

Vanier Cup Victory Special Edition

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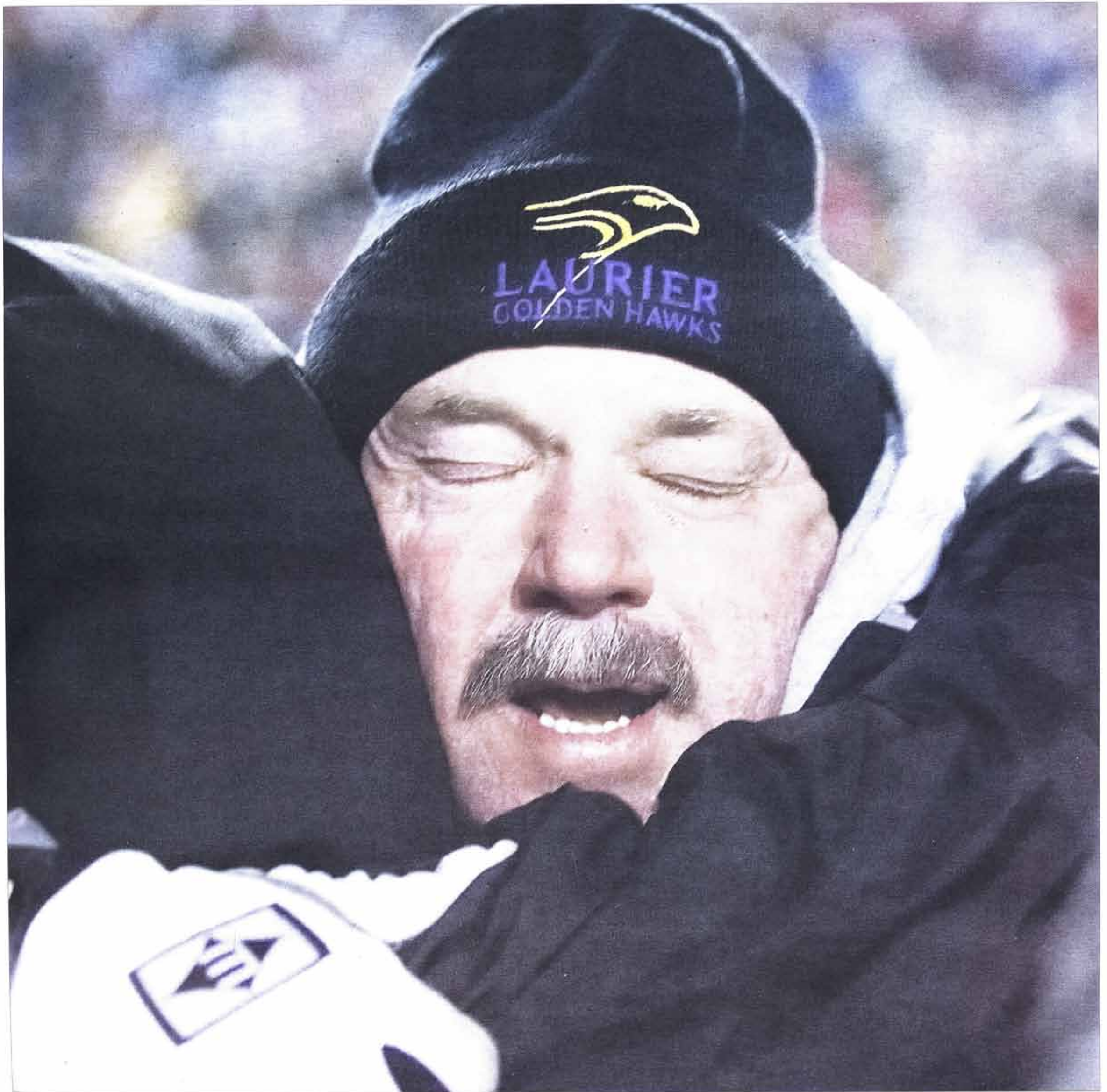


Vanier Cup Special Issue

MONDAY DECEMBER 5, 2005

www.cordweekly.com

# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



Stephen Pell

**TEARS OF JOY** - A usually stoic Laurier Head Coach Gary Jeffries cries as he hugs a member of his coaching staff, seconds after his WLU Golden Hawks defeated the Saskatchewan Huskies 24-23 in a thrilling Vanier Cup on Saturday. In his three years at the helm, Jeffries has revolutionized Laurier's football program, amassing an amazing 30-3 record and winning OUA Coach of the Year three times.





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# Pyear caps perfect season

Timely defence, one clutch field goal and a stellar quarterback put the Hawks over the top in their thrilling Vanier Cup victory, the school's first in 14 long years. **Mike Brown** reports from a frigid Hamilton



**First Downs**



**Yards Rushing**



**Yards Passing**



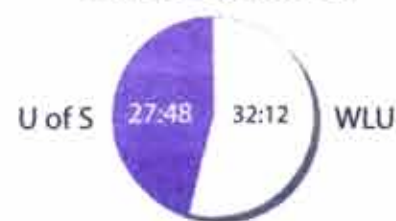
**Net Offence**



**Sacks**



**Time of Possession**



**GOOD THINGS IN SMALL PACKAGES** - WLU's undersized but inspirational quarterback Ryan Pyear throws a pass to Andy Baechler in the first quarter.

**MIKE BROWN**  
Sports Editor

HAMILTON - In Saturday's Vanier Cup, the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks did what only nine other teams in CIS history have ever accomplished, edging the favoured Saskatchewan Huskies 24-23 to cap an undefeated season with Canadian university sport's most sought-after crown.

For three quarters, the 16,827 fans that stuck it out through the bitter cold at Ivor Wynne Stadium witnessed one of the most even football matches imaginable - so close that the time of possession through 45 minutes was separated by just eight seconds.

It all came together for one of the most thrilling finishes in the Vanier Cup's 41-year history, as Laurier kicker Brian Devlin found himself faced with a 32-yard kick that would indelibly etch his name into Hawks' history books. With 19 seconds left on the game clock, the reticent second team All-Canadian calmly converted the biggest kick of his life, having already missed from a shorter distance in the first quarter.

"He's got ice in his veins," commented quarterback Ryan Pyear, the team's emotional leader. "He always makes the biggest kicks ... and he did it again today."

The victory was very much in doubt midway through the fourth quarter. After jumping to a 15-7 lead thanks to touchdown strikes to third-year slotback Andy Baechler and fifth-year running back Nick Cameron, the Hawks watched their eight-point advantage dissipate quickly.

The Huskies looked to Hec Creighton nominee David Stevens

on a six-yard pass from quarterback Steve Bilan. Stevens led the way for Saskatchewan all day, amassing an obscene 240 yards from scrimmage, including all three Huskies touchdowns.

However, after linebacker Jesse Alexander knocked down Bilan's two-point convert attempt, the Hawks retained a tenuous 15-13 lead. Temporarily.

As the Laurier offence stalled, momentum shifted decisively to the experienced Saskatchewan squad. Kicker Braden Suchan split the uprights from 41 yards out just over two minutes into the final frame to give the Huskies a 16-15 advantage.

The raucous and predominately Laurier crowd caught another unwelcome glimpse of Stevens at his best on the first play of Saskatchewan's next drive, as he busted out towards the right sideline and powered his way 85 yards for the major, in what looked to be the decisive blow. With under seven minutes remaining, Laurier faced the unenviable task of putting up eight points against the nation's second stiffest defence.

The adversity didn't seem to phase the Hawks, though. "Ryan [Pyear] just said it in the huddle," explained slotback Andrew Agro, who led the team with six receptions for 81 yards, most of them coming in the final minutes. "He's like, 'You know what? This is for the rest of our lives.'"

"For some reason, we just knew it was going to work out," he added.

So, on the strength of Offensive Coordinator Stefan Ptaszek's play-calling mastery, Laurier strung together a timely eight-play, 79-yard scoring march. Amidst Cameron runs and Agro recep-

tions, Bryon Hickey made two key grabs, first demonstrating tremendous concentration while ripping a near interception from the hands of Saskatchewan linebacker Morley Miller and then capping the drive with a cross-body catch in the back of the endzone.

With just under three minutes remaining, Laurier set up for a potentially game-tying two-point convert. Cameron managed to separate from his man and as Pyear lofted a wobbly pass in his direction, the frenetic Laurier crowd was poised to explode. Alas, the pass glanced off his hands and left him face down on the turf in devastation.

**With 2:27 remaining on the clock, Laurier, a team that has shunned individual accolades all year, a true team in every sense of the word, simply banded together.**

Coming that close only to see the game literally slip through their fingertips would be enough to crush most teams. But not the 2005 Golden Hawks.

"We will go down as a team that just never quit," noted Montoya in his typical matter-of-fact manner. Thanks to a pair of quick defensive stops, Pyear and company were granted one last chance to complete their storybook ending. With 2:27 remaining on the clock, Laurier, a team that has shunned individual accolades all year, a true team in every sense of the word, simply banded together.

After a completion to Agro, the

Huskies read run and stuffed Cameron for a loss, forcing a WLU timeout facing third and 16. But the seeming team of destiny found a way, as Pyear hit second-year quarterback turned wide receiver Dante Luciani, who dodged his way to an all-important first down to keep hope alive.

Working for every extra inch, Laurier ran a screen pass to Cameron and a couple of short runs to set up Devlin's gut-wrenching field goal attempt.

After missing wide left in the first quarter and a botched snap in the third, the old adage proved true, as Devlin split the uprights making this third time a charm and giving the Hawks a 24-23 lead.

All that remained was a futile last ditch effort from the Huskies before time ran out on the perennial bridesmaids from Saskatchewan.

"We played our hearts out," said Huskies Head Coach Brian Towriss, sombre in defeat. "We lost a tough one last year. We lost a tough one this year. We just have to go get a little better, I guess," he added, as his veteran squad limped off the field with their third Vanier Cup disappointment in four years.

Most of Laurier's elated fans were too busy storming the field to notice. "This is exactly how I wanted to go out," explained a euphoric Pyear moments after accepting the Ted Morris Trophy as the game's MVP. Pyear connected on 20 of 30 passes on the day, good for 254 yards, three touchdowns and an

unforgettable final two drives.

Watching the celebrations, it was all too clear that this was a team carrying a chip on their shoulder all season, a team on a mission. As the first OUA representative in the Vanier Cup since 1995, respect was hard to come by. Some predictions from out West had the Hawks the victims of a 46-7 shellacking.

"We were laughing," smiled Hickey. "There's no way we were losing by 40 points. That's the kind of disrespect Ontario gets."

In the end, though, his roommate and best friend stated it best. "We're the greatest team in Canada and no one can take that away from us," beamed Agro.

Indeed, all the hype about the inferiority of the OUA and Laurier's lack of size proved immaterial. "You know something about size and speed and attributes like that?" questioned Montoya. "They're just physical. If you can outthink your opponent, if you can have more passion than your opponent, then you have a chance."

And the hearts of the Hawks are tough to question.

Perhaps the two proudest people in the stadium on Saturday were Head Coach Gary Jeffries, a man this team would follow anywhere without hesitation, and his young protégé Ptaszek.

"From August 22 to today, they did it a little better than everyone else," explained Ptaszek. "I'm very proud of them."

"We want this ride to continue forever," added Jeffries.

For now, being known as the greatest football team to ever suit up in purple and gold will have to suffice.



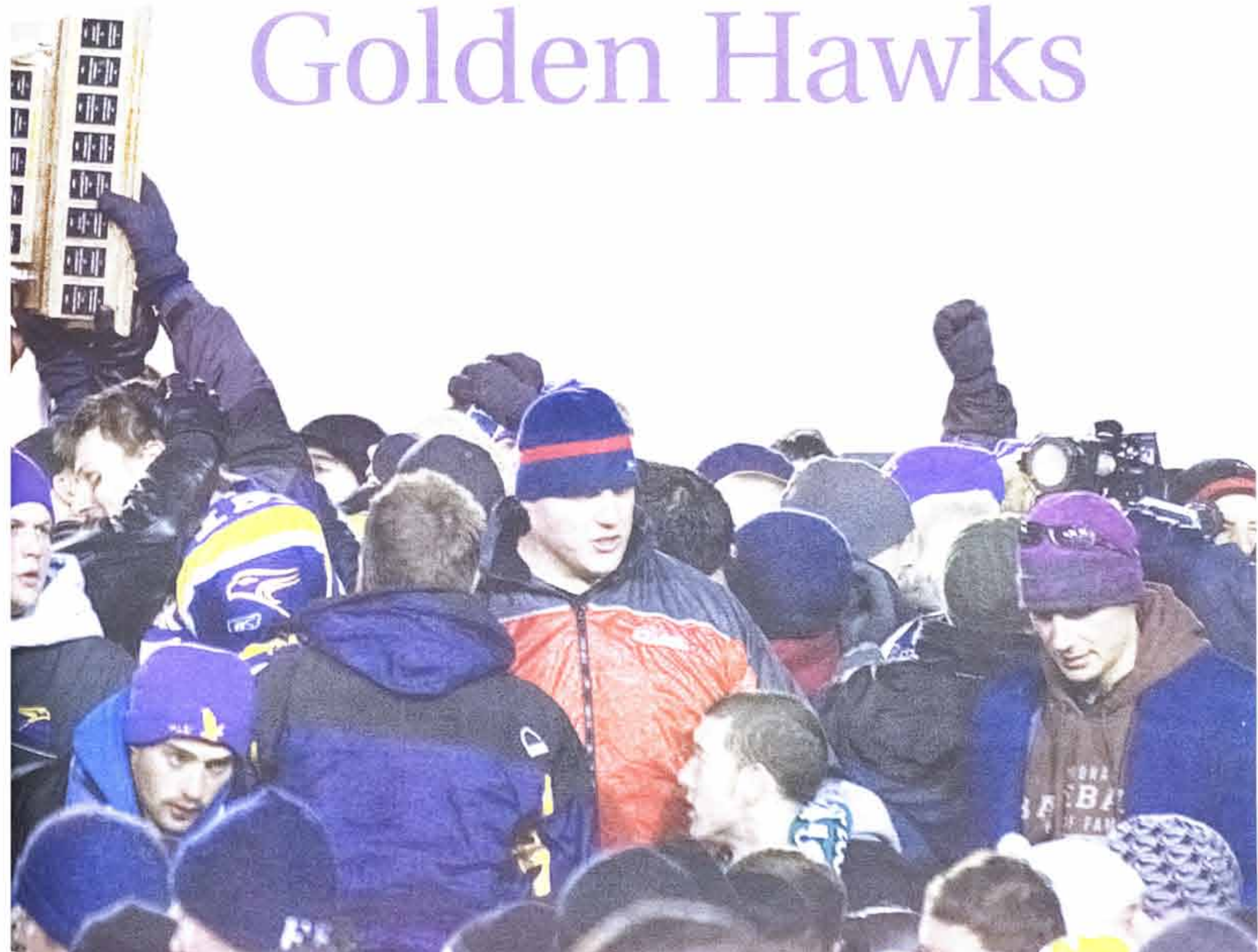
# 2005 VANIER CUP CHAMPIONS



Photos by Justin Jozala, Sarah Howard and Stephen Pelt

## Wilfrid Laurier

## Golden Hawks





## THE CORD WEEKLY

— The one that binds since 1926 —

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# Cheerleading shouldn't play second fiddle



CARLY BEATH  
Opinion Editor

"Cheerleading isn't a sport."

You've all heard it before. If you're like me, you might have even gotten into a few fights about it.

People think it's funny to get me going on the subject. They think it's all jokes. But it really riles me up.

Cheerleading doesn't get near the respect it deserves.

Many people seem to have the idea that cheerleading means putting on a cute little skirt and prancing around as a secondary show at football games. But that's not the case at all.

Cheerleading takes a damn lot of strength, skill, co-ordination and practice. You have to be graceful enough to dance well, but tough enough to either throw someone in the air, or be thrown yourself. Those heights are not for the faint of heart.

I once heard a saying that went something like, "You drop a football, you pick it up and keep going. You drop someone in cheerleading, and you'd better call an ambulance." Now, this may be a bit unfair, since there are plenty of injuries in football too, but there's some truth to it. There's less room for error in cheerleading than almost any other sport.

I really don't understand why people discredit it so much. Think it's not physical enough? Try doing a basket toss (launching someone into the air by having them step on your hands and then flinging them upward) and then get back to me.

Cheerleading practices are often gruelling and frustrating endeavors. If those basket tosses are hard enough to do once during a routine, how about doing them over and over and over again in order to learn and perfect them?

As I watched the National Cheerleading Championships on

Friday at the University of Waterloo, my friend's mom suggested that the lack of respect shown to cheerleading is due to the fact that it's a predominantly female sport. She wondered if it was a mostly male sport (as it started out), would it get more respect and attention? I think this is the sad-but-true reality.

You hear similar arguments surrounding figure skating. While not as predominantly female as cheerleading, it's definitely considered a feminine sport. There are about three trillion hockey games on TV every year, but even cheerleading's nationals, the big event of the year, weren't televised. Then switch on TSN and you can watch poker, a game ruled by men.

The Cord's been a similar offender, too. The Golden Hawks cheerleading team came second in the country at last year's competition and all they got for coverage was a miniscule article and a slightly blurry photo. Contrast that with the massive (albeit well-deserved) amount of print space given to the one-ranking-higher football team, and it all seems a bit uneven. This is probably one of the reasons that most students could name at least one of two football players, but probably only people who have friends on the cheerleading team could name a cheerleader.

Cheerleading routines are precise. More and more, they're about difficult stunts rather than cute cheers. All of that work deserves a larger audience and something more than status as a "fluffy" sport.

I know for some of you my arguments won't be enough to change your mind. So here's my challenge to you - go to just one cheerleading competition. I can almost guarantee you'll have a new respect for cheerleaders as athletes afterwards. Because cheerleading's not easy; they're just talented and hard-working enough to make it look that way.



Graphic by Emilie Joslin and Emma McFarlane

# The little university that finally could

Last year's Sports Editor and WLU alumnus **Bryan Shinn** says that despite the amazing play of our football team, the victory really belongs to all of us



BRYAN SHINN  
Sports Editor Emeritus

There are few sporting events that transcend both time and space, and even fewer that make you reflect on what it is you're cheering for.

On Saturday, a truly golden football game did both, leaving an entire purple-hearted nation a unified emotional mess.

With 17 grand in Ivor Wynne and masses more glued to the pigskin, our underdog Hawks erased an eight-point deficit late in the game to stake claim to a one-point victory a perfect season and a national championship - only the second in school history.

And as the sun set on December 3rd 2005, thousands spilled onto the turf as they had nearly a half dozen times in 15 months. Yet who they were running for and what they were celebrating became very much unclear.

Our Hawks were biggest but it wasn't about football anymore.

It wasn't Ryan Pycar, whose Laurier career as an undersized quarterback will undoubtedly be etched as the best ever. Nor was it Nick Cameron, who ran his Hawks deep into the post-season twice, only for a missed catch to nearly immortalize him as the biggest

Laurier letdown since the outlawing of panty-raids.

It wasn't their interior defence, Joel Wright, Agro or Baechler. Nor was it Brian Devlin, who, let's face it, may now be the most famous kicker on a Canadian university campus ever (or even the first recognizable kicker). And it wasn't, though some may wish it was, "every Golden Hawk football player who came before."

**Yes, on a frigid day in December we were the little university that finally could. No longer pale in the shadow of McMaster's gridiron dominance, Western's parties or Waterloo's Blackberries.**

We watched as our gladiators in purple played like giants, yet we all felt, do I dare say, golden.

Bypassing the natural tendency to raise our football heroes, we turned instead to one another. In each reddened face, whether past, present or never-a-Hawk, there was a personal triumph that while selfish, sort of defines what Laurier is all about.

Yes, on a frigid day in December we were the little university that finally could. No longer pale in the shadow of McMaster's gridiron

dominance, Western's parties or Waterloo's Blackberries.

Our slightly above average school - whose most famous alum may just be MuchMusic's Matte Babel - was atop the Canadian university landscape if only for one day. And while basking in the glory of victory, we couldn't resist showing WLU some love.

Somehow personified in the bedlam of post-game elation was a response to everything our school isn't: beloved by *Maclean's*, renowned for its architecture or non-carcinogenic Arts classrooms.

On paper we have been nothing more than the second best university in an ordinary town outside of Toronto. On Saturday, we kicked ass and took names.

While Pycar, Hickey and Devlin found their spot next to the '91 legends of Ptaszek, Kubas and Cecchini, we celebrated our own drunken nights in residence, lazy Sundays resisting work and every conversation that expressed our fear of the future and a desire to stay right here.

We celebrated the character of King and Albert in our own way, and the growing tradition that has made this place so indescribably unique.



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Educational Development invites applicants from the Wilfrid Laurier University community for the

**WLU  
AWARD FOR  
TEACHING EXCELLENCE**

**Purpose of the Award**

The Award for Teaching Excellence has been established to honour those full-time faculty members and part-time contract academic staff who excel in teaching.

**The Award**

Up to two recipients (one full-time faculty member and one part-time contract academic staff member) may receive the Award each year. Each recipient will receive a certificate, a \$1,000 grant for further development of teaching and learning skills, and a permanent notation in the university calendars and on the Award for Teaching Excellence plaque located in the Concourse. The recipient(s) will receive the Award at Convocation.

**Eligibility**

All full-time tenured and non-tenured faculty, who have been teaching at Laurier for a minimum of five years, and all part-time contract academic staff, who have taught at Wilfrid Laurier University for at least three consecutive years, may be nominated for the annual WLU Award for Teaching Excellence on the basis of outstanding performance in teaching. Normally, the Award will be received only once in a career but, in exceptional cases, a member of the faculty who has won the Award may be nominated a second time, but not until a ten year period has elapsed since the receipt of the first Award.

Excellence in teaching should not be narrowly defined. However, recipients of the WLU Award for Teaching Excellence will be expected to have:

1. a comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter;
2. established a reputation among students and colleagues for superior teaching, including the ability to interest and motivate students to achieve high standards;
3. demonstrated clearly that efforts are made to keep abreast of new teaching methods, curriculum development, and course design;
4. made a contribution to the enhancement of the educational activities and responsibilities of the University.

While it is not expected that candidates will have excelled in all of the following categories, it is expected that the successful candidate will have excelled in at least three of the ten categories listed below:

1. instruction in one or more of the following settings: large classes, small group teaching, studio teaching, laboratory instruction, and distance education;
2. consultation with students outside of class, including individual tutoring and advising;
3. thesis supervision;
4. course design;
5. curriculum development;
6. production of educational materials such as textbooks, films, study guides, Web-based or multimedia instructional tools;
7. development of programs to improve teaching;
8. research on university teaching;
9. development of innovative teaching methods;
10. educational planning and policy making.

**Preference is normally given to nominees who:**

1. have the support of several constituencies - for example students, peers, alumni, and administrators, rather than only a single constituency;
2. are judged to be "truly outstanding" rather than merely "very good";
3. have had an effect on student learning or cognitive development.

In preparing a nomination, please ensure that the eligibility criteria have been met. A checklist of nomination criteria and application procedures are available at [www.wlu.ca/edev](http://www.wlu.ca/edev) under Awards and Recognition. The deadline for submission to the Faculty Dean is January 15, 2006. The complete application package and nomination forms must be submitted by February 15, 2006 to the Educational Development Office.

If you have questions or comments about the award, please contact Sandy Hughes, Director of Teaching Support Services, ext. 4106 or by email at [shughes@wlu.ca](mailto:shughes@wlu.ca).

**Congratulations Hawks**

Old Yeller isn't getting up after that one...



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Wednesday January 18, 2006  
Location: T.B.A.  
Tuesday January 24, 2006  
Location: T.B.A.

**1<sup>st</sup> Round Interviews**

Saturday, February 11, 2006 – Location: T.B.A.  
Sunday, February 12, 2006 – Location: T.B.A.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Round Interviews**

The week of February 27 to March 3, 2006

**Applications Available**

Monday January 16, 2006 – Residential Services

**Final Offers**

Friday March 10, 2006 – Res. Services

**Applications Due**

Monday February 6, 2006 – Residential Services

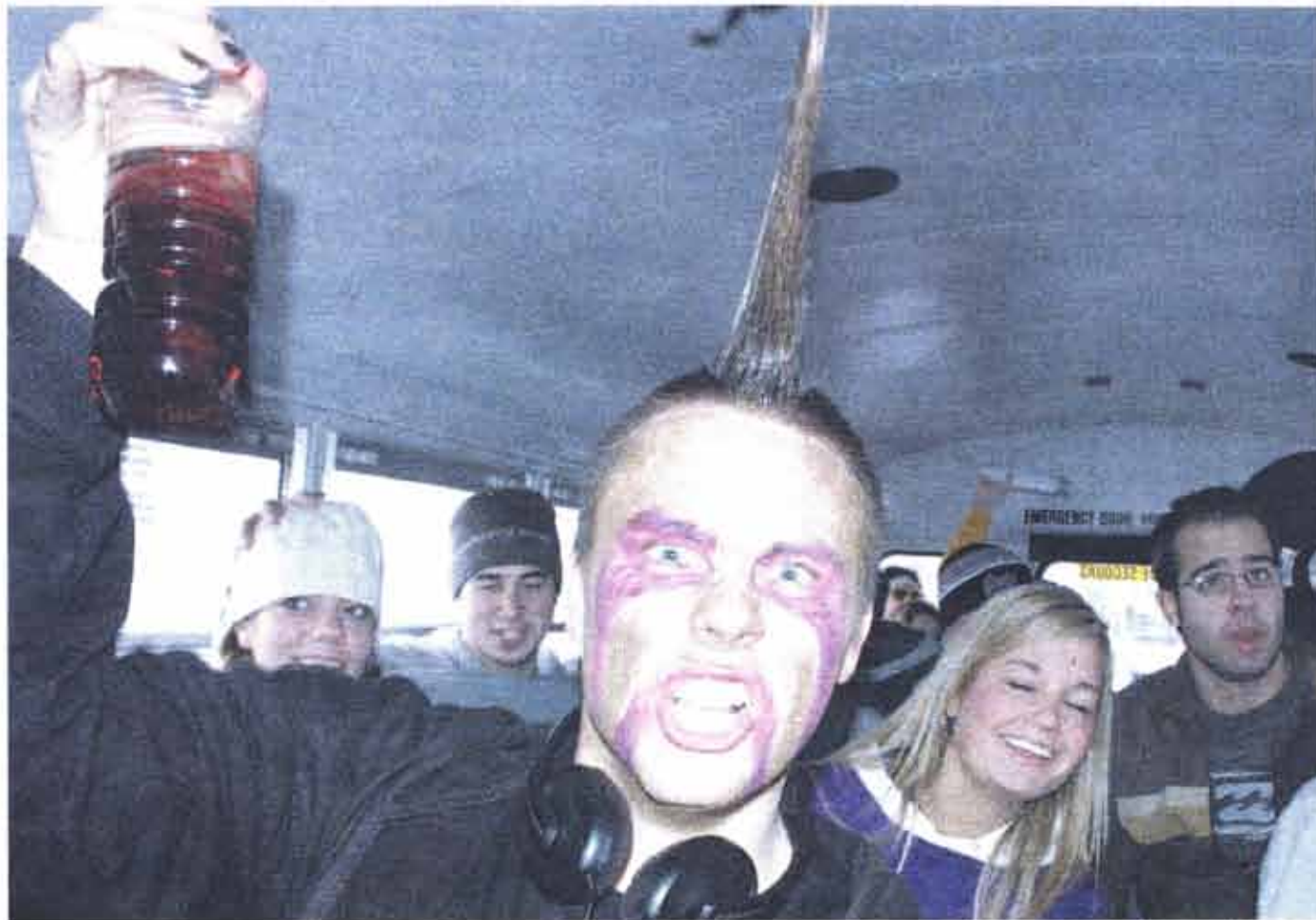
For More information Please contact Deanne at the Residence Life Office at 884-0710 ext. 2458

\*Stay tuned in the New Year for more info and check out our display cases by 1E1\*



## > WLU'S **WLU YEARS**

- The school's 1st-ever undefeated season
- The 1st National title since 1991
- Back-to-back Yates Cup championships
- 20-game OUA undefeated streak
- Coach Jeffries' 3rd OUA Coach of the Year in as many seasons at the helm
- Six All-Canadians - two First Team (Pyear, Logan) and four 2nd Team (Cameron, Devlin, Keks and Smeaton)
- Six CIS Player of the Week nods (Beckford, Pyear, Cond, Cameron, Devlin X2)
- 15 OUA All-Star selections, 11 1st Team and four 2nd Team
- Pyear: 1st in Canada for completion percentage among quarterbacks who played more than five games (66.67 percent), 1st in TD passes with 19, fewest sacks and interceptions in the OUA.
- Cameron: 5th in rushing (1025 yards), 8th in scoring (66)
- Devlin: 2nd in Field Goal percent (80.95), 2nd longest FG made (47 yards) and 3rd in scoring (81)
- Team Offence: 3rd in yds/game (477.62), 2nd in points scored (330)
- Team Defence: 7th in yds/game (332), 3rd in points allowed (114)



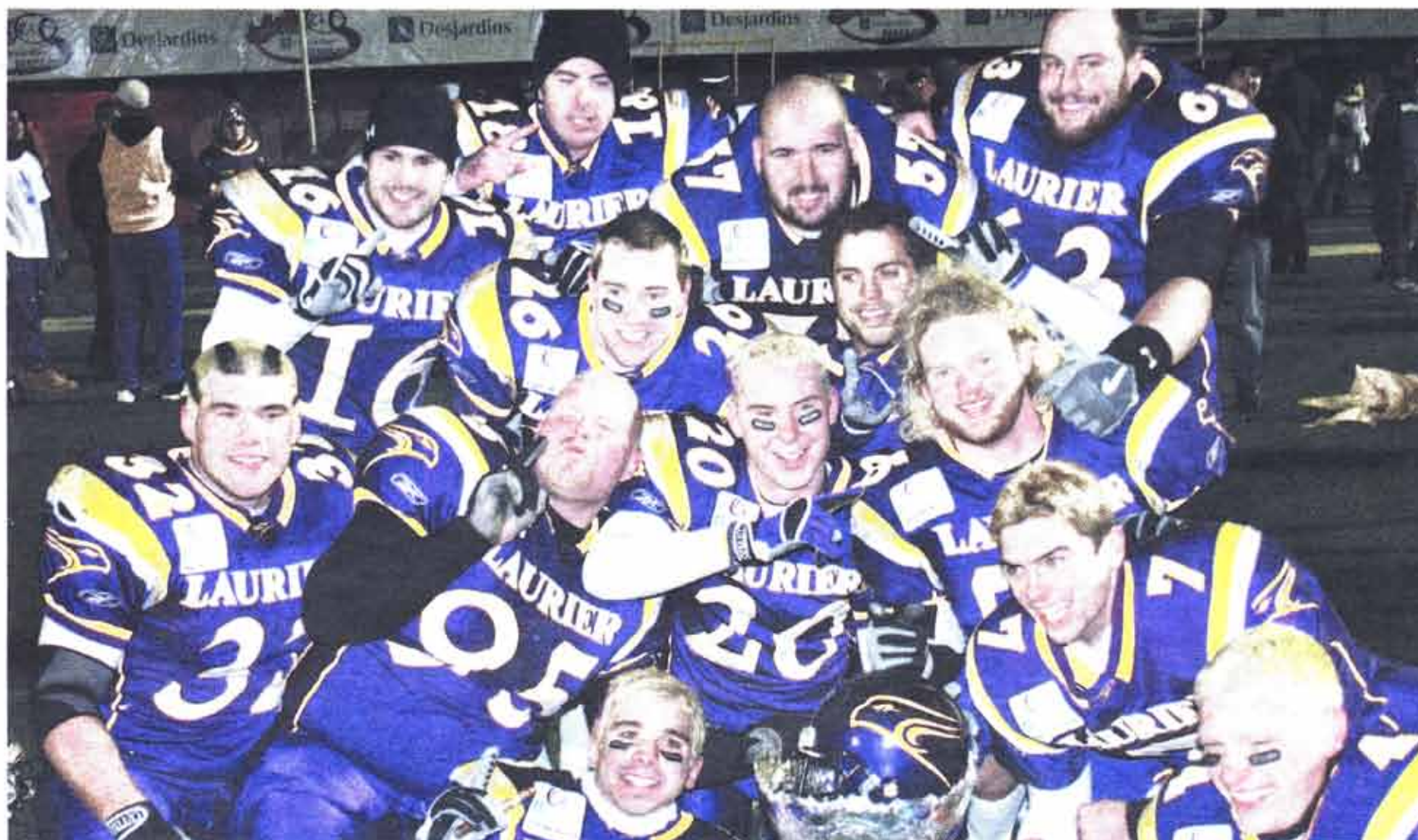
Jordan Jocius

**THE HAWKS ON THE BUS GO DRINK AND SMOKE** - By many accounts, the bus ride to and from the game was either the best or worst part of students' Vanier experience. Antics included: smoking weed and cigarettes, puking, excessive drinking, peeing in bottles, getting lost, stopping at McDonald's and singing the entire way back.



Jordan Jocius

**UR-INE TROUBLE** - Saskatchewan fans went home angry, while most Laurier supporters barely recall getting home at all, though vomit splatter and urine stains spanning the length of Highway 6 confirm their unscrupulous voyage.



Mike Whitehouse/www.laurierathletics.com

**NOTHING LEFT TO PROVE** - The above class of graduating seniors couldn't have asked for a better way to finish their WLU careers, winning a national title with a last-second 24-23 win over the second-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies in their final game in front of a rowdy home crowd.

## > SOUND **BYES**

### "Screw The Cord!"

- A gathering of rowdy students coming back from Hamilton, responding to Jordan Jocius not taking pictures of them

### "It's time to party!"

- WLU President Bob Rosehart at the post-game party in the AC

**"As soon as I got up, I had a guy saying 'You don't want to come over the middle again,' but last time I checked that was where my touchdown was."**

- Third-year slotback Andy Baechler, describing the jawing directed at him after he was absolutely leveled in the first quarter

**"Complacency is the disease of the successful."**

- Offensive Coordinator Stefan Ptaszek, on the desire of the Laurier's football program to remain atop the CIS for years to come

**"He came out today and he was just Ryan Pyear. That's all we needed him to be."**

- Vanier Cup defensive MVP David Montoya, characterizing the performance of his team's emotional leader.

**"It kind of sucked a bit."**

- Ian Logan displaying his understanding of understatement, while describing the Huskies' David Stevens' ominous 85-yard fourth quarter touchdown run

**"If we didn't have them, I don't think we would've come out on top today."**

- Fourth-year defensive back Joel Wright, on the importance of their fans and cheerleaders

**"I think our kids keep proving that it doesn't matter who is coming next. We can take on all the challenges."**

- Head Coach Gary Jeffries