

CLIPPER SPORTS

Gowans selected a CFC Prospect

By Tony Zerucha

Colton Gowans is taking his football game to the national stage.

The 16-year-old Springfield Sabres linebacker has been selected to play in canadafotballchat.com and TSN's CFC Prospect Game on May 31 at 10:15 a.m. The game, featuring 75 of Canada's best high school football prospects, will be televised on TSN.

"It feels surreal, to be honest," Gowans said of his selection.

It's quite the achievement for an athlete who has only two years of football under his belt. Gowans first tried on shoulder pads in Kamloops, B.C. Looking for a physically demanding sport with high contact, Gowans hit the gridiron. He turned to Springfield in his search for a football-rich environment.

Gowans had to earn his spot amongst Canada's elite. The camp was by invitation only. It began with a combine measuring speed, broad jump, agility and height. Next came drills assessing skills and coachability.

"The drills were a mix between solo ability testing and how you perform in a game tackling situation," Gowans explained.

One of only three Manitobans to make the game, Gowans is well aware of the opportunity he has earned. He gets to test his skills against Canada's best while playing in front of coaches from universities across Canada and beyond. Suiing up under either Winnipeg Blue Bomber legend Milt Stegall or perennial all-star Davis Sanchez, Gowans has a chance to follow in the footsteps of Mississippi State's Albert Reece IV, Ohio quarterback Calum Wither, Wisconsin's Rapheal Dunn, and Eastern Washington's Nolan Ulm, all CFC alums.

Thirteen players from the inaugural 2019 game signed with NCAA programs. The defensive MVP from 2022, Antoine Deslauriers, has 18 NCAA offers from programs including Notre Dame, Oklahoma and Florida State. Two prospects from 2023, Quebec natives Shekai Mills-Knight and Sidney Rouleau, have 18 and six NCAA offers, respectively.

For now, Gowans is busy preparing for the showcase. However, he admitted he is excited because his family is spread

throughout Canada and the U.S., and this is, for many, their first chance to see him on the field. He can add this memory to a growing list that includes winning the 2023 Bramwell Bowl, making the 2023 All-Division Team and playing in the Blue and Gold Showcase.

Gowans' success is no surprise to Sabres' coach Tom Walls.

"Colton is a remarkable player," Walls began. "His physical stature is impressive, and he is remarkably strong. He plays the game fast and is an excellent tackler."

Walls said Gowans' lack of ego sets him apart from other elite players.

"Colton treats every player equally, whether they are brand new in Grade 9 or another elite player. He

is one of several players giving our program a fresh start with an attitude of accountability, humour and extreme dedication. He is a joy to coach."

Gowans plans on soaking up as much football knowledge as possible, earning a scholarship and playing professional football someday.

"The CFC Prospect

Game will help me to get seen in front of universities throughout the nation and

give me a platform to show my talent to the rest of the country," Gowans said.



Photo submitted

SCI's Colton Gowans is one of just three Manitobans to be selected for TSN's CFC Prospect Game on May 31.

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