

Smith Signs With Argos

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After several seasons of being a backup, former Canadian Football League all-star Wayne Smith has been given a chance to regain a starting spot with the Toronto Argonauts as the blindside protector of quarterback Ricky Ray.

The Appalachian State product has suited up in 80 regular season games, four playoff games and one Grey Cup final.

Smith, a 6-2, 305-pound native of Toronto, Ontario was originally selected by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats with the first overall pick in the 2004 CFL Canadian Draft. He played three seasons in Hamilton, earning the team's Most Outstanding Rookie nomination in 2004 and Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman nomination in 2005, before being dealt to the Saskatchewan Roughriders prior to the 2007 season. Smith earned a Grey Cup ring with the Riders in 2007. Smith is versatile enough to play any position on the offensive line and starting the season there gives the Argos their much-desired all-Canadian O-line but he's not taking anything for granted. Smith played all 18 games last season for the Tiger-Cats in a backup role in his second go-round with the team that made him their 2004 first-round draft pick. He had been a starter, previously in Hamilton and in Saskatchewan (he was traded there in 2007), until suffering two serious injuries. He ruptured an Achilles tendon in training before the 2009 season with the Roughriders and then suffered a knee injury in the first game of 2010 and sat out the rest of the season.

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