



2019



# Men's Soccer

## Season Box-score

Games Played	Win	Loss	Draw	GF – GA	Standing
14	13	1	0	38-6	1st (39pts)

\*Playoffs – OUA Champions Qualified for U-Sport Nationals finished 4<sup>th</sup>

New look uniforms did not cool the Ravens in terms of winning percentage or skillful play as the conspiracy of success continued to roll along. The Ravens were a force in the OUA this season, registering an impressive 13-1-0 record thanks in part to leading the OUA East in goals scored coupled with the fewest conceded. Carleton's lone setback came in a 3-1 road loss to Ryerson on October 12, but the 2018 OUA silver-medalist and U SPORTS bronze medalist rebounded by outscoring opponents 10-1 in the last three matches of the season before routing Ontario Tech 5-2 in the quarterfinal round and then dispatching Guelph in the semis. The Ravens secured their first OUA championship since 2005 (and 3<sup>rd</sup> in team history) defeating the York Lions 3-0. It was a redeeming victory for the Ravens, who were unable to defeat the Lions in both the 2017 and 2018 OUA finals.



Third-year striker Stefan Karajovanovic was the inspiration in that decisive playoff win with a first-half hat-trick that ensured the Ravens would advance. The Gatineau, Que. native paced all Ravens with eight goals this season. Karajovanovic and 2018 OUA East MVP Dario Conte, a third-year midfielder from Ottawa both had outstanding seasons leading the Ravens attack.

## U- Sport Nationals

The Ravens would advance as one of the favourites in Montreal at their 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive National Championships. After defeating St. Francis Xavier in the first match, they lost their chance at a

national title, after falling 1-0 in the semi-finals against the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR) in extra-time. With the loss, only their second of the season, Carleton crashed out of the 2019 U Sports men's soccer championships.

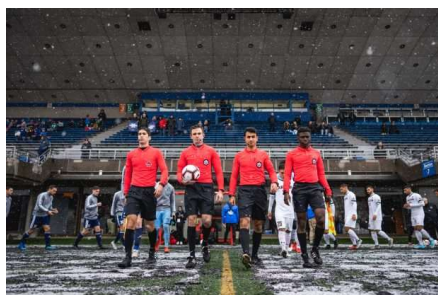


At the kickoff, head coach Kwesi Loney's side started off strong and were buoyed by the travelling support of a crowd of Carleton alums, who banged drums, waved flares and sang songs. Both teams stood deadlocked at 0-0. Carleton controlled most of the possession, but UQTR stood strong, clearing away every Carleton cross with their significant height advantage. It wasn't all comfortable for UQTR, as the Carleton bench stood and appealed for a penalty when Karajovanovic was taken down in the box more than once.



In overtime, UQTR became the quicker team on the pitch as the Ravens slowed due to fatigue. It wasn't until the 72nd-minute that Loney made his first substitution. As regulation time came to a close, disaster struck for the Ravens. Substitute Danny Assaf, who was booked in the 88th-minute after going in for a slide tackle, earned himself a red card only three minutes later. It was a harsh decision and left the Ravens down a man heading into extra time. After only one minute of extra time, UQTR managed to score a cracking goal to take the lead. The Ravens looked dejected and defeated, but found some energy to keep searching for the tying goal in hopes of pushing it to penalties. Bitar and midfielder Dario Conte each had their own individual

opportunities and the team went on to just miss on seemingly countless corners and free-kicks, as for the second year running they fell short at the semi-final stage.



With the loss, the Ravens played the Cape Breton University Capers in the bronze medal match, but would go on to lose and finish 4<sup>th</sup> overall; an admirable run, but still a disappointing end to another spectacular season.



### The 2019 Carleton Raven's Roster

Stefan Karajovanovic	Kevin Kaba Kalonji	Team
Gabriel Bitar	Junior (Robert) Asar	Nick Jeffs
Ricky Comba	Dante Cobisa	Joseph Vinson
Dario Conte	Nikola Erak	Tareq Hamad
Jeremy Aweya	Quinn Honeyman-Woott	Tony (Anthony) Mikha
Jimi Aribido	Kelly Lowry	Diego Politis
Silvio Simil	Sean Kim	Dondrae Fells
Daniel Assaf	Scott Mazzotta	Kyle Potter
Emad Houache	Cristopher Malekos	



## AWARDS

**FOX 40 COACH OF THE YEAR: Kwesi Loney, Carleton**

*Loney won the 2019 U Sports coach of the year award and is a three-time OUA coach of the year (2017-2019).*

A perennial presence in the U SPORTS Top 10, Loney led the Ravens to a nearly undefeated record, going 13-1-0 on the year. The former Ravens player guided his team to success on both sides of the ball, with the black birds soaring to an OUA second-ranked 38 goals for and a tie for league-low in goals allowed (five). Alongside Conte's major award, meanwhile, Loney also sees an additional two players earn All-Canadian selections, including one of the first team variety.



“I am so pleased that Kwesi has been recognized by his peers for the tremendous work he has put in to build our men’s soccer program,” said Jennifer Brenning, Carleton’s Assistant Vice President of Recreations and Athletics. “He has recruited top talent to Carleton University who are not only doing amazing things on the field of play but also having success in the classroom as well as giving back to the community with a very successful Junior Ravens Soccer program. Congratulations to Kwesi and the Ravens soccer team for their amazing season. It is much deserved recognition for all that Kwesi is doing for soccer in our community.”



Dario Conte was named MVP of the OUA East for the second straight season along with his first team all-star selection. Stefan Karajovanovic, Gabriel Bitar, Chris Malekos joined him on the 1st team. Tony Mikhail and Ricky Comba were named to the 2<sup>nd</sup> team



Bitar (2<sup>nd</sup> Team) and Conte (1<sup>st</sup> Team) were also named U Sport All-Canadians, Bitar for the second consecutive season.



# ALUMNI



Another big year for Alumni! A cracking Alumni Dinner with guest speaker Willy Murray, The U Montreal trip for U Sport Nationals saw plenty of participation along with flares, songs, a drum and some epic good times! With parents, friends and Ravens alum, the *Kick-it-to-Bronson* crew was over 100 strong!

