

TIGER-CAT Q&A

Name: Frank Cosentino

Birthday: May 22, 1937

School/ Jr. Football: Cathedral High

Position(s): Quarterback, End, Guard

Years with Tiger-Cats: 1960–1966

CAREER

1. Tell us about how you got started in football and your amateur career.

Other than playing touch and drive 'em back at Eastwood park, my first team was with the North End Argos coached by Art Cousins of the Hamilton Old Boys' Football Association. I was an end at the time (12 years old). It was great because the only thing you had to provide was a pair of sneakers. From there I went to Cathedral High, tried out for three years with the Junior team, made it as a guard and then as a quarterback for two years of senior football. I also played baseball and basketball as I grew up.

2. How did you get started in the CFL (draft, free agent, trade etc.)?

I was drafted by the Tiger Cats in 1960 as their first draft choice after a four year career at the University of Western Ontario where we won two championships, 1957, 1959, including the first Canadian Intercollegiate championship, '59 of which team I was the captain and QB.

3. Do or did you hold any records?

As far as records are concerned they are really team ones: in five Grey Cups, we won two; I coached at the University of Western Ontario from 1970 through '74 and we won two Vanier Cups - 1971 and 1974. I'm in the Western, McMaster and Ontario Universities Athletic Association Halls of Fame and being inducted in York University's Hall of Fame in September 2017. I was also Edmonton Eskimos' selection for the CFL Outstanding Canadian Award in 1967.

4. Do or did you have a nickname?

I was always known as "Cos" or "Cossie".

5. Tell us about some of your fondest memories with the Tiger-Cats or in the CFL.



From a personal point of view I think 1962 was a defining year. Bernie Faloney got hurt when we were in Edmonton and I had limited playing experience at the time. I went into the game when we were behind and we ended up tying the game (no overtime). We were on a

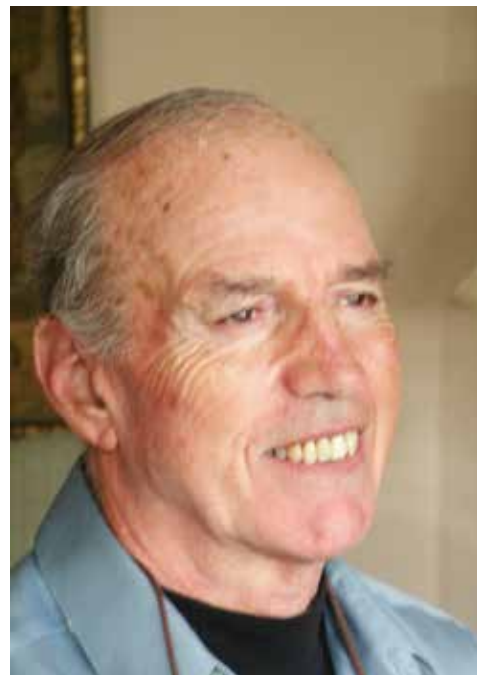
western swing and moved on to B.C. Bernie was sent home to recover. I started and finished the game and we won. Eventually, Joe (Zuger) and I split the season and took the team to the Grey Cup where we lost by one point in the fog bowl. Joe and I pretty well split the quarterbacking in '65 and '66. I was traded to Edmonton in '67 and I probably had my best year as a quarterback that year in Edmonton.

6. Who were some of the teammates and opponents you admired the most and why?

I was a little star struck when I first began because being from Hamilton, I'd always read or heard about the TC teams of the late fifties and then found myself playing with them. I had some wonderful team mates whose company I always enjoyed: Zeno Karcz, Tommy Grant, Gino DeNobile, Garney Henley, Willie Bethea, Bronco Nagurski, Ralph Goldston, El-lison Kelly, Hal Patterson, Hardiman Cureton, Joe Zuger, but I like to think that I got along with everyone and have good memories of all. These guys were serious about their preparation and at the same time were able to have a good perspective.

7. Which coach did you respect or enjoy playing for the most and why?

I had two head coaches at Hamilton and they each had distinctive personalities. Jim Trimble was loquacious and thought in grandiose ways. He was knowledgeable but also open to spontaneity. I recall once where we played a Sunday game and had a quarterback meeting after he had come from church. He said he had an inspiration and put in a play for that afternoon and it scored a touchdown. Ralph Sazio was probably the most knowledgeable coach. He was very focussed, knew exactly what he wanted to do and how you should do it. The team was always well prepared, especially defensively with Ralph as the coach. Later he got more involved with the offense and brought that same tenacity with him. I also had Neill Armstrong at Edmonton and Leo Cahill at Toronto. Leo always made



things interesting. He asked me to develop a game plan for a game I was starting against Montreal in 1969 and execute it. It turned out really well. We won handily. It probably helped me in deciding I wanted to coach. At University I tried to incorporate the best from each into my approach.

8. Tell us about some of your favourite Grey Cup memories.

Well, I guess the '62 fog bowl where I played the Sunday. I felt I played fairly well but we were still unable to overcome Winnipeg's one point lead. In '65, Joe and I pretty well split the game. I was able to option pitch to Dick Cohee for our first touchdown. It was a windy day and I still recall that Winnipeg came within a hair of making a first down near the end of the game. Our 5-3 defence with Marty Martinello at nose tackle rose up and stopped them to preserve the win.

POST CFL CAREER

9. Tell us about your life and career after playing/working with the Tiger-Cats or CFL?

I had been going to school for much of my years with the 'Cats and continued after I was traded to Edmonton and later Toronto. I had earned a PhD at University of Alberta and began teaching and coaching football at University of Western Ontario (1970-74). I began as an Assistant Professor, left as an Associate Professor and joined York University in 1976 as Professor and Chairman of Physical Education and Athletics. I retired from York in 1997 and moved to Eganville where I live now with my wife, Sheila.