

'IT GIVES ME A GOOD FEELING TO HIT AND HURT A GUY'

You wonder why Ottawa's front four are called Capital Punishment?

BY EARL McRAE

In pro football these days, the Big Thing is to pick a fancy name for your defensive front four — especially if you have a *great* front four.

It used to be the *offensive* players who got all the jazzy labels. Sam The Rifle. Mercury Morris. The Galloping Ghost. X-Ray McQuay. Mr. Wonderful. Now the defensive guys are getting into the act.

Los Angeles Rams started it a few years ago with The Fearsome Foursome. Then along came Dallas Cowboys with The Doomsday Defence. Minnesota Vikings jumped in with The Purple People Eaters. And Washington Redskins have The Over-The-Hill Gang. Miami Dolphins, defending Super Bowl champions, have attempted to be different — The No-Name Defence.

In pro football, it's not how much you earn or how much press ink you generate that determines success — it's how fast you're labelled.

Labels stick.

Labels are a giant step toward immortality.

But the labelling game, as far as defensive front fours are concerned, has been to date the exclusive frivolity of American football.

It's about time Canada got into the act.

And now we have.

Capital Punishment.

Capital Punishment is the defensive front four of the Ottawa Rough Riders.

Capital Punishment is the best in the nation.

It's been years since the Canadian Football League has seen a defensive front four like Capital Punishment.

Take that first game of the two-game, total-point series against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats at Ottawa's Lansdowne Park

last November. That's when the members of Capital Punishment proved beyond doubt they were the best defensive front four in the CFL. They've had their ups and downs since then, but history will always judge them on that one game. The Ticats came into Ottawa heavy favorites not only to win the game but to sweep the series and challenge the Saskatchewan Roughriders for the Grey Cup. No wonder. Hamilton had won 10 games in a row. They were the first-place team in the East. They had the league's leading rusher in Dandy Dave Buchanan. They had the league's leading quarterback in Chuck (The Eel) Ealey.

If Dandy Dave wasn't trampling the enemy overland, The Eel was picking them apart through the air. Ealey was protected by one of the better offensive lines in the league. On the few occasions when an enemy front four managed to

penetrate it, Ealey slithered out of harm's way with all the finesse of, well, an Eel.

He was one of the league's leading rushers going into the Ottawa game, with a 5.9-yard average.

And then the game started.

Chuck The Eel was dumped on his pants by Capital Punishment six times. That was more than Chuck The Eel had been dumped on his pants all season. Chuck The Eel threw three interceptions. In 14 previous games he had only thrown eight. The Eel wound up with minus 49 yards rushing. And Dandy Dave. Dandy Dave rushed for a grand total of two yards all afternoon. The entire Ticat team rushed for five yards.

It was Capital Punishment versus the Ticats. CP won 19-7.

"Ealey," said Hamilton coach Jerry Williams, "was lucky to come out of the game alive."

"The defensive front four of the Rough Riders was on Ealey's back so often," said Milt Dunnell of The Toronto Star, "they could have collected jockey's fees."

The Rough Riders lost the next game and the right to play in the Grey Cup, but it wasn't the fault of Capital Punishment.

All season they'd been carrying a mediocre offence and they just ran out of steam. Rudy Sims, the all-star defensive tackle, went into hospital after the game to be treated for exhaustion.

"These guys have a lot of pride in their own abilities but they don't seek individual publicity or glory," says Jack Gotta, head coach of the Riders. "Personally, I feel they deserve some recognition for what they've meant to this team."

So do we.

Ladies and gentlemen: Capital Punishment.



Okay, here they are, in the left-to-right order they'd come at you on the field: Jim Piaskoski, Rudy Sims, Tom Laputka and Wayne Smith, gentlemen all.

Jim Piaskoski Rudy Sims

Tom Laputka

Wayne Smith

Nickname:	Pea.	Duffy.	Put-put.	The Cat.
Position:	Defensive End.	Defensive Tackle.	Defensive Tackle.	Defensive End.
Age:	25.	26.	25.	23.
Height:	6-foot-5.	6-foot-1.	6-foot-3.	6-foot-4.
Weight:	245 pounds.	250 pounds.	260 pounds.	230 pounds.
Chest:	50 inches.	48 inches.	54 inches.	50 inches.
Thighs:	29 inches.	29 inches.	29 inches.	29 inches.
Home town:	Levack, Ont.	Tampa, Fla.	Morrisville, Pa.	Halifax, N.S.
Seasons with Riders:	Two.	Three.	Four.	Five.
Pre-Riders:	Levack High School Cubs, Eastern Michigan University for one year, Sudbury Spartans of Northern Football Conference for three years.	Florida A and M. Two years with Jersey Jays of Continental League. Twelfth-round draft choice Kansas City Chiefs in 1968. Won Most Valuable Line-man award both years with Jays and one year for league.	University Southern Illinois. Quit after junior year due to poor academic standing. Eleventh-round draft choice San Francisco 49ers in 1972.	Halifax Buccaneers sandlot team.
Prime physical attributes:	Strength and speed. Bench presses 270 pounds. Runs 40-yard dash in 4.7 seconds.	Strength and speed. Bench presses 270 pounds. Runs 40-yard dash in 4.9 seconds. Fastest of the front four off the mark.	Strength and speed. Strongest player in CFL. Bench presses 490 pounds. Runs 40-yard dash in 4.8 seconds.	Strength and speed. Bench presses 315 pounds. Runs 40-yard dash in 4.7 seconds.
Prime mental attribute:	Total hatred for the enemy.	Total hatred for the enemy.	Total hatred for the enemy.	Total hatred for the enemy.
Prime weakness:	Professional inexperience.	"I move to the inside too much. They get to key on it after a while. I gotta mix it up more, and I am."	"I sometimes drag my right leg behind me. It slows me down. I'm working on correcting it."	"Concentration. I'll start loafing out there if I see the tackle's been made instead of me finishing it off."
Recent honors:	Named to best front four in nation.	Eastern Conference All-Star 1971 and 1972.	Eastern Conference All-Star in 1971.	All-Canadian in 1972.
Main goal in life:	Destroy the quarterback.	Destroy the quarterback.	Destroy the quarterback.	Destroy the quarterback.
Toughest quarterbacks to destroy:	"This is only my first year and it's too soon to really say, but Ealey and Lancaster and Jonas are tough."	"Lancaster and Ealey are tough but so is Jonas. Theismann, he runs good but he's a scared quarterback, runs to the sidelines a lot."	"Ealey and Lancaster. They're great scramblers. But if you get Ealey a couple of times, you can intimidate him. Then he's yours. You can't intimidate Lancaster."	"Lancaster's pretty good at getting out of trouble. So is Jonas, and Ealey's always tough but you get him and you can scare him. Theismann, we don't get much of a chance to test him because he runs scared so much."
Easiest quarterbacks to destroy:	Mira, Wade, "and maybe Moorhead".	"Well, Wade of course, and that Mira, haw, haw, haw, and Gabler when he was playing, he'd fall down every time, man."	"Wade, he rattles easily, and Mira, you nail him a couple of times and he folds like an accordion."	"Mira and Wade, maybe Keeling [formerly with Calgary] too. You can intimidate those guys."
Toughest enemy lineman:	"I'm still grading them."	Ed George, Montreal.	Dave Braggins, Montreal.	Bill Frank, Winnipeg.
Toughest enemy back:	Ditto.	Bill Symons, Toronto "and that little Mack Herron of Winnipeg [since departed], man, he just keeps on comin', man".	George Reed, Saskatchewan.	Bill Symons, Toronto.
Hero:	Wayne Smith.	Alan Page, Minnesota Vikings. "He's fast and he uses his hands better'n anybody I've ever seen, somethin' I wanta do better."	Rudy Sims - "the greatest tackle in Canada".	"Me - har, har, har!"
Most serious football injury:	Twisted knee.	Torn knee cartilage.	None.	Broken arm.
Marital status:	Single.	Single.	Single.	Married.
Drinks:	Molson's Export.	Doesn't.	Beer, any brand.	Carling Black Label.
Smokes:	Doesn't.	Doesn't.	Doesn't.	Doesn't.
Music:	Beatles, Creedence, Beach Boys.	Marvin Gaye, Sly and the Family Stone, Ray Charles.	Moody Blues, Temptations, Neil Diamond.	Temptations, Marvin Gaye, "anything soul".
Drives:	1973 white Pontiac Grand Am.	1970 green Oldsmobile '98.	1973 brown Lincoln Continental Mark 4.	1969 burgundy Cadillac Coupe De Ville.
Favorite movie:	Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid.	Lady Sings The Blues.	Day Of The Jackal.	Lady Sings The Blues.
Last book read:	Doesn't read books.	Can't remember.	The Exorcist.	Can't remember.
Hobby:	Curling.	Listening to music.	Weightlifting.	Breeding Doberman pinschers.
Off-season job:	Not known yet.	Elementary school teacher in Newark, N.J.	Helping design weightlifting equipment for Florida company.	Income-tax auditing, federal government.
Wardrobe:	Three suits, seven pairs of shoes.	"Just a bunch of slacks and shirts, don't like suits."	Six suits, five pairs of shoes.	Eight suits, nine pairs of shoes.
If he actually killed an enemy player:	"It'd bother me to a certain extent but not for long. That's the way it goes."	"It'd bother me a little bit."	"You gotta expect it might happen. It wouldn't bother me too much. I play hard and tough but I play clean. It's me or him out there."	"Oh, I guess it'd bother me some but you take a risk any time you go on the field."
To those who would label him an animal:	"Animals foam from the mouth and go snaky when they get mad, but football players have to think as well."	"My coaches always told me to be a little bit crazy to play good."	"It's better releasing your pent-up emotions on the field than going home and beating your wife and kids or shooting somebody."	"I don't consider myself an animal. It's just something I do well. A sport. Some guys play golf. Same thing."
Quote to remember him by:	The above.	"Football is a game of pain. The more I can dish out, the happier I am."	"If us four guys walked into a room with four other guys and a fight started, we'd be the four to walk out. I know I would walk out."	"This is the most explosive front four in the history of the CFL. It gives me a good feeling to hit and hurt a guy."