



GINO FRACAS **1930 - 2009**

LONDON, Ont. – Football Canada and the Canadian Football Community is extremely saddened by the loss of a icon. Former CFL player and Canadian university football coaching great Gino Fracas passed away Thursday in London, Ont at the age of 79.

A two-way player at running back and linebacker, Fracas also handled the kicking duties. He was a perennial University all-star being chosen three consecutive years beginning in 1952. He led the Mustangs to back-to-back Yates Cup championships in 1952 and 1953.

Fracas was a first-round draft choice of the Ottawa Rough Riders, but played his entire eight-year CFL career with the Edmonton Eskimos, winning the Grey Cup in 1955 and 1956.

After his playing days, Fracas won three league championships as the head coach at the University of Alberta.



Fracas then returned to his hometown of Windsor, Ont., and served from 1968 to 1986 as the first head coach of the Lancers football program. He led the team to two championships and was named coach of the year in 1976 and 1977. Fracas was named the OUAA West coach of the year in 1976 and 1977 and in 1979 served as head coach of the Canadian CIAU all-star team in the second annual Can-Am bowl game.

Fracas was also a professor at the University of Windsor, retiring in 1995 after 28 years in the Faculty of Human Kinetics.

In 1987, the University of Windsor began presenting the Gino Fracas Award to the outstanding Lancer coach-of-the-year. Also, in 2008, the Lancer football team began the Gino Fracas Wall of Honour to remember the outstanding personnel to come through the program. Also in 1987, Fracas received the Football Canada/CFL Award of Merit for outstanding lifetime contribution to football.



Beginning in 1988, Football Canada, along with the CIS, began annually recognizing a university volunteer assistant coach of the year in Canada with a trophy named in his honour, the Gino Fracas Award.

Gino is survived by his wife Leona.