

# SPORTS

**'Quote  
unquote'**

**'Taking the year off was a real blessing for me.'**  
—Billy Pavlopoulos... see story below

## Pavlopoulos eager to start fresh with Winnipeg Blue Bombers

**By EAMONN MAHER**  
*Staff Writer*

Having his dream realized of being drafted by a Canadian Football League team this week, the hard part now begins for Georgetown's Billy Pavlopoulos.

The 21-year-old punter/kicker was taken in the seventh and final round, 54th overall, of the CFL Draft Monday by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and will attend the team's training camp later this month.

Prior to the draft, the Christ the King graduate had spoken to four CFL teams and thought that his hometown Toronto Argonauts might be his destination as he watched the selections on-line at home.

"I was getting pretty worried that I wasn't going to get picked," Pavlopoulos said Tuesday.

"I was projected to go in the fifth round to Toronto and then they made a big switch with their picks, but after taking a year off I'm just glad right now that Winnipeg is giving me a chance. I could have gone to a camp as a free agent, but it's reassuring to know where you're going and I feel confident with my leg strength that I can make a good impression."

Pavlopoulos made national news last year for being banned for two years from Canadian Interuniversity Sport after testing positive for the steroid stanazolol in January 2012 following his second



**BILLY PAVLOPOULOS**

season with the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds, something he calls an honest mistake that he's eager to put behind him.

He was eligible for the draft despite the CIS suspension because he was considered an amateur athlete at the time of his infraction for stanazolol, made infamous by Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson's positive test at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

Due to his positive test, however, Pavlopoulos is regarded by the CFL as a first-time offender of its drug policy and will be subject to mandatory testing. He has maintained that knowingly taking steroids would be counterproductive for him as it would hinder his flexibility.

Considered by some to be the best kicking prospect in this year's CFL draft, Pavlopoulos will audition for the punting and kickoff duties for the Bombers, who are sent to move into the newly built In-

vestors Group Field this summer.

"It's a young man that maybe made a mistake— knowingly or unknowingly— and he said that's behind him and we believe him," said Bombers' GM Joe Mack.

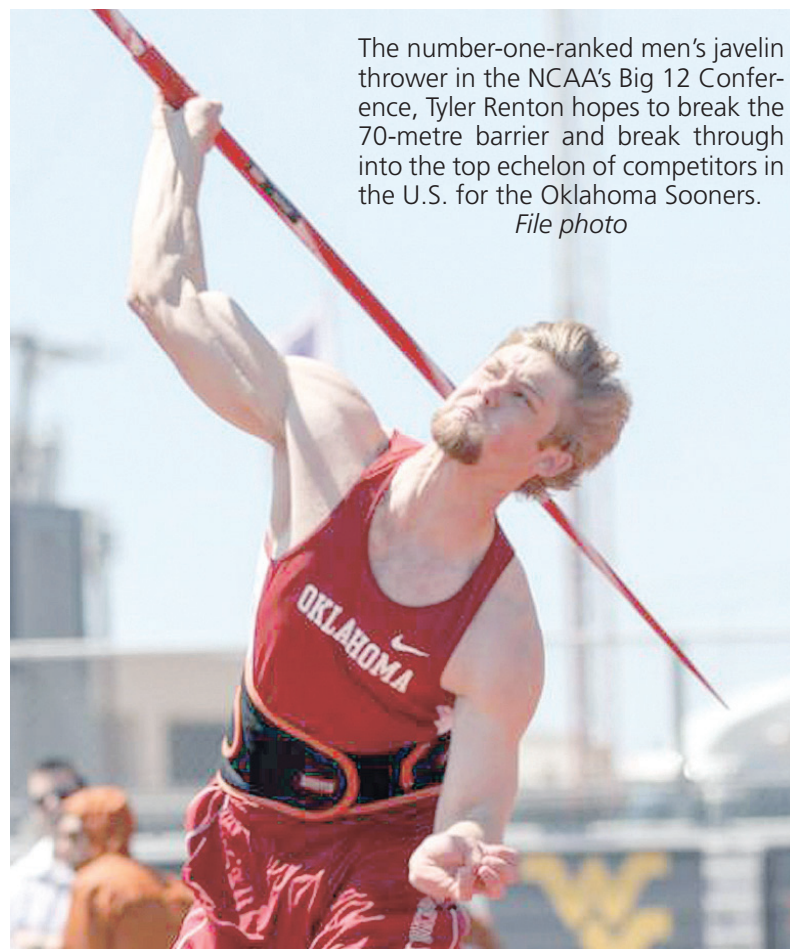
"We had spoke to him before and afterwards and he said it was in a supplement that he didn't realize was in it and he said he won't take any supplements anymore. (Bombers' special-teams coordinator Craig) Dickenson believes he has a strong leg to be able to compete so that's why we took him in the seventh round."

There will be some tough competition in the Bombers' training camp for the 6-foot-3, 215-pound Pavlopoulos, who has been training in Buffalo and Arizona with the Hammer Kicking Academy for the past few months. Veteran punter Mike Renaud looks to reclaim his position and another rookie, North Dakota grad Brett Cameron, whose father Bob was a longtime Blue Bomber and Canadian Football Hall of Famer, are expected to provide some stiff competition for the special teams' role.

"Taking the year off was a real blessing for me," added Pavlopoulos, who averaged 43 yards per punt in his second year at UBC and was 13 for 19 in field goal attempts, including one from 47 yards out.

"It was nice to come home for a while and finally get

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The number-one-ranked men's javelin thrower in the NCAA's Big 12 Conference, Tyler Renton hopes to break the 70-metre barrier and break through into the top echelon of competitors in the U.S. for the Oklahoma Sooners.

*File photo*

## Renton breaks school mark with 69.66M javelin toss

Georgetown South's Tyler Renton has been making some big strides for Oklahoma University's track & field team in his freshman year with the Sooners, which included a school-record toss in the javelin.

The 19-year-old Christ the King Secondary School grad won three meets this season and bettered the long-standing OU record in men's javelin with a toss measuring 69.66m at the Michael Johnson/Dr. Pepper Invitation at Norman, Okla. last month, improving on his personal-best mark by

well over one metre.

Renton was ranked first in the Big 12 and 17th amongst NCAA Division I competitors heading into last weekend's Outdoor Conference championships in Waco, Texas, where he had to settle for third place result with a throw of 63.46m.

Because of his rankings, the 6-foot-3 criminology major qualifies for the NCAA West Regional later this month in Austin, Texas, with a strong shot at making the national championships June 5-8 in Eugene, Oregon.

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