

CFL LIONS DRAFT MYSTROM

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When the Memphis Mad Dogs of the Canadian Football League folded last season, placekicker Nick Mystrom of Anchorage wasn't sure about his immediate plans. Mystrom's somewhat hazy future came into better focus Thursday when the former West High and Colorado College standout was selected by the British Columbia Lions in the 11th round of the CFL dispersal draft.

Mystrom, 24, was the 96th player picked -- and the only placekicker -- in a draft that featured more than 200 players from the four U.S. teams that folded last season. The other three teams were the San Antonio Texans, Shreveport (La.) Pirates and Birmingham (Ala.) Barracudas.

"I'm looking forward to playing there," Mystrom said from his Denver home. "But obviously my biggest concern is to assess how they were at the kicking position last year."

Assessing the Lions' kicking game is easy. It starts and ends with 42-year-old Lui Passaglia, a 20-year veteran who is the CFL's all-time leading scorer.

Mystrom, a 6-foot-3, 217-pounder, admits he'll have his hands full competing with Passaglia. "He's kind of a legend," said Mystrom.

Mystrom said he'll join his new team later this summer.

Last season with Memphis, Mystrom finished as the Mad Dogs' leading scorer with 138 points while playing in 12 of their 18 games.

Mystrom connected on 37 of 47 field goals, his longest 51 yards. He was also perfect in 19 point-after attempts.