

The Bates Bio

Kelly's football career benefits from almost two decades of post secondary experience. Kelly was a member of the Saskatoon Hilltops from 1994-1996 (Junior Championship, 1996) Kelly also played for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies from 1997-2001 starting during their 1998 Vanier Cup achievement. Entering the CFL draft in 2000 Kelly spent 7 years with the BC Lions, starting at Left Guard for their 2006 Grey Cup win and was named an all-star lineman in 2007. Kelly spent a year with the Winnipeg Bluebombers in 2009 before signing as a free agent with the Saskatchewan Roughriders for the 2010 season. Mid-season 2010 Kelly was traded to the Edmonton Eskimos.

Throughout his career Kelly has been an active coach at the community, high school and university levels. Most notable are the 7 years he has spent with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies during his CFL off-seasons; coaching the offensive line, recruiting players and fundraising. Due to an injury in 2009 with the Winnipeg Bluebombers, Kelly was able to dedicate himself as a full time coach for the entire 2009 University of Saskatchewan Huskie Football team season.

In 2009 Kelly developed a coaching clinic for offensive line coaches of all levels which he has successfully run for two seasons in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan. Since 2006 Kelly has also run a high school football camp for players in grades 9-11 in his home town of Humbolt Saskatchewan. Including all positions and skill levels, it has become the most popular camp in the province for this age group. Kelly's coaching staff is assembled from CFL players/coaches as well as University and high school coaches. Meant to include a diverse range of students, Kelly involves community partners in order for the camp to remain affordable for all participants while maintaining its high standards.

In addition to the Kelly Bates Football Camp, Kelly is the camp coordinator and co-chair of the first annual BHP Billiton Football Camp for Aboriginal Youth held February 23-24th, 2011 in Saskatoon, SK. The camp was a resounding success with hopes it can continue for years to come.

Kelly has also served as team union representative for the BC Lions. Duties included representing fellow players at the yearly meeting, taking part in conference calls in union matters, and assuring that players' rights and privileges are upheld by representing them to the General Manager and Head Coach.

For Kelly, his love of the game has developed into a successful and rewarding career.