

## **Drugs And Crime Led To Fall Of Adam Braidwood**

Adam Braidwood, a former member of the [Edmonton Eskimos](#) of the Canadian Football League and MMA fighter, is struggling big time these days after abusing painkillers and street drugs.

The first overall CFL draft pick in 2006 is believed to have started using [anabolic androgenic steroids](#) when Eskimos decided to move him from a defensive end position to a tackle position. Braidwood became the first player in B.C. history to commit to an NCAA Division I school before his senior year after he gave a verbal commitment to Washington State.

The 29-year-old Braidwood was recently sentenced to a prison term of three years for forcible confinement. Braidwood pleaded guilty to the charge in a Stony Plain courtroom. In November 2010 before the Grey Cup was played in Edmonton, he was charged after witnesses reported seeing several men forcing a man into the trunk of a car in southeast Spruce Grove just after 5:30 a.m.

The sentence of three years will not mean more jail time for the defensive lineman who started his [Canadian Football League](#) career in 2006 as it will be served concurrently with a sentence of 4 1/2 years that Braidwood is already serving for sexual assault. This case pertains to a prolonged, violent argument involving Adam Braidwood with a girlfriend in their Edmonton home. The six-foot-four Braidwood entered the bathroom where the woman locked herself in and then took a pistol from their room, put one bullet in the chamber, spun it, and pulled the trigger but the gun did not fire and Braidwood then sexually assaulted her.

The once talented CFL rookie is now an accused criminal and his friends find it hard to believe. Former Edmonton Eskimos teammate A.J. Gass remarked there is a lot of potential there lost with Adam and it was lost piece by piece. He added it wasn't just one day he decided to flip a switch and started to make bad decisions. Gass, a former CFL linebacker who spent his entire career with the Eskimos, said he understands the mental and physical toll that recovering from a knee injury can take on a professional athlete. He also remarked he blew both his knees out in back-to-back years and so he kind of knew what he was going through and added it's devastating, and physically, you go straight downhill.

Former Eskimos head coach Danny Maciocia, said Braidwood looked like the real deal - someone that was going to play in the CFL for a number of years and make a name for himself.

After being charged with kidnapping and aggravated assault involving an injured 20-year-old Stony Plain man, Braidwood was arrested again just weeks later - this time for an unrelated

incident in Edmonton on December 2, 2010 and faced new charges of sexual assault, assault, threats and several other firearms related offences. Braidwood by January 2010 had been released on bail, subject to strict conditions, including an order to take addictions counseling. But he didn't decided to learn for the good and was arrested again for the third time, along the route of the Terry Fox Hometown Run in Port Coquitlam, B.C. Braidwood was allegedly carrying a gun and suffering from a non-life-threatening, self-inflicted wound and was again charged with several firearms-related offences.