



Mount Union Football



RAIDERS Newsletter

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9 Time Division III Football National Champions
1993, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006

APRIL 2007

Welcome to the first edition of a monthly newsletter that's all about the 9 time National Champions, Mount Union Purple Raider Football Team. In this edition, and the many to come, you will be kept up to date about everything that is Mount Union Football. Enjoy!

- Editor Chris Kappas

RAIDERS Finalize 2006 National Championship Ring Design

In late February, with the approval of Coach Kehres, the Raiders captains and seniors finalized the design for this past season's national championship ring. This being the ninth national championship won by the raiders, the seniors had a little difficulty finding a different look for the ring. Senior tight end Anthony Antonucci said, "It's tough finding a design that hasn't already been used on a previous ring. We had to look around and find a design that looked sweet and was original. This year we looked for the biggest one we could find."



There were a total of four different designs created, and with the help of the coaching staff and overall player input, the final design was chosen. The ring design (left), has the "RAIDERS" helmet logo in the middle surrounded by a football shape outlined in stones.

All of the players were fitted and placed their orders during the last week of February. The rings are expected to arrive in April or early May. ●

RAIDER bUDdiES

The Raider Buddy Program is a program designed and run by members of the Purple Raiders. This program allows members of the team to go into elementary schools, eat lunch, and go to recess with children in grades 1-5. The purpose is to be a positive influence in the child's life and to make sure they have a male role model that they can look up to. This program lets the children know that someone other than their families are there and care about them. The children involved are chosen by the school because they are seen as students who need help socially, behaviorally, academically, or even with issues at home. Each football player is assigned a child that he goes to see weekly. The professional supervisor of the program in the school, Gretchen Cox, stated that almost all of the children who have a raider buddy showed some type of improvement in behavior, grades, and most of all self-confidence. The program was started by Scott Campbell, a senior member of the 05' National Championship team. It is currently run by junior Jon Andrews who said, "I feel the program is very positive for the kids, but also for the players to gain appreciation for what they have, and gives them a drive to give something back to the community."

There are currently over 40 members of the team participating as Raider Buddies, and the future of the program looks promising. When asked about the success of the number of players participating in the program, Andrews said, "I think its great that we have so many guys participating, but the real success is the number of children's lives we're influencing." ●

Player Spotlight : Jon Andrews



- Junior
- Defensive End # 92
- **Varsity Letters:** 2
- **Hometown/High School:** North Canton/ Hoover High School
- **Major/Minor:** Business administration major with concentrations in Management and human resources and a minor in political science.
- **Activities:** Director and active member of the Raider Buddy Program
- **On the Football Program:** "The success that I have experienced as a part of this team has taught me many valuable lessons that will hopefully guide me to success in the business world and in life. This is a special place with many special people, and I'm thankful to be a part of it"

RAIDERS Begin Spring Practice

Preparations for the 2007 season have begun as the defending national champions took the field for their first spring practice on Friday March 16th. This is the third year that the Raiders have had spring practice, and it has proved to be an excellent opportunity for players to gain valuable experience and be evaluated by the coaches. Coach Vince Kehres said, "Spring practice is a very valuable teaching tool, it allows us to implement all of our offensive and defensive schemes, and get a lot of repetitions. By having sixteen practices in the off-season, there are a lot of opportunities for us coaches to evaluate the team, and for the players to improve."

As expected, the competition level has been extremely high during these practice sessions. The offense and defense have both shown flashes of dominance this spring and there has been a significant amount of time focused on special teams play.

On Saturday April 21st the Raiders will conclude their spring practice sessions under the lights of Mount Union Stadium. The practice is open to the public, and all Raider alumni are encouraged to come to back to campus for a preview of the 2007 team that will be looking for their third straight national championship. ●

Three Raiders Earn Academic All-America Honors



Safran



Blanchard



Micheli

Three players were named to the 2005-06 ESPN The Magazine All District 4 Academic Team. Junior/center Eric Safran was named 1st team All-District 4 while junior/guard Derek Blanchard and sophomore/quarterback-punter Greg Micheli were named to the second team All-District 4.

- Safran (3.7 GPA Business Administration Major) and Blanchard (3.5 GPA Physical Education Major) helped anchor the offensive line that carried the raiders to their second consecutive and ninth overall national championship.
- Micheli (3.8 GPA Undecided Major) led the Raiders in the 2006 National Championship game, going 18 for 22 with 3 touchdowns and rushing for another, earning him the game MVP honors.

All three players will be returning next season to help lead the charge as the Raiders push for their 10th national championship.

The Raider Newsletter is written and distributed by players and coaches of the Mount Union Football Team. If you know other people that would like to receive a copy of the newsletter, please contact Coach Vince Kehres by email at Kehresvg@muc.edu. This newsletter is written by Chris Kappas, any comments or questions can be forwarded to him at Kappascw@muc.edu