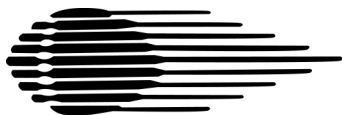


# WIDESIDE

*The Official Newsletter of Football Alberta*



**FOOTBALL ALBERTA**

## Inside this issue:

Executive Director's Report	2
Pull Your Price & Donate Fundraiser	2
AB University Grads to the CFL	2
FB Summer Camps	2
Membership Info	3
FA Scholarship Program	3
Senior Bowl Rosters	4
U17 Team Alberta	5
2008 Coaching Awards	6
Bantam Bowl Rosters	9
<b>Feature:</b> Where Do the Others Go?	10

WIDESIDE is the official newsletter of Football Alberta.  
11759 Groat Rd  
Edmonton AB T5M 3K6  
(P)780-427-8108 (F)780-427-0524  
Web: [www.footballalberta.ab.ca](http://www.footballalberta.ab.ca)

Executive Director:  
Brian Fryer  
(E) [bfrayer@telus.net](mailto:bfrayer@telus.net)

Technical Director:  
Tim Enger  
(E) [tenger@telus.net](mailto:tenger@telus.net)

Administrative Coordinator:  
Christy Griffin  
(E) [cgriffin@telus.net](mailto:cgriffin@telus.net)

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May 2009

## 20th Annual Senior Bowl

The rosters are selected for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Bowl High School Football All-Star Game. These "North" and "South" rosters were selected in April from the top graduating high school players in the province. You will find the complete roster list on page 4.

The final game will be at 12:00 pm on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at McMahon Stadium in Calgary. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10.00.

For a complete rundown of the schedules for both teams visit the Football Alberta website at [www.footballalberta.ab.ca](http://www.footballalberta.ab.ca).

Out of this game the final 36 players will be selected to represent Alberta in the U19 division of the Football Canada Cup being held this summer in Saskatoon. Best of luck to both teams. Let's hope for good weather.

**Monday May 18th**  
**20th Annual Senior Bowl**  
**12:00 p.m.**  
**McMahon Stadium**



Senior Bowl 2008

## Bantam Bowl 2009

In non Alberta Summer Games years, Football Alberta is pleased to offer the Bantam Bowl; a North vs. South All-Star Game for graduating Grade 9's.

2009 is such a year and the Bantam Bowl is scheduled to be played on Monday May 18th at Foote Field at the University of Alberta. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10.00.

The rosters for the "South" and "North" teams were selected at separate weekend camps in April. You will find

the complete rosters on page nine.

For a rundown of the schedules for both teams visit the Football Alberta website at [www.footballalberta.ab.ca](http://www.footballalberta.ab.ca).

Congratulations to all the players and best of luck to both teams.

**Monday May 18th**  
**Bantam Bowl 2009**  
**12:00 p.m.**  
**Foote Field**  
**U of A South Campus**

2009 Football Alberta Membership is due.

Membership can be renewed online and team rosters for insurance purposes should be completed online.

If you have misplaced your username and password, or have not received it, please contact the office.

## Executive Director's Spring '09 Report — Brian Fryer

### PULL YOUR PRICE & DONATE BOOKLET - ANNUAL TEAM FUNDRAISING PLAN

Order 40 Books and Make \$2,400....Is Your Team Interested?

Football Alberta is pleased to again offer our winning fundraising campaign. We are offering a highly successful team fundraising plan, based on a **pull ticket donation** concept. This year teams will make \$2,400 with 40 books ordered. This works out to a **75% profit** from each book sold. These successful "Pull Your Price & Donate" books have an \$80 value and no More Scratches. The prize board features a **\$3500.00 Dream Vacation Package**. The draw date is November 2, 2009.



**WIN Your Dream Vacation Package  
(Thru THE TRAVEL TEAM)  
\$3500.00 Value in Travel Dollars  
to your Dream Location  
ANYWHERE in the World  
What is your dream?**



#### HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:

You start with a Football Alberta - "Pull Your Price & Donate" booklet that contains 50 tickets. Players, coaches and parents approach their favourite people and ask them to Pull Out a ticket & donate the amount on the ticket in support for your football program. Donation amounts range from Free to \$2.50. There are 5 Free tickets per book.

Each book generates \$80.00, of which you keep \$60.00 in profit. Remember out of the \$20, a certain percentage goes towards the printing of the books and the balance goes to us. We pay for all of the prizes and the rest is put towards all of the other programs we offer to amateur football programs. By participating in our fundraiser, the dollars raised stay in amateur football teams in Alberta, not anywhere else. **Consider adding \$80 to a player's registration and hand him a book.** All books are then sold upfront.

#### ORDER FORM

Football Alberta, 11759 Groat Rd., Edmonton AB T5M 3K6

E: [bryer@telus.net](mailto:bryer@telus.net) Ph:780-427-8108 Fax: 780-427-0524

**Payment Method:** Check One

Cheque Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Card Holder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Team/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address: (No Box#) \_\_\_\_\_ P.C. \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please ship us (quantity) \_\_\_\_\_ books @ a cost of \$20 per book. Payment must be received first before books are sent.

Date books are needed: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **ALBERTA UNIVERSITY GRADS to the CFL**

Recent signings in the CFL Draft include:

##### **University of Calgary Dinos Grads:**

Dylan Steenbergen went #7 in Round 1 to Montreal

James Green went #18 in Round 3 to Toronto

Andrea Bonaventura went #20 in Round 3 to Edmonton

##### **University of Alberta Bears Grads:**

Simeon Rottier went #1 in Round 1 to Hamilton

Gordon Hince went #11 in Round 2 to Edmonton

#### **SUMMER FOOTBALL CAMPS**

##### **University of Calgary**

July 20, 21 & 22 - PeeWee & Jr. High Camps

July 23, 24 & 25 - Senior High Camp

<http://www.ucalgarycamps.ca/dinos/football>

##### **University of Alberta**

August 7, 8 & 9 - High School Skill Position Camp & OL/DL Camp

August 4-7 - Bantam Camps

<http://www.summercamps.ualberta.ca/pdfs/>

[summercamps2009finalforweb.pdf](http://www.summercamps.ualberta.ca/pdfs/summercamps2009finalforweb.pdf)

## Executive Director's Report cont'd.

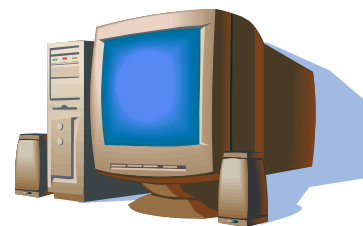
### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

(All information is on the website at <http://footballalberta.ab.ca/web/membership/>)

#### Online Registration

Once again, teams and/or leagues should use their username and password to register your team. With the online registration and payment option available, our aim is to simplify the registration process. You do not need to fax, mail or send attachments of your team's roster.

If your team or league registrar changes, please provide them with the team username and password and notify us of the new contact person, including their email address.



Didn't receive your username & password to register your team online? Call or email the office to confirm team contact information.

#### Plan #1 (Team and Player Insurance)

Minor (Atom, PeeWee, Bantam)	Team fee of \$105.00 (incl. GST) + \$15.00 per person
High School	Team fee of \$131.25 (incl. GST) + \$15.00 per person
Midget/Junior/University	Team fee of \$131.25 (incl. GST) + \$15.00 per person
Senior Men/Female	\$15.00 per person
Flag/Touch	\$7.00 per person

Plan#1 includes \$3 Million Liability and Accident insurance, lower rates on all F AB services and programs

#### Plan #2 (Team Membership Only, No Insurance)

Rates:

High School, Six man H.S., Midget, Junior, university, Senior Men, Female Tackle: \$131.25 (incl. GST)

This plan is for teams that have adequate insurance. All minor flag and touch teams must take out insurance.

**Payment is due**, along with team rosters, as of your first practice. If several players are added in the fall then register them online and send a cheque for the balance.

CDMFA and Edmonton Flag will register with their own leagues online registration system. Any questions in regards to anything to deal with membership, insurance or online registration please call the office and we will clarify any issue.

### FOOTBALL ALBERTA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(Please go to the website for an application form) **Send your completed application to Football Alberta.**

**\*Deadline: Friday June 5th, 2009: applications must arrive in the office by June 5th, not be postmarked by June 5th.**

#### ELIGIBILITY & PROCEDURES

1. Applications will only be received from Alberta tackle football high school programs that are confirmed paid members of Football Alberta in the year of received application.
2. The applicant must be a graduating Grade 12 player who has played tackle high school within the Alberta Schools Athletic Association (ASAA) system.
3. The recipient must be registered in full time (as stipulated by the institution) attendance at an accredited Alberta post-secondary institution all year or both semesters. The program of study must be a minimum two (2) years in duration.
4. The Applicant must be participating on a post-secondary Alberta football team of their choice during the year of application while attending the 2 year post-secondary program.

#### WHAT IS AVAILABLE/REGIONS

Six (6) scholarships valued at **\$1,800 each** are available for the 2009/2010 academic year. There are 5 x Scholarship/Award regions with each demographically equal region having the capability of receiving at least one award winner each year. These regions are Northern Alberta, Edmonton, Central Alberta, Calgary and Southern Alberta based on approximately the same number of teams in each region. The Calgary Stampeders provide the 6th scholarship for a student from the Calgary area.



A football coach was asked his secret of evaluating his new recruits. "Well", he said, "I take 'em out into the woods and make 'em run. The ones that run round the trees, I make into running backs. The ones that run straight into trees, I turn into linemen".

- [http://www.jokesaboutfootball.com/football\\_joke\\_one.html](http://www.jokesaboutfootball.com/football_joke_one.html)

## Senior Bowl Final Rosters

### NORTH SENIOR BOWL SELECTION CAMP

Apr. 17-19, at **Footo Field** in Edmonton  
(alphabetically by position with H.S. in parentheses)

#### Quarterbacks

Garrett Gleisner (Parkland, Spruce Grove)  
Adam Seniuk (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)

#### Runningbacks

Anthony Barrett (Eastglen, Edmonton)  
Cole Bishop (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)  
Brett Fabian (St. Albert)  
Jerit Lambert (Austin O'Brien, Edmonton)  
Zack Skibin (Jasper Place, Edmonton)

#### Receivers

Andrew Jevne (Sylvan Lake)  
Tyler Nelson (Salisbury, Sherwood Park)  
Mitch Richter (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)  
Danny Sawchuk (Peace River)  
Nick Sayers (Grande Prairie)  
Sam Schwab (Leduc)  
Aaron Watkins (St. Albert)

#### Offensive Line

Kyle Brow (Archbishop Jordan, Sherwood Park)  
Andrew Carefoot (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)  
Mark Idell (Harry Ainlay, Edmonton)  
Chase Gingles (Peace River)  
Brad Nehring (Salisbury, Sherwood Park)  
Shane Porter (Hunting Hills, Red Deer)  
Connor Reh (Ross Sheppard, Edmonton)  
Logan Trachuk (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)

#### Defensive Line

Kyle Daechsel (Parkland, Spruce Grove)  
Grady Fast (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)  
Linden Gaydosh (Ross Sheppard, Edmonton)  
Riley Hince (Jasper Place, Edmonton)  
David Litzgus (Jasper Place, Edmonton)  
Joel Seutter (Salisbury, Sherwood Park)

#### Linebackers

Andy Dawson (Grande Prairie)  
David Green (Austin O'Brien, Edmonton)  
Thomas Hilderman (Camrose)  
Cam Laliberte (Peace River)  
Lam Luri (Archbishop O'Leary, Edmonton)  
Joshua Nielsen (Wetaskiwin)

#### Defensive Backs

Kurt Choquette (Austin O'Brien, Edmonton)  
Kevin Francis (Ross Sheppard, Edmonton)  
Jeff Holmstrom (Harry Ainlay, Edmonton)  
Jamie McPherson (Harry Ainlay, Edmonton)  
Stephane Poitras (Beaumont)  
Kael Schryver (Salisbury, Sherwood Park)  
Dallas Wright (Jasper Place, Edmonton)

#### Placekicker/Punter

Jeremy Fife (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)

#### Coaches

Jeremy Braitenback (Sylvan Lake)  
Irv Loucraft (Bev Facey)  
Kyle Kirillo (Austin O'Brien)  
Dave McKinnon (Ardrossan)  
Chris Friskie (Peace River)  
Justin Kelly (Lloydminster)  
Brian Yakimchuk (Parkland)

### SOUTH SENIOR BOWL SELECTION CAMP

April 24-26, at **McMahon Stadium** in Calgary  
(alphabetically by position with H.S. in parentheses)

#### Quarterbacks

Jared Baker (Raymond)  
Jeremy Long (Notre Dame, Calgary)

#### Runningbacks

Storm Bartsoff (Raymond)  
Jake Harty (Henry Wise Wood, Calgary)  
Jeffrey Hassler (Holy Trinity Academy, Okotoks)  
D.J. Whetton (Bowness, Calgary)

#### Receivers

Andrew Fabian (Brooks)  
Erich Fitzsimmonds (St. Mary's, Calgary)  
Mark Friesen (Medicine Hat)  
Chris Peters (John G. Diefenbaker, Calgary)  
Austin Prince (Raymond)  
Stephen Torriero (Notre Dame, Calgary)

#### Offensive Line

Darcy Fitzgerald (Canmore)  
Michael Hintz (Centennial, Calgary)  
Matt Leung (John G. Diefenbaker, Calgary)  
Brennan Levie (Brooks)  
Shawn Lilley (Cochrane)  
Cameron Luchak (Holy Trinity Academy, Okotoks)  
Cody McLelland (Highwood, High River)  
Taylor Tolton (J.C. Charyk, Hanna)

#### Defensive Line

Mitch Bec (Chestermere)  
Jordan Dyck (Raymond)  
Victor Fayami (Notre Dame, Calgary)  
Daniel Haigh (Henry Wise Wood, Calgary)  
Terry Lait (Medicine Hat)  
Anthony Sieben (Raymond)

#### Linebackers

Nick Demas (Raymond)  
Stephen Dereniowski (Medicine Hat)  
Cody Giroux (Medicine Hat)  
Mike McEwan (Notre Dame, Calgary)  
Charlie Power (Holy Trinity Academy, Okotoks)  
Matthew Prete (Bowness, Calgary)  
Joel Quinn (Notre Dame, Calgary)

#### Defensive Backs

Micheal Duce (Raymond)  
Ryan George (Notre Dame, Calgary)  
Kevan Hafichuk (Notre Dame, Calgary)  
Alex Issik (Henry Wise Wood, Calgary)  
Joel Masikewich (John G. Diefenbaker, Calgary)  
Freddy Ostrosser (Henry Wise Wood, Calgary)  
Tom Spoletini (Rundle College, Calgary)  
Scott Wendell (Medicine Hat)

#### Coaches

Rob McNab (Cochrane)  
Dustin Ralph (Raymond)  
Dave Diluzio (Notre Dame)  
Nathan St. Dennis (Highwood)  
Tim Reitbauer (John G. Diefenbaker)  
Joe Buckler (Brooks)  
Hannes Boundy (Ernest Manning)



## U17 Team Alberta

The following are the final rosters selected for Alberta's third foray into the U17 Division of the Football Canada Cup. As was the case last year we are sending two teams into the event representing both Northern and Southern Alberta. These "North" and "South" rosters were selected in April from the top high school players who will not turn 17 until on or after August 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

These teams will now get together in July for their respective runs at the U17 Football Canada Cup. For more information about this event go to <http://www.footballcanadacup.ca/FCC/default.asp>. For more information about Football Alberta's participation in the event this year, as well as a recap of last year's games, visit [http://footballalberta.ab.ca/web/programs/team\\_ab.php](http://footballalberta.ab.ca/web/programs/team_ab.php)

Congratulations to all selected players and best of luck to both teams!

### TEAM ALBERTA U17 "SOUTH"

#### Quarterbacks

Chris Sheppard (Lord Beaverbrook, Calgary)  
Cody Dickinson (Bishop O'Byrne, Calgary)

#### Runningbacks

Connor Kopczynski (Central Memorial, Calgary)  
Anthony Anderson (Medicine Hat)  
Denzel Morrison (Bishop O'Byrne, Calgary)  
Jeffery Schidlowsky (Western Canada, Calgary)

#### Receivers

Josh Saunders (Lord Beaverbrook, Calgary)  
Ben Lawrence (Cochrane)  
Sam Murphy (Lord Beaverbrook, Calgary)  
Jahmel Smith (Crescent Heights, Calgary)  
Kris Stretton (Foothills Falcons, Okotoks)

#### Offensive Line

Clinton Reeder (Lord Beaverbrook, Calgary)  
Mack Corley (Central Memorial, Calgary)  
Eli Hankinson (Henry Wise Wood, Calgary)  
Evan McCann (Central Memorial, Calgary)  
Connor Emigh (L.C.I., Lethbridge)  
Ryan Preuter (John G. Diefenbaker, Calgary)  
Justin Studer (McCoy, Medicine Hat)

#### Defensive Line

Tyler Scott (John G. Diefenbaker, Calgary)  
Warren Neilson (Highwood, High River)  
Shaheed Watson (Crescent Heights, Calgary)  
Ryen Reid (Bishop O'Byrne, Calgary)  
Jason Orey (Bishop O'Byrne, Calgary)  
Bradey Lee (Foothills, Okotoks)

#### Linebackers

Jesse Leimer (Cochrane)  
Ethan Brown (Bishop O'Byrne, Calgary)  
Marco Arcega (Central Memorial, Calgary)  
Brendan Hamilton (Western Canada, Calgary)  
Jude Marasigan (Bishop O'Byrne, Calgary)

#### Defensive Backs

Matt Mancini (George MacDougall, Airdrie)  
Mike Schmidt (Western Canada, Calgary)  
Brayden Bullen (Western Canada, Calgary)  
Mitch Koch (Notre Dame, Calgary)  
Mike Stolzenberg (Henry Wise Wood, Calgary)  
Steven McCaffrey (Henry Wise Wood, Calgary)  
Daniel Ruddy (Bishop Carroll, Calgary)

#### Coaches

Bill McConkey (St. Mary's)  
Tim Bryson (Willow Creek)  
Taylor Altilio (Calgary Midget)  
David Maltman (Calgary Midget)  
Ian Couture (Father Lacombe)  
Graeme Tomlin (Henry Wise Wood)  
G.M. - Brock Jacobs

### TEAM ALBERTA U17 "NORTH"

#### Quarterbacks

Eli Eidsvik (Lloydminster)  
Joshua Gorniak (Leduc)

#### Runningbacks

Alex Bradley (Harry Ainlay, Edmonton)  
Zachary Butcher (Austin O'Brien, Edmonton)  
Brendan Fair (Salisbury, Sherwood Park)  
Devin Kondro (Bellerose, St. Albert)  
Kyle Stern (Leduc)

#### Receivers

Dexter Brown (Arch. Jordan, Sherwood Park)  
Tyree Malcom (Ross Sheppard, Edmonton)  
Micheal Spagnolo (St. Albert)  
Conrad Whetstone (Bev Facey, Sher. Park)  
Levi Williams (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)

#### Offensive Line

Jordan Arkko (St. Francis Xavier, Edmonton)  
Andrew Boisvert (Salisbury, Sherwood Park)  
Bennett Douglas (Fort Saskatchewan)  
Tyler Jorgenson (Beaumont)  
Chance Macpherson (Lac La Biche)  
Taylor Waldner (Sexsmith)

#### Defensive Line

Marcus Goods (Jasper Place, Edmonton)  
Kurtis Kereliuk (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)  
Logan Laforce (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)  
Spencer Maisonneuve (Salisbury, Sher. Park)  
Brett Morrow (Lloydminster)  
Gregory Severin (Midget Raiders, Edmonton)

#### Linebackers

Danial Carriere (Harry Ainlay, Edmonton)  
Micheal Hansen (Jasper Place, Edmonton)  
Kerry McElhanney (St. FX, Edmonton)  
Yoholy Mwamba (Austin O'Brien, Edmonton)  
Bretten Obenauer (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)  
Braden Schram (Peace River)

#### Defensive Backs

Zachary Brown (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)  
Justin De Gans (Arch. Jordan, Sherwood Park)  
Blake Ector (Fort McMurray)  
Brandon Foster (Harry Ainlay, Edmonton)  
Adam Proulx (Hunting Hills, Red Deer)  
Ryan Smith (Bev Facey, Sherwood Park)

#### Coaches

John Belmont (Leduc)  
Barclay Spady (Bev Facey)  
Gerald Foster (Edmonton Chargers Midget)  
Scott Smith (Bev Facey)  
Brendan Toner (Fort McMurray)  
Len Mora (Bev Facey)  
G.M. - Susan Morgan



Football Alberta  
would like to  
thank the great  
support from the  
Edmonton  
Eskimos &  
Calgary  
Stampeders in  
purchasing the  
Game Jerseys for  
the 2009  
Senior Bowl  
High School  
All-Star Game



## 2008 Coaching Awards

Football Alberta annually recognizes outstanding coaches who have made a commitment to their team(s) and/or the sport of Football in our Province. Winners of the 2008 Coach of the Year Awards were selected from among many nominees and presented with their awards at the University of Calgary/Football Alberta Coaches Clinic on March 8, 2009.

### **Gary Hobson Award** (for behind the scenes excellence) **Bo Jerenuik - M.E. LaZerte High School**

For over 30 years **Bo Jerenuik** has been a major part of the growth and development of football in Alberta. During his days has the head coach at M.E. LaZerte High School in Edmonton, Bo was a trailblazer in two important areas. Firstly, his Voyagers were the first to travel annually to the United States as well as bringing up American teams for exhibition games. These games proved that you could do more than just play out the season with a high school football team and today dozens of others schools have followed suit making a high school football experience a memorable one for hundreds of players across Alberta.

Secondly, Bo and his parent group at M.E. LaZerte have hosted the annual pre-season Jamboree at their school for over 25 years. This event is the granddaddy of all pre-season tournaments and hosts over 20 teams each year. Again, many other events like that held at M.E. LaZerte have sprung up since but they all owe a debt of gratitude to the man who got the ball rolling so many years ago. Bo continues to be involved in the sport as an assistant with the Edmonton Huskies but his imprint on the development of high school football will be with us forever.

### **Garry Hobson Award** (for behind the scenes excellence) **Tony Spoletini - Calgary Atom Cowboys**

**Tony Spoletini's** commitment to football each year goes well beyond the field of play. A former Vanier Cup winner with the University of Calgary Dinosaurs and Grey Cup winner with the Edmonton Eskimos during his playing days, Tony has continued to be involved with the sport in so many capacities.

2008 saw him serve as an assistant coach with the Midget Calgary Cowboys and head coach with the Atom Cowboys on-field. Off field, Tony developed and ran a flag football program for atom aged players in the Cowboys territory who were unable to play tackle. He also continued his involvement in running the Stampeders Alumni Football Camp in the spring for minor football and was instrumental in raising funds for lights at the Shriners Field in Calgary to extend it's use for all football programs in the city.

His fundraising efforts didn't stop there as he continues to be a key figure in lobbying civic and provincial funding agencies towards the redevelopment of Shouldice Park. Tony and his committee have raised more than \$10 million towards the project which will touch all levels of football in the Calgary area.

### **Harold Ferguson Official of the Year** **Greg Remple - Grande Prairie Officials Association**

One of the hardest working officials in the province, **Greg Remple** is the 2008 winner of the Harold Ferguson Official of the Year. Greg is a true leader in the Mighty Peace area not only continuing to improve his skills each year but the skills of other officials in the region. Organizing rule study sessions during the off-season and regular in-season meetings for the referees in the Grande Prairie area are some of the hallmarks of this work.

Starting in 1969, Greg continually developed his officiating having done numerous Provincial level games in the past. He was one of the major official coordinators during the 2000 Alberta Summer Games in Grande Prairie. He is certified Level 3 and without men like Greg, it would be difficult to maintain the high level of standards expected of today's official in the Mighty Peace area.



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## 2008 Coaching Awards cont'd.

### Novice Coach of the Year

**Bryan Noel - Grande Prairie Bantam Broncos**

The Novice Coach of the Year for 2008 goes to **Bryan Noel** of the undefeated Grande Prairie Bantam Broncos. A former standout high school player at St. Joseph's in Grande Prairie, Bryan made the Senior Bowl in 1993 and has now returned to the field as a coach. As defensive coordinator, Bryan helped lead this year's Broncos to a 12-0 year which concluded with the first ever Minor Provincial Championship won by a team from the Mighty Peace Region. The Broncos defeated the Strathmore Spartans in the Provincial Bantam Tier IV Final to take home the gold. His starting defense gave up only two touchdowns all year, and the fact that all of this was achieved during a season which saw the birth of his family's fourth child was quite amazing. Bryan is a truly committed individual with a great future as a coach.

### Atom/Pee-Wee Coach of the Year

**Rob Howell - Stettler Panthers Pee-Wee**

**Rob Howell** has been the head coach and offensive coordinator of the Stettler Panthers Pee-Wee team since its inception in 2004. Over that time they have amassed a record of 45 wins, 5 losses and 1 tie. In the five year history of the Central Alberta Pee-Wee League they have won four championships and this past year they added the Provincial Tier III Title to their list of accomplishments.

Along with his on-field accomplishments, Rob also serves on the board of Stettler Minor Football and is the Vice President of the Central Alberta Pee-Wee Football League. Rob is heavily involved in all aspects of the game in Stettler and the main reason for the Panthers success.

### Bantam Coach of the Year

**Robert Baker - Raymond Jr. Comets**

One of the most successful programs in the history of bantam football, made even more amazing by the fact that they come from one of Alberta's smallest centers, is the Raymond Jr. Comets. Many men have contributed to the continued excellence of the program but none more important than **Robert Baker**. He has spent the last eleven years coaching with the Jr. Comets, his first six as an assistant to Bernie Orr and the last four as head coach.

In 2008, his defending Tier I Provincial Champion Jr. Comets made another run for the title, winning their third straight Southern Alberta Minor Football Championship, winning the Provincial Semi-Final over the Calgary Cowboys before dropping the Final to the powerful Sherwood Park Rams at home.

Despite the success, Robert is best known for making sure every kid gets playing time and respects the rules of the game. A true championship coach in every way it is our pleasure to give him the Bantam Coach of the Year Award for the second year in a row.

### High School Tier IV Coach of the Year

**Vince Orioux - Holy Rosary Raiders**

Going into the 2008 season, **Vince Orioux** - the rookie head coach of the Holy Rosary Raiders wasn't sure how things were going to go. Having experienced success as the head coach of the crosstown Lloydminster Barons, Vince was now in charge of a much smaller squad that was joining the Wheatland League after several years of playing 9-man ball in Saskatchewan.

Well, the results were quite amazing as the Raiders ran up a 5-1 regular season record & advanced all the way to the Wheatland Championship before dropping the Final 27-10 to the Barons.

### High School Tier III Coach of the Year

**Jeremy Braitenback - Sylvan Lake Lakers**

For their first decade of existence the Sylvan Lake Lakers built themselves into a Tier IV powerhouse. Having played in every year of Provincials at the Tier IV level the Lakers also won the Central Alberta League Championship in 2004, 2005 & 2007 season. Quite an achievement considering they are the smallest school - population wise - in the league. Their crowning achievement was the 2007 Provincial Championship at the Tier IV level.

2008 saw the Lakers bumped up to Tier III due to a population increase and they didn't miss a beat, going undefeated in the regular season and winning their third Central Alberta title. From there they kept the fire going and made it all the way to the Provincial Final before losing a nail-biter 7-5 to the perennial Tier III powerhouse Cochrane Cobras. Going up a Tier is sometimes the kiss of death for a lot of programs, but not the Lakers and most of the credit goes to their innovative and progressive coach, **Jeremy Braitenback**.

### Laurie Robertson High School Tier II Coach of the Year

**Frank Durante - Notre Dame Pride**

**Frank Durante** was a big reason that the Notre Dame Pride was able to advance to, and capture their second straight Provincial Tier II Title. As offensive coordinator he has played the strengths of the talent he has been given and each year comes up with a system that makes the Pride a force to be reckoned with.

Frank also served as Vice Principal of Notre Dame and served on the Board of Directors for the Calgary Midget League in 2008. He never missed a practice for the Pride despite the other demands of his profession and volunteer commitments. He has been with the Pride since their inception in 2005 and has been a huge part of the creation of the powerhouse that Notre Dame has become.

**Do you know a deserving coach who should be nominated for a Football Alberta Coaching Award?**

Visit the Football Alberta website:  
[http://footballalberta.ab.ca/web/coaching/award\\_nominees.php](http://footballalberta.ab.ca/web/coaching/award_nominees.php) for more information about the Coaching Awards and to download a Nomination Form.

## 2008 Coaching Awards cont'd.

### **Frank Morris High School Tier I Coach of the Year** **Dustin Ralph - Raymond Comets**

In his two years as head coach of the Raymond Comets, **Dustin Ralph** has returned the Comets to glory. In 2007 he lead the Comets to the Southern Alberta Championship and within an eyelash of advancing to the Provincial Tier I Final dropping a thriller 31-28 to the eventual champion St. Francis Browns.

This past season the Comets left no doubt, going undefeated through regular season and exhibition play, including two wins over opponents from the United States. In league and Provincial playoffs Raymond blasted their opposition, all ranked in the Tier I Top-10, winning by an average margin of 55-9 on their way to winning their fifth Tier I Provincial Championship. Dustin has a record as a head coach of 24-1 in two seasons of work.

### **Norm Kimball Coach of the Year** **Rob McNab - Calgary Colts/Cochrane Cobras**

The busiest coach in Alberta in 2008 was also the best. Many coaches coach more than one team during the season but adding the grueling schedule of a Junior Team to duties at the high school level is no picnic. To do both very well is even more rare. These are the achievements of **Rob McNab** in 2008.

As the offensive coordinator of the Calgary Colts, Rob McNab helped that team to their first playoff appearance in over a decade but also their first playoff victory and their first appearance in the Prairie Football Conference Championship Game since 1991. At the same time, he was up to his usual tricks as co-head coach of the powerful Cochrane Cobras, leading them to their sixth Provincial Tier III title in seven seasons.

Widely regarded as one of the top offensive minds in the Province, Rob has a record of excellence that few can match.

### **Life Membership Award** **Doug Hemstreet - Western Canada High School**

For 37 years of involvement with football at the high school level in Calgary, **Doug Hemstreet** is more than deserving of the Life Membership Award from Football Alberta. Doug coached in several schools during his tenure most recently with the Western Canada Redmen Junior team.

Over the years his teams have won two City Championships and have always been playoff contenders. His involvement and efforts over the years have touched hundreds of players in a very positive manner and he is well regarded for both his on-field and off-field efforts in the development of character in those he instructs. He has a knack for dealing with players coming from all situations and particularly shone during his years at Forest Lawn for creating a positive attitude, sportsmanship and citizenship in players from troubled backgrounds.

Doug is also a well regarded builder of the sport and served on the Football Alberta Board of Directors as the Calgary High School representative over the years. It is a true pleasure and honour to recognize a man whose body of work sometimes goes overlooked but is a credit to his profession and sport at the highest level.

### **Life Membership Award** **Paul McCracken - Football Alberta/Football Canada**

In over 30 years of involvement in football, **Paul McCracken** has never ceased to lend his expertise to make the sport better. Serving first as a coach in the Mighty Peace League, Paul also represented that area on the Football Alberta Board of Directors in the early 1980's. From 1983 he served as Football Alberta's Treasurer, served as President from 1987-88 and followed that up with a stint as Past President from 1989-91. From there he continued his involvement with Football Alberta as Committee Chair for Fundraising from 1992-2006.

During his time on the Executive he oversaw the development of many innovative programs for the province including the Senior Bowl. Later on he moved up to Football Canada from 1996-2006 serving in various capacities including Treasurer, President, and Past-President. Known for his calm, studious manner, Paul has been a credit to the sport in so many ways.

### **Life Membership Award** **Al Maillot - Calgary Football Officials Association**

For decades of involvement both on and off the field, **Al Maillot** has been a giant in the continual development of officiating in the Calgary area and Alberta as a whole. Starting in 1983 as an on-field referee, Al began a 16 year term on the Calgary Football Officials Association the following year and served as President for four years during that period. During that time he founded the Calgary Football Officials Society which fundraises for the betterment of football officiating in the Calgary area. Al also served as the Vice President of Officials for Football Alberta from 1994 to 1998 and won the Harold Ferguson Award as top official in the Province in 1996.

On-field he began working at the Junior level as an official in 1986 and at the University level in 1989. Over that time he has worked in eight Hardy Cups, four National Semi-Finals, and two Vanier Cups - serving in 2008 as Head Referee in the game between Laval and Western Ontario. Although involved in many other sports such as hockey and fastball, Al has always been a true champion of officials in football.

# **ETS**

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**Football Alberta would like to  
acknowledge and thank the  
Edmonton Transit System for providing  
transportation for athletes and coaches  
for Bantam Bowl weekend.**



### BANTAM BOWL "SOUTH" ALL-STAR TEAM

(all sections listed alphabetically)

#### Quarterbacks

Matthew Blayney (Calgary Hilltoppers)

Devan Karl (Okotoks Falcons)

#### Runningbacks

Prabh Bahia (Calgary Wildcats)

Jarvis James (Calgary Bulldogs)

Jason Loo (Calgary Hilltoppers)

Kendall Schultz (Raymond Jr. Comets)

#### Receivers

Landon Bayda (Airdrie Storm)

Jeremy Bevans (Cardston Cougars)

Kristiane Desautels (Calgary Broncos)

Dylan Mantyak (Lethbridge Stampeders)

Mackenzie Meek (Calgary Falcons)

James Read (Okotoks Falcons)

Conner Robinson (Lethbridge Stampeders)

#### Offensive Line

Mitch Cameron (Lethbridge Stampeders)

Bryce Carr (Calgary Golden Hawks)

Conrad Krasowski (Calgary Colts)

John Meenagh (Calgary Wildcats)

Jacob Mickelson (Calgary Cowboys)

Justin Nemeth (Calgary Wildcats)

Daniel Zalucky (Calgary Bulldogs)

#### Defensive Line

Rey Arcega (Calgary Wildcats)

David Louis Fennell (Calgary Wildcats)

Christopher Reed (Strathmore Spartans)

Troy Richardson (Calgary Bulldogs)

Tyler Shabits (Calgary Hilltoppers)

Darnel Tail Feathers (Lethbridge Cougars)

Lyle Van der Ross (Calgary Wildcats)

#### Linebackers

Micheal Dyck (Brooks Roadrunners)

Eric Egan (Calgary Bulldogs)

Peter Hillman (Okotoks Falcons)

Bradley Kotania (Calgary Colts)

Jadon Schneider (Okotoks Falcons)

#### Defensive Backs

Grant Bauer (Cochrane Lions)

Brandon Bellman (Okotoks Eagles)

Sam Fuentes (Calgary Wildcats)

Cassidy Kelly (Calgary Colts)

Daylan Labossiere (Calgary Broncos)

Daniel Miazga (Calgary Colts)

Sam Sherren (Calgary Falcons)

Hunter Turnbull (Calgary Bulldogs)

#### Kicker

Jason Kotlewski (Calgary Golden Hawks)

#### Coaches

Keith Schneider (Foothills Falcons)

Art Marche (Calgary Bulldogs)

Ian Ashton (Calgary Broncos)

Thomas Heaton (Strathmore Spartans)

Jeff Bevans (Cardston Cougars)

Bob Herring (Calgary Bulldogs)

Mark Krassman (Parkside Pythons)

### BANTAM BOWL "NORTH" ALL-STAR TEAM

(all sections listed alphabetically)

#### Quarterbacks

Matthew Bonaca (Elk Island Lightning)

Alex Samia (Spruce Grove Cougars)

#### Runningbacks

Leonardo Mantuila (Edmonton Chargers)

Drew Bexson (Lloydminster Chargers)

Jordan Samoil (Sherwood Park Rams)

Brandon Stewart (Sherwood Park Rams)

#### Receivers

Braiden Annibale (Sherwood Park Rams)

Colton Ballicki (Sherwood Park Rams)

Justin Berube (Edmonton Chargers)

Derek Koss (Sherwood Park Rams)

Rick LeMoignan (Millwoods Grizzlies)

Reese Paterson (Sherwood Park Rams)

Jesse Schneider (Millwoods Grizzlies)

#### Offensive Line

Sawyer Barth (Sherwood Park Rams)

Jacob Brett (Elk Island Lightning)

Christopher Corriveau (Elk Island Lightning)

Ben Lysak (Sherwood Park Wolverines)

Cameron Mackenzie (Sherwood Park Northstars)

Michel Milligan (Edmonton Mustangs)

Anthony Timeus (Sherwood Park Rams)

Zachary Yuzyk (Sherwood Park Northstars)

#### Defensive Line

Neil Bishop (Sherwood Park Wolverines)

Devon Kison (Leduc Ti-cats)

Shaquille Lawson (Edmonton Seahawks)

Chase Nahrebeski (Edmonton Mustangs)

Nicholas Potgieter (Spruce Grove Cougars)

Evan Rutherford (Edmonton Mustangs)

Troy Weissbach (Sherwood Park Rams)

#### Linebackers

Jordan Blonar (Sherwood Park Rams)

Craig Korte (Spruce Grove Cougars)

Aidan Panchyshyn (Millwoods Grizzlies)

Aapar Sandhu (Grande Prairie Broncos)

Alex Perry (Sherwood Park Rams)

Alex Mueller (Sherwood Park Rams)

#### Defensive Backs

Ethan Backer (Grande Prairie Broncos)

Greg Beauregard (Sherwood Park Rams)

Greg Fowler (Lindsay Thurber)

Cullen Gordon (Spruce Grove Cougars)

Aaron Tripodi (Sherwood Park Rams)

Jayden Taylor (Lindsay Thurber Raiders)

Sawyer Ungurian (Sexsmith Shamrocks)

#### Coaches

Bruce Cunningham (Sherwood Park Rams)

Jim Nahrebeski (Edmonton Mustangs)

Bryan Noel (Grande Prairie Broncos)

Mario Miles (Millwoods Grizzlies)

Shane Cogbill (Lindsay Thurber Raiders)

Orland Wilson (St. Albert Panthers)

Curt Martin (Sherwood Park Rams)

## Where Do The Others Go...by Tim Enger

So, what does it take to put on a football game? Do you know? Does anyone?

I'm not talking about the on-field stuff. We've got coaches, officials and player clinics galore out there right now so if you don't know your stuff in that regard you can sure pick it up in a hurry. No, I'm talking about beyond the players, officials and coaches and the X's and O's. Who else do you need to put on a game? Who are the "Others" necessary to get the job done right and where do they do their job best?

Recently, two new artificial turf facilities have been built in the Edmonton area. While they are a gift from God considering our crazy weather and short growing season, they lack a very important part of the puzzle when it comes to actually being able to put on a football game properly. They don't have a Press Box.

Now, you might be thinking: "Press Box? Why would anyone need a Press Box? No media covers our games on a regular basis. That would be a waste of money." Now, if that indeed is your train of thought you are not alone as is evidenced by the creation of the above mentioned new facilities with no Press Box. However, if you know why these new stadiums need a Press Box, grab a gold star and head to the front of the class. The answer is simple - it's where the "Others" work during games.

Let's keep things in perspective in that at the youngest level of the game - Atom - you certainly can get away with just a field with lines on it and a minimum number of referees who can time the game from their wrist watches. However, even at the Pee-Wee level where Provincial play begins, and especially every level higher than that you need most if not all of the "Others" to make your game go and a proper place for them to do their job. Let's review who the "Others" are:

### The Timer:

Football is a rigorously timed game with many starts and stops and many reasons for the clock to either be running or stopped. In the final minutes of a half or a game in a close contest it is critical for the coaches and players to know how much time is left as many a game has been won or lost due to poor clock management. The advent of score clocks has

been in vogue for over 100 years so there really is no reason not to have one at your stadium or field if you want to really host a game properly. But who is keeping the time?

Believe it or not the head referee is actually the head timekeeper for the game as well. However, he keeps time by signally time in and out with arm motions; it's up to someone else to turn the clock on and off on the basis of his movements. And that person is the Timer!

So why does he need a press box? Well for one thing he needs to have an unobstructed view of the officials during the



game to properly pick-up the arm signals. True he can function from the sideline if he has to, but if you're at all concerned about proper timing it's best to get him away from the action where he can clearly see the officials and not be ducking out of the way of flying bodies or peeking around other people on the sidelines or field.

The person you select to do this should be as neutral as possible. Cheering for the old home team can be an unbelievable distraction for a Timer and in a close contest this person's focus needs to be squarely on the head referee - not the play on the field. In one famous case a Timer had to be ejected from a Provincial game for screaming at the referees when his team fell behind. Not pretty.

A great candidate for this job is a former official. Their on-field days may be behind them but they know the rules of the game backwards and forwards and still may wish to contribute. The late Frank Bryson in Calgary was a stellar example of this. No timing issues ever took place when Frank was at the helm.

You may also need to have an Assistant

Timer to work with your Timer as in most cases the clock switch is attached to a box that will also let you record the score and down and distance etc. which may be too much for one person to handle when concentration on-field is critical for the timer. Remember that football scoring is anywhere between 1 and 8 points (with the exception of 4 and 5) on any given play so doing the math and recording it properly shouldn't be left up to someone keeping the time.

Again, a Press Box is not a luxury for this "Other" when you consider that the Timer has a critical job to do and needs a place to do it that is raised above the field and in the teeth of a late October evening wind is a little shelter too much to ask. The Assistant Timer or Scorekeeper could use a non-weather dependent environment to record the score on paper as well.

Every hockey arena in the world has a box for the timer and all these guys have to do is listen for a whistle.

### Public Address Announcer:

Okay, maybe this is a bit much for local games, but more and more teams are having people announce over a loudspeaker or stereo system during games. In what used to be only done in playoffs is now commonplace in a lot of locations across Alberta.

However, there are good announcers and, well.... Now I will freely admit to bias in this area since I do quite a bit of P.A. at games and have my own opinions, however the rule of thumb that is the bible for all football announcers across North America is that they are there to inform - not entertain or be cheerleaders.

A good public address announcer will give you; down, distance, yardline, ball handler, tackler, gain or loss, plus any special situations such as turnovers and penalties. It really helps if this person has a good grasp of the game and can recognize the referee's arm signals indicating penalties, plus what happens during a safety touch, etc. If you have special announcements or 50/50 draws this person can be of great assistance.

Now, I'm not saying there is no room for humour or home team boosting but this person should really pick their spots and not try to be Mr. Funnyman or Captain

## Where Do The Others Go cont'd.

Homer all the time. When some well meaning parent picks up the mike at his son's bantam game and hits the audience with "Two minutes for mamboing!" when the referee signals an illegal procedure penalty, or "That's MY boy!" when his son makes a big play, it's time to find someone else. Especially if they're trying to be Jerry Seinfeld on every play. Down, distance, ball carrier, gain/loss, and tackler please!

A good Public Address Announcer will also recognize special situations when they happen and can prevent problems from occurring. In blowout games he can stop announcing the score after it hits a 30 point differential in the second half. This lessens the effect. If the game has been particularly contentious and there have been a few controversial calls by the officials, a good P.A. guy will make announcement to put unruly fans back in the stands if they are crowding the sideline with cat-calls to the referees, and/or allow the referees to depart the field unmolested. You may think this may never happen but it happens more than you think and a "Voice from God" moment lets someone who may be considering doing something rash know that at least he is being watched and hopefully will think twice.

A good addition to this "Other" is a spotter. Even without the stand-up routine from the P.A. Announcer those five basic items to pick out on any given play are hard. There is a lot of math to do as well, especially in special team situations. A good spotter can provide player numbers and do the math quickly, dividing the labour with the announcer, allowing him or her to speak smoothly and confidently after each play. Try doing the math on a punt that is kicked over the 55 yard line and returned back over it as well.

Perhaps your club or team does not care about too much detail and are happy enough just to have down, distance and players names being announced. Fine but remember the Golden Rule: inform, don't try to entertain. This isn't professional wrestling and the team will win or lose on it's own without you cheering for them.

And, oh yeah, about the Press Box. If you want to do all of the above, including the math, you're going to need to seat the P.A. crew in a location where they can actually see the players, yard lines and ball position. Perches from the end zone are tolerable if you're okay with the information getting a little light when the ball

is in the other end. Plus, they will need a space to place paper in front of them since their mind reading abilities are the same as yours and mine. They will need rosters of the teams and a place to do the math. Again, is a sheltered spot too much to ask since it would be nice if those pieces of paper weren't getting whipped up by the wind or ruined in the rain?

Finally, in regards to the Public Address Announcer, give this person a break. He didn't wake up in the morning planning all day long to pronounce your son's name wrong. You would be surprised at the attitude people cop when you get Geogislaw Zychflugencychyn wrong. A simple "Excuse me sir, it's Z-eye-ch-FLUG-en-sish-en" will do, not railing on the P.A. guy for insulting your family for generations to come. Even "Smyth" (Smith or Sm-eye-th) can set off a confrontation. Where did common courtesy go? And coaches, for the love of God I have no idea why an alphabetical roster is EVER necessary. It is an absolutely useless piece of paper to be turned in to a Public Address Announcer. People say it's to help parents identify their sons and daughters quickly when simple turning around and seeing what number the kid is wearing in the backseat of the station wagon on the way to the game will do. Numerical please! Kreskin isn't doing your game over the p.a. so only numerical rosters should ever be submitted to the person behind the mike.

### Statistics:

We are at a time in Alberta where amateur football is drawing a lot of interest. Rankings, Provincials, and big games at all levels have created a minor buzz on the media side of things. However, being the media they want facts and hard numbers to keep them interested and you'd better be prepared to supply them.

"Johnny had a big day" isn't enough to satisfy them. "Johnny ran for 156 yards and three touchdowns" is. Okay, so how do we figure out how far Johnny ran for?

In many respects, football has WAY too much to keep statistics on. A CFL stats crew goes 10-12 people deep at home games looking after everything from yardage to time of possession. And they better get it right since coaches and media hungrily devour their reports when they are compiled at the end of games. You may not need that much detail but personal statistics are what people are looking for. The five basic categories such as

rushing yards/carries, passing yards/attempts/completions, receiving yards/catches, tackles/sacks made and turnovers will fill up a stats sheet quite nicely.

And it's not hard too. The yardage part of it is cold hard facts. What is the distance the ball travelled from Point A to Point B and who got it there? Was the pass completed or not? Who made the tackle or interception? A two person crew at a local game can usually handle this task and its best if they are just as neutral as you hope the Timer and Public Address Announcer are. Not because they would fudge stats in favour of the home team but because they need to PAY ATTENTION to every play and cheering gets in the way of that.

Oh, and the Press Box. Same deal as the P.A. announcer. There will be paper involved and it would be nice if it would sit still during a game and the stats crews could function without gloves since Alberta isn't know for its warm, calm, dry evenings in the fall.

### Videographer:

I'm not much of a film guy myself, but I know people who are - lots of them. Some coaches are such film junkies I'm amazed they find time for anything else - like eating. Anyways, the videoing or filming of games gets more important each year and many leagues in the province have contracts with individuals or companies to record and distribute game film. The question is - what kind of game film would you like?

Careful with the volunteer dads for this "Other". It takes more than just owning a video camera to qualify for this job. Good, professionally done game film shows you everything. It is shot from a perch high enough so that you can see the movements of all the players on the field. And that's the kicker. It is not a close-up of the line - it's a wide angle, we can see everything shot from above. The person you get to film must have a steady hand, no fear of heights and again be neutral enough to focus on the job at hand. Where can you get the best location for this shot? Ummm, a Press Box? Bingo!

Again, if you have a perch in the end zone it's not too bad for video provided it's high enough to see both offense and defense but the usual choice of all Videographer's is high above mid-field. If you expect that your videographer will be able to give you a decent look from Row 8 of

## Where Do The Others Go cont'd.

an eight row high bleacher you're in for a disappointing experience and sadly that is all you will get from a stadium without a Press Box.

Keep in mind there is more to filming a game than just preparing for the next game. What about the top flight player you have who might want to put a recruiting video together? I've seen situations where outstanding players are lost in the system because the best video they can put together on themselves comes from a worms-eye-view angle. We're not in the business of sending kids to programs outside Alberta but if you have a player who really deserves a look from the nirvana that is Division I football in the U.S. then you owe it to him to get decent game film for him to show. If Pete Carroll needs to know about him, by all means send him film. But always know that he and his colleagues will toss out any film that isn't professionally done from the right height.

Finally, here's a group not necessarily interested in shelter for games. These are a hardy bunch who will climb light poles in blizzards to do the job right. Give them an indoor room in a press box and they will open the window. However, a sheltered spot would be a nice touch but proper height at mid-field is imperative. Otherwise it's just home movies.

### Spotter Coaches:

Sometimes it's tough to convince an assistant coach to spend the game away from the sideline, up in the booth as a spotter. Everybody loves the atmosphere of the sideline.

However, proper use of the "eye-in-the-sky" during game can make the difference between winning and losing. I won't get into what the conversation should be between spotters coaches and the bench - that's up to you. What I will say is that they need a place to go and do their work as much as any Timer or P.A. Announcer.

You've probably seen brief shots of spotter coaches booths during CFL or NFL game. Three to six guys with paper galore jammed into a small space, headsets askew. You don't need that kind of overkill at the lower levels (although people have tried), but like some of the "Others" you do need a place where you can write on a piece of paper without it being blown or rained away, high enough to make a difference and at midfield. It's high comedy sometimes to see small clutches of coaches huddled on row 8 in the far corners of inadequate bleachers with a marginally better view than those coaches on the sidelines whispering into their walkie talkie to try to keep their conversations away from the fans next to them.

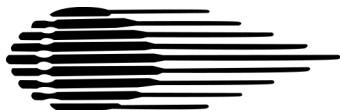
Down and distance is the most critical piece of information passed between the spotter coaches booth and the sideline and that is very difficult to ascertain unless you are perched high above mid-field in a Press Box. If the game your working doesn't have one then you are best not to waste you time with the spotter coach.

So there you have it. There are "Others" associated with your game whether you know it or not and they would like to do a good job for their team as well. Press Boxes are expensive items - no doubt. The unfortunate name doesn't help either when trying to convince people they are necessary but sadly nobody knows what you are talking about if you call it a "Working Box". They can range from the top of the line ones at McMahon and Commonwealth to the tree-fort models that dot the land at several rural high schools. However, they, like the "Others" do serve a purpose and are important to consider if you want your sport to be considered important in your community.

If you have one now or get one in the future it's VERY important to note that they are considered places of work - not luxury suites. There is nothing worse than some volleyball coach from High School X claiming squatters rights on a seat in the Press Box during a playoff game to avoid the cold. Unless you have a job to do as described above, you probably shouldn't be up there or risk proving those who consider a Press Box a luxury correct.

We all know that hockey is the top dog in our country and you would be hard pressed to find an indoor arena anywhere in Canada that doesn't have exactly what you need to put on a game at any level. Why shouldn't football? Why do we accept less? Both the Alberta Schools Athletic Association and Football Alberta have standards for stadiums to host Provincial level competition and they include having most of the Others involved. Don't be put in a situation of getting a new or upgraded stadium without the necessities to host a Provincial game, especially if your team qualifies to host one.

Anyway, the good news is that of those two new fields we spoke of earlier in the article at least one of them is looking at rectifying the problem of no Press Box as soon as next year. Hopefully, this article will go along way to helping out those cities or towns that are getting upgraded stadiums to make sure they get everything necessary to do a game right the first time - and that includes a Press Box! Know what your sport needs and don't be shy in asking for it.



**FOOTBALL ALBERTA**

11759 Groat Road

Edmonton AB T6C 3N7

(Ph.) 780-427-8108 (F) 780-427-0524 (Web) [www.footballalberta.ab.ca](http://www.footballalberta.ab.ca)

Brian: [bfrayer@telus.net](mailto:bfrayer@telus.net)

Tim: [tenger@telus.net](mailto:tenger@telus.net)

Christy: [cgriffin@telus.net](mailto:cgriffin@telus.net)