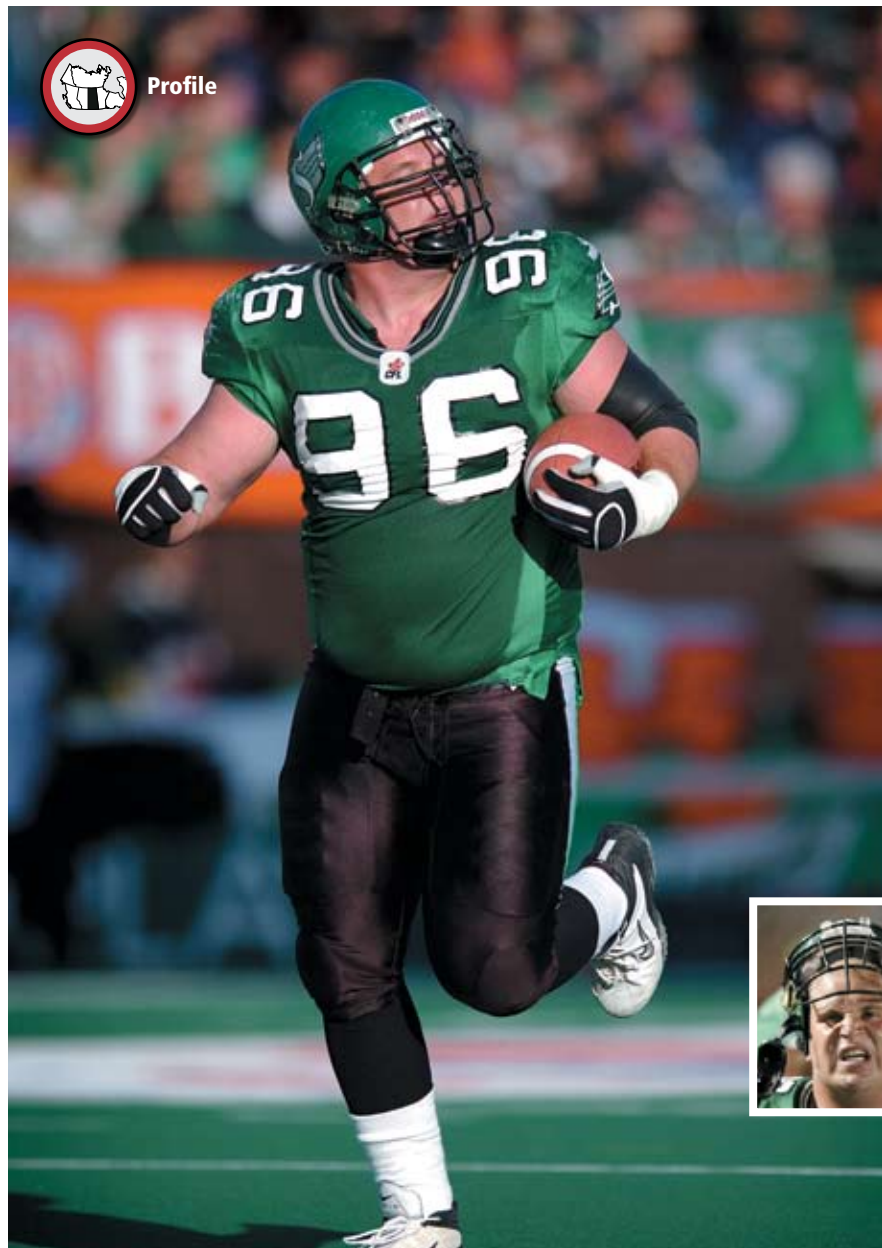




Profile



FERRY DUNN PHOTO

NECESSARY ROUGHNESS

Since 2003, the year he joined the Saskatchewan Roughriders, all-star Scott Schultz has led Canadian Football League defensive tackles in quarterback sacks. When he retires from the gridiron, this Moose Jaw native aspires to be an all-star insurance broker.

Folks who meet up with Scott Schultz, particularly those not wearing a green-and-white jersey, often come away from the encounter thankful they have insurance.

In a few years, though, people won't be running from the 6-2, 295-pound

all-star Saskatchewan Roughrider. They'll be looking for him – to buy insurance.

In the off-season, you see, Schultzy, as he is known, works as a sales associate with Regina's Bassendowski Agencies, a Co-operators affiliate. By the time his athletic career winds up, Schultz hopes to be a fully

By Don McLellan

licensed insurance broker specializing in commercial and agricultural products.

"I'm very outgoing and I've worked as a mortgage broker previously," said Schultz, 29. "I thought there was a need in insurance and that I could help people."

The Moose Jaw native turned down offers from more football-prominent U.S. schools like Stanford, Michigan and Penn State to accept a full-ride scholarship to play for the University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux.

"I was a kid from Saskatchewan – what did I know? Besides, North Dakota was closer to home."

He majored in mass communications. Contrary to the jock stereotype, Schultz was an all-American both on the field and in the classroom. He also met his wife Rosaline in the Flickertail State. The couple is expecting their first child next month.

Schultz played briefly for the San Diego Chargers and then the Pittsburgh Steelers before heading north to join the team that selected him in the first round – first overall – of the 2001 Canadian Football League college draft. Since joining the Roughriders in '03, no defensive tackle in the league has had more quarterback sacks, each of which is followed by a Schultzy-choreographed "sack dance" called the Moose Jaw Stomp.

A 2004 stomping of QB Dave Dickenson kept the Lion sidelined for almost four months. No hit, though, was more controversial than his July '06 thumping of Toronto Argonaut Spergon Wynn, a highlight reel favourite that separated the QB from his helmet and landed him in hospital.

The league fined Schultz \$1,000 – unjustly, he maintains.

"It was a dream hit. You can go your whole career and not get a hit like that. That's how I'm taught to play, to go all out."

Schultz also goes all out off the field. He's involved with Saskatchewan's Community Youth Challenge program, where he and other players visit schools and community centres to talk about things like bullying, healthy lifestyles and drinking and driving.

Nor is he media shy. Before home games he offers football commentary on Regina radio station 620 CKRM; he's also appeared on TV with comedian Rick Mercer.

Though he's keenly pursuing his CAIB studies between games, the insurance community will not have Scott Schultz on its team any time soon, at least not year-round. Last December the Roughriders inked the Moose Jaw Stomper to a multi-year deal. **iw**