

Talk at Prayer Breakfast ? Argo lineman knows where to credit his success

By Bill Rea

There is a spiritual side to any major achievement, and that includes winning a sports championship.

People attending the recent sixth annual Caledon Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, hosted by Mayor Marolyn Morrison, got some insight into that, as well as an account of the Toronto Argonauts winning the 100th Grey Cup. The speaker was Argo defensive end David Lee.

Growing up in London, Ontario, Lee said he wasn't very interested in sports. He said his father sent him to a sports camp, when he really wanted to go to the science camp.

"I was the least likely character to be where I am today," he remarked, adding there are a lot of stories like that in the Bible.

Lee said he started playing football when he was in Grade 9. Prior to that, he had played hockey and soccer, becoming familiar with things like the penalty box and yellow cards. But as he learned about football, he started to realize he was good at it, and decided he had a platform.

"I knew the Lord had given me these talents," he said.

Lee said he continued with his football, working as hard as he could and letting things fall into place.

He became aware that some CFL teams were showing interest in players, and the possibility of a pro football career "came into my radar."

"It was an ego boost is what it was," he added.

About 40 players were picked in the CFL draft, and Lee had hopes he'd be one of them. There were a bunch of friends and family at the house.

"All of a sudden, the draft is finished and I didn't get picked up," he recalled, realizing that what he had been reaching for had vanished.

Lee said he understood the importance of having goals, "but you cannot let those goals define who you are."

He also said he had been building his life on a shifting platform, and started concentrating on building his life around Jesus.

"He's unchanging," he said. "He's never going to move."

Lee eventually signed on with the Argos as a free agent, and that got him the opportunity to play in the Grey Cup game last fall.

"It was absolutely amazing," he declared. "for me, that was a big goal."

He pointed out that achieving big goals means a lot of praise and glory.

"That's great," he said, "but people weren't meant to get praise and glory and hold on to it."

"I couldn't have done this without the Lord," he added. "All I'm doing is stewarding what he gave me."



Mayor Marolyn Morrison with Toronto Argonaut David Lee.