

INSIDE THE HUDDLE

WITH COACH CURRIER



A record setting 14 sacks by the Golden Bear defense paved the way for the Homecoming victory over Moorhead State last week. The 14 sacks set a Concordia single game sack record and tied the NCAA national record. The defensive line was incredible and we chose the 7 defensive linemen that played winning football (based on our grading system) to be recognized as the Defensive Linemen of the Week. The numerous sacks led to holding the Dragons to negative 97 yards rushing on the day. Ironically, the 120 yards our offense rushed for allowed us to double their rushing total.

We were able to get off to a quick start, forcing a punt in the first series and scoring on our first possession. Our punt block team, Black Ops, as we refer them, tackled their punter at the 1 yard line setting up our 2nd touchdown and increasing our lead to 14-0 early in the first quarter. Even though we talk about not letting our circumstances dictate our behavior, I believe the wintery weather conditions affected both teams' offensive output.

With the win, we snapped the 5 year homecoming defeat streak. Considering the cold, wet day, we had a very good homecoming attendance. CSP does a phenomenal job of making homecoming a great experience with the carnival set up in the stadium. After the game, I enjoyed walking around the carnival with my family talking with alumni, CSP staff and current players. Winning has such a positive impact. Seeing smiles on so many faces brings tremendous joy!

Week 7 puts us on the road to Minot State for a 3:00 p.m. kickoff. Minot has one of the NSIC's best dual-threat quarterbacks. He is surrounded by some talented offensive firepower. We need to win the special teams phase and get our offense rolling. Our best game is still out there. Our players continue to work hard in our preparation and we are excited about another opportunity. The forecast in Minot is sunny and 55!

This week we are going to take a deeper look at the bloodline of our program, which is recruiting. We are who we bring into the program. Our goal is to bring high character student-athletes that have a desire to be great and will do whatever it takes to become the best versions of themselves. Furthermore, we recruit players that will make plays against the best DII competition that we will face. Therefore, we are looking for young men that stand out on their high school teams, that have the length



and leverage to perform at a high level and are agile enough to perform their technique successfully. It's not only talent that we are chasing, we are working very diligently to find the intangibles (i.e. work ethic, desire, leadership and a relentless pursuit of excellence).

RECRUITING AREAS

Recruiting starts with the idiom "leave no stone unturned." Our philosophy is to recruit the 4 state area (Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin & Illinois) as effective as possible. As you can see below, we ensure we have this area accounted for by one of our coaches recruiting all the high schools in their respective areas. It is imperative that each coach does in fact unturn every stone - he must make contact with each coach in order to know every possible prospect in his area. One can never know where the next All-American resides. We can not afford to miss anyone!

In addition to their area, we divide up the twin cities metro into 5 areas and add those twin city schools to 5 of our coaches. We want to control the metro and we want to recruit as many kids as we can in our backyard.

Coach Currier	Recruits offered players	Coach Stern	Southern MN, SE Metro
Coach Honsa	Northern MN	Coach Munkwitz	Iowa & Western WI
Coach Taylor	Southern Chicago Suburbs, Northwest Metro	Coach Grigsby	Northern Chicago Suburbs, Metro private schools
Coach Shelby	Chicago City & Private Schools, West Metro, Georgia	Coach Bond	Southern WI
Coach Lydon	Lutheran & Private schools national	Coach Medlo	Eastern WI, North Metro
Coach Lerfald	Florida and non regional defensive players	Coach Johnson	Florida and non regional offensive players
Coach Bisson	Junior Colleges	Coach Schenderlein	All Specialists

CONTACTING HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

This is the first step in the process for our coaching staff. Like mentioned above, they have to make sure they know every possible prospect in their area. We do not want surprises later in the process. We subscribe to a recruiting service that has collected prospect information from many coaches. However, they only get a certain percentage of responses from high school coaches. Therefore, it is critical to connect with the high school coaches in each area, either by calling or sending an email or visiting them in the spring. This process begins in February immediately after signing day. Signing Day is always the first Wed. in February for college football. This year, it is Wednesday, February 5th, 2020.

Once the high school coach provides a list of the possible prospects, we need to learn about the young man, by asking the following questions: Does he love football? Does he work hard? Is he a great teammate? Will he have a positive impact on the CSP culture? Does he want to be great? What is his upside? Can he help us beat the best in the country?

We also ask coaches about other kids they compete against. We want to find out who has made plays against them, or what kids were difficult to block. It adds a lot of credibility for a player when an opposing

coach provides a strong recommendation. Obviously, having a good relationship with high school coaches is very helpful. One of the biggest skills that successful college football coaches have is an ability to build relationships with people.

VIDEO EVALUATION

Evaluating talent is certainly not a science as there are misses at every level from the NFL to NCAA II. With HUDL, recruiting has become much more efficient than in the past. After coaches get prospect lists from high school coaches, they watch each player via their HUDL link and make their own evaluation of each player. If the coach believes he may be a possible scholarship player, he puts them into our front rush software, and puts that player into the “offensive” or “defensive” evaluation board.

Each day, our offensive and defensive coaches watch the kids on the evaluation boards and assign them a grade. The grades allow us to rank them from best to worst at each position. If they are deemed a scholarship player, we “offer” them. “Offer” is a loose term because the offer could be a variety of financial figures. We need to determine their academic scholarship and other financial aid they may receive. Once we understand what their financial package may be, we then determine the scholarship amount we will officially offer. We continue to heavily recruit players that are “offered” and continue the process. We try to make the most of our scholarship dollars. Like business, supply and demand impact our scholarship dollars. We need to have a lot of options so we can be more frugal in our scholarship offers.

SUMMER CAMPS

In recent years, summer camps have been a big part of the recruiting process. All the major DI schools host a variety of 1 day camps where coaches from DII can attend to evaluate and build rapport with prospective student-athletes. Seeing a young man in person and watching him at a camp is the best way to evaluate and more effective than watching video. You get to see his body language, see him compete against other quality players, and compare him to other quality players in attendance.

For example, we attend various camps at the University of Iowa, Iowa State, South Dakota State, North Dakota State, University of Minnesota, Northwestern University, University of Wisconsin, University of South Dakota, University of North Dakota, and more. The best camp is the Twin Cities Showcase which we have branded at CSP. We will be entering our 3rd year with our own 1 day event which we have brought 150 student-athletes and 50 other small college football coaches to campus in each of our first two years. We encourage all of our prospects to attend so we can see them first hand.

GAME DAY & OFFICIAL VISITS

The most impactful part of the recruiting process is to get the prospect and his family on campus. The best part of CSP is the people! We want to show him everything we can offer him, and show him and his family how we will impact his life far beyond the football field. When visiting campus, he meets all coaches, support staff and current student-athletes. Our own student-athletes are the most important element in the process. Young men want to enter a program where they feel comfortable, have a good rapport with coaches and can be part of a special brotherhood.

This past week we had an outstanding student-athlete commit to CSP. He’s a young man that wants to major in criminal justice, carries a 3.9 GPA and is coveted player within the NSIC. He and his father explained to me that the aspect that separated us from other programs was that when attending a spring practice last spring, our players introduced themselves and were very genuine and respectful. To reiterate, they said there wasn’t another program that was even close in making



them feel welcome. I am very proud of our men and the development that they are showing as people.

COMMITMENTS

Finally, we get to the end game! Unlike many programs, we don't pressure a young man to make his decision. I want student-athletes that choose to be Golden Bears on their own, and want them to come to CSP because they believe in what we are doing and have a mindset that is line with our program. Each year, commitments seem to happen earlier and earlier and often times many kids make their decision far before signing day.

So far, this has been our most effective recruiting class because we have executed the process more effectively. Our winning record also helps significantly as high school players are learning that CSP can and will compete amongst the best in the NSIC. At first we were selling a vision of where we were going and now our success (academically and on the field) has turned the vision we once had into reality.

Our first official visit will be in conjunction of our End of the Year Banquet, Friday, Dec. 6th. We plan to bring 20-25 of our top prospective student-athletes to campus that weekend.

Go Bears!

Coach C



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

LEO JOHNSON #85 - DE



Leo was raised in Duluth Minnesota until the age of 6, before moving further north to Grand Marais. He has an older brother, Josh, who is in the Air National Guard stationed in Duluth, and a younger brother, Luke, who is attending college in Duluth. Leo's mom and stepdad still live in Grand Marais, while his dad is in Duluth. Leo is very grateful for a close family that would do anything for him without hesitation.

He said it's hard to pick a favorite memory from his four years at CSP, but the one thing he will always cherish is the brotherhood and the friendships he made. The lifelong friends he made will stay connected forever.

His freshman year in 2016 was also Coach Currier's first year. He believes Coach Currier has done a great job changing the culture and developing a strong foundation. Leo has enjoyed being part of a changing and improving program.

Leo will graduate this December with a bachelor's degree in business management. He doesn't have a professional job lined up yet, but hopes to land a job in medical sales. Although he has had a great 4 years in the cities, he plans on moving back to Duluth to be closer to family and outdoor activities.

CSP has taught him many attributes that will help him with life after football, many of which will be applicable to his professional and personal life. Time management, communication, and how to deal with adversity are skills he highlighted. Most important, his faith in God has also increased tremendously. Leo's biggest takeaway is that no matter how hard you get hit, you have to get up and keep going.

Fun fact about Leo: Leo grew up in a very small town in northern Minnesota on the shores of Lake Superior, one hour from the Canadian border. At one point, he lived in a house in the woods with no electricity and had to drive 40 minutes every day to and from school. Leo was also was a part of a Guinness book of world records, for the longest wiffle ball game played, at 26.5 hours.

CSP FOOTBALL ALUMNI- WHERE IS HE NOW?

BRIAN SZUTKOWSKI



Former Golden Bear Brian Szutkowski played for CSP from 2015-2019. On the gridiron Szutkowski was a Free Safety and Cornerback and was a 4 time NSIC Academic All-Conference Performer. Brian's Favorite moment was winning the game against Minot State in 2017, which was Brian's first time as a starter for the Golden Bears.

One of the most important things that Brian learned during his time playing for the Golden Bears was bonding with his teammates and learning how to overcome adversity when things were not going the way he wanted. This has helped him tremendously after graduating with his degree and maintaining the strong relationships he had with his team. Brian is currently a Graduate student in CSP's Coaching and Athletic Administration program and is continuing his athletic career by participating on CSP's track and field team.

PLAYERS OF THE GAME - vs. MOORHEAD STATE



**OFFENSIVE SCOUT PLAYER
OF THE WEEK**
**JACK MUNSTERTEIGER -FR
WR #87**



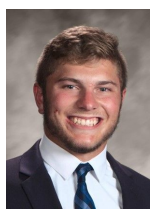
HOG OF THE GAME
**TYSON KAUFFMAN - SO
OL #55**



**OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE
GAME**
**DARIOS CRAWLEY-REID- FR
RB #25**



**DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE
WEEK**
**CHRIS GARRETT - JR
DE #52**



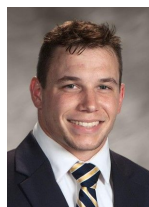
SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE GAME
DALTON SMERCHEK- JR
LB #32



DEFENSIVE SCOUT PLAYER OF THE WEEK
DARIEN CRAWFORD - FR
DL #77



SPECIAL TEAMS SCOUT PLAYER OF THE WEEK
KENDRICK MAYNOR - FR
CB

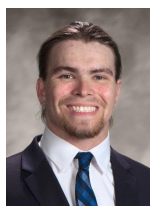


LIFTER OF THE WEEK
JAKE PORTZ - SO
LB #45



REHAB PLAYER OF THE WEEK
PARKER POWERS - SO
DB #39

DEFENSIVE LINE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



KELLY PIERCE
- SR
DL #53



MARK O'REILLY- RFR
DE #41



CHRIS GARRETT- JR
DE #52



JACKSON DOBBS - SR
DE #26



TJ DIALLO - SR
DL #7



SHAWN AARHUS - SO
DL #73



DYLAN WOOD- SR
DL #91

Each week the CSP coaching staff selects players of the game. The Players of the Game are selected based on film review, demonstrated excellence in play, their game performance evaluation and their impact on that particular game. As important are the Scout Players of the Week. These young men prepare our game day performers for the upcoming opponent, which is paramount to our team's success. The Hog of the Week and D-Line player of the week are highlighted because of their position's importance to winning football games. The Lifter of the Week is a young man that demonstrates his understanding of the importance of the off-field work necessary for one to be at their very best. Finally, the Rehab Player of the week is the player that works diligently with the training staff to rehab an injury to works towards getting healthy. Injuries are part of the game and it's important for our injured players to be committed to improving their health.

GAME CAPTAINS- CSP VS. MINOT STATE



CHRIS GARRETT - JR
DE #52



DALTON SMERCHEK - JR
LB #32



RICK KELLY- SR
OLM #70



MAXON HUTTON- SR
QB #3

EXTRA POINTS

LIVE AUCTION/SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

We are still seeking donations of a variety of items (large or small) to be included in the auction(s). Large items will be auctioned off individually and smaller items may be packaged together. Some items we are hoping to receive; tickets to sporting events, gift cards (retail, restaurants, etc.), experiences, themed gift basket items, etc. The money raised will directly support our football program. If you have a connection to an auction item, we would really appreciate your help!

All donors will be recognized during the auction and at the year end banquet. In addition, donors will receive a special thank you gift. All donations are tax deductible!

If you would be willing to provide an auction item, please email Coach Currier at scurrier@csp.edu.

TAILGATE RESUMES NEXT WEEK

Next Saturday, October 26, the tailgate will resume! In fact, we will be adding a big screen television to show ESPN's college football show Game Day. We will also have hot chocolate, corn hole games, and music. We have also invited CSP's Staff & Faculty as we are celebrating Staff & Faculty Appreciation Day.

2019 END OF THE YEAR BANQUET

Friday, Dec. 6th we will be hosting the 2019 Football Banquet. It will take place at Midpointe Event Center, near campus: 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, MN 55104. More information will be coming soon!



2019 GAME SCHEDULE

9-5	6 pm	vs	Sioux Falls	W 41-17	10-19	3 pm	at	Minot State
9-14	6pm	at	Upper Iowa	W 28-23	10-26	12pm	vs	Bemidji State
9-21	12pm	vs	Minnesota State	L 29-3	11-2	1pm	at	Augustana
9-28	6pm	at	Wayne State	W 28-21	11-9	12pm	vs	SMSU
10-5	1pm	at	St. Cloud State	L 18-15	11-16	1pm	vs	Winona
10-12	12pm	vs	MSU Moorhead	W 24-17				

TOUCHDOWN CLUB UPDATE

GAME 1 - 5 TD'S

GAME 2 - 4 TD'S

GAME 3 - 0 TD'S

GAME 4 - 3 TD'S

GAME 5 - 0 TD'S

GAME 6 - 3 TD'S

