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Orlando Bowen



ORLANDO BOWEN

Orlando, or “Bo” as he is known to his teammates and friends, was a linebacker in the CFL from 2000 to 2004. He began his career with the Toronto Argonauts and ended it with the rival Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Unfortunately, Bo’s career ended after a severe concussion suffered at the hands of two corrupt police officers. In 2004, Orlando was waiting to meet friends in a parking lot when he was approached by two undercover officers who accused him of dealing drugs. Without identifying themselves as policemen, they grabbed Orlando and forced him to the ground, kicking his face and beating his head into the pavement until he was virtually unrecognizable. Months later, Bowen was acquitted of any wrongdoing, and just a month before the acquittal,

one of the officers was arrested and charged with possessing and trafficking cocaine.

It’s tragic that such an episode ruined Bo’s football career. But he has taken his story and speaks with school children, social organizations and all who will listen about his ordeal. And amazingly, and this tells you the character of Orlando, he still does speaking engagements on behalf of police departments in Canada telling kids on the subjects of anti-bullying and good citizenship.

Orlando now is the Executive Director of One Voice One Team, a non-profit youth leadership development organization. He is also co-host of The Art of Building Bodies, a television show about fitness and an actor who has appeared in several television shows and commercials.

Allow Bo to share his powerful story with your group.

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