



For Immediate Release
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Prince giving a royal performance during first year on Colts' defensive line

CALGARY — He comes from African Gold Coast royalty, which explains his given name. But on the Western Canadian gridiron, Prince Baffoh feels like a king.

Baffoh, who's established his dominance this season as a defensive end with the Calgary Colts, hails from the Ashanti tribe of the West African nation of Ghana, which established its independence from the United Kingdom in the mid-1950s but was essentially ruled by the gold-rich Ashantis from the late 17th to the late 19th centuries.

"My family is royalty there, yeah. That's how I got my name. My grandfather was actually the leader of our (Ashanti) tribe, and it got handed down to my uncle," says the personable Baffoh, 20. "If I moved back there, I could sit on the throne, but my parents made my brothers and me promise we'd never do that."

Baffoh and the Colts (3-1) finish up a three-game Prairie Football Conference homestand on Sunday, Sept. 26 with a critical 2 p.m. clash against the Regina Thunder (3-1) at McMahon Stadium. Calgary, Regina, the Saskatoon Hilltops, and the Winnipeg Rifles are locked in a four-way tie for top spot in the PFC.

When he was nine, Baffoh's parents Benjamin and Abana moved Prince and his brothers Norbert, Oscar, Benjamin, and Daniel to Hamilton, Ont., "because of education and political issues," says Baffoh. "My parents don't talk much about it, but I'm pretty sure my mom, growing up, saw some bad things — stuff you wouldn't want your kids to go through.

"Back there, we had a good life. Here in Canada we have an even better life," he adds. "Myself, being out here in Calgary, I love it. It's a perfect fit for me."

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Baffoh and his fellow starters on the Colts' defensive line — end **Sandor Hevesi** (2nd year, Veszprem, Hungary, Lord Beaverbrook HS), and tackles **Vic Fayemi** (2nd year, Calgary, Notre Dame HS) and **Pete Dominic** (2nd year, Calgary, Notre Dame HS) — have excelled this season. The quartet has certainly cushioned the blow after the club's former D-line starters (Ben Rush, Matt Meyer, Mike Forzani, Cody Gross) departed, en masse, following the 2009 season.

“Prince has the best of both worlds. He's big, and he's fast,” says Colts defensive consultant John Stevens of the six-foot-two, 250-pounder. “He's very athletic, too, and that's a tough combination for an offensive line to handle.”

Through four games with the Colts this fall, Baffoh has two quarterback sacks, seven tackles, a pair of assisted tackles, a special-teams tackle, and a forced fumble for 26 defensive points.

“He's a super-likeable, charismatic guy, a great teammate. But at the same time, when he steps on the field, it's all-out full speed, all the time,” says Colts defensive line coach Joe Swift. “He's 250 pounds of chiseled muscle, basically. Good motor, fast learner. And he's also on the depth chart for all of our special teams, even field goal. So he's making an impact every day.”

“Losing Ben Rush (last year's Canadian Junior Football League's sacks leader, to the University of Saskatchewan Huskies) was tough,” adds Swift. “But having Prince come in? He's almost filling those shoes.”

Baffoh attended St. John de Brebeuf High School in Hamilton, where he played for club side Steel City Ironmen, and spent his first two years of junior football in the CJFL's British Columbia Football Conference with the now-defunct Vancouver Trojans. He chalked up 44 tackles and nine QB sacks through 13 games with the Trojans, before moving across the Rocky Mountains to the PFC's Colts.

“It was difficult in Vancouver. I loved the city, but it wasn't a good atmosphere for me,” says Baffoh. “I thank the guys (general manager Keith Evans and head coach Keith Kendal) who brought me out here every day. A really, really good team here. Great guys. We've really jelled together.”

The Colts prep for Sunday's big test against the Thunder with 6:30 p.m. practices at Optimist Athletic Park on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. They'll hold a 10 a.m. run-through at Optimist Park on Saturday.

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