much junk food — the salty and deep-fried stuff — during the game. At home, there are plenty of delicious and nutritious options, such as [spicy nuts](#), juicy grapes, and [trail mix](#). Or try these easy recipes for [Chili-Stuffed Sweet Potatoes](#) and [Steak Wrapped Vegetable Rolls](#). If you're in the stands, go with classic stadium snacks like peanuts in their shells and lightly-buttered popcorn.

Rest up before the big game

As well as sharing its excitement about hosting the 107th Grey Cup, Tourism Calgary is serving up a [bunch of handy tips](#) for making the most of the big game. One of the best: get a good night's sleep beforehand! As the organization rightly points out: "Game day prep can start pretty early and you don't want to have any energy left in the fourth quarter when your team may need you the most."

What kind of steps can you take to get the sleep you need? Download the free ["How to Sleep Like a Warrior King"](#) ebook for a whack of easy tips on getting a healthy amount of Z's.

Have fun with your buddies!

As well as being a high-fiving good time, [research reveals](#) that hanging with your buds helps you recover from illness faster, combats depression, keeps you sharp as you get older, and helps you live longer. Plus, high-fiving yourself just isn't the same, right?

At the same time, being a sports fan can be good for your health in many different ways. [Research has shown](#) it can benefit your emotional, psychological and social well-being, boost your self-esteem, and make you feel more connected to other people. In short, following sports can work wonders for your mental game!

Last but not least, libido to spare!

Researchers have also found that guys' testosterone levels jump when they see their teams win. Testosterone is a male hormone that's linked to everything from [extra energy to a stronger sex drive](#).

Put it all together on game days — a great sleep, easy exercise, tasty snacks, good times with buddies, and some fun in the sack afterwards — and it's no wonder you're such a big CFL fan!

Visit dontchangemuch.ca for all downloads and hyperlink connections

<https://dontchangemuch.ca/activity/cfl/deflate-your-spare-tire-easy-changes-to-football-watching-routine/>

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**JOIN OUR TEAM
TODAY!**
If interested in
volunteering with
the CFLOAA please
contact Jeff Avery

We are here to make sure your Membership experience is the best it can be...if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please contact a member of the Executive team.