

# B.C. Lions hope to get a kick or two out of Sciortino

### Markham native will miss playing football in Ottawa

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

Sandro Sciortino was in the middle of making plans to resume his professional football career in Ottawa this year.

However, the 27-year-old Markham resident will be making a detour to Abbotsford, B.C. to attend the training camp of the B.C. Lions.

After the Canadian Football League folded the Ottawa Renegades for the upcoming season, players who were on the club's roster, which included Sciortino, were placed into a dispersal draft that took place last week.

As a kicker for the Renegades who was inactive during the 2005 season after being diagnosed with testicular cancer during his rookie campaign in September, 2004, Sciortino was chosen by the Lions in the fourth round, 24th overall.

Appearing in the Renegades' first 14 games of the 2004 season and compiling 90 points on 17 of 30 field goals and 35 of 36 converts, Sciortino said he was a little surprised the Lions drafted him because they already signed



**SANDRO SCIORTINO:** Feels totally healthy after beating testicular cancer in 2004.

former Saskatchewan Roughriders kicker and Surrey, B.C. native Paul McCallum as a free agent in February.

"I was definitely planning on going back to Ottawa," Sciortino said Thursday from his Markham residence. "But the Lions are a great team and I like the coaching staff since I knew them when they were in Calgary and they originally drafted me (12th overall in the 2003 CFL college draft).

"I've talked with Wally Buono (Lions' general manager and head coach) and he said it's my job to make his job more difficult

(as to who to keep on the roster). McCallum is a good kicker, and I'm sure the odds are in his favour (to make the team). I'll just have to go in there and try to do my best."

Citing he now feels "100 per cent fine" and still visiting doctors for a bi-monthly physical examination, Sciortino accentuated the positive, saying with a good showing in training camp and the preseason, another CFL team could show interest in him if he were released.

Reflecting on what transpired in Ottawa, Sciortino said he casually monitored the situation during the offseason and thought the Renegades would find a way to stay afloat.

But he was disappointed when the final decision was made.

"I built some good relationships with people in Ottawa, but I'm sure I'll see the people that I know there at some point down the road," the Boston College and Brother Andre Catholic High School graduate said.

With a team folding in Ottawa for a second time, Sciortino isn't optimistic a third-time revival is likely to happen.

"They didn't get it right the second time, so I don't know how they can come back. It's too bad because Ottawa is a great town," he said.

# Atom Stars shine at provincials

## SPORTS DIGEST

Just call them provincial champions. The Markham-Stouffville Atom A Stars skated off with that coveted title at the recent championships that was climaxed with a 2-0 win over Nepean in the championship tilt at Mississauga.

With the contest scoreless through two periods, the Stars delivered the eventual game-winning marker with close to three minutes remaining in regulation time on a goal by Laura Wyatt.

The Stars put the game on ice with 15 seconds remaining with an empty net marker by defenceman Megan Rushlow.

First-year netminder Paige Lau recorded her fourth shutout of the tournament.

In reaching the final, the Stars defeated Guelph 1-0, Nepean 3-2, Sudbury 1-0 in a quarter-final game and 2-0 in a semifinal encounter.

The whole weekend was a 100-per cent team effort," said Stars head coach Brett Rushlow of his team's performance in the tournament. "Every girl on this team played their best hockey of the season. I am very proud of every one of them."

Scoring for the Stars in the tournament were: Charlotte Hodgson and Wyatt with two goals apiece, Carly Cooper, Jessica Gillham, Hailey Noronha, Michelle Rushlow and Megan Rushlow.

Other team members that contributed to the club's title run included Haillie Wannop, Rachel Girolametto-Prosen, Carolyn Zepieri, Laura Penstone, Christina Schellenberg and

Kelsey Sear. Also coaching the team are David Noronha and Annie Fallenbruk. Marina Schellenberg was the club's trainer and Jon Wyatt, manager.

### Boys give gym dandy effort

Jeremy Barthlomesz led a contingent of competitors representing the Markham Gymnastics Club by finishing fifth in the all-around segment in the Level 1 under 10 men's provincial championships held recently in Oakville.

In individual events, Barthlomesz first on floor and pommels, fourth rings, fifth vault, seventh parallel bars and eighth high bar.

In addition to the two first-place finishes, Barthlomesz won a gold medal as part of the winning Metro East team.

Among results posted by other Markham entrants, Kevin Hsiao was 14th in the all-around in the Level 1, 10-12 years division and teammate Gianmarco Mastrantoni was 29th.

Hsiao's best individual effort was a second on vault and fourth parallel bars and high bar and sixth pommels.

Mastrantoni's best individual effort was a 10th on pommels.

Massimo Mastrantoni finished 11th in the all-around in Level 4, 13-15 years old. In individual events, he was third on floor and vault, ninth parallel bars and high bar, 11th pommels and 12th rings.

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