

SPORTS

FOOTBALL

CFL 'road show' in town

Citizen staff

Pulling out all the stops in an effort to promote the Canadian Football League, officials have organized a touring road show that makes its first Canadian stop here today through Friday.

Headlining the local caravan will be Ottawa quarterback Danny Barrett, former Edmonton and Toronto pivot Tracy Ham, now with the expansion Baltimore Colts, and former B.C. Lions linebacker O.J. Brigrance, also with the Colts.

The three-day visit concludes with a meet-the-commissioner luncheon at the National Arts Centre on Friday. Commissioner Larry Smith and Rough Riders chairman and governor Bruce Firestone will be speak at the luncheon, and the Grey Cup will be on display.

The caravan, largely a tool to educate U.S. fans about the CFL, already has made stops in Sacramento, Las Vegas and Baltimore. It will make stops in each CFL city as well as Montreal, Brandon, Man., and Saskatoon.

CFL caravan

Today: Meet the players, Danny Barrett, Tracy Ham, O.J. Brigrance, Tucsons West, 1541 Merivale, Rd., 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday: CHEO visit 10 a.m.; open fan luncheon Schadillac Ranch, 105 Murray St. (meal costs) 11:30 a.m.; exhibition basketball game vs. Immaculata high school, 211 Bronson, \$1 per student, school fundraiser, 2 p.m.; stay-in-school barbecue and suitcase party, Lansdowne Park, \$1 per student, 6:30 p.m.

Friday: Autograph session, Seasons Sports Store, Rideau Centre, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meet the commissioner luncheon, Fountain Room, National Arts Centre, noon.



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BRIEFLY

Gloucester falls to 1-1 record

Curtis Bois and Jim Logan each scored twice in the third period as the Thunder Bay Flyers (2-0) downed the Gloucester Rangers 5-2 on Tuesday at the Central Canada Cup Junior A hockey playdowns in Timmins. Mark Warner and Simon Ferrand scored for Gloucester. Gloucester (1-1) will play the 2-0 Chateauguay, Que., Elite tonight.

CFL Pirates sign Duper

Receiver Mark Duper, who spent 12 seasons with the Miami Dolphins before being released last year, signed with the CFL's Shreveport Pirates on Tuesday. Contract terms not disclosed.

Fab Five now just Fab Two

The Fab Five was reduced to two Tuesday as Jalen Rose, following in the footsteps of Chris Webber and Juwan Howard, announced he would leave the University of Michigan early to enter the NBA draft. That leaves only Jimmy King and Ray Jackson from the talented freshman class recruited three years ago. Webber is a rookie with the Golden State Warriors, and Howard announced Monday he was turning pro. The Fab Five went to the U.S. college men's basketball championship in 1992 and 1993, but lost both times.

Lacrosse game celebrating local history

Institut Canadien-français d'Ottawa, 45 York St., will be rolling back the clock Friday, when it holds a lacrosse night starting at 7 p.m. Many of the big names on the local lacrosse scene from the late '40s and early '50s have been invited, including Lally Lalonde, Ticker Dagenais, Roger (Fats) Despard, Moe (Shifty) Sincennes.

Astaphan 'set up,' lawyer claims

The doctor who admitted giving performance-enhancing drugs to disgraced sprinter Ben Johnson believed he was working undercover when he was arrested in the United States for trafficking cocaine and steroids, his lawyer says. Jamie Astaphan was recruited by an "old acquaintance" who was working as an informant for American drug authorities, David Adelman said Tuesday. American law officials dismissed Astaphan's story. "We have issued a denial of those claims," said Joseph Guerra, a prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's office in Buffalo.

Citizen staff and news services

'Unfair' Lions have Austin ready to retire

TORONTO (CP) — Kent Austin, one of the CFL's most prolific passers, has decided to retire because of what he considers "unfair and insulting treatment" by the B.C. Lions.

The Lions obtained the seven-year veteran last month as part of a blockbuster three-way deal that sent quarterbacks Danny Barrett from B.C. to Ottawa and Tom Burgess from Ottawa to Saskatchewan, replacing Austin.

"As of now I am retired," Austin, 29, told the Toronto *Globe and Mail* via telephone from his home in Nashville, Tennessee. "I don't mean it as a ploy or as a threat."

"It's simply a case of me not needing to play football any more. I have family and business interests that come first and I don't want to deal with the B.C. Lions any more. I don't feel like they've been fair with me. I've reached my limits with them."

Austin has been adamant since the trade that he would not report to the Lions unless they made him one of the league's highest-paid quarterbacks.

While Calgary's Doug Flutie earned \$1 million Cdn last season, Sacramento's David Archer made \$650,000 US and Winnipeg's Matt Dunigan was paid \$500,000 Cdn, Austin received less than \$300,000 Cdn with Saskatchewan.

After last season, Austin told Saskatchewan general manager Al Ford he wouldn't return to the CFL in 1994 unless he was traded to an East Division team. That would place him closer to his family in Nashville, which is also where his telecommunications business is located.

Ford granted Austin's wish, trading him to Ottawa. But the Rough Riders, realizing they couldn't pay Austin what he wanted, dealt him to the Lions.

Instead of offering Austin a concrete raise, the Lions have provided him with a chance to make more through incentive clauses.

Of course, Austin could decide to play again, that is if the Lions trade him to an Eastern team, such as Toronto.

"Toronto would make all the difference in the world to me," Austin said. "Toronto's proximity to my home would be important and I'd be happy playing in Toronto."

"But I'm not going to play in Vancouver. Like I say, as of now I'm retired from football."

That's news to Lions general manager Eric Tillman.

"When you go through a tough negotiation process, things get said," Tillman said. "But I don't know anything about Kent retiring."

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