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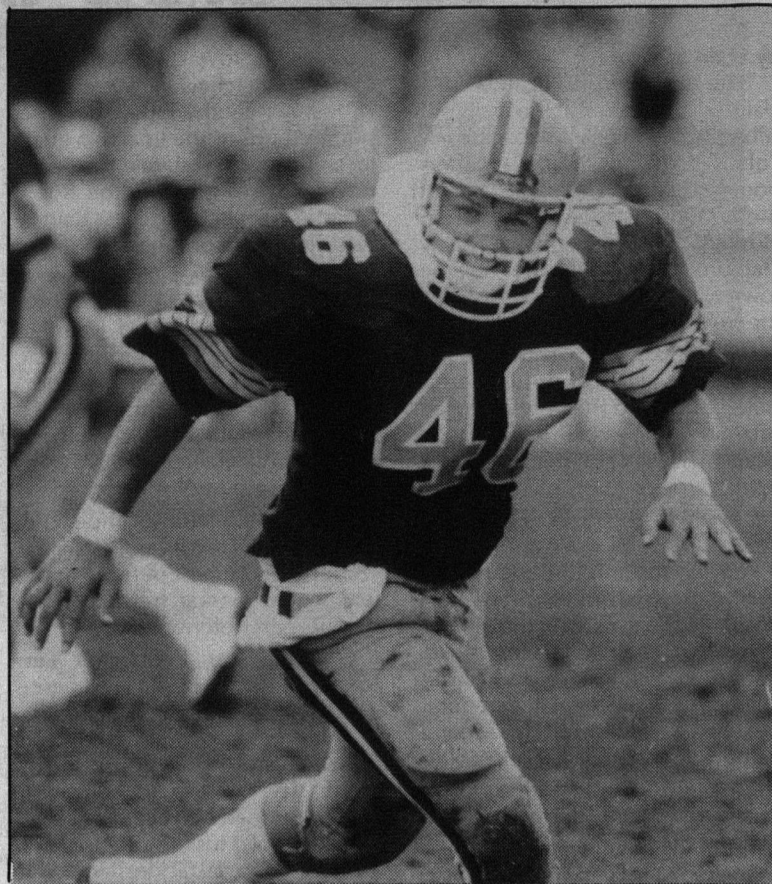
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Player Profile



Dragos Ruiu

Linebacker Jim Toomey bares down on his prey.

Jim Toomey
Position: outside linebacker
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 224
Year of eligibility: 3

by Ajay Bhardwaj

When people talk about the Bear defence names like Brent Korte, Mark Singer, Len Sawatzky, and Trent Brown pop up. Of course, these are all good quality people. But rarely does the name of Jim Toomey arise.

Toomey plays outside linebacker in the four linebacker defensive scheme. The other three linebackers are Korte, Singer, and Sawatzky. And that's why Toomey is often overshadowed. "I don't mind it," said the soft-spoken Edmonton native. "That way I don't have too many guys looking for me. The less I hear about myself the better I'm doing."

Toomey is in his third year with the Bears after playing with the Edmonton Wildcats for four seasons. Bear defensive coordinator Dave Morris was his coach while Toomey was with the 'Cats. "It's easy for me because I know the systems," he said. "It's great, I love it."

In the Bears' complex defence Toomey finds himself playing both rush end and regular linebacker. In the past he often found himself switching sides so that Korte could remain the designated rusher. "I like playing regular linebacker better," he said.

Fellow linebacker Sawatzky describes himself and Toomey as "old style" players. "We don't have a lot of finesse and we don't always shine," said Sawatzky.

Toomey isn't the stereotypical linebacker. He won't go out and eat a sheet of glass and he won't go out and flip a truck over and walk away unscathed. "I'll get crazy once in a while," he said, "but I take my aggression out on Saturday."

Certainly Toomey has the disposition to do what he wants. He is an elementary education and a special education minor. "It's a lot of fun," he said of elementary education. "In special education you have a lot more individual time to spend with a student."

Toomey is known as "the mad trapper" around the team

Toomey is also the team jester. "He should be a standup comedian," said Sawatzky. "He's the funniest guy on the team. Don't ever get into an argument with him or he'll cut you to pieces."

Toomey is known as the "mad trapper" around the team because he loves the outdoors. But recently he was also dubbed "rafter man". "He stood on my shoulders and taped the rookies' helmets and shoulder pads to the ceiling," said Sawatzky. "When (the rookies) walked into the dressing room, it was hilarious. The looks on their faces were priceless." Toomey is pretty valuable to the Bears, too.

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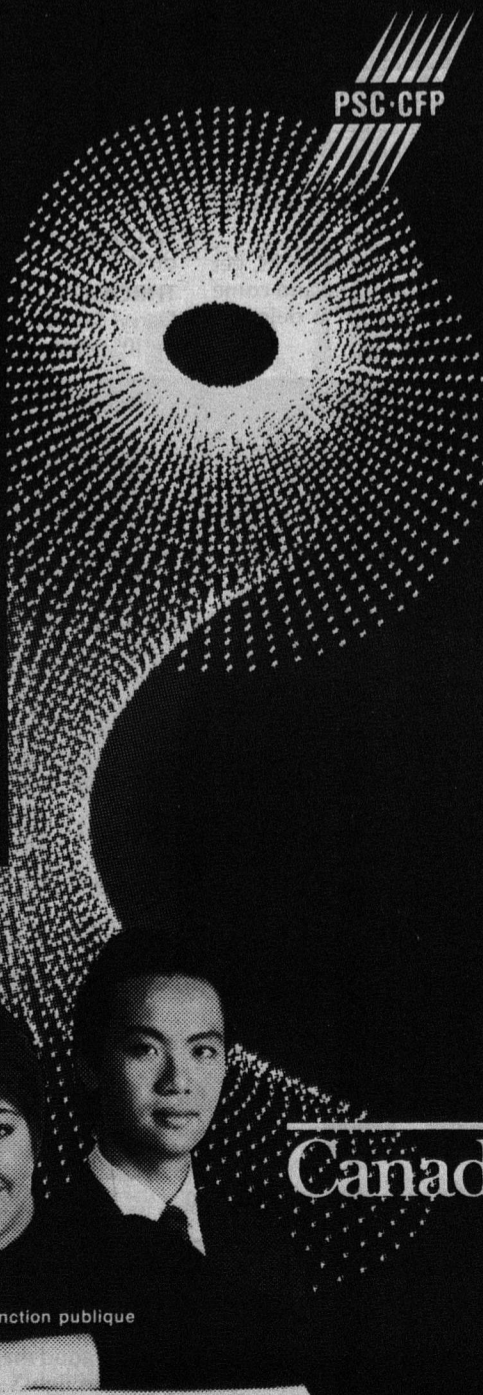
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Canada

Tyson

continued from p 13

time? Is Edmonton 'big time' compared to Tokyo, London, Las Vegas, or Atlantic City? Will Edmonton be 'big time' after November 18? I don't think so.

But it's not the place that becomes larger than life. It's the people involved and the time that are larger than life. So Saturday, November 18, Mike Tyson and Razor Ruddock will get it on at Northlands Coliseum and that will be 'big time' and the fighters will be 'big time'. For a few hours, anyway.

Write for The Gateway.

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