

# O'Shea and Argos head into bye week on a roll

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Damon Allen Day didn't quite offer the dual cause for celebration Milton's Mike O'Shea and the rest of the Argos have probably hoped for.

After all, Saturday's 11-9 squeaker over the visiting rival Hamilton Tiger-Cats — courtesy of Noel Prefontaine's 47-yard field goal with 34 seconds left — was arguably the Boatmen's ugliest win this season, and one they probably don't want to spend too much time discussing.

On the other hand, O'Shea isn't about to turn his nose up at any victory, especially not when it pushed his Argos' win streak to five games and put them in a tie with Montreal atop the East Division standings.

"Boy was that ugly, but at the end of the day a win's a win," the seasoned linebacker and defensive captain said Sunday evening, heading into Toronto's bye week.

Reiterating what his record-setting quarterback admitted after the touchdown-less game Saturday, O'Shea said the Allen tribute proved to be a distraction.

"I think it would have been hard for anyone to stay



Mike O'Shea

focused under those circumstances, no matter how long they've been around. Fortunately we were able to pull it out."

That had a lot to do with some topnotch defense by O'Shea and company, who've been instrumental in the Argos' mid-season turnaround — denying the opposition a touchdown in four of their last five games.

"We've forced a lot of turnovers in the red zone or forced them (opponents) to kick field goals," said the 6'3", 225 lbs. defender. "We've been turning sevens into threes, and in some cases sevens into no points."

O'Shea knows full well that'll be awfully tough to continue over the Argos' final stretch — which includes five straight games against West Division opponents before a regular season-ending clash with the Alouettes.

"We've got to keep giving our team a chance to win, giving opponents long field to work with. If we do that they'll eventually turn it over," he said.

Set to turn 36 next week, O'Shea has a milestone of his own on the horizon — with just 17 more tackles needed to

reach the 1,000 plateau. However, the 14-year CFL veteran — and three-time Grey Cup champ — isn't too focused on that, suggesting it says more about his longevity than anything else.

"There's more effective guys out there. I don't really put much stock in those numbers."

## Local BMX duo earn berth to worlds

Two BMX locals raced their way to world championship advancement recently with some standout efforts at the nationals in Abbotsford, B.C.

Representing Track 2000, Kyle Pearson took fourth-place honours in the 15 and 16-year-old division, while Chris DaSilva was seventh in the junior men's elite class. In cracking the top eight, they booked passage to next summer's worlds in Victoria.

Pearson also enjoyed a double dose of gold at last weekend's provincial championships in Kingston —

although his top showing in the cruiser division came by default, as no other rider completed the necessary five qualifying races to reach the Ontario finals.

He was first among three racers in the 15-year-old expert class, while other local riders topping their divisions included Hunter Foster (12-year-old Intermediate), R.J. Guba (10-year-old Intermediate), Adam Lane (10-year-old Expert) and Eric Yorke (15-year-old Intermediate).

Kaitlyn Richard was the only

provincial qualifier in the 9 and 10-year-old girls class.

Other local participants at the provincials were: Tyler Briggs (2nd, nine-year-old Novice), Chris DaSilva (2nd, Junior Elite Men), Mike Mills (2nd, 17-24-year-old Expert), Kyle David Richard (2nd, six-year-old Novice), Noah Lane (3rd, eight-year-old Intermediate), Kyle Molner (3rd, 13-year-old Intermediate), Anthony Richard (3rd, nine-year-old Intermediate) and Dylan Robertson (4th, 13-year-old Intermediate).

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