



2008



Men's Soccer

Season Box-score

Games Played	Win	Loss	Draw	GF – GA	Standing
14	12	1	1	35-10	1 st (37pts)

*Playoffs – Host & 5th place @ CIS Nationals

It would be another special year for the Ravens program as 2008 saw them host the CIS National Championships for the third time, and first time since 2002, when they finished as runners-up to Brock. Raven Field already with a new artificial surface, Keith Harris Stadium would host a game under the lights for the first time in the 25 year history of the men's soccer program.



Fresh off an undefeated season that ended in playoff heartbreak, this year's group would lose only one game all regular season, top the National rankings most of the year and prepare for another run at a National title as hosts of the tournament.



The Ravens looked to be the team to beat in CIS men's soccer going into the post-season. Carleton cruised through the regular schedule finishing with an OUA-best 12-1-1 mark and was ranked No. 1 in the last three national coaches polls of the campaign but was upset in the semi-final round at the Ontario championship, losing on penalty kicks to the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks, who went on to claim the OUA banner with an overtime win over the York Lions. The Ravens were returning to the CIS tournament for only the second time since 2002, when they dropped a heartbreaking, 1-0 OT decision to Brock in front of their home crowd in the championship match.



One thing Carleton didn't lack this time around in its quest for that elusive Davidson Trophy was firepower. The high-flying Ravens topped the nation in scoring that fall with 35 goals in 14 conference games, led by Ottawa native Matthew D'Angelo, a Saint Mary's transfer who found the back of the net a CIS-high 13 times.



Sam McHugh would begin his Raven career this season and go on to play 5 years in the red and black. He recounted his fond recollections of the experience:

2008 was my rookie year. I came late, a week or two into the season, so I missed out on the Bermuda pre-season trip and everything that involved. I remember that year the team was full of 5th year/graduating players, many guys who had decided to stick around an extra year because we were hosting nationals. There was Park, the Gutierrez brothers, Arjun, Berjawi, Deebank, Marco Ianni and Matt D'Angelo who came back to Ottawa from St. Mary's for his last year of eligibility. We also got two quality international students in Javier "Senor" Robles from Madrid and Caki Simrooglu. Caki's debut season also brought with it the arrival of the Turkish ultras into the Carleton stands (think they called themselves the "gallaba" or the "kalabalik"; I think it basically translated into crowd or mob in Turkish). They definitely added an awesome element to our home games.



OUA -ALL STARS - EAST DIVISION AWARDS

Rookie of the Year - Javier Robles

Coach of the Year - Sandy Mackie

FIRST TEAM ALL-STARS

Defender - Nicholas Perichino

Midfielder - Ahmad Berjawi

Striker - Matthew D'Angelo

SECOND TEAM ALL-STARS

Goalkeeper - Arjun Langford

Defender - Javier Robles

Striker - Craig Deebank





Nicholas Persichino and Matt D'Angelo would also be named deserved CIS All-Canadians this season. Veteran standout Andrew Park would play his final season as a Raven as well.

The Ravens would unfortunately have a disappointing championship tournament losing their first match 4-1 to Laval Rouge et Or, eliminating themselves from contention.



There was a consolation format for the teams losing on the first day and Carleton would go on to defeat Wilfred Laurier (2-1) and Dalhousie (3-0) and win that aspect, but it was little consolation to Ravens looking to bring home their first ever National title. The York Lions, an OUA rival, would go on to win it all. Another fantastic season! A disappointment at CIS Nationals, to be sure, however, this team was arguably one of the best Raven sides ever

