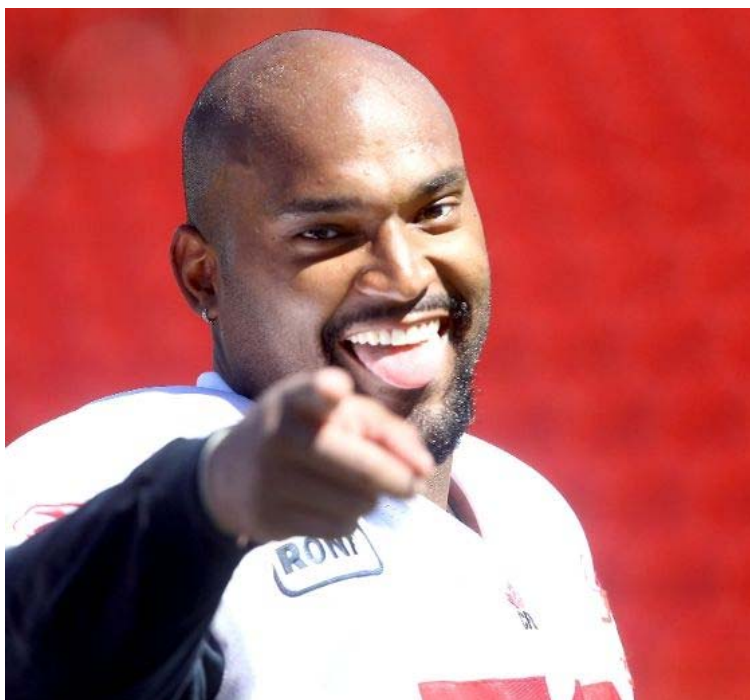



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If anyone is looking for a belated wedding gift for Edwin Harrison, there is no need to hit the stores.

The big day back on May 19 was a momentous occasion for the Calgary Stampeders left tackle and his bride, Kishanda.

Not only did they start their life together, but the Harrisons kicked off a charitable foundation.

Harrison named it 62's Blocking for the Blind in honour of his grandfather Cal Jones, a former Winnipeg Blue Bomber who died in a 1956 plane crash, and the goal is to build sports facilities for sight-impaired youth.

Instead of registering for gifts at their wedding, Harrison and his new bride asked for donations to the charity instead.

They built quite the nest egg.

"Everything really fell into place and my wife was really on board with doing it," said Harrison, who switched to No. 62 this season to honour his grandfather.

"That was a true blessing. She just said, 'We have been blessed more than we can imagine.' Now, we can really bless others. We have more than we need."

A year ago, the most notable thing Harrison accomplished in his off-season was an injury that kept him out half of 2011.

This off-season was a bit more productive and busy.

With his wife on the road working, the 27-year-old took an active role in the wedding planning, with help from his mother and grandmother.

A fresh new contract extension in hand, it was also time to fulfil a wish made by a family friend named Kayla, who is a blind 17-year-old living in Houston.

Kayla came to Harrison a few years ago with the idea of helping kids who are visually impaired but would like to participate in sports.

Now that Harrison is settled down — signing a contract that keeps him in Red and White through 2014 — he can start working toward building facilities in both Canada and Houston.

“It’s amazing how many things you do every day that if you couldn’t see, how would you do it? There are a lot of things that are very difficult,” Harrison said. “We want to give them the same opportunities that sighted people take for granted every day, not just being able to run.

“We want them to try playing baseball or basketball.

“The equipment they need to do these things can cost quite a bit of money.

“We hope to finance and make those things available to them.”

Harrison, who sat out Monday’s Day 2 of camp practices with a minor hamstring pull, couldn’t be in a more opposite position in life than he was a year ago.

A week or so before 2011 camp was set to open, he tore a pectoral muscle while training and was put on a nine-game injured list.

While he did manage to return for the Game 10 against the Edmonton Eskimos, it was no fun sitting out, especially since he did his rehab in Houston and didn’t come to Calgary until training camp was over.

Now, he’s pencilled in as the starting left tackle and will be looked upon for leadership as he’s the oldest projected starter.

“I feel confident in this offensive line,” Harrison said. “We have a veteran group.

“We know we are young, but these guys have played together for years.

“It’s time to go ahead and make that transition from good to great.

“This team has always been good. It wasn’t a question whether we would be good or not.

“Now, the question is whether we can be great.

“Can we win a Grey Cup? It’s time to start doing those things.”

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## Hansen Changes Tune After Call From Marvin

Posted by Dan Hoard on June 4, 2012 – 5:41 pm

When Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen was not selected in this year's draft, he immediately started getting calls from NFL. Oakland made such a persuasive pitch, that Hansen sent out the following tweet.



**Tyler Hansen**  
 @THansen9

Headed to Oakland! Gonna be a raider

28 Apr 12

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But 32 minutes later, Hansen changed his tune.



**Tyler Hansen**  
 @THansen9

Hold on everyone not quite yet

28 Apr 12

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So what happened?

"Marvin Lewis called," Hansen told me. "I thought that if the head coach is calling me, that's something special and that's so I made the first contact and I figured that they really wanted me if he's calling right after the draft. I actually committed to Oakland but then Coach Lewis called. I talked to my agent and he said that we hadn't signed anything yet and nothing was official. So to be."



**Tyler Hansen**  
 @THansen9

Alright everyone sorry to mislead everyone but the last 30 minutes has been unbelievable, going to be a Cincinnati Bengal!!

28 Apr 12

Reply

Retweet

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How did Oakland react?

"It's a business and they understood, but they weren't happy," said Hansen.

With Andy Dalton entrenched as the Bengals starting quarterback, and Bruce Gradkowski back as an experienced back-up, Robinson for the number three spot.



"We watched (Hansen) in the East-West Shrine game and I thought he was – by far – the best quarterback in that game," said Hansen. "He makes quick decisions, he's accurate, and you can see that he's tough because he took a beating out there. He has the ability to make a good, strong arm – a lot stronger than you think. He can really throw it. He's done some really good things."

Hansen was 12-for-17 for 144 yards in that All-Star game after a solid senior season at Colorado under new head coach Jon Strydom. He shares snaps at quarterback with Cody Hawkins – the son of the head coach at the time Dan Hawkins.

"He was basically fighting the 'Coach's Son' syndrome," said Bengals radio analyst Dave Lapham who was the TV analyst for the Bengals. "The coach's son was the quarterback that he always had to beat out and a lot of people felt that Tyler should have played more than he did – when a play broke down; he extended it and made something out of nothing. Sometimes the plays he created ended in disaster."

Like most NFL teams, the Bengals typically view their third quarterback as a developmental candidate. Hansen says a key to success is to be a good offensive player.

"You have to be sharp in everything that you do," Tyler told me. "You have to know answers to questions and you have to be able to learn – learning this offense and knowing the adjustments that Andy, Bruce, and Zac already know. They're ahead of me so I have to learn from them."

"I think there's a chance for me to make this team. As long as I keep competing and keep learning this offense every day, I think I can make it."

Despite going undrafted, Hansen wouldn't be taking part in the Bengals OTAs if he didn't have a shot to be an NFL quarterback.

“It doesn’t matter how I got here – just to get here is something special,” said Hansen. “On my very first day, I looked on the come true. That first day you’re like, ‘Wow...I’m here.’ Every day just keeps getting better and better.”

I’d love to hear from you at [Dan.Hoard@Bengals.nfl.net](mailto:Dan.Hoard@Bengals.nfl.net)

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