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TED LAURENT— MCEACHERN INDIAN

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MONTON - The Edmonton Eskimos have selected defensive tackle Ted Laurent in the Canadian Football League's supplemental draft.

Laurent, six-foot-one and 304 pounds, played all 12 games at Ole Miss in 2010, starting 11 times at defensive tackle for the University of Mississippi. He recorded 21 tackles, including 3-1/2 tackles for a loss and two quarterback sacks.

In order to add Laurent, the Eskimos have given up their second-round pick in the 2012 Canadian college draft.

Laurent was highly coveted in the supplemental draft, which is for Canadian players who weren't eligible for the CFL's annual draft held three weeks ago. Eligible players for the supplemental draft have to live an aggregate period of seven years in Canada prior to the age of 15.

Laurent matches his size with speed and strength, clocking between 4.94 and 5.12 seconds in the 40-yard dash. He can bench-press 225-pounds 29 times and has a 28-inch vertical leap.

"We're very pleased to have secured Ted's rights and to do so without giving up a first rounder was a pleasant surprise," Eskimos general manager Eric Tillman said in a team-issued release. "Over the weekend, I was in contact with Ted and his agent, John Owens. The NFL is still a very viable option for them, but they are intrigued by our league, especially given Ted's Canadian roots."

The challenge, it seems, will be getting Laurent into Edmonton in the immediate future. He told Sportsnet.ca over the weekend that, for the time being, he would be waiting out the NFL's lockout before weighing his op-

"Clearly our conversations will take on a much more serious tone now that we have drafted Ted," Tillman said. "The draft is always a roll of the dice, and there are many dynamics, including the NFL labour dispute, which will factor into their decision-making process. Regardless of how this unfolds, we're very hopeful Ted will be an Eskimo at some point in his career. It's our job now to accelerate that timeline, if possible, by articulating the many advantages offered by playing in the CFL."

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers gave up their first round pick in the 2012 Canadian college draft to select Central Michigan receiver Kito Poblah first overall. Poblah had a reception in 36 consecutive games to close out his collegiate career and finished ninth with 1,908 yards on CMU's all-time receiving list.

Both Poblah and Laurent have been touted by CFL general managers as immediate impact players.

The Eskimos rookie camp opens on Wednesday, with the main camp getting underway on Friday.