

## Bits and Pieces

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Greg Barton

There have been some excellent kickers in Oregon over past seven years and Robert Truax might be one of the best.

Robert Truax played for Ron Chappell at West Linn High School where he was the kicker for three years. His team kicking coach is Chris Budke who is the Offensive Coordinator, Quarterback Coach and Kicking and Punting Coach at West Linn. Coach Budke has coached in the Barton Football Academy from the beginning; coaching quarterbacks, skill position players and putting on Punting and Kicking Camps during the summer.

Robert has been a dedicated kicker, working on his game in the off-season for three years. He has put in a lot of time with Coach Budke. Robert has a very strong leg. In college, Robert will be a good kick-off guy and he will be a threat from 60 yards as the field-goal kicker.

I have watched Robert play and I believe one of his best skills is getting his field goals and extra-points up in the air so quickly. He gets great height on his kicks and he explodes on the ball. I also believe he will bring a dedication to the football program in regards to the time and effort he will give in improving himself from day-to-day. Robert is a worker and he loves to kick.

So where will Robert be teeing it up? Robert is joining Jerry Glanville and Mouse Davis at Portland State University. Robert's dream was to play D-1 or D-1AA football and he reached that dream. Coach Glanville knows the importance of a kicker and punter. All kickers have pressure at any level. It goes with the position. But to play for Jerry Glanville and Mouse Davis, that is pressure for a kicker. Both are no-nonsense guys when it comes to the kickers. They want perfection and they do not want to worry about any kick. Coach Glanville is locked in to the defense and Coach Davis has the Run and Shoot offense on his mind throughout the game. To both of them, the kicker must be automatic. Robert has his work cut out for him, but I believe he will get the job done.

Coach Budke kicked and punted for Portland State. He feels Robert is more than ready for the challenge.

Robert has attended our Barton Academy Punting and Kicking Summer Camps for three years. We are proud of Robert; he has reached his

dreams. Now he must get to work and be mentally and physically prepared for some big-time football. It will be fun watching him kick at PGE Park for the Vikings.

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### Eugene Football Camp

We just finished our Spring Eugene Camp at the University of Oregon in the Indoor Moshofsky Center. The camp was a big success. Taylor Barton had some great kids in his Chalk Talks, the QB-Skill Camps was successful and Ray Baker's Offense-Defense Lineman Camp was outstanding.

Bill Singler brought in a lot of his South Medford players. The kids were impressive from a talent and work ethic standpoint. It was fun seeing Coach Singler; he's a good coach and person.

The head coach at Sheldon High School was there. Marty Johnson led Sheldon to a state championship last season. He's a class act both on and off the field.

We appreciate the University of Oregon for letting us hold these camps in their facility.

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### Tyler Christianson

Tyler Christianson is one of the top senior receivers in the state of Washington. As a junior at Skyview High School in Vancouver, Washington he helped his team to a 10 and 1 season. As a senior he was one of the best football players in the Vancouver, Washington area. He played wide receiver and outside linebacker.

Tyler just announced to the world that he has chosen to play his college football for Scott Westering, the Head Football Coach at Pacific Lutheran University.

I am very proud of Tyler. He did a nice job as a student at Skyview High School. PLU is not an easy school to get into. He worked hard for 3 years in developing his football skills through weight training, running pass patterns, going to camps, and studying the game. PLU is a very good football program and they go after the top players each year in the Northwest.

Tyler has a wonderful family. His parents have done an excellent job in raising him. Taylor Barton and I really enjoy Tyler and his parents. Tyler trained with us in the evenings in Beaverton for the past two summers in our

Group Dynamic Training. Tyler did not miss many workouts. Without question he is one of the most dedicated players we have ever had in our program. I think the world of this kid. He is a guy that I will always be rooting for.

A good receiver needs a good quarterback and Tyler will be meeting another incoming PLU kid in the weeks to come. AJ Burke was the starting quarterback at Glencoe High School, in Oregon, and he led his team to the Oregon state 5A championship game this year. AJ has also signed with PLU. I think Tyler and AJ will become good friends and I'm sure they will be playing a lot of catch over the next 4 years.

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### Tate Sanders

Wow, what a ride this kid has taken. Tate has trained in the Barton Camps for years. The first day we had Tate in a camp in Portland, we had the quarterbacks stand up and introduce themselves to each other. When it was Tate's turn he said, "Hi guys, my name is Tate Sanders. I will be a sophomore at Regis High School and I play tight end, linebacker, offensive and defensive line and quarterback." Then he sits down and the place is quiet. I was waiting for his "punch line" and it never came. So I said, "Offensive Line AND quarterback?" Tate looked up and simply said, "Yep". So that was my first introduction to Tate Sanders. That night we were in Beaverton at our Group Workouts and when we took the quarterbacks to the field to warm up, I was in shock with what I saw. Tate was kind of right, but kind of wrong with what he said in his introduction to the other quarterbacks; he threw the ball like an offensive lineman and his feet were not as good as any lineman I had ever been a round. I must admit, when I left the workout that night I was very confused about this kid.

Tate seldom missed a workout. He and his father would drive from Salem, Oregon every night during the summer, to Beaverton for our training. Tate never missed camps in the winter, spring or summer. His dedication was off the charts. So how did his training with us begin? We it was pretty ugly and the tough part for him was he had Taylor Barton in his face for 2 hours each day.

As a sophomore, Tate did play all of these positions for the Regis HS Junior Varsity team. According to Tate, "I was not very good."

As a junior he again played all of these positions on the Junior Varsity team. He got to suit up for the Varsity from time-to-time, but never got much action. According to Tate, "This was not a fun year for me."

After his junior season, he turned the volume up. He never missed anything we did; whether it was winter, spring or summer. He was now really making some big improvements and going into the summer entering his senior season he was really ready for the first time in his life to play the game of football.

Tate worked his tail off during the hot summer months. He and his father drove the 45 minutes to an hour and a half (according to traffic) each way from Salem just about everyday during the summer.

As the summer was nearing an end, Tate and his father informed Taylor and me that Tate was transferring to Blanchet Catholic High School, a 2A school in Salem. That was a shock to us and then Tate and his father shared a lot of things with us about his first 3 years in high school. Tate admitted he was not very good when he started playing football and that players and coaches had lost confidence in him as a potential player and that he was just not happy in the environment. Tate took the responsibility and said he just wanted a new opportunity. Taylor and I hugged Tate and told him that we understood and we wished him the best always.

Tate played well as a senior. He was now, for the first time ever, the starting quarterback. I saw one of his games and I was in shock in how good he played. I kept remembering back to when he started with us and to see him now, on the field, doing his 3-step, 5-step, sprint outs and just in handing the ball off was fantastic to see. His throwing, coordination, command of the huddle and the line of scrimmage was impressive. He was showing leadership and good body language. His energy level was high and he showed a passion for the game. What? This was the same Tate Sanders who I met a couple of years earlier? Driving home after that game, I was so proud of Tate. Of course he was not an Erik Ainge, a Kellen Clemens or a John Durocher. But from where all of these guys started, without question, Tate Sanders improved the most.

All of us take so much for granted. I asked Tate one day, "What were you most proud of in your first year as a starting quarterback?" His response was, "In my first start I threw a touchdown pass and we won; beating two 3A schools; starting all 10 games; and learning my 4<sup>th</sup> offensive system in 4 years." I asked him, "What were you disappointed in?" Tate said, "We were a running team and I threw 3 touchdowns and had 6 interceptions for the year. I wish I could have cut down on the interceptions."

Tate has always been an excellent student. He has maintained an overall high school GPA of 3.78. Tate has always dreamed of going to college and playing football. As he told me many times, "Most have laughed at me when I told them my goal is to play college football. Most

have simply not respected me. Even most of my coaches would shake their heads at me when I talked about college football. My dad, a few of my friends and the Barton coaches have always believed in me. They have shown me respect for what I want to accomplish. Greg Barton respected me throughout the years and Taylor Barton just beat the heck out of me. Greg encouraged me; Taylor showed me tough love. Taylor never showed outwardly that he felt bad for me during my tough times as he never would let me be satisfied. He pushed me to the limits. I thought for two years that Taylor hated me.”

Tate and his father did a nice job in contacting colleges and looking for the right situation. I made a comment to Tate one day that I really believe. “If you are a good student and you want to become part of a college football program, there is a place out there for you.” I say this because I talk to college coaches everyday. Sure the D-1 and D-1AA schools for the most part are fat and happy. They have money and they give football scholarships. Most have numbers and that is what you need to run a football program. When you have numbers you can have your offense on one side of the 50 yard line running plays vs. your scout team defense and at the same time on the other side of the 50 your scout team offense is running opponents plays at your defense. Without getting into names of colleges, there are many D-3 and NAIA colleges that simply don’t have the numbers in their program to even conduct an organized practice. These schools do not give football scholarships, but they are desperately looking for more bodies to fill in their rosters. Besides not having football scholarships, they have very high academic standards and their college is quite expensive. In many ways their hands are tied. I have always believed in taking a negative and making it a positive. I told Tate and his father that most kids and families say they love the game of football and want to play in college. But when they find out they are not D-1 players, they quickly decide that playing D-3 football is not very appealing. So the truth is that most say I love the game of football and want to play in college as long as it is with a D-1 school like Oregon, Oregon State, Washington or Washington State.

I told Tate and his father one night at dinner with my wife that there are opportunities out there but your journey will not be perfect. In other words, sure you have a dream of playing for the Eastern Washington or Portland State, both Big Sky D-1AA schools, but it is not going to happen. You must put your GPA out there and let small schools know that you want to play for them and you just want to be a part of their program. Let them know that no one will outwork you and that you will bring a terrific attitude and loyalty to the table.

Tate's dream has come true; he is going to play college football. Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana will be his home for the next 5 years. Tate and his father visited the school and met with the coaching staff. JB Robertson is in charge of recruiting the Northwest for Rocky Mountain and he hosted Tate and his father. Coach Robertson did a great job in educating Tate about the football program, the academics and the school and community in general. Tate enjoyed the trip and he verbally committed to Rocky Mountain College a couple of days after returning to Oregon.

Tate likes the school for many reasons; he wanted a small college, he is happy with the small class size and he feels he will benefit from the academic opportunities that Rocky Mountain College offers. He received a Merit Scholarship and the football program wants him.

When it is all said and done, it's important in life to be wanted. It is also important in life to earn your way. Tate has overcome a lot during his high school days, he has worked his tail off following his dream, and Rocky Mountain College rewarded him with a terrific financial package and an opportunity to play college football. What a great ending, for a wonderful young man.

Taylor Barton, Heather Barton, and I are so proud and happy for Tate and his family. This has been a terrific ride for all of us. Tate showed us that dreams can come true.

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I came across this one day. Taylor had written on a piece of paper what he wanted for the Barton Football Academy. Here is what he had to say.

1. Loyalty always goes to your high school or youth coaches and programs.
2. Never make an effort mistake.
3. Don't make the same mistake twice.
4. If you're early you're on time; if you're on time, you're late; and if you're late, you're forgotten.
5. Everyone gets lots of reps, no standing around.
6. Each athlete gets the same number of reps and amount of coaching regardless of grade, skill level or experience.
7. Do things right even when no one's watching.
8. It's not just the oldest quarterback, or the best player that can be a leader of a team/camp.
9. Football ends for everyone at some point; some play longer than others.  
The habits, work ethic, and ability to complete carry over into the real

world.

10. It's impossible to go 110%, the hardest someone can play is with 100% effort.
  11. When a coach is talking, the athlete should stop whatever he's doing, look the coach in the eyes, and say, "yes-sir, no-sir and thank you when the coach finishes talking."
  12. Players should always sprint on and off the field for a water break and from station-to-station in the camp.
  13. Above all else, every participant should enjoy camp and have fun.
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Taylor and his partner, Mark Evans, are doing a wonderful job in building the Barton Football Academy. Mark is a good businessman and a go-getter. Taylor is an outstanding coach. Together they will improve the quality and expand the program. I believe the future of the Barton Football Academy is in great hands.

Taylor and Mark put together their new website and I like it ([www.bartonfootball.com](http://www.bartonfootball.com)). They have some great thoughts for the future. Stay tuned, they are just getting started.

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What the heck is in the Skyline High School water? First Jake Heaps, the sophomore quarterback has now been offered by Brigham Young University, University of Washington, Washington State, Stanford, UCLA and Oregon State. Second, Gino Simone the outstanding junior wide receiver gets early offers from UNLV, Boise State University, Washington State and the University of Washington. That is amazing, a sophomore and junior in the spring getting early offers from the big boys. Well not to be outdone, there is another pretty fair young kid at Skyline. Kasen Williams is only a freshman, yes a 9<sup>th</sup> grader. Guess what? He was just offered by Rick Neuheisel from UCLA. Congratulations to these three young men and to their families.

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I understand Gary Rogers, the senior quarterback to be at Washington State University had a fantastic spring practice. The Cougars will need Gary to step up for them. Gary was in our football camps for a number of years. The first day we saw him, Taylor and I just shook our heads. It was the spring of his junior year at Kamiak High School. He was a big, strong quarterback and he worked his tail off in our camp. I remember Taylor

saying, “This guy will be 6’7 and 250 pounds in college.” Taylor was sure close; I believe he is 6’6 and 240 pounds right now.

Gary showed us a great work ethic, a passion to learn and he was a nice young man as a high school player. This will be Gary’s 5<sup>th</sup> and final year at Washington State University. He has all the tools to become an outstanding college player. His arm is a “cannon” and he is a very mature young man. Gary is intelligent and he is getting a fresh opportunity in life. Sometimes change is good and with the new coaching staff now in place at WSU, I’m sure Gary is feeling very good about himself as he is now “the man” of the Cougars.

Gary has a real challenge in front of him. The PAC 10 is loaded with outstanding teams and every game will be a war for WSU. New head coach, Paul Wulff is bringing an exciting new no-huddle; hurry up spread offense to Pullman. There is no question in my mind about Gary Rogers as a quarterback. He flat out has the tools to play big-time football. The question is will he have the talent around him to succeed in this new offense? Coach Wulff will bring a winner to Pullman, but will it be this soon? I sure hope so, as I really like Gary Rogers and I want him to have a tremendous season.

Here’s something you can take to the bank. The NFL will be watching WSU closely as Gary Rogers has the size and arm that NFL teams are dreaming about. He just might have the strongest arm in college football today. It will be fun to watch Gary and the Cougars this fall.

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We sure hope to get every kid in the Northwest who is dreaming of playing college football to our May 10, 2008 Marketing Workout in Salem, Oregon. This will give you an opportunity to work out in front of college coaches and to get filmed and have that film on a website for colleges around the country to see. Go to: [www.bartonfootball.com](http://www.bartonfootball.com) Click on “Camps” and sign up online for the event.

Greg Barton