

# **News Release**

# École Secondaire Notre Dame High School football player taking talents to national stage

#### For immediate release – May 9, 2025

École Secondaire Notre Dame High School is thrilled to announce that Ben McAuley, a member of the school's Senior Cougars Football Team, has been selected to join the nation's top high school football talent at the 2025 CFC Prospect Game in Hamilton, Ontario, later this month.

McAuley is one of 72 invitees to the game, which has been presented annually by Canadafootballchat.com (CFC) and The Sports Network (TSN). He is one of 10 invitees hailing from Alberta, and one of only 12 wide receivers invited to take part.

"It means a lot to me to be selected to the CFC Showcase. I am very excited for this opportunity to be able to represent my school, coaches, teammates, friends and family that have supported me this far in my football journey. (I am) extremely excited to be able to showcase myself and my school to the rest of the country," said Ben McAuley.

To qualify for the CFC Prospect Game, McAuley had to attend a CFC Evaluation Camp in Calgary in February, one of eight professional-level combines held across the country. The combine included a 40-yard dash, a 5-10-5 shuttle, as well as vertical and broad jump events.

McAuley, a 6'3", 180 lbs wideout for the Cougars, has been a leader on and off the field. Ian Rattan, the Senior Cougars Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator, said McAuley is the epitome of an École Secondaire Notre Dame student-athlete.

"Ben is naturally talented and gifted in multiple levels of athletics. He has been extremely coachable, a great teammate, and his ability to pick up on nuances of technique is second-to-none. He does not have a go-slow speed - he is in it 100% when he plays on the field

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and court. In grade 10, he broke a track and field zone record in the long jump that had been standing since 1965. He continued where he left off in grade 11 and was a contributing member on offence, defence and special teams for the Senior Cougars. On the basketball court, Ben was counted on again for sound defence, leadership and offensive putbacks. Ben is an incredible human being. He always had a smile on his face and was always looking for ways to help out his coaches and teammates," said Rattan.

Previous CFC Prospect Game participants have committed to NCAA schools in the United States and USports schools in Canada. A number of players who attended the inaugural game in 2019 were eligible for the 2025 Canadian Football League (CFL) draft, which was held on April 29.

This year, CFL on TSN analysts Davis Sanchez and Milt Stegall will return as special head coaches. Sanchez and Stegall are both former professional football players who played in both the National Football League (NFL) and CFL.

Team rosters will be announced on Tuesday, May 20 on <u>Canadianfootballchat.com</u>. The 2025 CFC Prospect Game kicks off at 11:15 am (EST) on Saturday, May 24.

Previous showcases had been held in 2019, 2022, 2023, and 2024 at TD Place in Ottawa, home of the CFL's Ottawa RedBlacks. This year's edition moves to Hamilton Stadium, home of the CFL's Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

#### **Ben McAuley Statistics**

2021 Season - Won a Provincial Silver Medal with the Bantam Cougars

2022 Season - Won a Provincial Championship with Bantam Cougars

2023 Season - Notre Dame Senior Cougars Rookie of the Year - Silver Medalist in the 4a Zone

2024 Season - League Special Teams Player of the Year & Notre Dame Cougars Special Teams Player of the Year (6 return touchdowns) - Gold Medalist in the 4a/5a Zone

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#### 2024 Stats

- 4 PR TDs Regular Season (2 called back) 6 total
- 1 KR TD in Playoffs
- 171 rushing yards on 11 carries 15.5 yds/carry and 2 TDs Regular Season
- 14 receptions for 450 yards 32 yards/catch and 4 TDs Regular Season
- 1 interception
- 1 rush for 7 yards Playoffs
- 1 reception for 25 yards Playoffs
- 1 interception returned for 35 yards and a TD Playoffs

#### For more information, contact:

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