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## Taras to be named CFL's top 'O' lineman?

BY DOUG HARRISON  
 The Acton Tanner

He may not have the chance this year with his B.C. Lions teammates to repeat as Grey Cup champions, but Jamie Taras still has the chance to win a trophy during Cup week.

The Acton native and right guard was notified last Tuesday at practice that he was the North Division's representative for the Canadian Football League's outstanding offensive lineman award. The winner will be announced on Nov. 16 at the CFL Most Outstanding Player Awards show in Regina, Saskatchewan.

"I was quite shocked," admitted Taras by phone from his Vancouver condominium on Friday. The Lions were defeated 26-15 at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton by the Eskimos on Sunday in a North Division semifinal game. "I've put in my time. This is my ninth year, but I was just happy to be nominated. I didn't think it would go further."

Well, it did for the modest veteran. After being nominated by his teammates - his first nomination for a CFL award in his career - Taras, 29, was chosen by the media

to battle Baltimore Stallions lineman and former NFLer Mike Withycombe for league bragging rights.



JAMIE TARAS

Taras was in good stead before the pool of talent was pared down. Veterans Mike Anderson (Saskatchewan), Eskimo Rob Connop, Pierre Vercheval (Toronto) and Calgary Stampeders front man Rocco Romano were some of the other candidates.

"It's been the last two years that I feel I've played my best football, so it's nice to be nominated when you feel you've been at your best," said Taras, a third-round pick of the Lions in the 1987 Canadian college draft.

Taras actually considers his nomination a team award, remarking "any one of our lineman could have been chosen."

He cited the 18 sacks allowed by the Lions front line - the fewest in the league in '95 and quite possibly in CFL history - of Taras, Vic Stevenson, Ian Sinclair, Corey

Mantyka and Todd Furdyk.

Taras added the Lions' offensive line was second in rush blocking for their running back, Cory Philpot.

"It takes a whole line to play in sync, and play well together," explained the University of Western Ontario Mustangs product. "The experience of those guys helped my play."

Also credited by Taras was Lions offensive line coach Gary Hoffman, who "looks at the offensive scheme rather than the individual portion" and the results of hiring a personal trainer during last year's off-season. Taras worked on plyometrics (his explosion off the ball).

Maturity, though, is what the former fullback-slotback feels has brought his game to new heights.

The 6-foot-2, 280-pound Taras said he's grown to understand the game, feeling he can react to the play on the field rather than having to constantly think about the game.

"I'm going in (to each game) confident in my ability and believing in myself," he said. "And I don't dwell on mistakes now. I put it behind me and look to the next play."

Only now, he'll have to look to next season.



**CLEARING THE CREASE!** MacMillan's goalie Adran Schroeder keeps an eye on the puck as one of his teammates attempts to clear the puck during a Novice house league hockey match at the arena on Saturday. Schroeder and Co. lost 4-0 to Acton Galvcast. (Eve Martin photo)

## Redmen advance to Halton quarterfinal

BY DOUG HARRISON  
 The Acton Tanner

"Go home, Acton" jeers filled the T.A. Blakelock gym when the Junior Redmen Boys' volleyball squad hit the floor for the Volpe Division final on Monday.

The Redmen obliged the Oakville faithful and left, but not before silencing the previously undefeated Tigers with 15-10, 16-14 victories to advance to the Halton high school championship against an undetermined opponent from the Richardson (Burlington, Milton) Division.

"We stayed focussed and cooperated with each other," said Redmen coach Ken Ellis after the game. "The guys are just flying

now, and they deserve it.

"Anything we do now is gravy." Ellis was impressed with how his players, in Game 2, stayed with the Tigers, who finished atop the Volpe this year at 8-0.

"We attacked them and they collapsed. I don't know if their players weren't pumped up or if their timing was off," Ellis said of the Tigers troubles.

The Redmen were up 6-2, the Tigers evened the match 8-8 before the Redmen went ahead 10-8.

André Savard delivered the decisive spike.

"Once again," Ellis continued, "they made me feel so proud with their tenacity, team play and individual skill."

## Jr. Redmen's shooting is foul

The Redmen Junior Girls' basketball team missed 17 foul shots to Georgetown's two miscues in a 48-43 setback to the Lady Rebels at Acton High last Wednesday.

"We didn't play as well as we could have," said Redmen coach Anne Andrews on Monday. "Sometimes you win and it's not pretty and this wasn't pretty."

Andrews said her club just couldn't put the ball in the basket, but not from a lack of trying.

"So much of foul shooting is focus and concentration. We didn't have the concentration and the girls were trying too hard," she said.

"We had some turnovers, so we're working on passing the ball harder. You have to go to the open shirt rather than the open friend."

Kelly Holmes led the Redmen attack with 12 points, followed by rookie Rebecca Austin's 10-point

effort. Courtney Norman and Eleni Halis poured in eight points each, while Kristen Finley and Jenn Schultz added three and two.

**NOTES:** Rebecca Austin scored 19 points as the Redmen squared their regular-season record at 4-4

with a 48-45 squeaker on Monday at Iroquois Ridge in Oakville.

The Seniors play a sixth-place tie-breaker here against Georgetown today (Wednesday, 3:45 pm). The winner plays the Q.E. Park Eagles in Oakville tomorrow.

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