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Derby Brown

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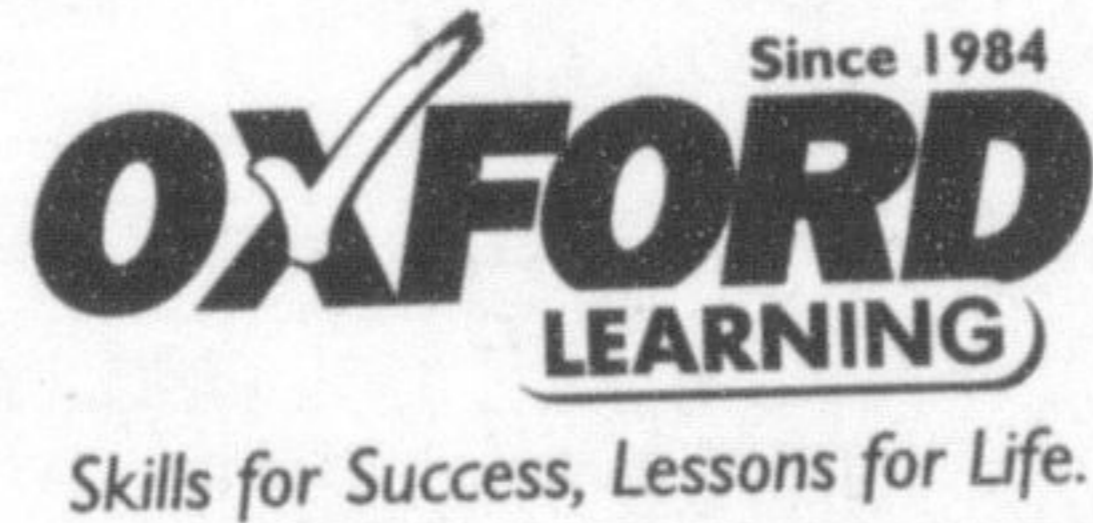
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# Business experience should help on gridiron, says Lashley

• from MARAUDERS on page A20  
the opportunity to see how a first rate Division I college program was run, and learned a tremendous amount.

That ended when he got injured in practice. He had the option of going the rehabilitation route, but knew that art was what he eventually wanted to do with his life anyway, so he came back and went to the Ontario College of Art.

That certainly turned out to be the right decision. Among other things, he was the exclusive illustrator of The Flash, currently illustrates Team Titans comic books, and does all the design art for G.I. Joe and Darth Vader products for Lucas Films. His job requires him to travel extensively, but apart from one appearance in London, England, he's rearranged his schedule to make football a priority, turning down seven or eight shows this summer. Being an exclusive artist has its perks, Lashley says, and those companies he's under contract to are

on board and actually excited about him coaching the Marauders.

Mind you, they probably wouldn't want to upset him. Two years ago he was nominated for an Emmy in the Best Graphic Design in Sports category for a Howie Long special he illustrated for Fox TV.

Lashley believes that his business experience will help him as a football head coach.

"One of the things I bring is a level of professionalism. I've been very successful in my personal life and understand what it takes to be successful."

He admits he makes mistakes, but it's fixing and dealing with them that's important.

"The more serious it gets, the more mental breakdowns. I have to be professional, but also have to keep it loose. I like to pause and take a look around—you've got to smell the roses from time to time. We're not curing the common cold, we're playing football. If it's not fun then why do it?"

That type of philosophy wouldn't necessarily jive with his predecessor, the fiery, demanding and successful Emo.

"Right now I'm the unknown coach," said Lashley. "When Barry showed up here he was the unknown coach. It's the same situation."

There is a long list of players who were with Milton last season who will be following Emo to Oakville. "Everybody has their own criteria of what makes them tick. Some will follow Barry no matter what," said Lashley, who added that he has some skilled players he's bringing on board with Canadian university experience.

Even if he doesn't think it should be that way, comparisons to Emo will be inevitable.

"I'm not thinking it's Emo against me. That's the past and he's moved on. He left a great legacy and history, but I'm not worried about filling his shoes."

Lashley pauses and then laughs, "I wear size 14, I think I'll be okay."

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