



## THUNDERBIRDS SEASON COMES TO AN END

### UBC Wraps Up Season With A Loss In Saskatchewan

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – The UBC Thunderbirds football season concluded with a 52-24 loss on the road against the Saskatchewan Huskies on Friday night.



#### Fifth Year Players Jordan Grieve and Billy Greene Celebrate a 'Birds TD

After finishing the first quarter with a 10-3 advantage, the host Huskies scored three second-quarter touchdowns to blow the game wide open and take a 31-10 lead into halftime.

UBC's only score in the second quarter came with 6:24 left when quarterback [Billy Greene](#) (Surrey, BC), playing in his last CIS game, completed a 15-yard pass to [Patrick Bull](#) (Vancouver, BC), his 12th TD completion of the year, which made the score 24-10.

Greene found Bull with a 17-yard pass on the play immediately before the touchdown. That completion vaulted Greene into third place on the Canada West's all-time passing yards list, going ahead of Calgary's Greg Vavra, who recorded 8401 yards in his career. Entering the game, the Holy Cross graduate had 8322.

Greene finished the night 29-44 with two touchdowns and an interception. With his 15th completion of the

game, he also passed Vavra into second for most in Canada West history. Greene will finish with 626 in his career, trailing only the 685 racked up by Regina's Teale Orban. Finally, the UBC quarterback moved his way into ninth place on the Canada West list for most career touchdown passes with 51.

Still, it was not a banner day for the Thunderbirds. After a 26-yard [Thomas Moulit](#) (Calgary, AB) field goal tied the game at 3-3 with 3:26 left in the first, Saskatchewan replied with a 34-yard touchdown reception from Charlie Power to round out the scoring in the period.

The Huskies scored again early in the second, as quarterback Drew Burko threw a 52-yard TD pass to Mitch Stevens to make it 17-3. Chase Bradshaw ran in a one-yard major before Bull's touchdown for UBC.

The second half saw more big plays from the home team. Burko found Stevens for a 35-yard major for the only score of the third quarter.

Greene capped off an eight-play, 86-yard drive to open the fourth by hitting [Daniel English](#) (New Westminster, BC) with a 12-yard touchdown pass to cut the Saskatchewan lead to 38-17.

But the Huskies replied with two more scores before [Lucas Spagnuolo](#) (Grimsby, ON) found the end zone with a four-yard rush at the end of the game.

UBC's [Brandon Deschamps](#) (Prince George, BC) ran for 110 yards on 18 carries to power the ground game.

Bull caught ten passes for 103 yards and a touchdown. [Jordan Grieve](#) (Salmon Arm, BC), also in his last game as a T-Bird made four catches for 60 yards.

[Bryan Rideout](#) (Victoria, BC) had 6.5 tackles on the defensive side of the ball.

Saskatchewan's Burko completed 20 of 29 passes for four touchdowns, two interceptions and 321 yards.

The Huskies' running backs gained 197 yards, while Stevens made six catches to record 117 yards and two majors.

UBC finishes the regular season with a record of 2-6. Saskatchewan will advance to the Canada West playoffs with a record of 5-3.

## Message From Head Coach Shawn Olson

The 2012 season ended earlier than any of us intended. A number of things conspired and contributed to the our struggles. We went into the 2012 campaign having lost our top 8 tacklers from the 2011 season, but felt that we had a good young nucleus of players that were ready to take the mantle from the 2011 Canada West finalist team. Unfortunately, this group was hit by a rash of injuries that ended and threatened the seasons' of many of the players that were expected to lead the 2012 Thunderbirds. 5th year Defensive captain, Alex Babalos was lost to a shoulder injury 3 weeks before the start of training camp, Joseph Malabuyoc, a transfer linebacker from U of Hawaii was lost on day 2 of camp and Martin Park was in a serious car accident the day before the season opener. On offense we lost 5th year standout WR, Spencer Betts, to multiple hip surgeries and Billy Greene was almost shut down for the season with injuries to each leg that will require surgery after the season.

Even with all of the adversity, spirits and expectations were high. Unfortunately, we never seemed to get on track in all three phases of the game and often were not able to make the plays we needed at critical times that lead to wins in a very competitive Canada West. We started the 1st half of the season at 0-4 which was exasperated by a sound beating at Thunderbird Stadium to the Canada west Champions Calgary Dinos. This did act as a bit of a low point and rallying moment for our team. We managed to get a little healthy and our intention was to run the table in order to squeak into the playoffs. We got the first 2 wins vs Alberta and Regina but ran into a heartbreaking loss in tough conditions in Manitoba, which ended our season. Even in a disappointing campaign our players played hard and gave everything they had both in games and on the practice field and I am proud of the men they are becoming, even though the scoreboard proved we were not good enough on the field this year.

We will miss key contributors like Billy Greene, Jordan Grieve and Steve Zakrzewski who are graduating and moving in to the next phase of their lives. Their blood, sweat and tears have left this program better than when they arrived and I thank them for their contributions. They leave a young team with lots of potential, a team that is going to be held to a very high standard of discipline, accountability and personal investment. We have already started our preparation for 2013 and will attack the new Bob Laycoe and Frank Smith Varsity Training Center in our quest to become UBC's next Vanier Cup winning Team.

Thank you for all your support in 2012, but we will need more of it in 2013 to return the Thunderbirds to the top of the Canadian Football world!! I hope to see you all at the TFA Thunderbird Football Gala on Nov 30th at the River Rock convention center.

All the best and Go Thunderbirds!  
Shawn Olson

## 1st Annual 'Thunderbird Football Gala'

Presented by the Thunderbird Football Association

Date: November 30th  
Time: 6pm-10pm  
Location: River Rock Casino Resort; Show Theater  
Dress: Business Attire

Dear Alumnus and UBC Football Supporter,

The Thunderbird Football Association (TFA) is delighted to host the first annual Thunderbird Football Gala at the River Rock Casino Resort! This memorable evening will bring the UBC Football Community together to celebrate the past, present and future of UBC Football. We will honour former Thunderbird greats, celebrate the achievements of the current team, and raise funds to support the ongoing drive towards football excellence at UBC.

Head Coach Shawn Olson is enthusiastic about the Gala: "Bringing the Thunderbird Alumni and supporters together with our team is very exciting and provides the opportunity for the entire UBC Football family to recognize and celebrate past and present achievements together, I think it's awesome!"

This year we will induct into the UBC Football Hall of Fame one of UBC's most colourful, admired and recognized figures, Coach Frank Gnupe. If you're a "Gnupper" be sure to join us for the first annual Thunderbird Football Gala as Frank Gnupe takes his rightful place in the UBC Football Hall Of Fame alongside previous inductees, Frank Smith, Cal Murphy and Doug Mitchell (an original Gnupper).

Over the past few years, the TFA has worked with UBC Athletics and many alumni to raise funds for scholarships. These efforts will allow us to attract top talent from across Canada and be competitive with the leading programs in the CIS. In support of this goal, our intention is to establish the Thunderbird Football Gala as our major fundraiser each year. Please join us for what will be a tremendous evening and with your support we hope to be celebrating a Vanier Cup victory at "The Gala" in years to come. To register, [click here](#).

Go Thunderbirds!  
Dan Smith  
President, Thunderbird Football Association.

The logo features the word "go" in a lowercase, rounded, yellow font, positioned above the word "THUNDERBIRDS" in a bold, uppercase, white font. The text is set against a solid blue rectangular background.