

Aurora well represented in U-18 international football



By Jake Courtepatte

Five of the Aurora gridirons' best had the chance to represent their province and country against the United States.

The St. Andrew's College Saints sent wide receiver Luca La Brier, running back Adre Simmonds, defensive end Liam Gracey, and linebacker Yiannis Spetsakis to the International Bowl, held last week in Dallas, TX.

"We are extremely proud of all four boys," said Len Gurr, head coach of the Saints football program. "Not only was it a great honour for them to represent Ontario on such a big stage, but they also once again served notice that some of the best football players in the province continue to suit up for the varsity football Saints."

The largest international football competition in the world, the high schoolers had the chance to take the field at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Broadcast on ESPN, Team Ontario played under the lights of some of the game's biggest stars when they took on Team USA's Under-18 Select team.

"To have four members of our SAC's Football program earn a place on Team Ontario is an impressive achievement for St. Andrew's football, and speaks to the calibre of young men in our program," said Gurr.

All four Saints players are in their Grade 11 year at the independent school.

Though Team Ontario fell to the highly skilled defense of the Americans by a score of 21 - 7, La Brier was on the receiving end of Ontario's only score of the game, a twelve yard pass for the major with just under four minutes on the clock.

He was named team MVP after the game, totaling over 100 receiving yards.

Joining the Saints standouts on the field was St. Maximilian Kolbe product Matt Vassos, a senior and staple defensive back for both the Mustangs and the York Lions.

One of six Mustangs players to be named to the YRAA All-Star team in early December, Vassos backstopped St. Max to the second best defensive record in the York Region league, second only to the champion Huron Heights Warriors of Newmarket.