

Roughrider General Managers

Jeremy O'Day

2015, 2019-Current

Jeremy O'Day was named vice president of football operations & general manager on January 18, 2019.

This is O'Day's second tenure as the Riders' general manager after he was officially named the franchise's 15th general manager on August 31, 2015 – a position he held on an interim basis for the final nine games of that season.

The former Roughriders offensive lineman moved into the front office after retiring as a player in February 2011, accepting the position of football operations co-ordinator. In 2012 he was named assistant general manager, a position he held for the next four years.

In December of 2015, O'Day was named assistant vice president of football operations & administration under Chris Jones. In this role, O'Day led many day-to-day football operations activities, including player evaluations, contract negotiations, and co-ordinating training camp, mini camps and free-agent camps. He also participated in the scouting of NFL, NCAA and U Sports games.

O'Day's playing career in the CFL began in 1997, when he joined the Toronto Argonauts after a standout career at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. He played two seasons with the Argos, winning a Grey Cup with them in 1997.

In 1999, O'Day signed as a free agent with Saskatchewan and spent the next 12 seasons on the Riders' offensive line. He started 202 regular-season games for Saskatchewan, which ranks him 12th on the club's all-time list of games played. He also appeared in 16 playoff games and three Grey Cup games with the Roughriders, helping them win the CFL title in 2007.

O'Day won his third Grey Cup in 2013 when he was a member of Saskatchewan's front office.

Known for his fierce competitiveness and leadership on and off the field, O'Day was named a division all-star six times and a CFL all-star three times. On four occasions, he was the Riders' nominee for the award as the CFL's most outstanding offensive lineman.

Off the field, O'Day spent countless hours in the community, an effort that was recognized by the CFL in 2008 when he was named the winner of the Tom Pate Award. The award is presently annually to the player who exhibits outstanding sportsmanship while also making a contribution to his team and his community.

Chris Jones

2016 – 2018

Jones was named the Riders' vice-president of football operations, general manager and head coach in December of 2015, becoming the 16th general manager in club history.

After the Riders went 5-13 in Jones' first season, the club improved to 10-8 in his second season and to 12-6 in his third.

After missing the playoffs in 2016, the Riders finished fourth in the West Division in 2017, crossed over into the East Division for the playoffs and reached the Eastern Final before bowing out. In 2018, Saskatchewan finished second in the West and played host to the Western Semi-Final — the Riders' first home playoff game since 2013.

The team's progress in 2018 earned Jones the award as the CFL's coach of the year.

Prior to joining the Riders, Jones spent two seasons as the head coach of the Edmonton Eskimos.

In his first season in Edmonton, the Eskimos finished second in the West Division with a 12-6 record before losing the 2014 Western Final to the Calgary Stampeders. It was a club-record eight-win improvement from the previous season.

In 2015, Jones led the Eskimos to a league-best 14-4 record before they captured the Grey Cup with a 26-20 win over the Ottawa Redblacks.

Jones was a finalist for the CFL's coach-of-the-year award in both of his seasons with Edmonton.

Jones joined the CFL's coaching ranks in 2002 as a defensive line coach with the Montreal Alouettes. He spent six seasons with the Alouettes, the last five as defensive co-ordinator. He then joined the Stampeders in 2008 and spent four seasons with them before joining the Toronto Argonauts for the 2012 and 2013 seasons.

In his 17 CFL seasons, Jones has missed the playoffs only once. His teams have played in 13 division finals and seven Grey Cup games, split between Montreal, Calgary, Toronto and Edmonton. He owns four Grey Cup rings, winning them in 2002, 2008, 2012 and 2015.

Jones began his college coaching career as a graduate assistant at Tennessee Tech University in 1995 and spent seven years in the NCAA before entering the CFL.

Jones resigned from the Riders on January 15, 2019.

Brendan Taman

2010-2015

Taman spent five years as General Manager of the Green and White, after joining the team in 2009 as a football consultant's role. In the, Taman managed all aspects of the Roughriders roster and Football Operations. Taman was also named vice president of football operations in 2014.

In January 2013, Taman orchestrated a trade acquiring Geroy Simon, the CFL's all-time leading receiver, and then locked up free agents Tyron Brackenridge, Dwight Anderson, Ricky Foley and Renauld Williams in February. Setting the stage for what would be a memorable 2013 season. The team went on to finish with an 11-7 regular season record before beating B.C. and Calgary in the playoffs, earning a birth in the 101st Grey Cup Game. The Green and White went on to win 45-23 in front of 44,710 spectators at Mosaic Stadium.

It was Taman's first Grey Cup championship.

Taman had a busy winter heading into the 2012 season. He filled a vacancy by hiring current Head Coach Corey Chamblin and completed an overhaul of the previous year's roster by adding CFL veterans like Dominic Picard and Brendon Labatte while adding new talent like Kory Sheets, Xavier Fulton and Terrell Maze. The 2012 Canadian Draft saw the Riders select stalwarts Ben Heenan and Sam Hurl.

After a winless start to the 2015 season, Taman was relieved of his duties along with head coach Corey Chamblin on August, 31st.

Prior to returning to his home province of Saskatchewan to work for the Green and White, Taman spent ten years working in the Winnipeg Blue Bomber organization, the last five of which were as the team's General Manager and Vice-President of Football Operations.

He spent the 1997 and 1998 seasons as the Director of Player Personnel with the B.C. Lions. Before that, he spent four seasons (1993-1996) as Assistant Director of Player Personnel with the Roughriders. From 1989-1992, Taman was Operations Manager for Football with the Ottawa Rough Riders. His first stint in the CFL was with the Green and White in 1987 when he was hired as Player Personnel Assistant.

Taman has appeared in four Grey Cup Championship games in the past seven years and over the course of his career has brought a number of noteworthy players into the CFL including Geroy Simon, Romby Bryant, Jon Ryan, and Doug Brown.

Eric Tillman

2006-2009

Eric Tillman was hired as the Roughriders 13th General Manager midway through the 2006 season. In his three and a half seasons as GM, Tillman helped lead the club to two Grey Cup appearances, winning in 2007. Tillman resigned following the 2009 season.

Tillman, via management and broadcasting, has been associated with the CFL for over 20 years. He has served as General Manager for five different clubs (Edmonton, Saskatchewan, Ottawa, Toronto and B.C.). He has three Grey Cup rings (Saskatchewan, Toronto and B.C.).

Tillman began his football career in 1981 when he joined the public relations department of the NFL's Houston Oilers. He then moved to the CFL in 1982 when he took the job of Director of Player Personnel with the Montreal Concordes.

In 1984, he became executive director for the Senior Bowl, held annually in Mobile, Alabama. He graduated with a Journalism Degree from the University of Mississippi in 1979.

After resigning from the Roughriders, Tillman joined the Edmonton Eskimos as the team's General Manager. He was relieved of his duties during the 2012 season and is currently a consultant with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Roy Shivers

2000-2006

Roy Shivers was hired as the Roughriders 12th General Manager on Christmas Eve 1999. Shivers oversaw the Riders from the 2000 season until midway through the 2006 season when he was relieved from his position. His six and a half seasons as Riders General Manager are the third longest in club history behind Ken Preston and Al Ford.

Shivers has always been thought of as one of the top talent-finders in the CFL, with a keen eye for what it takes to play the Canadian-style game. During his 20 years in the CFL, Shivers enjoyed tremendous success with the B.C. Lions, Birmingham Barracudas and Calgary Stampeders.

Shivers spent eight seasons as Assistant General Manager in Calgary prior to joining the Riders. He also served one season as General Manager of the Birmingham Barracudas. Shivers entered the CFL in 1983 as an assistant coach with the B.C. Lions. After a couple of seasons he assumed the Director of Player Personnel position.

Prior to joining the CFL, Shivers was an assistant coach at UNLV and the University of Hawaii. The native of Hally, Arkansas attended Utah State on a football scholarship before being drafted and playing for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Following his tenure in Saskatchewan, Shivers joined the B.C. Lions as Director of Player Personnel.

Al Ford

1989-1998

Al Ford is the second longest serving General Manager in Rider history. He officially took over as the 11th GM in Rider history heading into the 1989 season. In his first year, the Riders won their second ever Grey Cup. He resigned following the 1998 season.

Born July 1943, Ford was raised in Regina, Saskatchewan. He attended Central Collegiate, starting in football, basketball and baseball. He then attended the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California before returning home to play 12 great seasons with his hometown Roughriders.

Known for his versatility to line up just about anywhere on the field, Ford played running back, defensive back, tight end and kick returner and was the team's full-time punter for ten seasons. In 182 games played, Ford scored 22 touchdowns and compiled 1,086 rushing yards. He also had 259 receptions for 3,819 receiving yards and 14 receiving touchdowns. Mr. Versatility also shone as a punter with 1,041 punts for 41,880 yards.

Ford was part of the Grey Cup championships as a player in 1966 and general manager in 1989. Ford was inducted into the Plaza of Honor in 1992 and Regina Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.

Ford has served as a scout for the Montreal Alouettes for a number of years following his time with the Riders. He also served a short stint as General Manager of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Bill Baker

1987-1988

Bill Baker returned to Saskatchewan and took over as the Club's 10th General Manager heading into the 1987 season. Baker helped assemble a team that finished second place in 1988 and hosted a playoff game for the first time since 1976. Many of the players Baker brought into Saskatchewan helped the team win the Grey Cup in 1989.

Born in August 1944 in Kindersley, Saskatchewan, Baker played junior football for the Regina Rams in 1963. He played college football at Otterbein College in Ohio where he was an All-Star for four years and his motto was "your opponents are only as tough as you let them be". He was a Western All-Star in 1971, 1972 and 1973 and was also a CFL All-Star in 1972 and 1973 while with Saskatchewan.

Baker played in the 1969 and 1972 Grey Cup games against Ottawa and Hamilton. He was named to the Riders' 75th Silver Anniversary All-Star team in 1985. He was inducted into the Plaza of Honor in 1990 and the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1994.

Baker resigned from his GM position following the 1988 season to take over as the CFL Commissioner.

Bill Quinter

1985-1986

Bill Quinter was hired as the Roughriders ninth General Manager prior to the 1985 season. While the club met with limited success during these years, Quinter can be credited for bringing a number of players to Saskatchewan that leant to their success in the late 1980's. Quinter was relieved of his position following the 1986 season.

Quinter played his collegiate football at Indiana University before turning pro with the Washington Redskins. Quinter joined the CFL as a player with the Ottawa Rough Riders before returning to the NFL to play for the Dallas Cowboys and Atlanta Falcons.

In 1968 Quinter turned to coaching the offensive line at Indiana State. After a few years of coaching in the U.S., Quinter returned to Canada in 1973 to coach the linebackers for the Toronto Argonauts. He took over as defensive coordinator for the Calgary Stampeders in 1976 and joined the B.C. Lion coaching staff in 1977. Prior to joining the Riders, Quinter held the position of Director of Player Personnel for the B.C. Lions.

Following his tenure with the Roughriders, Quinter returned to the NFL as a scout with the New Orleans Saints and Seattle Sea Hawks before retiring. Quinter died in April of 2014.

John Herrera

1983-1984

John Herrera was hired as the Roughriders eighth General Manager in team history in December of 1982. At the time, Herrera was the youngest GM in the CFL at only 36 years old. After two unsuccessful seasons, Herrera was fired following the 1984 season.

A native of Oakland, California Herrera joined the Riders after spending two years as the Director of Player Personnel for the B.C. Lions. His first exposure to pro football was in 1963 when he began a six-year position as the Oakland Raiders Administrative Assistant. In 1975 Herrera joined the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as Chief Talent Scout. After two years, he joined the Washington Redskins as a Player Personnel Scout.

Following his time in Saskatchewan, Herrera returned to the Oakland Raiders as a senior executive and stayed with the organization until his retirement in 2012.

Jim Spavital

1980-1982

Jim Spavital was hired as the Riders seventh General Manager in team history heading into the 1980 season. He spent three seasons at the helm of the Roughriders and compiled a record of 17-30-1. He left the Roughriders following the 1982 season.

Spavital played his college football with Oklahoma A&M and was a first round draft pick of the Chicago Cardinals in 1948. His playing days saw him spend time with the Los Angeles Dons of the AAFC, the NFL's Baltimore Colts and the CFL's Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Following his playing days, Spavital went back to his home state of Oklahoma to coach. He joined the Roughrider coaching staff in 1967 and was hired as the head coach in Winnipeg in 1970. In 1974 he was hired to coach the Chicago Fire of the World Football League and spent the next season coaching the backfield for the San Francisco 49ers.

He returned to the CFL in 1977 as an assistant coach with the Calgary Stampeders, before accepting the GM role with the Riders in 1980.

He left the Riders after the 1982 season to join the Michigan Panthers of the United Football League. His final job in football was helping to put together a new professional football league in 1990. Spavital was the director of football operations for the Professional Spring Football League for two years before plans for the league were abandoned. Spavital died in 1993.

Henry Dorsch

1978-1979

Henry Dorsch officially took over as the Club's sixth General Manager in 1978. Dorsch had the unenviable job of taking over for legendary GM Ken Preston. Dorsch's first move was to hire Ron Lancaster as head coach. The Riders struggled during the 1978 and 1979 seasons as a number of great veterans had recently retired.

Born in November 1940 in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Dorsch began his playing career with the Regina Rams where he played for two seasons. He received a scholarship to Tulsa University and led the Golden Hurricane in rushing in 1962 and 1963. He was a terrific blocking fullback, and opened holes for legendary running back George Reed. He also excelled as a defensive halfback.

Dorsch played in 119 regular season games and had 309 rushing yards and six interceptions. He played in six Western Finals and three Grey Cups, winning the championship in 1966. He retired following the 1971 season and worked as assistant executive director of Regina General Hospital. Dorsch was named to the Roughrider management committee in 1975 and was appointed General Manager in 1978. He was inducted into the Plaza of Honor in 2004.

Ken Preston

1958-1978

As the Club's fifth General Manager, Ken Preston is arguably the greatest GM in Club history. His 21 seasons as General Manager are easily the longest in Rider history. Under Preston's guidance the Riders were in the playoffs 15 times, finished first five times and played in five Grey Cups, winning their first ever championship in 1966.

Considered the 'Dean of General Managers' in the CFL, Ken Preston was a player, coach, game official as well as general manager, in a football career in Canada which spanned more than 40 years between 1936 and 1978. He was born in Smith Falls, Ontario and played football at Queen's University 1936-39 and first joined the Regina Roughriders in 1940. In 1941 he was a fullback with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers where they won the Grey Cup.

After serving in the Armed Forces he played for the Ottawa Rough Riders in 1945 and in 1946 he returned to the Regina Roughriders as a player/coach and part-time General Manager, for 10 years. Preston was installed in the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 1980, the Plaza of Honor in 1987 and the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1990. He died in 1991.

Dean Griffing

1954-1957

Griffing officially took over as the Riders fourth General Manager heading into the 1954 season. He had retired from football a year earlier and resigned his position with the Calgary Stampeders, but was lured back to Saskatchewan to take over as GM.

Griffing came to Regina from Kansas in 1936 to coach the Roughriders. Due to an injury to the team's centre, it was necessary for Griffing to play as well. He was known as a 'bad man' throughout his career because of his hard-hitting, rugged style and was a colourful performer and extremely popular with the fans. He was a Western All-Star with the Riders in 1937, 1938 and 1940 and is credited for keeping football alive in Regina during the war years.

He moved to Calgary while still active on the field. He and other investors reorganized the Calgary football club after the Second World War. He was flamboyant and controversial and had many contacts in Regina from his earlier years here and quickly developed a plan to put a strong team on the field. Griffing was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1965 and the Plaza of Honor in 1987.

Frank Filchock

1953

While still serving as head coach, Filchock assumed the added responsibilities of Riders General Manager for the 1953 season. Officially the third GM in Club history, Filchock relinquished his GM duties following the season so he could concentrate on his head coaching position.

Filchock was born in Pennsylvania and attended Indiana University where he was a standout football player. He was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates and after only one season went on to play with the Washington Redskins. Filchock joined the U.S. Navy in 1941 and after the war returned to play with the Redskins and New York Giants. Filchock appeared as the starting quarterback for the Giants in the 1946 Super Bowl.

Filchock headed to the CFL in 1947 and played with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Montreal Alouettes and Edmonton Eskimos before joining the Riders for his final season as a player/coach in 1953.

Following his time in Saskatchewan, Filchock coached the Sarnia Golden Bears, served as a backfield coach for the Calgary Stampeders and became the first ever head coach for the Denver Broncos. He retired from football in 1964 and died in 1994.

Greg Grassick

1950

While having served as a player, coach and administrator Greg Grassick agreed to take over as the Club's second General Manager for the 1950 season.

Grassick was the son of Regina pioneer James Grassick who was Mayor of Regina and first played football for the Regina Rugby Club in the early 1920's and then played for McGill University. He returned to Regina to continue his football career with the renamed Regina Roughriders.

After his playing career, he became team manager and in 1945 was instrumental with fellow teammates Jack Rowand and Clair Warner in the reorganization of the Roughriders. He was travel and accommodations manager for the Roughriders from 1949-1950. Grassick was credited with being instrumental in the introduction of the forward pass to Canadian football. He was associated in football with the Roughriders for more than 20 years as a player, coach and executive.

Grassick was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 1982 and the Plaza of Honor in 1988. He died in 1985.

Clair Warner

1946-49; 1951-52

Clair Warner holds the distinction of being the first Roughrider General Manager in team history. Warner dedicated much of his life to the Riders and while a number of people served in similar capacities for the Riders, Warner is the first man to hold the official position of General Manager.

Warner began his football career in 1919, two years after his family moved to Regina from South Dakota. He was a member of the Regina Rugby Club that later became the Regina Roughriders and played in four Grey Cups coached by Al 'Silver Fox' Ritchie, in the years 1928 through 1931. Warner continued to play for the Roughriders until 1933 after which he became the club's General Manager, serving for a total of six years in the 1940's and 1950's.

He was club President in 1945 and was instrumental in the reorganization of the team at the end of the war. He helped assemble a management committee that included former teammate Jack Rowand, Stack Tibbits, Don MacDonald and later Don McPherson. They became known as 'The Big Five'. He served on the management committee for 21 years and was a player and executive with the Roughrider for five decades.

As manager of his own company he offered employment to many football players who were attracted to Regina to play for the Roughriders. He was President of the Western Interprovincial Football Union in 1948 and a member of the rules committee of the Canadian Football Union for many several years. He was awarded the Canadian Rugby Union Plaque in 1956 for outstanding contributions to the game and inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1965, Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 1971 and the Plaza of Honor in 1989. He died in 1970.