

Bits and Pieces

By Greg Barton

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I really enjoy the winter and spring months in regard to young football players. Over the past month we have seen so many great young men in both Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon in our Indoor Winter training.

Think about this, 30 years ago few football players trained in the off-season. Sure they lifted weights and the occasional quarterback threw patterns to some of his receivers, but you can't compare that generation to the young athletes today. The commitment and the work ethic today are amazing to me.

I think of quarterbacks like Johnny Unitas, Joe Namath, Roman Gabriel, Terry Bradshaw, Roger Stauback, Troy Aikman, John Elway, Sonny Jurgensen, Norm Van Brocklin, Bart Starr, Bobby Layne, Len Dawson, Steve Young, Jim Kelly, Dan Marino, Bob Waterfield, Joe Montana, Warren Moon, Bart Starr, Dan Fouts, Bob Griese and Otto Graham; as good as they were, how much better would they have been with the training quarterbacks of today receive?

Taylor Barton is really happy with his coaching staff in Seattle and Chris Budke and I are fired up with the staff we have put together in Portland. It is fun talking to these coaches and hearing them talk about their thoughts on the players in the winter camps. I hear from the majority of them statements like, "Great attitudes", "Excellent work ethic", "Tremendous potential" and of course, the number

one comment is always, “I wish he was in our high school program”.

Taylor Barton called it right. He wanted to add a Youth Football Camp to the winter program and it has worked out well in Portland. I have been pleased with the young kids’ attention span, the work ethic and the skill that they have shown. One thing that most do not know is that fundamentals are fundamentals. In other words, you teach the same basic quarterback fundamentals to a 4th grader as you would to an NFL quarterback. It is a big advantage to a young skill athlete to learn the proper fundamentals and techniques of running pass patterns and catching the ball properly. We have seen some outstanding young athletes in this Youth Football Camp.

Ray Baker is doing an excellent job in training the Offensive and Defensive Lineman in Portland. Coach Baker is a great coach and a special person. I hear so many compliments about Coach Baker and his staff from both the players and parents. I don’t know much about training lineman, but I do see the amazing results, especially from the young kids. It is fun seeing a 100 pound 6th grade lineman doing technique work next to the 275 pound senior in high school. Just like we see with the quarterbacks and skill position players, the young lineman is being taught the same fundamentals as the senior in high school. What I see is the 6th grader now has excellent technique and fundamentals and then I wonder, “What happens if this kid is a 275 pound senior in high school someday?”

Josh Linehan who played at Oregon State for 5 seasons is doing a terrific job in Seattle with the linemen. The players are having lots of fun with Josh and are quickly learning that Josh expects 100% effort on every repetition they take. Coach Linehan is a competitor who believes lineman must have a passion for their position and

the game of football. The numbers increase with every camp in the Line Camp in Seattle.

I met Nick Green when we were doing a Football Camp at Lake Oswego High School. He was a 7th grader from Ridgefield, Washington. Nick just signed to play football at the Air Force Academy last week.

Nick has been very dedicated and loyal to the Barton Football Academy over the years. His freshman and sophomore years at Ridgefield High School were amazing. He started as a quarterback and defensive back as a FRESHMAN and he dominated from the time he took a snap from center. He was an All-League performer in football, wrestling and track and field. How many quarterbacks wrestle and pole vault in high school?

Nick transferred to Central Catholic High School in Portland in January of his sophomore year in high school. He made a total commitment to training and in earning the starting quarterback job. Nick earned the job and one week prior to his first game (in his junior year) he tore up his knee and was done for the season. (Note: no one hit Nick, he did this while running and making a cut). Yes, Nick was depressed over this injury and yes, it was tough for him to watch the practices and games throughout that year. What most don't know is Nick was working his tail off in training and in the classroom. Once he got the doctors approval to play, he picked up the pace and he entered his senior season in the best shape of his life. Nick had an outstanding senior season leading the Rams to the playoffs. He was a young man on a mission during his senior season.

Nick had offers from West Point, Idaho State, Northern Arizona and Air Force. He made official visits to all four schools and he enjoyed each of the schools.

What makes this a remarkable story is that Nick missed his entire junior year in football and his knee injury was a serious one. 30 years ago, his career was done and today it normally takes an athlete 2 full years to really come back. Nick came back in 8 months. Central Catholic built the offense around Nick. He lined up in the shotgun most of the game and he was their running game for most of the season. He would either run or pass. He hurt defenses doing both and he showed absolutely no sign that he had just had major surgery a year earlier.

I have the pleasure of working with hundreds of great young men. I honestly wish each and everyone the best and hope they all reach their dreams. My relationship with Nick Green is special, at least to me. One I just fell in love with him as a kid. His work ethic and attitude was fantastic and his manners were special. He has always smiled and been a “yes-sir” and “no-sir” type of kid. I was shocked and really down when I heard about Nick’s injury. After a few days of feeling really bad for him, we talked and I challenged him to “come up with a plan and get to work”. Nick told me that he already had a plan and he was working out everyday. It had to be a tough junior year sitting out and it had to take its toll on him, but he’s so mentally tough, he never showed that side to anyone. The guy just kept his mouth shut and worked.

So, yes I am proud of Nick Green. He is special and he has earned the honor of going to the Air Force Academy. They say that one of the jobs of the academies is to develop leaders, who will move on to becoming leaders of our country. There is no doubt in my mind about Nick Green as a leader. He and the Air Force Academy will be a great team. Nick Green will do some special things both on and off the field in Colorado Springs over the next 4 years. I am very proud of Nick.

Washington State University picked up three excellent young men in Jay Matthews, Cory Mackay and Calvin Schmidtke in this years

recruiting class. WSU announced at signing day that all three have received full football scholarships.

Jay Matthews has been training in the Barton Football Academy for years. He came in as a quarterback and he was a good one. Jay worked hard for years in developing as a quarterback and an athlete. When he got to Lake Oswego High School, he immediately showed head coach, Steve Coury that he was a special athlete. Jay had a great high school career with the Lakers as a wide receiver and defensive back. Jay is a terrific student and he will do well at WSU.

Cory Mackay is a kid who attended our camps in Seattle. He is 6'4 and 220 pounds and he is a wide receiver. The Eastlake High School athlete is special. In my opinion, he is one of the top players in the entire Northwest. He originally verbally committed to the University of Washington, but he changed his mind and signed with the Cougars. When I first saw him in one of our camps at the University of Washington, I told Taylor Barton, "Cory Mackay is someday going to be a special player in the PAC 10". On top of this, Cory is another great young man. I predict he will be a special player at WSU.

Calvin Schmidtke is an outstanding quarterback. He played his high school football at Life Christian HS and at Lakes High School in Washington. He put up some of the best passing numbers ever for a quarterback in the Northwest. His passing statistics are off the charts. In his 4 years in high school football, he completed around 78% of his passes. That is truly amazing to me. Calvin is made to order for the new offense that Coach Wulff is bringing to WSU. Calvin has trained with the Barton Academy for 3 years in both Portland and Washington. I am really high on Calvin as both a person and quarterback. He has the potential to become special in the PAC 10.

Tommy Stewart played wide receiver for the outstanding Sheldon High School (Oregon) team that won the 6A Oregon State Championship in 2007.

He trained with Taylor Barton for a year before his senior season. Tommy came to Eugene and Portland to join our spring and summer camps. Taylor Barton drove to Eugene many times to work with Tommy.

Tommy showed us a great determination to get better in the off-season and he excelled in the classroom with a 4.1 GPA. Tommy has had quite a senior year at Sheldon. He enjoyed playing on a state championship team and he just signed with Princeton University where he will play football.

We are proud of Tommy Stewart. He is a good athlete and a great person. I predict a great career for Tommy at Princeton University. This is quite an accomplishment for Tommy. Princeton University is one of our countries top schools.

Andre Broadous has enjoyed a tremendous high school career at Grant High School in Portland, Oregon. The 3-year starting quarterback will go down in history as one of the top athletes to ever play at Grant High School.

Andre has trained with the Barton Football Academy for years. He is a great young man and he grew up around sports. Andre signed on National Signing Day with Cal Poly (San Luis Obispo). Andre will do well in California playing for new offensive coordinator, Ian Shields, who left his position as the head coach at Eastern Oregon University to put in the offense for Cal Poly. Ian decided early that getting Andre was going to be critical for developing the offense that he envisions at Cal Poly.

I have enjoyed watching Andre grow up in our camps and I wish him the best in California. I believe that he will excel under Coach Shields. Andre is very athletic and he is a very good quarterback. His high school coach, Diallo Lewis, did a great job in developing him into one of the top quarterbacks in the state of Oregon.

Tony Wilson is one of the top athletes in the entire Northwest. Tony signed a football scholarship with Oregon State as a linebacker. Tony played at Sprague High School (Oregon) for Robin Hill.

Tony has attended many of our Barton Football Camps and he is a hard worker. He has been well coached by his Sprague coaches.

Talk about an athlete, he is 6'2 and 230 pounds. He has started in football for 4 years, basketball for 3 years and after this spring he will be a 4-year starter in baseball. He runs a true 4.6 and he is strong as a bull.

Tony is a 3.8 student and he has a great future in front of him as a Beaver.

Kyle Warner had a great high school career as a quarterback at Centennial High School in Portland, Oregon. Kyle is a 6'4 and 190 pound quarterback with a huge upside. I believe he will become an outstanding college quarterback.

Kyle just signed with Western Oregon University where he will play for Arne Ferguson. Kyle ran one of the top option offenses in Oregon under Coach Knudsen. He will bring an ability to run, a physical toughness and the ability to throw the ball to Western Oregon. Kyle is a hard worker and a great young man.

I have enjoyed working with Kyle over the years. He is a good person and he wants to learn. I wish him the best and hope he reaches all of his dreams.

We have worked with Cody Bruns from Prosser High School in Washington for a couple of years. Cody is a very special receiver and his career at Prosser has been remarkable. Cody helped his team to the 2A Washington State Championship and finished his career with 310 receptions for 5,177 yards and 72 touchdowns. These are all Washington state records and the receptions and yardage rank 2nd in the nation “All-Time” in 11-man high school football.

Prosser Head Coach, Tom Moore has done an outstanding job of coaching Cody Bruns. Cody signed a football scholarship with the University of Washington this week. There is no doubt in my mind about this young man’s future with the Huskies. I look for Cody to earn early playing time and becoming an impact player right away.

For those of you who worry about size; Cody Bruns is 5’10 and 170 pounds. He plays like he is 6’8 and 260 pounds. So who does Cody play like? In my book he is the second coming of Wes Welker of the New England Patriots.

Luther Leonard is a very good quarterback from Seattle where he played for Evergreen High School. We first saw Luther as an incoming freshman when we held a camp at Lake Washington High School. It was obvious then that he had quarterback skills and he was a terrific athlete.

Luther had a great career at Evergreen and he will now be joining the University of Washington family after signing his scholarship papers this week.

We have enjoyed working with this young man. He is a fun guy to be around. Taylor Barton feels that he has a good future in front of him. Luther has excellent feet and he is strong. He makes all the throws and he is coachable.

Corey Laufasa had an outstanding high school football career at Evergreen High School in Washington. Corey was one of the top players in the state as a junior and senior. As important he has done a good job in the classroom. Corey understands the importance of academics and his hard work has paid off as Corey just accepted an offer to play at West Point for Stan Brock.

Tim Walsh the former Head Football Coach at Portland State University and now the Offensive Coordinator at West Point saw Corey in our Marketing Workout last spring. Coach Walsh really liked Corey and from that day they have worked hard in recruiting him. Congratulations to Corey Laufasa for a job well done.

Here are some other players that we have had in camps that have decided where they will be playing their college football;

<u>Player Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>College</u>
Ethan Johnson	DE	Lincoln	Oregon	Notre Dame
Trevor Guyton	DT	Redmond	Wash.	U of California
Nick Cody	OT	Hockinson	Wash.	U of Oregon
Drew Schaefer	OT	Eastlake	Wash.	U of Wash.
Jordan Polk	WR	Lincoln	Oregon	U of Wash.
Jon Oppenud	OT	Milwaukie	Oregon	U of Montana
Oliver Henry	QB	Bothel	Wash.	Central Wash.

Raphael Lambert	RB	Jesuit	Oregon	Boise State
Matt Lipski	OT	Ashland	Oregon	U of Montana
Brandon Turner	WR	Kentridge	Wash.	Navy
Vince Taylor	DB	Eastside Cath.	Wash.	U of Wash.
Scott Grady	DB	Tigard	Oregon	U of Oregon
Ryan Robertson	QB	Eastlake	Wash.	Central Wash.
Skylar Stormo	TE	Mukilteo	Wash.	Wash. State
Kavario Middleton	TE/DE	Lakes	Wash.	U of Wash.
Jermaine Kearse	WR	Lakes	Wash.	U of Wash.

In the weeks to come we will pass on information about other players who are moving on to college (at any level). Please email us at: bartongrg@comcast.net to let us know about any other players who have been in our camps that are moving on to the college ranks. At this time there are still a big number of outstanding players from both Washington and Oregon that are still looking at different schools.

We are very fortunate to be able to use great facilities like the University of Washington's Indoor Dempsey Center and Husky Stadium; the University of Oregon's Indoor Moshofsky Center; the Lewis and Clark College Football Stadium; the Willamette University Football Stadium; the excellent facilities at Skyline High School and the indoor gym at Portland Community College (Sylvania campus). If you know people from these schools, please let them know that everyone appreciates them being so good to our kids and communities. Taylor and I have been very fortunate in these schools helping us out in providing our young players some of the top facilities in the Northwest.

We have our Spring Camps up on our site. Please go to the left border on the front page and click on "camps". Then look for "Spring Eugene" "Spring Portland" and "Spring Seattle" camps.

Click on the camp you are interested in to learn detailed information about the camps that we are offering.

We should have information about our 2008 Marketing Workout online soon. We will be at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon on Saturday, May 10. This event was huge last spring and many of the players benefited from coming. We had 380 players from the NW and over 100 college coaches in attendance.

Our 2008 Summer Camps will be online in the near future. We are still working on some new camps and facilities. Taylor Barton is excited about the spring and summer. Taylor and his partner, Mark Evans, are doing a great job in looking for new ideas in how we can improve our programs. Our popular “Group Dynamic Training” will be offered in Seattle this summer. We have run this program for 4 years in Portland and the families have really supported this program and the kids have benefited through the hard work.

For those of you who coach in Youth Football, Taylor and I will be at the Glazier Football Clinic this weekend (February 15-17) at the Redmond Marriott Hotel. The clinic is for youth and high school coaches. The address is:

Redmond Marriott Town Center
7401 164th Avenue NE
Redmond, WA 98052

Our topic is “Training QBs” and we will be doing our clinic on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. and on Sunday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. and 9:25 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

You can go to: <http://www.megaclinic.com/citdat.php> to learn more about the weekend. Click on “Seattle, WA, Feb. 15-17” to

get detailed information and to learn about the other speakers who will be doing clinics throughout the weekend.

On March 8 (Saturday) Taylor and I will be doing the Nike Coach-of-the-Year clinic in Portland, Oregon. We will do two clinics on Saturday from 10:50 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in the Willamette Room and 12 noon to 12:55 p.m. also in the Willamette Room. This coach's clinic for youth through college coaches is one of the biggest in the country. It is held at the Portland Airport Holiday Inn. Please go to:

<http://www.oregoncoach.org?Coaches%2520Clinics.htm> Mike Bellotti (Oregon), Pete Carroll (USC), Dan Hawkins (Colorado), Rich Brooks (Kentucky), and Chris Petersen (Boise State) are just some of the speakers that you will see.

For those of you who coach at the Youth level, these clinics are a tremendous learning experience. I hope we see many of you at one or both of these clinics. Please drop by and say hi to Taylor and I.

Please feel free to email us anytime with any comments about our camps or other activities that we offer. We are open to suggestions.

In addition please let us know about how your son is doing in his off-season training and then how he is doing with his team during season. We want to stay on top of each young man in our program. With your help it will make our job easier.

If you have questions, please email us anytime. I wish the best for you and yours.

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