

## URBAN HERO: Argonauts' Jamal Campbell remains humble to home

### 2017 Urban Hero winner – Sports category, People's Choice

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*Toronto Argonauts' offensive lineman Jamal Campbell has won an Urban Hero award in the People's Choice Sports category. The Jane and Finch native still lives in the area and continues to give back to his neighbourhood despite his new found fame. - Justin Greaves/Metroland*

Toronto Argonauts' offensive lineman Jamal Campbell keeps Toronto's Jane and Finch neighbourhood close to his heart.

"Growing up in Jane and Finch is just like other communities. Obviously, it has its social problems, but my experience growing up there was a positive one because it created a lot of character," the 23-year-old said. "In terms of Jane and Finch as a community, I love the community."

The 6' 7" Canadian Football League sophomore remains humble to his home, which is why he still lives there and continues to be a mentor for youth even after being drafted 22nd overall by the Argos in 2016.

"Growing up, I've seen so many of my friends and just kids I went to school with just not having the right guidance," he said. "So when I talk to kids, students, I try to mentor them; I try to be the voice that I never heard and the voice that I also heard, you know, just trying to keep them, make them see the bigger picture."

He grew up mainly playing basketball at courts in the area and across the city, but it was only when he was in Grade 11 at C. W. Jefferys Collegiate Institute when he discovered football through an Argos' community program.

He said it took him some time to get used to the game, but once he got the swing of things, post-secondary schools came calling and he was off to York University, staying close to home.

"Being in Toronto, I was able to just stay involved in my community and stay involved in my family," he said. "It was just wonderful."

Campbell's humbleness and his community outreach work, such as his speaking at schools and other community events, are just some of the reasons why he was nominated for an Urban Hero award by his close friend's older brother, Paul Nguyen.

"I think he has a really bright future and I'm looking forward seeing him go even further," Nguyen said.

Although his career is young, Campbell hopes he will be remembered as a respectful player and person.

"That's all I really want," he said. "I want to be the best version of me on and off the field."