

Bits and Pieces

Edition 6
June 10, 2008
Greg Barton

First, a big congratulation to Mark Evans and Taylor Barton for the job they have done with the website. Every time I get on the site, it seems like they have added another great feature. They have lots of great ideas to make the Barton Academy better, so stay tuned; it will be exciting in the months to come.

2008 Marketing Workout

The 2008 Marketing Workout that was held on May 10, 2008 was another big success. I really enjoy being a part of this event. It is fun seeing so many great young athletes from all over the Northwest giving it all they have. I am proud of all the players that attended this event. The talent level in the Northwest continues to improve year-after-year. Players also came from California, Utah, Idaho, Vancouver (Canada) and Calgary (Canada).

We always want to acknowledge Mark Speckman, the Head Football Coach at Willamette University. Coach Speckman goes out of his way to make the Barton Football Academy feel welcome. Willamette University, located in Salem, Oregon is perfect for this event. They have a great stadium and lots of seating.

Lots of college coaches showed up to watch the day-long workout and I understand many of the players from the camp have received letters and/or emails from many of the schools. I have received lots of emails and phone calls from coaches who attended the event. Almost to the coach, they said favorable comments about the players, the facility, and the coaching staff.

Taylor Barton did a great job in putting together a great coaching staff. Taylor made sure he had excellent coaches from both Washington and Oregon.

I sure wish I could have had events like this when I was a young quarterback growing up in Long Beach, California. I enjoy watching so many of the players from different schools becoming friends and so many sticking around after to watch other players compete. What a great time to be growing up; much different than when I was coming up.

I also had fun talking to the many high school coaches that showed up to watch their players. This time of the year is great to see the coaches as there is no pressure, it is the off-season and everyone is upbeat and enjoying the moment. I wish I had a dollar for every time I heard a coach say, “Boy I wish I had that kid!”

Spring Camp at the University of Washington

What a great opportunity kids from the Northwest have today. In the Spring Barton Camps at the University of Washington, players worked out in the beautiful indoor Dempsey Center and outdoors in Husky Stadium and on the practice field located right next to the stadium. All three of the fields have a field turf surface.

The camp was excellent and the kids worked hard. Again we had a tremendous coaching staff and they pushed the players for the entire camp. I saw lots of improvement over the three Sundays.

For the first time Taylor invited the young players to camp. By young, I mean “young”. Young like 2nd through 5th graders. The “rookies” did a nice job. They worked hard and learned a little more about the game.

Mitch Mathews Gets His First Offer

It's about time!!!! The Barton Football Academy coaches have been shaking their heads every weekend saying, "When is someone out there going to offer Mitch Mathews?" Mitch contacted Taylor Barton and I today letting us know that UNLV had offered him a football scholarship. The 6'5 and 195 pound wide receiver from Southridge High School in Beaverton, Oregon is a tremendous athlete. Mitch has been training with the Barton Academy for 5 years.

His older brother received a football scholarship last spring from Brigham Young University as a wide receiver. Marcus Mathews is a great kid, a very dedicated athlete. He has been one of our hardest workers over the years. Marcus is now on his Mormon Mission. He will have 5 years to get his 4 in when he returns from his mission.

Mitch was fired up today when he called. He is a class person from a class family. He thanked Taylor and me for helping him over the years and he was very sincere. He sure didn't have to contact us, but Taylor and I thank him for thinking of us.

Taylor and I have great memories of the entire Mathews family. We will hopefully be working with Mitch a little this summer. He will be one of the top players in the state of Oregon this fall. I understand he is attending Junior Day this weekend at Brigham Young University. Will he walk away with another offer? I am betting that Mitch will have offer number two a week from now.

Mitch is an outstanding student and a great young man.

Jake Heaps Just Keeps Ticking

Jake just keeps getting more offers. The junior to be quarterback from Skyline High School is doing quite well for himself this spring. Let's see if I can remember off the top of my head; I believe he has football scholarship offers from the

following: Arizona State, Brigham Young, Minnesota, Oregon State, South Carolina, Stanford, UCLA, Washington, Washington State and Boise State. Not to bad for a guy that has not finished his sophomore year of high school yet.

So how is Jake handling all of this? I believe he is doing a remarkable job in not letting all of this go to his head. For such a young kid, his ability to stay mature throughout the process and to be humble is amazing to me. I am really proud of all the offers he has received, but truthfully I am even more proud of the way he is handling this situation. I must pat his parents on the back. Jake is hearing the right things on the home front.

I'll end this story by talking about two things; first has anyone else besides me, been amazed that Steve Spurrier has moved into the Northwest? Hey guys, wake up! Yes, Steve Spurrier, the Head Coach from the University of South Carolina. You remember Steve Spurrier; he's the Heisman Trophy winner as a quarterback from the University of Florida; he was a quarterback in the NFL; he was one of the top college coaches in the country at the University of Florida (where he won a National Championship), then he moved on for the big money with the Washington Redskins. After he left the NFL, he was hired by the University of South Carolina and he is now close to turning the Gamecock's into national powerhouse. So why is Steve Spurrier, the "Ball Coach" hanging around the Northwest? Truthfully he does not like the rain or the Northwest. He only likes one thing about this area; Jake Heaps.

The second thing is Jake Heaps will be receiving another big-time offer in the very near future. I talked to a very prominent coach today and I am convinced that he will be contacting Jake soon with an offer.

Charles Siddoway is Also Bringing the Offers in

One of the best linemen on both sides of the ball in the Northwest is Charles Siddoway from Marist High School in Eugene, Oregon. Charles is just a little guy; he is close to 6'7 and weighs in around 320 pounds.

Charles has offers from Boise State, Oregon, Washington, Oregon State, UCLA and California.

Charles has attended the Barton Lineman Camps for two years and he is always one of the hardest workers. Charles is a good student and a great young man.

Barton Football Academy

Make sure to go to the Barton site (www.bartontraining.com) to learn more about the summer camps that will be held in both Washington and Oregon. Summer camps include Youth Camps, Kicking and Punting Camps, Quarterback-Skill Camps, Offense-Defense Line Camps and Chalk Talks. In addition look into the popular Group Dynamic Training that Taylor Barton holds in Washington. You can register online for all of these camps.

In Oregon the Group Dynamic Training will be headed by Greg Barton. Please email Greg at: bartongrg@comcast.net to get information about these camps.

Our Best to Gino Simone

Gino Simone was injured in a car accident recently. The senior to be from Skyline High School is recovering nicely. The Barton Football Academy and football fans and friends from around the Northwest wish Gino a quick recovery.

Gino has a great future in front of him. He already has offers from Washington, Boise State, UNLV and Washington State. Without question, Gino is one of the top receivers in the entire

Northwest. Gino is a great kid and a terrific athlete. We wish him the best always.

With school just about out; now is the time for get organized for the summer. Guys, have a plan. What do you want to get better at? How are you going to do this? Have a plan. Go in and talk to your coaches about what they want you to improve on this summer. Again, have a plan. The Barton Football Academy wishes all of you the best and hope you have a great summer.

Greg Barton