

Clément Lebreux's Challenge

Rookie trying to win the second position as a defensive line center.



Picked to last year's CÉGEP All-Star team after having missed the 2013 season, defensive tackle Clément Lebreux is now aiming to be a starter with the Rouge et Or. (Photo credit: Simon Clark, Journal de Québec)

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Clément Lebreux could prove to be a good fit to help fill in for the departures of Jean-Alexandre Bernier and Brandon Tennant who were the bedrocks of the Université de Laval Rouge et Or's defensive line.

"Ugo (Cavalancia) is secure in taking one of the two positions, but I am fighting for the other," said the product of Vanier Cheetahs.

"Although I am one of the largest candidates, earning the position will not be easy.

There are very strong veterans before me. Even though they are lighter than me, Marc-Olivier East and Marc-Antoine Claveau are strong and Vincent Desjardins is very good technically. The position is open and it should be a hard battle."

Adaptation Period

The first days weren't easy for Lebreux. "I was pretty rusty," he acknowledged. "Last year at Vanier, I trained all season on the offensive line because Pete [Coach Chrissyomalis] was worried about a lack of players at the end of the year. I found myself on the defensive line only during game time. I ended up not playing on the offensive line. However, I never had the intention to change position. I wanted to stay on the defense."

Like any rookie just starting out, the 285-pound tackler experienced a period of adjustment, especially after having missed the 2013 season.

"I had trouble with the gap between the two lines," he explained. "When you face offensive linemen of the quality of those at Laval, you realize the significant gap between CÉGEP and university competition. Even if occasionally I get completely burned on a play, I like to find myself as often as possible in front of guards such as Charles Vaillancourt and Philippe Gagnon."

Street Clothes

Lebreux, who attended the winter training in his street clothes, was eager to be in his uniform on the field with his new teammates. "I've been in Québec since January to finish my CÉGEP diploma, but I could not practice with the guys," he said. "I could only train in the gym.

Now, all that I have left is to complete an exam for a distance course I'm following and then everything should be fine for the start of the season."

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