



2018



# Men's Soccer

## Season Box-score

Games Played	Win	Loss	Draw	GF – GA	Standing
16	14	1	1	61-7	1 <sup>st</sup> (43pts)

\*Playoffs – Lost in OUA Final Qualified for U-Sport Nationals finished 3<sup>rd</sup>

The 2018 men's soccer program witnessed an extraordinary season from a talented and committed team seeking excellence and an elusive national title. Advancing one step closer to the crown, the Ravens moved up three spots from last year's sixth place finish at the U Sports National Championships and brought home the bronze medal after improving their overall performance throughout the season. Coach Kwesi Loney's stamp was now firmly on this team and it was a spectacle of quality and success! On the shoulders of the coaches before him, Kwesi was further elevating the standard and solidifying one of the finest soccer cultures in the nation.



## Regular Season

The Carleton Ravens displayed an unmatched level of play through the entire OUA conference, pushing not only their season record to 14 victories but also breaking the program's goal scoring record, netting 61 goals and giving up 7 to claim their second OUA East league title.



**Regular Season Record:** 14-1-1 (Home 7-1-0, Away 7-0-1)

**OUA East Standings:** 1<sup>st</sup>

**U SPORTS Standings:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**OUA Playoffs:** 2-1. Defeated Nipissing 5-1 in quarterfinals, and Western 3-0 in the semi-final. Lost 3-1 to York in the final.

**U SPORTS Championship:** 2-1. Defeated home team UBC 3-2 in quarterfinals. Lost 5-2 against Cape Breton in the semi-final, and defeated Trinity Western 3-0 in the bronze medal game.

**Goals Scored:** 78 total, (61 in OUA regular season, 9 in OUA playoffs, and 8 in U SPORTS Championship)

**Goals Against:** 14 total, (7 in OUA regular season, 4 in OUA playoffs, and 4 in U SPORTS Championship)

**Major Awards:** Kwesi Loney OUA East Coach of the Year, Dario Conte U SPORTS First Team All-Canadian and OUA East Most Valuable Player, and Gabriel Bitar U SPORTS Second Team All-Canadian.

**All-Stars:** OUA East First Team All-Stars (Nick Jeffs, Diego Politis, Christopher Malekos, Dario Conte, Emad Houache, and Gabriel Bitar).

Despite the challenge of playing the first six games on the road, the Ravens claimed five victories and one draw demonstrating their quality. After an offensive outburst in the fourth game with a 7-0 victory at Trent, the Ravens registered 14 goals in the first four games in the season, but the biggest challenge for Carleton was about to present itself later in the regular season when they visited the grand metropolitan of Toronto. The Ravens went to defeat the third OUA East ranked Toronto Blues 3-0 on a team scoring effort while settling with a scoreless draw against the OUA East second position Ryerson Rams on the following day to establish a precedent of Carleton's superiority in the region.

As the Ravens continued their unrelenting pace with 10 victories and one draw, the team saw a 3-2 setback in the twelfth game at home against the Varsity Blues. However, the team rebounded from the loss in the last four games of the season, putting together 22 goals, where U SPORTS First Team All-Canadian Gabriel Bitar and Stefan Karajovanovic scored six goals each to lead the Raven's in OUA goal scoring with 13 and 12 respectively.



## **OUA Playoffs**

As Carleton hosted the 2018 OUA playoffs, the Ravens continued their swiftness through the OUA quarter-final in a team scoring effort with a 5-1 win over the Lakers.

The Western Mustangs would try their luck in the semi-final against OUA host, but unable to manage All-Canadian Gabriel Bitar who stroke two goals for the Ravens and send the team back in the U SPORTS Championship for the second time in a row. Despite the 3-1 loss in the OUA final against the York Lions, the Raven's objective was set in the National Championship and ready to beat their previous season sixth place record.

## **U SPORTS National Championship**

Gabriel Bitar's two goals, including the game-winner in extra time, paved the way to upset host UBC 3-2 that carried the Ravens through the quarterfinal, while standout goalkeeper Nick Jeffs (Ottawa, ON) made nine saves from a ferocious Thunderbirds attack. The Ravens faced the eventual runner-up Cape Breton in the semi-final and ended Carleton's quest for the U SPORT glory in a 5-2 defeat. In the bronze medal match, Gabriel Bitar's second two-goal performance of the U SPORTS championship and Christopher Maleko's (Saint Hyppolyte, QC) single goal claimed the third spot for the Ravens in a 3-0 win over Trinity Western. Despite coming up just short of the goal, the Ravens had another season to remember, improving all records from the stellar previous year.



## **Best team performance of 2018 – Carleton at UBC (U SPORTS quarter-final)**

As the Ravens demonstrated their constant performance on hostile territory throughout the season, facing the U SPORTS host and legendary UBC Thunderbirds at Point Grey Campus would not be any different. After the Ravens kept their defensive composure against an aggressive offense by the Thunderbirds in the first half, Carleton stepped up in the second frame to perform against the best. All Canadian Gabriel Bitar would pave the way to upset UBC 3-2 in extra time while keeper Nick Jeffs had a blinder, saving the Ravens on 9 separate occasions.

## **ALUMNI**

### **Alumni come out in full force for annual Carleton Indoor Tournament**

*Over 40 members of the Carleton Men's Soccer Alumni Association gathered for the program's annual tournament held at Carleton University over the weekend of March 17-18, 2018.*



Four Carleton teams – two alumni and two varsity squads – along with teams representing Ottawa South United, Algonquin College and the Canadian Military took part in the festivities which saw the teams go head-to-head in a round robin and playoff round.

In the end, only one of Carleton's teams – *Varsity Black* – would qualify for the latter stages of the competition. With the pride of the program on the line, current members of the Ravens men's soccer team stepped up to deliver a championship victory against the Algonquin Alumni. Varsity jumped ahead to a 2-0 lead from some quality goals from Scott Mazzotta, and Dante Cobisa. Algonquin would pull one back, but it was too little too late.

Alumni members from across the decades turned out along with former Ravens head coach Sandy Mackie, who was in attendance during the tournament providing support to the alumni. Another great even put on by head coach Kwesi Loney and the entire varsity team.

## Participants

Alumni Black – Legends: Andrew Wooly Woolridge, Basil Spice Phillips, Mekonen Lovemore-White, Mintho Mintchev, Mike Tiberio, Stevie Ball, Jay Da Costa, Alex Despo, John Legakis, Walker Smith, Tim “Timo” Khaemba, Tobi, Milan Verrelli, Michael Robot Reynolds, George Lobo, Gord McDonald – with appearances from Marc Lapointe, Dimitri Koutras, Mike Hoefler, Danny Obaseki, Jeff Knight and Ahmead Houdie Berjawi.

Alumni Red – Young Guns: Michael Calof, Joey Kewin, Sam Rooney McHugh, Peter Pano Manginas, Theo Lopez de Castilla, Travis Chace, Andrew Latty, Daniel Saladini, Rowen Martino, Julian Piccioli, Daud Dahir, Gordon Goodkey, Jack Bruce, Ryan Beckford, Alex Decouvrier – appearances by Mark Krocko, Justin Campos and Tim Campos.

Mens Varsity Red: Tristan St. Pierre, Nick Jeffs, Jared Maloney, Cris Malekos, Junior Asare, Jeremy Aweya, Dani Gorelov, Emad Houache and Jadon.

Mens Varsity Black: David Monk, Diego Politis, Sultan Alaitah, Dario Conte, Ricky Comba, Scott Mazzotta, Dante Cobisa, Idir Zerrouk and David Aguib.



In Carleton University’s class of 2018 Ravens Hall of Fame inductees, former captain and 2-time All Canadian, Earl Cochrane got the nod as the program’s 2<sup>nd</sup> ever member selected for the honour.

