



<u>PRE-SEASON GAME 1 PREVIEW</u>	<u>CHANGES ON THE COACHING STAFF</u>
<p>A new era of Toronto Argonauts Football will kick-off on Thursday, June 8, when the Argos take the field for the first time under Head Coach Marc Trestman.</p> <p>Several notable off-season acquisitions are set to make their preseason debut for the Argos on Thursday. Defensive backs Johnny Sears Jr. and Rico Murray, as well as quarterback Jeff Mathews, will premiere in Double Blue, after making the trip up the QEW from Hamilton during free agency.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Marcus Ball and Cleyon Laing will both return to the field for the Argos after re-signing with the club this offseason. Ball, a 2012 Grey Cup champion with the Argos, returns following NFL stops with New Orleans, San Francisco and Carolina. Laing, a former second round CFL Draft pick of the team, spent time with the NFL's Miami Dolphins in 2016 before winning the Grey Cup with the Ottawa Redblacks.</p>	<p>The Argonauts coaching staff enters 2017 with an almost entirely different look than it ended last season with. The Argos, led by newly-hired head coach Marc Trestman, have 13 new coaches on staff, and welcome back Marcus Brady, who returns for his fifth season with the Double Blue.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Head Coach <i>Marc Trestman</i></p> <p>Trestman returns to the CFL after four seasons in the NFL, which included stops as the head coach for the Chicago Bears, followed by the Baltimore Ravens where he was the offensive coordinator. The 2009 CFL Coach of the Year ranks 4th all-time in winning percentage and has two Grey Cups to his name.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Offensive Coordinator: <i>Marcus Brady (2013-pres)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STORYLINES:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">“15 for 15” <i>Ray Named Starter by Trestman at Introductory News Conference</i></p> <p>Number 15 for the Argos, quarterback Ricky Ray, enters his 15th year in 2017. In head coach Marc Trestman's introductory press conference on Feb. 28, he announced Ray as the starter. Since then, Ray has been taking first-team reps during mini-camp in Florida and throughout training camp at York and has looked very good, according to Trestman.</p> <p>Ray, who has battled injury over the last three seasons, comes to camp 100% healthy and now has an opportunity to work with a quarterback guru and offensive mastermind in Trestman who previously worked with Anthony Calvillo in Montreal and Rich Gannon in Oakland during the latter years of their careers. Ray enters the season with 54,883 passing yards and 298 touchdowns in his illustrious career.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>First Take: 32 Players Making CFL Debut</i></p> <p>All in all, the Argos will dress 49 newcomers on Thursday night, including 32 players with no prior CFL regular season experience. Of the latter group, some notable names include former FSU running back and national champion James Wilder Jr., former Dallas Cowboys defensive end Victor Butler and electrifying return man Martese Jackson.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Seeing Green in Double Blue Will Have to Wait</i></p> <p>One of the first major splashes that newly hired GM Jim Popp made during the off-season was the acquisition of two-time Grey Cup Champion, five-time East Division All-Star and 2013 CFL All-Star, SJ Green via trade with the Montreal Alouettes. Green is recovering well from a serious knee injury suffered last season. He has been participating in training camp, however, he will not play on Thursday night for precautionary reasons.</p>	<p>Marcus Brady re-unites with Trestman in 2017 to lead the Argonauts offence for the fifth consecutive season. In four seasons together in Montreal, Trestman and Brady led the Alouettes to back-to-back Grey Cup championships in 2009 and 2010, while their offences ranked in the top four in yards per game, points per game, passing yards per game and sacks allowed per game in all four seasons.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defensive Coordinator: <i>Corey Chamblin</i></p> <p>Corey Chamblin returns to the CFL in 2017 after a one-year hiatus from the league. He comes to Toronto with more than 10 years of coaching experience, and previously served as the head coach of the Saskatchewan Roughriders for four seasons (2012-15). Under his watch, he led the Riders to hoist the 102nd Grey Cup in Regina.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Special Teams Coordinator: <i>Kevin Eiben</i></p> <p>Kevin Eiben, an 11-year CFL veteran, returns to the Double Blue for his professional coaching debut in 2017. Eiben previously coached at McMaster and the University of Toronto following his playing career.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Running Backs Coach: <i>Josh Moore</i></p> <p>Josh Moore previously spent the 2014-15 season alongside Trestman during his time with the Chicago Bears. He leads a competitive running back group in 2017, including 2016 East Division rushing leader Brandon Whitaker.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defensive Backs Coach: <i>Tyron Brackenridge</i></p> <p>Tyron Brackenridge will reunite with his former head coach Corey Chamblin, and get his first taste of coaching in 2017 with Toronto. The former Roughrider was a two-time CFL & West All-Star during his time with in Saskatchewan (2011-15).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Offensive Line Coach: <i>Mitch Browning</i></p> <p>Mitch Browning comes to Toronto after spending the last three seasons in the same role at Rutgers. He brings with him 35 years of coaching experience.</p>



Green not only reunites with familiar faces in Trestman and Popp, but also a handful of players, including Brandon Whitaker and Alan-Michael Cash, who he played with during his 10-years in Montreal.

Additionally, two of SJ's best seasons came under Trestman's watch.

Whitaker Looks to Continue Productivity

Entering his 10th CFL season and third with the Argos, Whitaker looks to have another productive year following his second career 1,000-yard season that he posted in 2016. The 2016 East Division All-Star had his best season of his career under Trestman in 2011 when he posted a career-high 226 carries for 1,381 yards and four rushing touchdowns.

O-Line Consistency & Depth

Toronto's offensive line returns four out of five starters in 2017. In the off-season, the club added to the Canadian content and offensive line depth with the additions of J'Micheal Deane, and the 10th overall draft selection out of Idaho Mason Woods. Additionally, the Argos added international offensive linemen Ryan Mack, Brandon Washington, William Campbell, and return Davonte Wallace as well as 2016 CFL Draft picks Jamal Campbell, DJ Sackey and Chris Kolankowski.

DB J. Gabriel Mobile and Able

Entering his fifth season with the Argos, Jermaine Gabriel will work under his fifth defensive coordinator in Corey Chamblin. With a new regime in place, it has called for Gabriel to move from the backend of the Argonauts defence at safety to field-side corner. Accepting and taking his new role in stride, the Scarborough native lost nearly 20-pounds over the off-season.

2017 CFL DRAFT PICKS

All six of the Argos 2017 CFL Draft picks will hit the field for their first CFL preseason snaps, including 10th overall selection Mason Woods.

Round 2, Pick 10

Mason Woods (OL, #63) – Idaho

Round 3, Pick 19

Evan Foster (DL, #48) – Manitoba

Round 4, Pick 27

Robert Woodson (DB, #23) – Calgary

Round 6, Pick 37

Nakas Onyeka (LB, #41) – Wilfird Laurier

Round 7, Pick 54

Justin Herdman (LB, #52) – Simon Fraser

Round 8, Pick 63

Matthew Carson (DL, #96) – Calgary

Linebackers Coach:

Mike Archer

Mike Archer comes to Toronto with 40 years of coaching experience in the NCAA and NFL to his name. He previously served as the Associate Head Coach & Linebackers Coach at Virginia in 2014-15, and is a former head coach for at LSU.

Defensive Line Coach:

Kerry Locklin

Kerry Locklin enters his second stint in the CFL in 2017 after previously serving as the assistant head coach of the Shreveport Pirates in 1994. Since his initial stop in the CFL, he has coached at almost every level of football spending time in the NFL, UFL, AFL and NCAA.

Wide Receiver Coach:

Tommy Condell

Tommy Condell initially joined the Argonauts staff as a Special Advisor to the club in January. Condell was then named the club's receivers coach for the 2017 season in March. Prior to joining the club, he served as the OC & WRs coach for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats from 2013-15, and assisted them to back-to-back Grey Cup appearances.

Special Teams Assistant:

Wendell Avery

Senior Assistant Coach:

Steve Walsh

Walsh brings 11 years of coaching experience to the Double Blue after spending the last two years as the Director, Football at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. The University of Miami product led the Hurricanes to their second ever National Championship. It was at "The U" that Walsh and Trestman first crossed paths.

Assistant Offensive Line Coach:

AJ Hasse

Defensive Quality Control Coach:

Gavin Lake

Gavin joins the club with a wealth of experience in the CFL, USports, CJFL and Austrian pro football.