

Gridiron glory

Villanova coach to lead Canadian squad at International Bowl series



Glen Mills will be the head coach of the Canadian national under 18-team when it plays against the U.S. in the 2015 International Bowl series in Texas.

(LaSalle, Ontario, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014) – He’s won a championship at the highest level on home turf in Canada, and early next year, the football coach at St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic High School will head to Texas looking to claim his first ever international crown.

An educational assistant at Villanova and head coach of the senior football team there, Glen Mills will be making his first appearance as head coach of the Canadian national under-18 all-star team at the 2015 International Bowl series.

“It’s exciting,” Mills said of the game, which will be played against the U.S. national team on Jan. 29 in Arlington, Texas at AT&T Stadium , home of the NFL’s Dallas Cowboys.

“It’s a great opportunity. We’re going to be playing against some very high caliber kids. Almost every player on the U.S. roster has already been recruited by an NCAA division one school. It’s going to be a lot of fun.”

Mills coached the Ontario team to the Football Canada national championship back in July, beating the home team in Saskatchewan, which means he automatically becomes head coach of the national team.

Although the game in Texas will mark his first attempt at an international title as a head coach, Mills is far from new to coaching at the national level. He was an assistant on the national team between 2002 and 2004, and was also an assistant coach of the Ontario team from 2000 to 2009.

He rejoined the Ontario team as head coach in 2013, leading his squad to a bronze medal. This year marked the first time he won a national championship as a head coach.

“It was the first time in 10 years that Ontario won the national championship,” said Mills, who is also president and head coach of the Essex County Ravens football club, which he has led to six championship appearances, winning in 1998, 2002, and 2010.

Mills will take his team to Texas from Jan. 23 to Feb.1. The 41-man roster is made up of 26 players who were named offensive and defensive MVPs during games leading up to the national championship games, while the remaining 15 were selected by the coaching staff. Nine of his players are from Ontario, but no one from Windsor-Essex made the team.

Although he admitted that in past years many of the Canadian teams have lost to the U.S. in rather lop-sided contests, he noted that Canada won the game last year and he has plenty of reasons to feel hopeful about this year’s contest.

“I really believe our kids can compete with anyone,” he said. “I think we have a fantastic team. We’re very confident.”