



**PRE-SEASON GAME 1 REVIEW**

The Toronto Argonauts pulled out a 24-20 win over the Montreal Alouettes at BMO Field last Thursday to open their 2017 preseason. Toronto had a total of 20 first downs and 307 net yards of offence while the Double Blue's stable of quarterbacks completed 70% of their passes on the night.

Defensively, Toronto held their ground, putting Montreal's offence in uncomfortable situations which led to a total of three forced turnovers, two of which were interceptions returned for touchdowns. Additionally, the Argos D notched four sacks.

**STORYLINES:**

**"15 for 15"**

***Ray Named Starter by Trestman at Introductory News Conference***

Number 15 for the Argos, quarterback Ricky Ray, enters his 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

***First Take: 32 Players are True Newcomers to CFL***

All in all, the Argos will dress over 40 newcomers in their preseason finale on Friday 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.

***Seeing Green in Double Blue Will Have to Wait***

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.

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.

**CHANGES ON THE COACHING STAFF**

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.

**Head Coach**  
*Marc Trestman*

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 4<sup>th</sup> all-time in winning percentage and has two Grey Cups to his name.

**Offensive Coordinator:**  
*Marcus Brady (2013-pres)*

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.

**Defensive Coordinator:**  
*Corey Chamblin*

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 102<sup>nd</sup> Grey Cup in Regina.

**Special Teams Coordinator:**  
*Kevin Eiben*

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.

**Running Backs Coach:**  
*Josh Moore*

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.

**Defensive Backs Coach:**  
*Tyron Brackenridge*

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).

**Offensive Line Coach:**  
*Mitch Browning*

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.



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

#### **All-Star LB Bear Woods Inks Deal in Toronto**

The Argonauts made another unique addition to their defence last Thursday with the signing of 2016 East Most Outstanding Defensive Player Bear Woods. Woods lands in Toronto after being released by the Alouettes when 2017 training camps opened. The two-time CFL All-Star notched 232 defensive tackles, 15 special teams tackles, 12 sacks, six forced fumbles and three interceptions in 40 regular season games over six seasons with the Als

Woods will suit up for the first time in Double Blue when the Argonauts head to Hamilton on Friday night for their final game of the 2017 preseason.

#### **Whitaker Looks to Continue Productivity**

Entering his 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> overall draft selection out of Idaho Mason Woods. Additionally, the Argos added international offensive linemen Ryan Mack, Brandon Washington, William Campbell, and return 2016 CFL Draft picks Jamal Campbell, DJ Sackey and Chris Kolankowski.

#### **Newcomers Left Their Mark vs. Als**

A handful of hopeful CFL rookies left their mark in the Argos preseason opener vs. MTL. Offensively, the club saw savvy receivers Cole Watson (6 rec, 43yds), a mini-camp play in day addition, and Alberta product Jimmy Ralph (4 rec, 54yds, 1TD), who went undrafted in this year's CFL Draft, lead the Argonauts offence through the air. On the ground, the Argonauts were led by FSU product James Wilder Jr., who scampered for 41 yards on five carries, an average of 8.1 yards per carry.

On the defensive side of the ball, Toronto saw strong efforts from defensive linemen Justin Tuggle (3 DT) and Troy Davis (3DT, 2QS), a former member of the Ticats. 2017 CFL Draft pick and Simon Fraser product Justin Herdman (2 DT, 1 ST, 1 QS) also had a noteworthy night as he displayed he has a knack for the ball carrier.

#### **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.

#### **2017 CFL DRAFT PICKS**

All six of the Argos 2017 CFL Draft picks will hit the field for their first CFL preseason snaps, including 10<sup>th</sup> 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) – Wilfrid Laurier

#### **Round 7, Pick 54**

Justin Herdman (LB, #52) – Simon Fraser

#### **Round 8, Pick 63**

Matthew Carson (DL, #96) – Calgary