

23 Ron Lancaster

The man known as 'The Little General' began his career with the Roughriders in 1963 after being acquired in a trade from the Ottawa Rough Riders.

Lancaster, who hailed from Fairchance, Pa., went on to play 16 seasons at quarterback for the Green and White before retiring in 1978.

Lancaster retired as the CFL's all-time leader in passing yards (50,535) and still holds Saskatchewan's franchise records in career pass attempts (5,834), completions (3,186), yards (46,710) and touchdown passes (299).

He was named a West Division all-star seven times (1966, 1968-70, 1973, 1975-76) and a CFL all-star four times (1970, '73, '75 and '76) and won the Schenley Award as the league's most outstanding player twice (1970 and '76).

Lancaster helped the Roughriders win the first Grey Cup title in franchise history in 1966 — they beat Ottawa 29-14 — and played in four other CFL championship games.

He was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1982 and the Roughriders' Plaza of Honour in 1987.

After his playing career ended, Lancaster had a successful run as a colour commentator on CFL telecasts and as a coach and administrator in the league with the Roughriders, Edmonton Eskimos and Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

He guided both the Eskimos and Tiger-Cats to CFL titles as a head coach and posted 142 career wins in his coaching career.

Lancaster's number 23 was retired by the Roughriders on June 21, 1979. He died on Sept. 18, 2008, after suffering a heart attack. He was 69.

34 George Reed

Reed spent his entire 13-year pro football career with the Roughriders, playing 203 regular-season games with them from 1963 through '75.

Reed, who hails originally from Vicksburg, Miss., retired as the CFL's all-time leader with 16,116 rushing yards, 134 rushing touchdowns and 137 TDs overall.

The fullback exceeded 1,000 yards rushing in a season 11 times, a number that still stands as a CFL record. His 3,243 regular-season carries also is a league record, he's tied for the CFL mark with six rushing titles and his 66 career 100-yard rushing games ranks him second on the all-time list.

Reed helped the Roughriders win the 1966 Grey Cup title, rushing 31 times for 133 yards and a touchdown in Saskatchewan's 29-14 victory over the Ottawa Rough Riders. That performance helped him earn the award as the game's most valuable player.

He was named a West Division all-star 10 times (1965-69, 1971-75) and a CFL all-star nine times (1965-69, 1971-74). He was named the CFL's most outstanding player in 1965 and, in 1976, was the inaugural winner of the Tom Pate Memorial Award for his work on and off the field.

Reed, who twice served as president of the Canadian Football League Players' Association, was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1979 and into the Roughriders' Plaza of Honour in 1987.

His number 34 was retired by the Roughriders on Oct. 24, 1976.

36 Dave Ridgway

Robokicker's number 36 was retired by the Roughriders on Aug. 11, 1996.

Born in Stockport, England, Ridgway moved to Canada in 1974. His football career began in high school in Burlington, Ont., and eventually brought him to Saskatchewan in 1982.

Over his 14-year career with the Green and White, Ridgway set franchise records in career field goals (574), field goals in a season (59), field goals in a game (eight), longest field goal (60 yards, since broken by Paul McCallum's 62-yarder), career converts (541), points in a season (233) and points in a career (2,374).

His last-minute field goal in the 1989 Grey Cup game lifted the Roughriders to a 43-40 victory over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

He was named a West Division all-star seven times (1982, 1987-91, 1993) and a CFL all-star on six occasions (1982, 1987-90, 1993).

He was inducted into the team's Plaza of Honour in 2000 and was enshrined in the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 2003.

40 Mel Becket

Becket joined the Western Interprovincial Football Union's Roughriders in 1953, turning down an offer from the NFL's Green Bay Packers to come north.

A tight end and centre, the Chicago product played 45 games over four seasons with the Roughriders. He was named a WIFU all-star at centre in 1956.

Becket died at age 27 on Dec. 9, 1956, as he and three of his Roughriders teammates — Mario DeMarco, Gordon Sturtridge and Ray Syrnyk — were returning from an all-star game in Vancouver. They were among 62 people killed when Trans-Canada Airlines Flight 810 crashed into Mount Slesse just south of Chilliwack, B.C.

Becket's number 40 was retired by the Roughriders in August of 1957.

He and DeMarco are still being honoured by the CFL. Since 1974, the winner of the award as the most outstanding offensive lineman in the West Division receives the DeMarco-Becket Memorial Trophy.

44 Roger Aldag

Gull Lake, Saskatchewan's own played a team-record 271 games over a 17-year career with the Roughriders.

After playing with the junior Regina Rams, Aldag joined the Roughriders in 1976 and soon became a fixture at guard.

During his career, Aldag was named a West Division all-star eight times (1982-83, 1986-91) and a CFL all-star five times (1986-90). He was Saskatchewan's nominee for the award as the CFL's most outstanding offensive lineman on nine occasions and won the award twice (1986 and '88). Aldag helped the Roughriders win the Grey Cup in 1989, when they defeated the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 43-40.

He was inducted into the Roughriders' Plaza of Honour in 1993 and the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 2002.

Aldag's number 44 was retired by the Roughriders on July 15, 1993.

55 Mario DeMarco

After spending time with the Detroit Lions and the Edmonton Eskimos, DeMarco joined the Roughriders in 1953.

The product of Boonton, N.J., played 38 games over his four seasons with Saskatchewan. In 1954, he earned a spot on the Western Interprovincial Football Union's all-star team as a guard. DeMarco was 29 years old when he was killed on Dec. 9, 1956, as he and three of his Roughriders teammates — Mel Becket, Gordon Sturtridge and Ray Syrnyk — were returning from an all-star game in Vancouver. They were among 62 people killed when Trans-Canada Airlines Flight 810 crashed into Mount Slesse just south of Chilliwack, B.C.

DeMarco and Syrnyk had attended the game as spectators to watch Becket and Sturtridge play in the contest.

DeMarco's number 55 was retired by the Roughriders in August of 1957.

He and Becket are still being honoured by the CFL. Since 1974, the winner of the award as the West Division's most outstanding offensive lineman receives the DeMarco-Becket Memorial Trophy.

56 Ray Syrnyk

A product of Saskatoon, Syrnyk played parts of three seasons with the Roughriders.

After seeing spot duty in 1954 and '55, the offensive lineman joined the Roughriders full-time in 1956.

Syrnyk was 23 years old when he died on Dec. 9, 1956, as he and three of his Roughriders teammates — Mel Becket, Mario DeMarco and Gordon Sturtridge — were returning from an all-star game in Vancouver. They were among 62 people killed when Trans-Canada Airlines Flight 810 crashed into Mount Slesse just south of Chilliwack, B.C.

DeMarco and Syrnyk had attended the game as spectators to watch Becket and Sturtridge play in the contest.

Syrnyk's number 56 was retired by the Roughriders in August of 1957.

73 Gordon Sturtridge

Sturtridge, a Winnipeg-born defensive end, joined the Roughriders in 1953. That season, he won the Dr. Beattie Martin Trophy as the top Canadian rookie in the Western Interprovincial Football Union.

Sturtridge played 62 games over his four seasons in Saskatchewan, earning WIFU all-star honours in 1955 and '56.

Sturtridge, 27, was killed on Dec. 9, 1956, as he and three of his Roughriders teammates — Mel Becket, Mario DeMarco and Ray Syrnyk — were returning from an all-star game in Vancouver. They were among 62 people killed when Trans-Canada Airlines Flight 810 crashed into Mount Slesse just south of Chilliwack, B.C.

Sturtridge's wife Mildred also died in the tragedy. The couple left behind three children.

In 1957, a minor football league in Vancouver was renamed in his memory. The Gordon Sturtridge Football League is for youths between the ages of six and 15.

Sturtridge's number 73 was retired by the Roughriders in August of 1957.