



## Glenn “Keeper” McWhinney Scholarship Fund

### NOMINATION FORM

This scholarship award is in honour of long time Winnipeg resident, Glenn “Keeper” McWhinney. Glenn, an all-around athlete, and community supporter lived in Winnipeg for close to sixty years. He was immensely proud of his family and friends who contributed to, and enhanced, the Winnipeg area during his lifetime.

Following a long battle with cancer and his passing on April 14, 2012, the family and friends of Glenn McWhinney have created a scholarship fund in his honour, to be presented annually by the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. The scholarship, will be awarded to a graduating high school student athlete that embodies the attributes demonstrated by Glenn during his lifetime.

*For more detailed information on Glenn “Keeper” McWhinney see the attached Appendix.*

#### **Scholarship Award Criteria:**

- Will be awarded to a student athlete who embodies the attributes demonstrated by Glenn during his lifetime:
- Dedication and commitment to a field of interest, honesty, humour, humility and courage.
- Has a record of service to the community through volunteerism.
- Consideration will be given to a student who has persevered to overcome hardships or challenges to reach his/her/their goals.

#### **Administration:**

- The scholarship fund is administered by The Winnipeg Foundation.
- Awards are to be paid to a post-secondary institution, in the name of the recipient.
- One year deferral of award is permitted upon written notice.

#### **Scholarship Award Amount:**

- \$5,000 for 2024

#### **Deadline for nominations:**

- October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Email nominations to Eric Noivo ([enoivo@cfhof.ca](mailto:enoivo@cfhof.ca)) with “McWhinney Scholarship Application” as the subject.



## **Glenn “Keeper” McWhinney Scholarship Fund**

**Parent/Teacher Name:**

**Student Athlete Name:**

**Parent/Teacher Phone:**

**Student Athlete Address:**

**Parent/Teacher Email:**

**Intended Post-Secondary Institution:**

**Post-Secondary Enrolment? (yes / no)**

Please describe how the above individual embodies the traits displayed by Glenn McWhinney:

- 1. Embodies dedication and commitment to a field of interest, honesty, humour, humility, and courage:**
- 2. Record of service to the community through volunteerism:**
- 3. Perseverance to overcome hardships or challenges to reach his/her goals:**
- 4. Why a good candidate to receive the award:**



## APPENDIX

### Glenn “Keeper” Keeper McWhinney

Glenn “Keeper” McWhinney was an exceptional and gifted athlete who had a huge heart, cat-like quickness, passion, desire and intelligence, traits that just seemed to make him play bigger than he actually was.

Glenn grew up in Winnipeg and was accomplished at all sports, but he really excelled at football. He played junior ball with the old Weston Wildcats and was invited to join the Edmonton pro team in 1952. It was during that ‘52 season that Glenn McWhinney became “Keeper” McWhinney.

Let’s allow the late Mr. McWhinney to tell the story himself:

“I was a quarterback in Edmonton in ‘52,” he recalled. “We were down about the three-yard-line against Saskatchewan, and we ran a couple of plays, and we didn't get into the end zone, but I’d seen something and thought I'm going to call this play. So, I made the call and when I got the snap, I expected everybody to go right, but they all went left. There I was all alone. So, I just tucked the ball under my arm and took it in for a touchdown.

“When I came off the field, Coach Frank Filchock started calling me 'The Keeper' and it just stuck. It's just one of those things.”

While McWhinney's nickname was "just one of those things," his incredible career as an athlete was not. In the late 40s, all through the 50s and into the 60s, McWhinney was one of the most celebrated athletes in Winnipeg.

He was so good at football that he helped Edmonton win the Grey Cup in 1954 and then was traded to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in 1955 and was named their Most Valuable Canadian that year.

The next season, however, he suffered a broken neck and that ended his football playing career, but he worked as a scout for the team for the next two years, including the 1958 Grey Cup team.

At the same time, he starred at guard in basketball where ruled the Winnipeg Men’s Senior League for more than a decade, winning two championships with King’s Best (1956 and 1960) and one with The Blues (1963). The Blues was a team made up primarily of members of the Blue Bombers and, during that 1962-63 championship



## Canadian Football Hall of Fame and Museum

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season, McWhinney was the team's player-coach, even though Blue Bombers head coach Bud Grant, a former NBA player, was on the squad.

McWhinney was also an outstanding baseball player with the old River Heights Cardinals, the Smitty's Cubs, and the Army-Navy Veterans.

Despite his lengthy athletic resume, Glenn was equally known as a committed volunteer in the Winnipeg area and was a major contributor to his community until his passing in 2012. He was active with the Bronx Park Community Centre and taught most of the kids in the neighborhood how to play football, baseball, basketball, and hockey.

In 1956, he suffered a broken neck that ended his football playing career and kept him out of the All-Star game in Vancouver that year. The injury also might have saved his life. That was the year of the crash, when 62 people were killed on Trans-Canada Airlines Flight 810, taking the lives of several CFL All-Stars returning from the all-star game, including Saskatchewan Roughriders Mel Becket, Mario DeMarco, Ray Syrnyk and Gordon Sturtridge along with Blue Bombers' offensive lineman Calvin Jones, the Outland Trophy winner

The crash weighed heavily on Keeper as Calvin Jones was not just a teammate, but a dear friend. As were the four Saskatchewan players who tragically lost their lives.

When his son Jeff brought the Grey Cup home to his dad for Keeper's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday, his son Jeff arranged for the Grey Cup to visit him at his home. When Bob Morreale, a trustee with the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, asked Keeper if he would "like to drink out of the Cup one more time?" Glenn "Keeper" McWhinney simply replied, "Not without my teammates."

In 2007 and 2011, Keeper was inducted into both the Alberta and Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame respectively. Shortly after his passing he was memorialized with the creation of Glenn McWhinney Park. That's how beloved he was in his community.

