

Brother Andre grad wants to kick in NFL or CFL

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

Sandro Sciortino learned what pressure was all about and how to respond to it in 2003.

A place kicker for the Boston College Eagles football team, the 24-year-old Markham native was sent out to put his best foot forward in a game Oct. 25 against the fabled Notre Dame University Fighting Irish with the final outcome hanging in the balance.

Standing from 26 yards out before a home crowd and national TV audience, the senior place kicker calmly split the uprights with 38 seconds

remaining in regulation time to vanquish the Irish 27-25.

While Sciortino acknowledged he was never placed in a pressure-packed situation like that before in his blossoming gridiron career, he welcomed the opportunity and hopes it will be the start of something bigger upon graduating from Boston College after this season.

DRAFTED BY CALGARY

The Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League feel the Markham Brother Andre Catholic High School graduate has the ability to respond under pressure and subsequently made him their second round draft pick in the 2003 collegiate draft.

"I would have never thought that this (being drafted) would happen in a million years," Sciortino said upon being drafted.

With Stampeders' veteran kicker Mark McLoughlin getting up in age, the door could be open for Sciortino to take over that role next season.

Converting 11 of 18 field goal attempts and 31 of 31 converts this past season at Boston College to lead the team in scoring with 64 points, Sciortino still has aspirations of trying to catch the attention of some National Football League club and get selected in the 2004 amateur draft.

LETTER FROM OAKLAND RAIDERS

This past season, Sciortino acknowledged he's received several letters from the Oakland Raiders.

But he isn't weighing much into that, noting "anyone can receive a letter."

Boston College plays Colorado State in the San Francisco Bowl on New Year's Eve.



SANDRO SCIORTINO Markham resident will play in San Francisco Bowl with Boston College teammates New Year's Eve.

Others Markham, Stouffville athletes to watch in 2004

Other athletes from Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville who have the potential to do some big things in 2004.

AARON IZARYK

A catcher with the University of Maine men's baseball team, Izaryk played last summer with the Sanford Mainers in the New England Collegiate Baseball League. The Markville Secondary School graduate was chosen to play in the New England Collegiate Baseball League's all-star game in Concord, N.H. and collected two singles and drove in a pair of runs to help his team win the game 6-0. Currently in his junior year at the University of Maine, Izaryk will have an opportunity to be drafted by a major league team in 2004.

COURTENAY STEWART

After telling her Coledale Public School classmates and teachers when she was six years old she would someday be participating in the Olympics, the 18-year-old Unionville native fulfilled her fantasy: this month when she made the Canadian synchronized swimming team that will go to Athens, Greece for the 2004 Summer Olympics.

GILLIAN APPS

The 19-year-old Unionville native was a member of the Canadian women's hockey team and took part in the 4 Nations Cup tournament in Sweden in early November.

A forward with the national team and daughter of former National Hockey League player Syl Apps Jr., Apps is almost a lock to be a part of Canada's team when it takes part in the 2006 Winter Olympics.

GAJAN SIVABALASINGHAM

Known as the "Little Tiger," the 10-year-old Markham native made an auspicious debut in the 9 and 10-year-old division in the Canadian Junior Golf Association Linksters Tour in 2003 by capturing his first event at Blue Springs Golf Club in Acton. Gajan would also win two other events on the CJGA tour this season, including one while playing up in age class in the 11-12 year-old division and becoming the first as a nine-year-old to do so.

BEN COTTREAU

An assistant captain and forward with the 2003-04 Markham Waxers Junior A club, Cottréau has been an offensive force for the Provincial Junior A Hockey League club as it hopes to defend its South Conference title.

Currently in his third year with the Waxers, the 18-year-old, six-foot Cottréau currently leads the club in scoring with 29 goals and 36 assists in 30 games and is 10th overall in the Provincial Junior A Hockey League scoring leaders and fourth in the South Conference. Cottréau is setting his sights on obtaining a U.S. college hockey scholarship.

MIKE ANDERSON

The 18-year-old Markham resident had a memorable season on the pebbled ice surface last year as he skipped his Markville Secondary School Mavericks boys' curling team to a silver medal at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association championships in St. Thomas. He also skipped his Bayview Curling Club mixed junior rink to a third-place finish in the provincials and skipped Team Ontario Junior men's team to a fourth-place finish at the 2003 Canada Winter Games.

SIVRAJ MURALKRISHNAN

The 16-year-old Unionville resident is making his presence felt in the sport of table tennis and was ranked as the fourth-best player in Ontario and 16th best in Canada in the under-17 age group division. A Grade 11 student at Unionville High School a year ago, Sivraj earned a berth on Team Ontario that competed at the 2003 Canada Winter Games and finished fifth.

CARLY GRIMSHAW

Currently in her sophomore year at Ohio State University in Columbus, where she is a member of the school's synchronized swimming team, the Markham native could make a name for herself in Britain. Possessing dual citizenship, the 20-year-old Grimshaw earned a berth on Britain's synchronized swim team.

This past year she joined forces with fellow Ohio State University teammate Chelsea Luker of Montreal, who also has dual citizenship, to win the duet title at the British National Championships.

BOBBY HUGHES

The 16-year-old Stouffville resident took a step toward fulfilling a lifelong dream of playing in the National Hockey League as the Kingston Frontenacs took the five-foot-11-inch, 160-pound centre as their third pick in the 2003 Ontario Hockey League priority draft.

Playing last season with the Mississauga Rebels minor midgets, Hughes' debut with the Frontenacs was noticed by those who selected the Team Ontario squad that is competing at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in St. John's, Nfld. during the Christmas holidays. Hughes earned a berth on the squad.

BRIAN LOCK

The 15-year-old Stouffville resident became the first student from Stouffville District Secondary School to claim a medal in nordic cross-country skiing in the 2003 Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association championships when he raced his way to a silver medal in the junior boys' six-kilometre event near Hull, Quebec.

At the Canadian nordic championships near Collingwood, the member of the national junior development squad helped his relay team earn a bronze medal.

NEIL CONWAY

The 15-year-old netminder moved a long way from his Concord, OH home, to find employment with the Stouffville Spirit of the Provincial Junior A Hockey League.

And his decision to do so appears to have paid off as he earned the starting position between the pipes and was named the league's North Conference player of the month.

Based on his performance this season, Conway could be a valuable commodity for an Ontario Hockey League club as he will draft eligible in 2004. But he is also weighing the option of returning to the United States to try and earn a hockey scholarship.

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