

# SPORTS

Visit [insidehalton.com](http://insidehalton.com) for more coverage

## Forging his own path at pivot

*Son of Hec Crighton winner signs with University of Guelph*

STEVE LEBLANC

sleblanc@miltoncanadianchampion.com

**M**ichael Scarfone could hardly have been considered a rookie when he first stepped onto the gridiron in Grade 9.

Sure he'd never played competitive football before. But as the son of a Hec Crighton Trophy-winning quarterback who'd held the pigskin for countless pickup games, his feel for the position - and overall game - was already quite honed by the time he began high school.

"I never really liked being the one doing the hitting," said the Jean Vanier secondary school 12th grader. "I've always liked scoring or making a big pass down field."

Scarfone's done plenty of both, and will get the opportunity for a lot more - having signed with the University of Guelph Gryphons January 19.

"It's awesome. It was a long process with my family, but I'm so confident in this decision," said the six-foot-three, 180-pound QB, amid congratulatory hugs and handshakes from family members, friends, coaches and teammates after putting his name on



Steve LeBlanc Photo

Jean Vanier quarterback Michael Scarfone is joined by University of Guelph assistant offensive coordinator Matt Nesbitt (left) and offensive coordinator Jean-Francois Joncas during his signing with the Gryphons.

the dotted line. "It's so surreal. I'm proud of where I am now."

Added father and former McMaster University star pivot Phil Scarfone, "I don't think he's following in my footsteps so much as creating his own footsteps. He's gone through a lot with his recovery.

His mom and I can't be prouder of him."

Those comments refer to the 17-year-old's comeback from an ACL and two meniscus tears that kept him out of action for nine months in Grade 11.

Drawing on his deep-rooted re-

solve and mental toughness, the university-bound quarterback returned with a vengeance to the Knights' lineup and led them to the newly-established Halton Catholic league's semifinals and an overall record of 6-2 record this past fall.

He finished with 2,400 passing yards, a pass completion of 68 per cent, 22 touchdowns (19 passing, three rushing) and just five interceptions.

"For a quarterback his age to take over a game in the pocket and make strikes down the field, but also be able to make plays with his feet - not many can do that.

But the special ones can," said Gryphons assistant offensive coordinator Matt Nesbitt, who attended the signing alongside offensive co-ordinator Jean-Francois Joncas. "He brings a lot to the table that we can utilize."

Scarfone's off-field work on the road to recovery also served as a strong selling point for university recruiters.

"He's got a lot of the intangibles we're looking for. He's got great composure," said Nesbitt.

Added Phil, "The injury and recovery were a real eye-opener for Michael. I think it showed him anything is possible. He's very strong-willed, which he gets from his mother."

With a knack for carrying the ball himself when needed and no stranger to using a number of ground attacks and aerial targets, Scarfone feels Guelph U.'s "good mix" offence plays to his versatility.

"They don't run too much or pass too much. I think that suits my role well."

Milton Transmission Inc. **AWARDS**

**Specializing in Imports, Domestic, and Performance Transmissions**

- Automatic & Standard • Imports & Domestic Cars • Trucks & 4X4'S • Clutches & Differentials
- Front Wheel Drive • Front Axle Repairs • Guaranteed Service + Warranties
- Free Towing Within 10km • Classic Cars • Fleet Vehicles

905-878-8156 • 905-878-8157

85 Steeles Ave. E. Unit #3, 4, 5 Milton (West of Hwy 20)

Mark  
mark@miltontransmission.com • www.miltontransmission.com

LASTMAN'S **BAD BOY SUPERSTORE**

Family & Friends **PRICING EVENT!**

Family & Friends **PRICING**

SAVE \$240

**\$758**

ALL 6 PCS!

**6PC DOUBLE BEDROOM SET #909218**  
INCLUDES 3PC BED, DRESSER, MIRROR, NIGHTSTAND.  
ADDITIONAL NIGHTSTAND & CHEST AVAILABLE

AVAILABLE IN TWIN