

# Alouettes sign linebacker Kuale from Argos

Vocal battler  
wears his emotions  
on his sleeve'



the Argos in early December to pursue potential NFL opportunities, was signed by Montreal to a three-year contract.

Kuale, an import, turns 30 in June.

"Any player that plays at a high level and lays it on the line, who wears his emotions on his sleeve, at times he's going to be viewed as a guy who goes too far, although there's no intent (to injure on his part)," general manager Jim Popp said.

"You can't make players in-

to that but, if you have them, it's good to have them on your team."

Als middle-linebacker Shea Emry is one of those aggressive players, as is safety Kyries Hebert.

More certainly are welcome on a team that struggled defensively at times last season, despite forging an 11-7 record and finishing first in the East Division.

Kuale made headlines early in 2011, when he was ejected and later fined by the Canadian Football League for an illegal hit on Winnipeg quarterback Buck Pierce. The league maintained the hit was late and high, contending Kuale led with his head although the player

maintained he made contact against Pierce with his shoulder.

Nonetheless, Kuale vowed at the time he wasn't going to change the way he played.

"There is no fine line," he told the National Post. "I was taught to play one way — and that's how I know how to play. I'm a clean player. I will always play the game clean."

Kuale came to the CFL following NFL stints with New Orleans and Kansas City. He signed with Calgary as a free agent in May 2009, but was released six weeks later. He resurfaced with Toronto in 2010, playing mostly on special teams. He moved to linebacker, his natural position, the following season.

A native of Daytona Beach, Fla., Kuale has 92 career defensive tackles for the Argos, with 18 more on special teams. He was part of the Grey Cup win last November.

"He's very athletic and moves well," Popp said. "He's an interesting guy. The more we watched him and began to study him heavily, the more intrigued we became."

Noel Thorpe, the Als' new defensive co-ordinator, identified Kuale as a player with whom he was interested. The team believes he can add to the team's pass rush off the edge, either at weakside linebacker or even defensive end. Coincidentally, Kuale has no career quarterback sacks.

"He has done well for three years. Maybe his best is yet to come," Popp said. "The defensive co-ordinator likes him and believes he can compete well. And, he came at the right price."

The Als had some discussions with former Toronto defensive end Ricky Foley, but his asking price became too expensive. Foley, a non-import, on Monday signed instead with Saskatchewan.

Meanwhile, former Als linebacker Rod Davis, recently released, has signed with the Stampeders.

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