

Bits and Pieces

**By Greg Barton
Edition 10**

Bob Gay sent me this a week or so ago. I really enjoyed reading this. Thank you Bob, now let me share it with everyone.

KURTIS THE STOCK BOY AND BRENDA THE CHECKOUT GIRL

In a supermarket, Kurtis the stock boy, was busily working when a new voice came over the loud speaker asking for a carry out at register 4. Kurtis was almost finished, and wanted to get some fresh air, and decided to answer the call. As he approached the check-out stand a distant smile caught his eye, the new check-out girl was beautiful. She was an older woman (maybe 26 and he was only 22) and he fell in love.

Later that day, after his shift was over, he waited by the punch clock to find out her name. She came into the break room, smiled softly at him, took her card and punched out, then left. He looked at her card, BRENDA. He walked out only to see her start walking up the road. Next day, he waited outside as she left the supermarket, and offered her a ride home. He looked harmless enough, and she accepted. When he dropped her off, he asked if maybe he could see her again, outside of work. She simply said it wasn't possible.

He pressed and she explained she had two children and she couldn't afford a baby-sitter, so he offered to pay for the baby-sitter. Reluctantly she accepted his offer for a date for the following Saturday. That Saturday night he arrived at her door only to have her tell him that she was unable to go with him. The baby-sitter had called and canceled. To which Kurtis simply said, "Well, let's take the kids with us."

She tried to explain that taking the children was not an option, but

again not taking no for an answer, he pressed. Finally Brenda brought him inside to meet her children. She had an older daughter who was just as cute as a bug, Kurtis thought, and then Brenda brought out her son, in a wheelchair. He was born a paraplegic with Down Syndrome.

Kurtis asked Brenda, "I still don't understand why the kids can't come with us?" Brenda was amazed. Most men would run away from a woman with two kids, especially if one had disabilities - just like her first husband and father of her children had done. Kurtis was not ordinary - - - he had a different mindset.

That evening Kurtis and Brenda loaded up the kids, went to dinner and the movies. When her son needed anything Kurtis would take care of him. When he needed to use the restroom, he picked him up out of his wheelchair, took him and brought him back. The kids loved Kurtis. At the end of the evening, Brenda knew this was the man she was going to marry and spend the rest of her life with.

A year later, they were married and Kurtis adopted both of her children. Since then they have added two more kids.

So what happened to Kurtis the stock boy and Brenda the check-out girl? Well, Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Warner now live in Arizona, where he is currently employed as the quarterback of the National Football League Arizona Cardinals and has just led his Cardinals to the NFC Championship and an appearance in the Super Bowl. Is this a surprise ending or could you have guessed that he was not an ordinary person.

It should be noted that he also quarterbacked the Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI. He has also been the NFL's Most Valuable Player twice and the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player.

The Barton Football program stresses hard work and being a class person. This is a terrific example of a class person.

Winter Camp Evaluations

I want to take a few minutes and thank everyone that has trained in our Winter Indoor Football training. All of us, involved with the Barton Football program thank you for joining us in Seattle, Portland, Salem, Tukwila, and Yakima. As administrators, staff and coaches, we are having a terrific time in these camps. The players of all ages have been outstanding.

We thank the seniors to be, the graduating seniors and the college players for showing so much leadership and for being so good to the younger players. All of you are beginning your adult lives right now. You understand that by taking a few minutes to say a nice word or two to a young player that you can help motivate that player to do the right things on the field and in life. We thank you for being so mature and showing such great leadership. You guys help make these camps special.

I also want to say a few words about the younger players that train with us. All of you are smart in taking advantage of watching and learning from so many of the excellent older players. You have been mature, beyond your years in understanding how to fit in with the older players. For this we thank you.

I have been in football as a player, administrator and coach for around 51 years. I have seen a lot in my lifetime, some bad and most good. After just a few weeks of training this winter, I will say this; I am having so much fun. I have worked with Taylor Barton in the Seattle Camps twice so far and the talent level and attitude of the players has been outstanding. The support offered by parents is really good. I have loved my time in Seattle with Taylor and his excellent coaching staff.

I have heard from a few parents already who went up to Foster HS from Portland, that those workouts have been excellent.

It will be interesting to hear from Taylor how the Yakima workouts went. I hope everything run smooth.

Now in Portland, I am telling you, we are having a blast. The talent level is better than any year that I can remember. We have always had excellent players, but this year we have so many more than ever before. We have also picked up so many excellent young players. The gym is full of supportive parents and siblings. I love the atmosphere and the excitement that takes place throughout the day. The coaches have been tremendous.

The Salem Camp is off and running. We have finished three workouts and the program is slowly growing. The potential of Salem is good, we just have to stay positive and get it done from a coaching standpoint. Our coaches are good, so I feel that Salem will grow from week-to-week.

We still have a lot of the winter training in front of us. I hope players and parents will let others know about how much fun the players are having. Most important we are seeing player improvement with each workout.

Thank you to everyone for helping us get off to such a great start.

We will have our spring and summer programs up online in a couple of weeks. Mark Evans, who is a partner in the Barton Football Academy, has done a great job in getting some of the top facilities in the Northwest for our spring and summer training.

One other note; thank you to all the young siblings and parents who have had to baby sit Taylor's English Bulldog puppy (Willy or Willie – Taylor has not told me the spelling of his puppy's name). Think about this puppy "growing up in a football environment". There is no doubt in my mind about this; Willy or Willie will grow up to become a very strong Middle Linebacker. He will be good vs. the run and might not have the athleticism to drop into pass coverage; only time will tell!

Again, thank you to each and everyone of you.

Greg Barton