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calgary stamperder alumni association

ISSUE #4 | FEBRUARY 2012

NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR ALUMNI MEMBERS!

Hello Alumni Members and Happy New Year. On behalf of myself and our board members we would like to wish everyone a prosperous and healthy 2012.

We look forward to seeing you all at our AGM this month and sharing some of our new initiatives that we are planning as an Association. There also has been plenty of off season movement of players and coaches and we all are looking forward to the upcoming season to see how it all unfolds in the end.

Rocco Romano
Stampeder Alumni Association President

STAMPEDER ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 22nd annual Stampeder Alumni Golf Tournament was once again a huge success on a beautiful sunny July 18th day at Heritage Pointe Golf Club.

The tournament was presented by longtime sponsor Tammy Truman - Co-operators, Truman Insurance Agency with the event raising \$73,000 for the Calgary Children's Foundation and the Shouldice Fields Enhancement Project.

The tournament was sold out with 225 golfers in attendance and 45 members of the Calgary Stampeder Alumni played in the tournament and enjoyed a day of camaraderie with former teammates new and old while fostering new friendships with fans and sponsors of the Red and White.

Thank you to all of our sponsors for supporting the tournament:

Presenting Sponsor

 **the co-operators**
A Better Place For You™
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The winning team led by Stampeder Alumnus, Tim Petros and his crew donned the "Red Jacket."



Stampeder Punter Burke Dales joins Tammy Truman on the course.

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Thank you to the organizing committee for creating such a great event : Jackie Kellogg and Srecko Zizakovic Co- Chairman, Linda Orr, event co-ordinator, and committee members: Scott Coe and Dave Heasman.

The 23rd annual Stampeder Alumni Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, July 16, 2012, at Heritage Pointe. Anyone interested in getting involved please contact tournament chairman Jackie Kellogg at 403-305-8519.

To receive more information about this year's golf tournament please go to www.stampeder alumni.com.



Stampeder alumni Jackie Kellogg and Mike Juhasz entertain clients at the tourney.



The late Bill Casanova, enjoys a fun day on the course with his buddies.



The contestants from the \$100,000 The Co-operators, Truman Agency putting contest.



NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On October 6th, 2011 an email regarding the Stampeders Alumni Association accepting nominations for additional board members was sent out to alumni members, the following nominations came forward:

1. Pat MacDonald
2. Butch Caston
3. Dave Heasman
4. Will Johnson

Alumni members had the opportunity to contact President, Rocco Romano by November 14th, 2011, if there were any objections to these four alumni joining the board. On November 16th, 2011, Rocco Romano was pleased to announce the Stampeders Alumni Association Board of Directors had accepted all four of the nominations.

Rocco Romano stated, " We are very pleased with the enthusiastic response from our members wanting to become more involved. We look forward to them making our Association even stronger with there commitment to our organization"

Please welcome our newest boardmembers , Butch Caston, Will Johnson, Dave Heasman and Pat MacDonald. Here is a closer look at all of the Stampeders Alumni Board of Directors

Rocco Romano, President

Romano was a standout offensive lineman who served two stints with the Stampeders — the 1987 season and from 1992 to 2000. The Hamilton, Ont., native was drafted by Calgary in the first round (fifth overall) of the 1987 CFL Draft. He was elected to the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 2007.

He was a division all-star in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1999 and all-Canadian in 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996

and 1999. He was Calgary's nominee for the CFL Outstanding Lineman award on three occasions and was a two-time winner of the award as the West Division's top lineman, taking home the DeMarco-Becket Memorial Trophy in 1994 and 1996. He won the Presidents' Ring for motivational and leadership skills on and off the field as voted by teammates in 1997 and was added to the Stampeders Wall of Fame in 2008.

Romano played on Calgary Grey Cup championship teams in 1992 and 1998. The photo of Romano aboard the Touchdown Horse after the Grey Cup win over Hamilton in 1998 at Winnipeg Stadium is one of the unforgettable images in Stampeders history. He was very active in the Calgary community during his playing career, most notably with the Variety Club. Rocco continues to give back to the community by being involved in various charities, particularly the organization, Inn From The Cold.



In between his stints in Calgary, Romano spent time with Saskatchewan, Toronto, Ottawa and BC. He resides in Calgary and is currently working in the Oil and Gas industry for Carson Energy Services Ltd.

Srecko Zizakovic, Vice President

Srecko was born and raised in Weston, Ontario. He earned a football scholarship to The Ohio State University in 1985 and won the Big 10 Championship in 1986.

He wore #96 and was drafted out of The Ohio State University in 1988 and joined



the Calgary Stampeders in 1990.

Srecko's 6 year career in the CFL was all spent with the Calgary Stampeders playing in 88 career games and 3 Grey Cups, winning it in 1992. He was 4 times voted the Canadian Airlines Canadian Player of the Game and 2 times the CFL Defensive Player of the Week. This former nose guard was also the team's long snapper in 1994 + 1995 and retired after the 1995 Grey Cup in Regina.

In his post-playing days, Srecko has volunteered as a football coach locally at both the high school level and at the University of Calgary. Since 1994, Srecko has been involved with Calgary Special Olympics and supported many other local charities.

Currently, he coaches minor hockey and is the Vice President of the Calgary Stampeders Alumni Association. Srecko joined Baker Hughes Canada in 2004 and enjoys being a Key Accounts Manager in the Oil + Gas industry in Calgary.

David Heasman, Board Member

Born and raised in Calgary, David was drafted in the 1997 Canadian Football League draft and ended up playing 7 years in the Canadian Football League playing in 126 regular season games, 8 playoff games including 4



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West division finals and two Grey Cup Championships including the 2001 Grey Cup victory with the Calgary



Stampeders. David played university football on a scholarship to Northern Arizona University (NAU) where he was a 4 year starter and a Big Sky Conference all-star. David graduated from NAU with a business degree in marketing management and currently lives in Calgary with his family, working for Husky Energy.

Jay McNeil, Board Member



Jay McNeil was an offensive lineman for the Calgary Stampeders from 1994 to 2007. During his 14 year career with the Stampeders, he played in 4 Grey Cup games, winning 2 championships in both 1998 and 2001. Jay was named to the West Division All-Star team 6 times, the CFL All-Star team 3 times, and in 2001, he won the DeMarco-Becket Trophy as the West Division's

most outstanding lineman. He was also awarded the Stampeders' President's Ring in 2005 and 2006.

Jay played college football at Kent State University where he graduated with an honours degree in Finance.

Jay lives in Calgary with his wife Tara and son Cuyler, and is President of Empire Tubular, an Oil and Gas service company.

Butch Caston, Board Member

After his senior year with the ISU Bengals, Butch signed as a free agent with the NFL's Cleveland Browns in 1988. After getting released, he went back to Idaho State to complete his degree and continue training for another NFL opportunity. Then one day, the phone rang. It wasn't an NFL team, but it was an opportunity. It was the Calgary Stampeders.

He joined the Stamps in 1989 and had the best training camp of his life. Coach Larry Kuharich kept track of how many plays a player missed, how many blocks a player dropped and how many fumbles a player had. Through the whole training camp, Butch only made one mistake, he dropped one pass. That's how he ended up making the team.

Butch's first regular season game was at Regina's Taylor Field against the Saskatchewan Roughriders. It turned out to be his last. He was on the field for the opening kickoff, and the ball came right to him. He was running with the ball and had a big grin on my face. All he could see was open field. He knew it was six and he knew no one was going to catch him. He made a cut to the right and then tore his hamstring before anyone touched him. He hobbled about 15 or 20 yards before he actually hit the ground.

That injury ended his professional football career. Later that season, he was released by the Stamps in 1990. He gave it one more shot with the BC Lions in 1991, but the hamstring injury wouldn't go away. "Coach Bob O'Billovich pulled him aside and said I can tell you're hurt. I'm going to let you go home and heal it and I'll call you back in four or five weeks," But I told O'Billovich not to bother. I knew I was done playing ball.



Butch is currently a Bank Manager for ATB Financial and is married to Angela and has two boys Dominic and Jaden. Half his life has been spent in Canada and Calgary now and he really enjoys coaching both his boys in all their sports activities.

Will Johnson, Board Member

Drafted by the Chicago Bears in the 5th round (138th overall) of the 1987 NFL Draft. He started his career in the NFL, playing for the Chicago Bears in 1987, where he was a linebacker. Will Johnson #81, defensive lineman, 1989-1996 — Johnson was selected as a West all-star six times (1990-95) and a CFL all-star five times (1991-95). He won a Grey Cup with Calgary in 1992, was named the team's top defensive player in 1991 and 1994 and was named to the Stampeders' 50-year Dream Team

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in 1995. Johnson ranks first on the Stamps' all-time list with

99 quarterback sacks and recorded a career-high 17 sacks in 1995. He led the team in sacks four times, tied for the lead once and was second once. The defensive lineman notched 288 defensive tackles and 11 fumble recoveries during his eight-year career.

Matt Finlay, Board Member

During Matt's 10 year CFL career as a linebacker (9 with the Stampeders) he

played in 3 Grey Cup games winning 1 with the Calgary Stampeders in 1992. He was a Western Division All-Star in 1992, and was the Stampeders nomination for top Canadian that year. In 1991 Matt received the Canadian Airlines player of the year for the Stampeders, and received CFL defensive player of the week 3 times during his career. Matt was the recipient of the Mississauga Athlete of the Year in 1992 and was inducted into the Mississauga Hall of Fame in 2006.

Since retirement Matt has been working as an Investment Advisor and recently joined Macquarie Private Wealth. In his spare time you will find Matt coaching minor hockey, lacrosse and football.

Jackie Kellogg, Board Member

Jackie Kellogg was a defensive back for the Calgary Stampeders from 1995 to

2001 and for the Edmonton Eskimos from 2001 to 2002. During his CFL career he played in 4 Grey Cup Games winning 1 with the Stamps in 1998. He was selected as an All-Star 3 times as a Defensive Halfback. He also played in NFL Europe in 1995 and 1997 winning the World Bowl in 1995 for the Frankfurt Galaxy. He started his playing career with the San Francisco 49er's in 1994 and 1995.

Jackie played his college football at Eastern Washington University graduating in 1994.



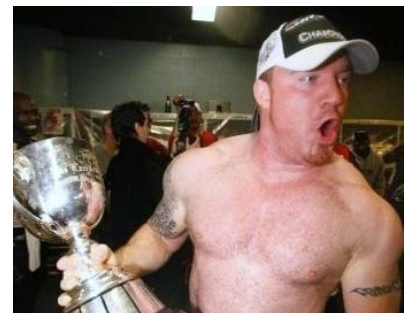
He started 43 games in his career and EWU winning the Big Sky Championship his Junior season. In 2008 EWU celebrated its top 100 players in Eastern football history as the school turned 100 years old and he was selected as one of the top 13 db's of all time.

Since retirement Jackie has been working in the Oil and Gas Industry here in Calgary as a Senior Account Manager. He resides in Calgary with his wife Jodi and 2 children Trey and Jazmyn. In his spare time you can find Jackie coaching minor football and baseball.

Pat MacDonald, Board Member

Pat MacDonald played 4 seasons in the CFL and NFL. His career started with the Stampeders in 2007, after a short stint with the New Orleans Saints. Drafted 21st overall by the Stamps, he spent 2 seasons with Calgary, winning the Grey Cup in 2008. After 2008 Pat signed with

the Carolina Panthers, spent time with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Seattle Seahawks and Montreal Alouettes. In 2010 Pat won another Grey Cup with the Alouettes and retired after a knee injury sustained late in the 2010-2011 season. Pat now works as a financial advisor for Acumen Capital, and is a



loving father to his first child Adrianna, and husband to Charlene MacDonald.

AGM IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 15TH / ALUMNI FEES ARE DUE

Annual Stampeder Alumni Association
AGM

Wednesday, February 15th, 2012
Spolumbo's - 1308 9 Avenue SE

5:00 p.m. mix and mingle
6:00 p.m. meeting commences

Please R.S.V.P. to Linda Orr at:
403-667-5315 or via email:
lindaorr@shaw.ca

2012 Membership Fee

\$50.00 local alumni members \$25.00
out of town members

Membership includes :

- 2 for 1 price available for 2012 Stampeder season tickets in the red, blue, silver and white seats.
- 25 % discount from the Stamps' Store.
- Access to the Red & White Club on



- game day.
- Membership with CFL Alumni Association.
- Opportunity to play in the annual Stamps Alumni Golf Tournament.
- Access to members only section on our new website at www.stampederalumni.com
- Receive Stamps Alumni Newsletter.

QR77'S CALGARY CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION PLEDGE DAY AT THE WESTIN HOTEL

On December 9th, the Stampeders Alumni Association donated \$24,000 dollars to the QR77/Westin Hotel Calgary Children's Foundation. The money, along with donations from QR listeners and hotel guests will go a long way to connect and help kids in need in Calgary. Last year the Calgary Children's Foundation assisted many grass-roots charities with money raised directly from the Stampeders Alumni Association Golf Tournament.

A total of \$250,000 dollars raised during Pledge Day 2011 will be divvied up to fund great programs for kids who are mentally, physically, socially, emotionally and/or financially challenged. From lunch programs, to after-school programs, to providing specialized equipment and special needs summer camps; these donations



QR77's Dave Rutherford, Tammy Truman and Alumnus Scott Coe present the cheque to the Calgary Children's Foundation.



Tammy Truman and Alumnus Don Moulton answer the phones and take pledges.



From left to right : John Vos, QR77 Program Director, Didier Luneau GM Westin Calgary, Jackie Kellogg Tournament Co -Chairman, Tammy Truman Co-operators , Truman Insurance Agency and Presenting Sponsor , Bernie Morrison Chairman of the Stampeders Alumni Charitable Foundation, Srecko Zizakovic Tournament Co - Chairman.

Long time Stampeders Alumni supporter, Tammy Truman helps out on pledge day at the Westin by answering the phones.



go a long way to improve the lives of Calgary's highest needs kids.

STAMPEDER ANNUAL DINNER FEATURING THE WALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

We are pleased to inform you that we will be launching our 1st Annual Stampeders Red & White Gala Dinner in support of Amateur Football in Calgary and the Shouldice Fields Enhancement Project, in which Rocco Romano will be chairing the event. We invite you to mark your calendar for October 20th, 2012, where we will celebrate the long history of Stampeders Football while supporting amateur sports in our city. We believe through sports and recreation we can deeply enrich the lives of kids and empower future generations.

This year's Stampeders Annual Dinner will feature our 2012 Stampeders Wall of Fame Inductees and will take place on October 20th, 2012. The inductees will be flown into Calgary for a weekend long event. The weekend kicks off with an intimate private cocktail reception for the inductees, their family and friends, along with Stampeders alumni members on Friday evening. The Stampeders Red & White Gala Dinner will be on Saturday evening at the Red & White Club at

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McMahon Stadium and is open to the general public to attend. The weekend events will conclude with the inductees being honoured at halftime at the Stampeders home game on Sunday afternoon at McMahon Stadium. We are seeking support through sponsorship and ticket sales of this exclusive Stampeders event and this support would be a significant contributor to the development of Amateur Football in Alberta.

We will be sending you more details about the event in the next month.

STAMPEDER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CREATE WEBSITE

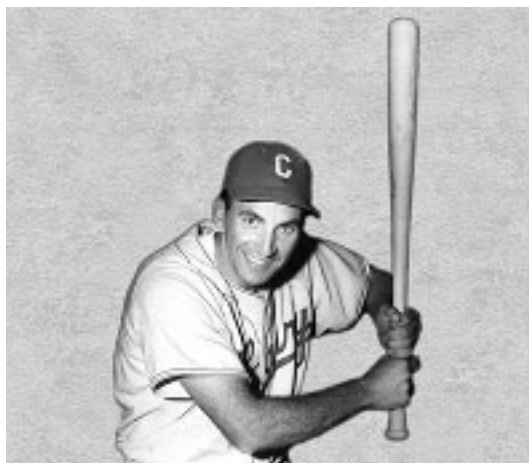
We are pleased to announce that we have created a website for our Stampeders Alumni Association. Please check it out at www.stampederalumni.com.

We will be posting alumni news, featuring stories on players from the past, creating bios plus a photo gallery for members and fans of the red and white to enjoy. There is a "members only" log in section where you can insert the private password of 6greycups and then alumni members have access to private information like our constitution, member benefits and alumni member contact information. Note if your contact information has changed please contact Linda Orr immediately at 403-667-5315 so we can keep our database up to date. Our goal is to also keep building our membership database but we need your help to send us contact information for past players that we have lost touch with.

In order to develop the alumni bios section of the website, we will be asking all of our alumni members to send us a bio on

your football career a photo of when you played and what you are doing now. Please send this information to Linda Orr via email : lindaorr@shaw.ca or by mail : Stampeders Alumni Association , 716 24A Street NW, Calgary, Alberta T2N-2S4.

IN



MEMORIAM - CASANOVA TOUCHED STAMPS FAMILY

Despite being traded to the Calgary Stampeders in 1958, Bill Casanova never played a single regular-season game for the Red and White. That hardly means the Windsor, Ont., native — who passed away on Aug. 9 at the age of 80 — didn't have a profound impact on the Stampeders family.

After completing his career as an athlete, Casanova settled in Calgary and became an educator and coach and it was in this role he touched the lives of many, including future Stampeders defensive lineman Joe Forzani.

"He was probably my third best mentor behind my mother and father," Forzani, who played for the Stamps from 1968-75, told the Calgary Herald. "He was instrumental for setting me straight into football. I was really blessed having him as a mentor and coach."

"Bill Casanova is one of those special people who helped me see the value of sports and the importance of sports in society," said Stampeders vice-president/consultant to the executive committee Stan Schwartz, who played for Coach Casanova at Mount Royal College. "He loved football and was committed to the game and his players. We learned to work hard and appreciate how much preparation it takes to win."

A talented athlete, Casanova excelled in baseball, basketball football and track and field as a high-schooler. He signed





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with the New York Yankees and reached the Triple-A level with baseball's most famous franchise before returning to the gridiron in 1954 with the University of Western Ontario Mustangs.

The BC Lions and Stampeders both owned his playing rights in 1958 but a professional football career was not to be and by 1959 he was athletic director and head football coach at Calgary's St. Mary's high school.

St. Mary's posted four consecutive undefeated regular seasons under Casanova and captured a pair of city championships.

From St. Mary's to Mount Royal to the University of Calgary to the Colts, Cougars and Mohawks junior clubs, Casanova left his fingerprints all over the city's football scene and left a lasting legacy.

"He taught the right values in the right way to his teams," said Schwartz. "To him, everyone on the team was important. He cared about his athletes on and off the playing field. The people he coached were more important than the athletes he coached.

"Bill Casanova touched my life and my future by helping me become who I am. I will always remember his ongoing support, wisdom and, most importantly, the friendship he provided until his passing. I wouldn't be where I am today without the support of my family and people like my friend, Bill Casanova."

FORMER EQUIPMENT MANAGER GEORGE DUNN PASSES AWAY

For a boy hoping to learn the ins and outs of a football locker-room, George Hopkins couldn't have asked for a better mentor than George Dunn.

Dunn, the Calgary Stampeders' equipment manager from 1961-77, died Oct 7th, 2011 in Calgary. He was 86.

Hopkins took over those managerial duties in 1977 and maintains he owes a lot to his former boss.

"Probably one of the sharpest witted individuals I ever had the pleasure to meet," said Hopkins, who started out as a ball boy in the early 1970s. "Very quick with a comeback to the players, kept the locker-room very, very loose, always had a smile on his face . . . so from that standpoint a real pleasure to be around. When he saw fit to grace you with his humour, it was something to see."

Dunn's lessons went far beyond helmets and pads.



"One thing that George was invaluable to me as a 12-year-old kid starting out in that business. . . you have to remember, back in 1972, I didn't have an awful lot of experiences around black people," Hopkins said. "George was really good about sitting down and explaining how the black-white thing worked, didn't work, that type of thing. For me, as a young kid, he taught me a lot about the racism he experienced in the States and that he wasn't experiencing in Canada. He gave me a real insight to the black players that came up that I still use today."

When Hopkins began the job he continues to hold today, football equipment went through some dramatic, modernizing changes, so he wasn't dealing with the same issues as Dunn. But it was the other part of the task, dealing with the different factions around him, in which Dunn — nicknamed Dundee — excelled.

"As much as anything, Georgie taught me how to relate to people," Hopkins said. "He taught me the art of how to run a locker-room and that's something that I try and pass on to my assistants. It really is probably the most important part of the job and you get that by watching someone who knows what they're doing. How to relate to management, how to relate to players . . . relating to everyone, but taking sides with no one.

"You have to love it, because you sure as hell aren't doing it for the money," said Hopkins, laughing. "He passed that on, without any doubts at all."

Originally from Raleigh, N.C., Dunn served in the U.S. army during the Second World War, seeing action in New Guinea



and the Philippines. It was during this period that he began what would be a successful boxing career, one that would see him turn pro in 1946.

At one point, he was ranked seventh in the world in the light-weight division.



Dunn was predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Lillian, and is survived by his three children and grandchildren. A private family service will be held.

**ORIGINAL
STAMPEDER
GEORGE ALEXANDER
DIES AT 93**

Long before these days of specialized athletes whose focus is acutely narrowed to one sport, there was George Alexander. An original member of the Calgary Stampeders, Alexander did it all for decades — from the 1930 to the '70s — playing and winning city, provincial and national titles in countless sports.

Alexander, who died Oct. 7 at age 93, also was a member of the Calgary Bronks football team in 1940 before it folded for the war, then was an original star member of the Calgary Stampeders football team from 1945-47.

"George ... is the greatest natural all-around athlete Calgary has ever produced," renowned Calgary sportswriter and sportscaster Eric Bishop, who covered the Stampeders for the Herald in 1945, insisted in a 1961 article. "He played football, hockey, semi-pro hockey, fastball, baseball, curling, handball, golf, soccer, bowling, tennis, track and basketball."

Alexander also coached several sports at high levels, including the national all-star women's softball team, which was voted the best defensive team at the world championships in Melbourne, Australia, in 1964.

As well, he managed to fit in a 35-year career with the Calgary Fire Department, in which he retired as Captain.

"I believe that of all the athletes born and raised in this province, George deserves to be in the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame," said Bob Rowe, a longtime friend of Alexander. "The reason is because he was a champion in multiple disciplines."

Dunc Scott, former Calgary Herald sportswriter, also wrote in the early 1960s that if we named an all-around athlete in the city's history, "George would win hands down."

Scott, in his article, described one of George Alexander's weekends in the 1940s that would cripple almost any athlete.

He said Alexander played fastball on Friday night, then worked a night shift with the fire department, played baseball again on Saturday morning, football on Saturday night, another work shift, then fastball in Edmonton on Sunday, another shift and flew to Winnipeg on Monday night to play football.

Perhaps Alexander's most memorable game with the Stampeders came in their first Western Final in Winnipeg on Nov. 10, 1945, when he caught a 60-yard pass-and-run touchdown from Harry Hobbs.

The five-point major, as it was then worth, put Calgary ahead 5-0. The Stampeders led 5-3 until late in the fourth quarter when Blue Bombers' Paul Boivin barrelled over for the winning touchdown, to make it 9-5, and took away the Stamps' trip to the Grey Cup.

In a conversation last year with Alexander, he recalled his touchdown play vividly.

"I was about 20 yards downfield and had two defenders on me when Harry threw the ball," Alexander said. "The two defenders collided and fell, I twisted around and caught the ball and had nothing but open field for the final 40 yards."

Alexander, though, true to his competitive nature, concentrated more on a mistake he felt he made later in the game.

Unfortunately, his career with the Stampeders ended a year short of the 1948 undefeated Grey Cup champions. At training camp, a feud developed with legendary teammate Fritz Hanson, who complained to head coach Les Lear that Alexander hit too hard. Lear, who had played with Hanson in Winnipeg before coming to Calgary, responded by cutting Alexander.

Alexander, who was born in Calgary, graduated from Western Canada High School before joining the navy during the Second World War.

Without football, he continued to excel at other sports and began his fire department career. At one time he played with five fastball and baseball teams, as well as working his job.

He was also a student of curling, skipping winning teams at the Calgary Winter Club.





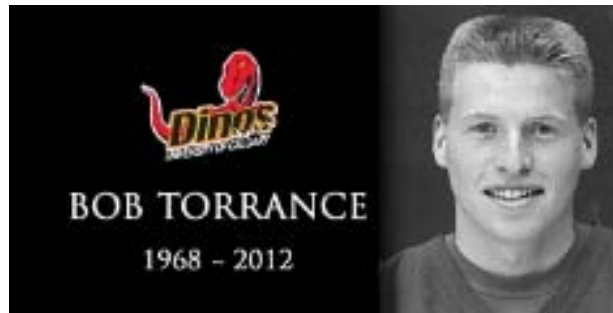
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Alexander, who was predeceased by his wife Helen, is survived by his children Sandra, Ricki and Georgette, as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

FRIENDS WRESTLE WITH QB'S UNTIMELY DEATH

TORRANCE, 43, STARRED FOR STAMPS, DINOS



From his days at William Aberhart High School through a brilliant career with the University of Calgary Dinos, Bob Torrance never hid his desire to be a professional football quarterback.

"A lot of these guys from the States have played major college football," Torrance told the Calgary Herald in a 1990 story. "But I don't think they love the game any more than I love the game."

That's the way former teammates and coaches remembered Torrance on Wednesday as news started circulating of his unexpected death due to heart failure.

Torrance was 43 when he died on Tuesday in St. John's, N.L., where he'd settled with his family.

One of the finest quarterbacks this city produced, Torrance became a starting quarterback with the Dinos midway through his freshman season in 1987. A year later, he led the Dinos to the Vanier Cup title and set a record that still stands with an 86-yard rush.

Over a brilliant four-year career with the Dinos, Torrance earned second-team All-Canadian honours twice (Saint Mary's star Chris Flynn beat him out both times) and remains No. 2 behind Greg Vavra on the Dinos' all-time list in passing yardage, attempts, completions and touchdown passes. He also holds the U of C record with seven touchdown passes in a single game.

"Well, at the university level, he had a pro-level arm," said

former Dinos teammate running back J.P. Izquierdo. "The guy had a real arm, and he could use his legs to get himself out of trouble and buy himself time. More than anything, at the university level, he threw the ball like a CFL quarterback, and that was something that was unique."

Also unique was the way Torrance took over as the starter from incumbent Rob McNab during the 1987 season.

"He was a rookie and I was a veteran and I didn't really think much of him at the beginning," admitted former teammate offensive lineman Paul Carson. "Obviously, he came in as a rather heralded high school player, but we already had a returning quarterback and the season started that way.

"But it became pretty evident that Bob was going to get his chance to play and it was going to happen sooner rather than





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later. One of the things that impressed me about him was that even as a rookie, he commanded the respect that a starting quarterback does, and that's not always easy for an 18-year-old kid.

"People recognized that he was potentially the differencemaker for that team."

In 1991, the Calgary Stampeders drafted him 22nd overall and current coach and general manager John Hufnagel played a role in getting him to the Stamps; he'd been serving as a volunteer assistant for the Dinos under head coach Peter Connellan, and after taking over as the Stamps' offensive co-ordinator, he urged then head coach Wally Buono to select Torrance in the draft.

"I saw first-hand the talent that the young man had," said Hufnagel on Wednesday from Florida. "He threw the ball very well, he had good accuracy, decent mobility - he did a heck of a job for Pete at the U of C. In practice, we thought he would have a chance. It just didn't develop for him. I thought Bob had a viable chance to be a CFL player. And Bob always had a smile on his face. He was a good-natured young man and football was important to him."

Connellan started recruiting Torrance - who set a city high school javelin record at Aberhart - in Grade 11, and always believed he could make an impact at the CFL level; after two seasons with the Stamps (including the 1992 Grey Cup campaign) with limited playing time, Torrance moved onto Hamilton and got to start for part of the 1993 season; he was 78-for-152 for 837 yards, three touchdowns and 12 interceptions.

"I watched as many games on television as I could and Bob

didn't look out of place at all, and I think the guy he beat out (to take over as starter) was the all-American from Syracuse (Don McPherson)," said Connellan. "He was certainly capable of playing in the CFL; he had a strong arm and he understood the Canadian game."

He never got another chance; he would close out his career as a reserve with the Stamps in 1995.

According to a Facebook posting from a relative, Torrance had a blood infection that took over his lungs and heart and was on life support for two days before he died peacefully.

He is survived by his wife Lori Metcalfe and three children, Emily, Sammy and Allie.

A private service was held in St. John's, with a public service held at the Red & White Club at McMahon Stadium in Calgary on January 30th. Many former teammates and friends from the football community were in attendance to pay tribute to Bob.

BY ALLEN CAMERON, CALGARY HERALD

ALUMNUS WHAT'S YOUR NEWS?

Change of address, promotion, transfer? Please let us know what is new in your life so we can include it in our alumni emails to help keep you all connected.

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