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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1994

Taras terrorizes D-line in Grey Cup

Acton native helps keep the Cup in Canada

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

"Stay low, say no."

That's the motto Jamie Taras and the rest of the B.C. Lions offensive line adopted for a three-hour battle in the trenches to ward off the fleet-footed and powerful pass rush of the Baltimore No Names in Sunday's 82nd Grey Cup at B.C. Place in Vancouver.

The experienced Lions front five of Acton native Taras, Vic Stevenson, Ian Sinclair, Rob Smith and Denny Chronopoulos simply overmatched the young defensive troika of Jerald Baylis, Elfrid Payton and O.J. Brigrance in the Lions' 26-23 win before 55,097 raucous fans.

"They (No Names) have one of the best defensive fronts in the league and we (the line) knew we were in for a tough game. But we mixed up our plays, giving us the chance to vary our protection and run the ball," Taras said from his Vancouver residence on Monday. It was his second trip to Earl Grey's championship, but his first win — the Lions fell 22-21 to Winnipeg in 1988.

"We concentrated on making sure we scratched and clawed to give the quarterbacks (Kent Austin and later Danny McManus) the extra time they needed to throw the ball. I played well against them in Baltimore and knew I had the ability to stop them.

"You have to believe in yourself, because part of it (success) is not doubting yourself."

Taras and Co. turned up their play as the regular season wound down, and their strong play continued with wins over Edmonton and Calgary in the Western semifinal and final contests. It culminated in Sunday's win.

"We (the line) knew it was the last game and had nothing to look forward to except six months of

rest, so we put everything into it.

"We had a great year. I played beside Vic all year and he's probably the best right tackle I've played with," the 6-foot-2, 275-pound Taras said of the 14-year CFL offensive tackle. "There was good chemistry and we all got along well on-and-off the field."

Taras, the Lions third-round choice (21st overall) in the 1987 Canadian college draft, was just fortunate to be on the field after suffering a first-degree sprain of the medial collateral ligament in his right knee in the last regular season game three weeks ago.

Perhaps the 28-year-old's biggest play came early in the fourth

quarter as he laid a key block on Name Name linebacker Matt Goodwin that enabled Lion full-back Sean Millington to scamper 17 yards to set up a 28-yard Passaglia field goal to put the Lions in front 23-20.

If anything, Sunday's appearance made Taras appreciate the rare chance to appear in the Grey Cup championship contest.

"Until I got there for the second time I didn't realize how difficult it was," he explained. "To go into Commonwealth Stadium and beat Edmonton, which is rare and then beat Calgary, one of the best teams in CFL history, was amazing.

"It's such an amazing journey.

It'll take a while to set in. You think you'll get another chance, but it took six years after my first one and it was miraculous in some ways."

Taras said he was thankful to have his father, sister, brother and friends among the noisy crowd that hampered No Name signal caller Tracy Ham throughout the game.

"Having them that loud was exciting. You could feel a lot of energy from it.

"I hadn't played in front of a crowd that size, since CFL star Doug Flutie was here (three years ago). It was an amazing feeling," he remembered.

M-S, M-Z link looks like a 'go'

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

While no formal announcement has been made, Grade 8 students this year at McKenzie-Smith will be the last graduating class to leave the school as a middle school, says the Halton Board of Education chair.

At a meeting in Burlington on Thursday night, the Board approved the hiring of architect Eric Connolly to begin

See LINKING, Page 2

FIRED-UP STANGS!

From left: McKenzie-Smith Mustang Boys' volleyball players Mike Hills, Paul Schiller, Adam Ahearn and Andy Kilmer celebrate with their coach Dave Walker, far right, after winning the Tier 1 North-Halton elementary school championship at Milton District High last Wednesday over Georgetown's Centennial Chargers squad.

The Stangs knocked off their rivals 16-14 after splitting the first two games. The team will now compete in this Friday's Halton Championships at E.C. Drury in Milton.

For more pictures and a game report, see Page 21.



For reservations or further information please call 853-3440

Calendar of Events

Dining and Dancing on Friday and Saturday Evenings

(December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17)

Christmas Eve: Closed for Dinner

Christmas Day: Closed

Boxing Day Brunch on December 26th, 11:00 am to 2:30 pm

New Years Eve Celebration on December 31st

New Years Day Brunch, 11:00 am to 2:30 pm

For your dining convenience, Jack Tanner's Table

will be open Monday and Tuesday evenings throughout December from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Lunch: Monday to Saturday Dinner: Wednesday to Sunday • Sunday Brunch Located in the olde Hide House