

Jr. Admiral Chisholm keeps Argos on their toes

By EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

There's a bit of a clash of Canadian Football League allegiances within the Chisholm household between the double blue of the Toronto Argonauts and the Kelly green of the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Eight-year-old local resident Travis Chisholm has become a bit of a celebrity within the Argos' organization, having conducted about three-dozen player interviews for the team's website in his role as the fan club's Jr. Admiral.

His dad Clay, a Regina native, is a hardcore CFL fan and systems specialist who manages some of the Boatmen's social media platforms as its "Special Teams" guy for the Argos Admirals, going by the peculiar hashtag #GreenAdmiral.

Early last season, Clay filmed Travis interviewing four team members and the Argos' media relations people liked them so much, the 4 Questions with the Jr. Admiral series was established.

"I tried brainwashing Travis the best I could. We even brought him home from the hospital (after he was born) in Rider gear," said Clay.

"He always had enough Rider stuff to wear to last him an entire week, but it just never took."

The interviews take place whenever the Chisholms are able to make it out to the team's new practice facility at Downsview Park. In the beginning, Clay researched the players and provided Travis with some questions to ask, but the Jr. Admiral's interviewing techniques have developed to the point where he comes up with his own topics of discussion.

"We've made a lot of friends with the Argos," noted Travis, a Grade 4 student at Holy Cross Elementary School.

He does cheer for the Roughriders, but initially was drawn to the blue colours of the Argos and is now on a first-name basis with several of the players.

"If the Argos aren't playing and the Riders are, I'll cheer for the Riders because it's better for the Argos if (the Roughriders) win."

Wearing his #42 jersey as a tribute to his favourite players, the recently unretired Chad Kackert and star receiver Chad Owens, Travis has caught a touchdown pass from quarterback Ricky Ray, took some kicking lessons from punter/place-kicker Swayze Waters and performed the New Zealand All-Blacks rugby team's Haka chant with Argo centre Jeff Keeping.

While on the family's annual pilgrimage west in July to take in a game, Travis made the front page of *The Regina Leader-Post* newspaper in a photo with former Roughrider now Argonaut Dwight Anderson in one of his more colourful one-on-ones.

"He taught me how to trash talk," recalled Travis.

"That was one of my favourite interviews."

It turns out that Travis has some competition on the microphone and it's not longtime Argos' radio play-by-play man Mike Hogan who should be concerned.

Travis's four-year-old brother Curtis, usually decked out in Roughrider green, has entered the fray after making his broadcasting debut this summer.

Curtis prefers to talk only with Roughriders and did his first solo interview last month with former Argo linebacker Tristan Black, who was in Hamilton for Saskatchewan's game with the Tiger-Cats and took time to speak with Curtis before the game.

Dad Clay admits his loyalty is torn between the two teams. He was a youngster himself in 1987 when the Roughriders had to hold a telethon to raise funds to keep the franchise afloat.

Now that Saskatchewan is on solid footing with a new stadium set to open in a couple of years, it's the Argos' future that's uncertain with a dwindling fan base and an impending eviction from their current home, the Rogers Centre, by 2018.

When asked about the uncertainty surrounding his favourite team, Travis prefers to keep his focus on the field.

"It's not making me sad or disappointed. I just hope they win their next game."



Toronto Argonauts' kicker Swayze Waters takes time out for an interview with Georgetown's Travis Chisholm during the CFL team's practice last week at Downsview Park. Chisholm, who turns nine on Oct. 21, is known as the team fan club's Jr. Admiral and has interviewed most of the Argos for their website. Submitted photo

Raider Hladin lights up Spirit

The Georgetown Raiders have played fewer games than all but one Ontario Junior Hockey League team, so their talented captain, Steve Hladin, had some catching up to do on the scoring leaders.

The 19-year-old centre from Mississauga struck for four goals and two assists Saturday night in Stouffville in a 9-2 victory over the Spirit to jump into a tie for the OJHL scoring lead with 12 goals and nine assists as the Raiders have posted a 6-1-1 record thus far.

Georgetown led 4-0 by the 13-minute mark of the first period and outshot the 4-6-0 Spirit 35-34.

Richard Court, Brendan Jacome, Anthony Marra, John Adams and Liam

Clare also found the twine for the Raiders, with rookie Jack Lafontaine earning another win in goal.

Despite their strong start, Georgetown is still a point behind the surprising Hamilton Red Wings for top spot in the OJHL's West Division, although the Raiders have played four fewer games.

Head coach Greg Walters' squad was in Buffalo on Wednesday evening to face the struggling Jr. Sabres, followed by a home date with the Burlington Cougars Saturday at the Alcott Arena at 7:30 p.m.

Local residents Ben Morris and David Kiss are among several rookies on the roster for the Cougars, who are off to a 4-8-0 start.

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