

The Als' Hawkins a reality star

By Mitch Gallo
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Thanks in large part to a second place finish on former Dallas Cowboy receiver Michael Irvin's Spike TV reality show *Fourth and Long*, wide receiver Andrew Hawkins has landed himself a spot on the Montreal Alouette's practice roster.

"It was different, I wouldn't trade it for the world because to be able to learn under Michael Irvin and be put in that situation was great," said the

reality television star. "It was the toughest football camp I've ever been apart of and I would have never imagined myself on reality television but hey, here I am."

As far as Hawkins is concerned, for the time being it will be hard for him to crack a roster that has a plethora of talent in their receiving core. Ben Cahoon, Kerry Watkins, Jamel Richardson, Brian Bratton and SJ Green are those who immediately come to mind.

"That's the thing — on one hand

you're coming into such a great football program but on the other hand its tough the crack the roster because it's such a great program," claims Hawkins. "I've seen NFL receivers that couldn't hold a stick compared to some of our guys."

Hawkins came up the ranks playing college ball for the Toledo Rockets. He played in 37 career games while starting in 25 accumulating 67 receptions for 634 yards, 1,107 all-purpose yards, 5 touchdowns, 2 forced fumbles, 1 blocked punt, 1 fumble recovery, and 21 tackles. Impressive enough, he was a wide receiver and a defensive back making him the first two-way player for the University of Toledo in 48 years.

"I'm a football fan and offense is exciting," said Hawkins. "I want to get the ball in my hands and make things happen because it's a great feeling."

It's in Hawkins's family tree to be a professional football player. Born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania his father Courtney played for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Tampa Bay Buccaneers,

his oldest brother Artrell Hawkins JR was an NFL defensive back for the New York Jets and his cousin Carlton Haselrig was a pro bowl guard for the Steelers in the 90's.

He also has big time CFL ties; another cousin is slotback Geroy Simon of the BC Lions.

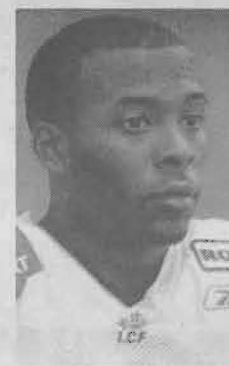
"Geroy is more like a brother to me and those guys are all older than me. We're a tight knit family so you always want to live up to their hype," said Hawkins. "They encourage me and we love watching each

other succeed."

Now with the Alouettes, it seems like the CFL is a much better place for a small receiver, Hawkins is only 5-foot-7, 165 pounds. In a league and city where a guy like Cahoon has flourished, down the road Hawkins could crack the roster.

"This is the first place where I play and my size is an advantage, with the bigger field I can use my speed and quickness to get open," says Hawkins.

"Stay tuned because you're going to see a lot of great things out of me and my career. I want to make the Alouette fans proud and I may not be playing a lot right now but stay tuned, stay tuned." ■



Andrew Hawkins

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