RAIDERS PLAYER Q&A

ANTON GRAHAM + P. 8

DAN KANT-HULL +P. 11

## SECOND FAMILY THE RACINE RAIDERS ARE A SECOND FAMILY FOR

THE RACINE RAIDERS ARE A SECOND FAMILY FOR CURT BARNES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AMANDA PUTZER. + P. 9

# JUNE 3, 2023 | FREE BONUS! SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT BIOS + P. 13

## MAKING QB'S TAKE THE L

NICK "BONES" JONES IS STRONGER AND BACK TO DANCE BUT CHERISHES HIS ROLE AS A SINGLE FATHER MOST

BY DON WADEWITZ + P. 4





#### 2023 SCHEDULE

	i	1
May 13	Baltimore Lightning *	W, 2-0
May 20	Capital City Seahawks *	W, 23-0
May 27	Memorial Day Bye	
June 3	St. Paul Pioneers *	7 PM
June 10	@ Cin City Buccaneers *	6 PM
June 17	@ Indy Bison *	6 PM
June 24	TBD	7 PM
July 1	River City Rough Riders *	7 PM
July 8	Chicago Falcons	7 PM
July 15	Motor City Rams *	7 PM
July 22	@ St. Paul Pioneers *	6 PM
July 29	Charity Golf Outing	
August 5	TBD	7 PM
August 12	GDFL Playoffs 1st Round	TBD
August 19	GDFL Quarterfinals	TBD
August 26	GDFL Semifinals	TBD
Sept. 3	GDFL Championship	TBD

**TONIGHT'S GUESTS** 

HONORARY CAPTAIN

Kim Stuebe D.W. Davies & Co.

NATIONAL ANTHEM Jessi Kolberg

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All home games played at Historic Horlick Athletic Field All times listed are Central Time

\* - Gridiron Developmental Football League (GDFL) game



#### RAIDERS LOOK TO DITCH PIONEERS

The Racine Raiders are coming off of a sloppy win over the Capital City Seahawks two weeks ago. The win made them 2-0 in games that count for the Gridiron Developmental Football League (GDFL) standings. The teams combined for more penalty yards than total yards of offense in the game but the Raiders were able to establish enough of a running game and play well on defense and special teams to pull out the win.

Meanwhile, the St. Paul Pioneers (1-2) are coming off of a convincing shutout win over the Newton Nitehawks two weeks ago. The Pioneers had a rough start to the season losing to the Omaha Stockmen, 34-20, on April 22 and then falling, for the first time ever, at the hands of the River City Rough Riders, 19-2, the following week. The Pioneers suffered some early season injuries but have had some time to heal and are looking at making a run coming off the win over the Nitehawks.

The Pioneers offense was led by tight end turned quarterback Matt Thayer who passed for four touchdowns against Newton on 13-of-19 passing with 268 yards. Thayer connected with four different receivers in his debut at quarterback.

The Raiders were led by running back Howard Triplett who rushed for over 100 yards and two touchdowns in the Raiders win over the Capital City Seahawks two weeks ago. The passing attack, which many have great expectations about, was non-existent for Racine. Joe Garcia had two big punt returns in the game, the first that set up Triplett's first touchdown run. The Raiders kicking game shined bright as well as Alex Gonzalez connected on all three extra points and made a field goal that was negated by a Seahawks penalty and rookie punter Brady Wodack averaged 44 yards per punt.

The Raiders head on the road for two weeks after tonight's game against teams that are easily beating their competition this season and need to have a polished game against St. Paul.



#### PLAYER PROFILE: NICK "BONES" JONES

Nick "Bones" Jones is in his fourth season with the Racine Raiders after playing for a handful of Chicagoarea semi-pro teams early in his career.

"I played for the Northern Illinois Cowboys, and guess who my first game was against?," he thinks back. "The Racine Raiders and those guys were big."

Jones says he doesn't see himself playing for any other team in the future despite his longer commute from Illinois to play here.

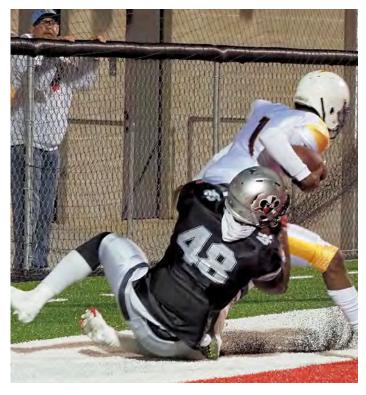
"I feel like the Raiders put the 'pro' in semi-pro," Jones says.

Jones got his "Bones" nickname in high school and the name comes from MMA fighter Jon Jones. Meanwhile, his signature "Take the L" sack dance comes from the video game Fortnite, which Jones used to be big into and play every day.

"I was playing for the Chicago Chaos and was playing it before the game and said, 'Hey, if I get a sack today, I'm going to do this," Jones recollects. "I got a sack and I did it and I still have the picture of it."

He has standards for the sack dance. Two weeks ago when Gage Zahradnik and him combined for a sack, there was no dance because Jones will only do it on solo sacks. Zahradnik actually did the "Take the L" dance on a sack last year, but was it authorized by the rights holder?

"I told him to do it," exclaims Jones. "He got a sack and



he got up and was walking away and I said, 'Hey, Take the L. Take the L!"

Jones is most proud of his role as a single father to two young boys.

"Wednesdays are tough on me because I'm not getting home until 10:30 pm or 11 pm," says Jones. "That's hard being a single dad and being away from your kids that long hurts me a little bit."

Jones was ready to hang it up last year but came back for one final run. He started bodybuilding and is even stronger for his final season and says teams need to watch out.



## GO RAIDERS!



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#### GAME ROSTER

	LACT NAME	FIDET NAME	ШТ	WT	DOC	CCHOOL
#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	HT	WT 6' 6"	POS	SCHOOL
0	Foster	Jashon	WR	6' 2"	231	Coahoma Community College
	Locke, Sr.	Andre	QB LB	6' 0"	175 228	Upper Iowa University
	Benko	Justin		5' 9"		North Park University
	Lewis	Robert	DB	6' 2"	175	Boise State University
	Garcia III	Joe	QB	6' 2"	190	Highland Community College
	Payne	Jordan T	WR	5' 11"	235	Alcorn State University
	Benko	Tom	RB DB	6' 1"	230 220	Carthage College
	Hardy	J.D.		5' 10"		Waukegan HS
	Azor	Stanley	DB	6' 2"	185	Carthage College
	Farr	Mitch	QB	5' 11"	185	Central Methodist University
	Schick	Sawyer	QB LB	6' 3"	210 250	UW La Crosse
	Young, Jr.	Gary	Р	5' 11"	170	Bemidji State University
	Wodack	Brady		6' 1"	170	St. Norbert College
	Fitch	Terrance	WR	6' 0"	180	UW Whitewater
	Schultz	Channing	DB DB	6' 3"	180	lowa Central Community College
	Manley	Dante	LB	5' 10"	225	Lake Zurich HS
	Gonzales	Jesus D:Lb	WR	6' 0"	192	lowa Central Community College Simeon HS
	Davis	Bibby	DB	6' 3"	205	
	Davis	Jay Airrion	LB	6' 4"	216	Bradley Tech HS Bloom HS
	lvy Rewolinski		TE	6' I"	205	Union Grove HS
		Alex	RB	5' 6"	195	Harper College
	Kennedy	Gregory	DB	5'	170	UW Parkside
	Danowski	Jordan Jaylon	RB	5'11"	170	UW Whitewater
	Edmonson Smith		DB	5' 10"	170	Carroll University
	Ruffin	Daquan Torie	LB	6' 2"	225	
	Lemke	Niko	DL	6' 2"	240	Concordia University Wisconsin UW Whitewater
	White	Sean	RB	5' 7"	165	UW Parkside
	Scott II		DB	5' 10"	170	UW Oshkosh
	Triplett	Jerome Howard	RB	6' I"	215	Warren Township
	Herron	Rashawn	RB	5' 10"	230	Bradley Tech HS
	Gonzalez	Alex	K	5' 10"	205	UW Parkside
	McGee	DaMeon	LB	5' 9"	220	Washington Park HS
	Graham	Anton	DE	6' 3"	250	UW Whitewater
46	Vann	DeonTay	TE	6' 2"	245	UW Oshkosh
	Flores	Rico	TE	6' 3"	225	U.S. Marines
	ones	Nick	DL	6' 2"	240	Grant HS
	Harris	Conner	OL OL	6' 0"	285	Gateway Technical College
	Bester II	Gerald	DB	6' 1"	265	UW Oshkosh
	Nelson	Matt	OL OL	6' 0"	290	UW Parkside
	Dundy	Antonio	DL	6' 0"	295	Minnesota State University-Moorhead
	Zimmerman	lacob	OL OL	6' 2"	280	Wisconsin Lutheran College
	Tate	Isaiah	LB	6' 0"	205	Millikin University
	Gwin	Caleb	OL OL	5' 10"	300	University of North Dakota
	Gails	Ryan	OL OL	5' 11"	295	Ripon College
	Carey	Shanault	OL OL	6' 3"	295	Fenger HS
	Spalek	Scott	0L	6' 0"	300	Glenbrook South HS
	Seidler	Travis	OL OL	6' 2"	305	Wisconsin Lutheran College
	Mosley	Brian	WR	6' 3"	195	Southwest Baptist University
	ames	Darrell	WR	6' 0"	220	Southern Illinois University
	Norwood	Will	WR	6' 2"	210	Ohio University
	Nelson	Nick	TE	6' 3"	235	St. Norbert College
	Flores	Dillon	TE	6' 4"	269	U.S. Army
	Kant-Hull	Dan	TE	6' 3"	285	Carroll University
	Morris	DeAngelo	DL	6' 4"	338	Carver Military Academy
	Imel	Brandon	DL	6' 2"	305	Rockford University
	Goodwin	Armani	DL	6' 0"	330	.l. Case HS
	Parker	Najee	DL	5' 10"	310	Rochester Community & Technical College
	Zahradnik	Gage	DL	6' 3"	290	Ripon College



## GAME ROSTER

-#	LACT NAME	I FIRST NAME	ı iit i	\A/T I	DOC	CHOOL SCHOOL
<u>#</u>	LAST NAME GAILLARD	I FIRST NAME  Malik	HT QB	WT 5' 10"	POS 210	North Dakota State College of Science
3	BROWN	Tre	DB	5' 9"	186	Fridley HS
4	SICKLER	Matthew	QB	6' 0"	215	Valley City State
5	MILES	<u>  .T.                                  </u>	DB	5' 10"	190	Northwest Oklahoma State University
6	WARE	Dominic	DB LB/DL	5' 10" 5' 11"	175 220	Southwest Minnesota State University
10	GUYSOM BAGGETT	Anthony	WR	5' 9"	165	Harding HS
İİ	IOHNSON	la'Vonte	l OB	6' 1"	185	University of Minnesota-Morris Harding HS New Iberia HS
12	WIESE	Alex	QB	5'	160	IBethel University
14	STEVENSON	Desmond	DB/LB	5' 11"	230	Alcorn State University
15	HALL Griffin	Robert Travis	WR/DB WR	6' 1" 5' 10"	180 200	North Dakota State College of Science St. Paul Johnson HS
17	THEUS, IR.	Robert	I QB	6' I"	185	Chamblee HS
18	THAYER	Matt	QB/TE	5' 10"	260	University of Wisconsin-Stout
19	STEWART	Rodney	WR I	5' 10"	186	University of Minnesota-Crookston
20	SANDERS	Anthony	DB I	6' 1"	180	Richfield HS
21	JOHNSON, JR.	W00	DB	6'  "	195	North Dakota State College of Science
22	KALKWARF White	Cyrus Kwaawczar	RB RB	5' 10" 5' 10"	205 210	Rochester Community and Technical College Crete-Monee HS
24	NEAL	amus	LB	6' 1"	205	Minnesota State University
25	GANT	Rashawn	DB	5' 7"	155	Ridgewater HS
26	BROOKS	Dmarious	DB	6' 0"	180	Merc HS
27	SUBER	lavonte	WR	5' 10"	166	St. Cloud State University
28 29	WOODS EZIN	Marcus  Henrich	DB	5'   " 6'  "	170 185	Rochester Community and Technical College
30	KEENAN	Trey	DB	5' 10"	185	Wayzata HS Park HS
31	PEARSON	lay	LB I	5' 9"	201	ISt Paul Arlington HS
32	KILGORE	LaDra	FB	5' 10"	203	Fond Lac Tribal Apple Valley HS New Richland HS
33	BRAZELL	Herschell	RB	6' 1"	215	Apple Valley HS
34 35	KRAUSE WILLIAMS	Nate  Frank	RB DB	5' 11"	185 180	New Kichland HS   Elmhurst College
36	SPAFFORD	Charles	I ИВ I	5' 9"	170	River Falls HS
37	LUKE	Hilaire	DB	6' 1"	200	Richfield HS
40	BUCHMAN	Brad	LB I	5' 10" 5' 8"	215	Andover HS
41	DUBOSE	<u>l</u> effery	RB	5' 8"	190	Gustavus Adolphus
44	SAUMUR	Ryan	LB	6' 4"	245	Minnesota State-Mankato University
45 50	GALLEGOS Miller-Alexander	Oswaldo Ilohnnie	OL	5' 11" 6' 8"	170 315	University of Alabama-Birmingham Ridgewater College
51	SMITH	Daniel	LB	6' 0"	235	Forest Lake HS
52	NOSUN	Shannon	ÖL	5'	245	Minneapolis Roosevelt HS
56	HUSNIK	lacob	OL	6' 4"	275	Henry Sibley HS
57	LEWIS	Rodney	LB	6'  "	225	St. Thomas University
59 60	REED Anderson	llack Trent	LS DL	6' 3" 6' 0"	220 340	Hamline University Superior HS
	ROATCH	Anthony	OL I	5' 7"	240	Spooner HS
65	OWENS	Andre	DL DL	5' 10"	245	Park Center HS
66	EVANS	Kahjuan	DL	6' 0"	275	Minnesapolis North HS
	BELL	Delvon	DB/LB	5' 9"	205	Pequot Lakes HS
68	MELEI Minus	Tuvalu  Anthony	0L     0L	6' 5" 6' 5"	440 295	College of the Desert Southwest Minnesota State University
72	UGEL	George	DL	6' 2"	365	University of Wisconsin-River Falls
73	FIELDS	Phillip	DL I	6' 3"	233	Arlington Senior HS
75	FIELDS Buxton	Kevin	OL	6' 2"	356	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
	SLEDGE	Tyrell	OL	6' 5"	300	Ridgewater College
	CLARK	Cameron	OL WR	6' 2" 6' 1"	290 295	Augustana University Blaine HS
80	SMITH Terry-thomas	Anthony Iontiere	WR WR	6' 2"	175	McEachern HS
81	OTO2	Nate	TE	6' 3"	215	Fridley HS
82	HENRY	Harden	WR I	6' 2"	225	Duluth Central HS
83	DELCAMBRE	Landon	WR	5' 7"	175	Robbinsdale Cooper HS
84 85	FRANCIS JACOBSOM	Mason	WR WR	5' 10" 5' 10"	200 170	Connections Academy
86	BETHKE	Andre Dustin	ı VVK	5' II"	185	Rochester Community and Technical College Concordia University-St. Paul
87	STARIN	Czandlar	WR	6' 0"	170	Augsburg University
88	KING	Cameo	TE	6' 4"	235	University of North Dakota
91	WAHLO	Cornelius	DL	6'  "	327	North Dakota State College of Science
93	MURDOCK	Brandon	DL	6' 2"	260	Richfield HS
94 95	BARBER Caples	Reginald Mike	DL OL/DL	5' 10" 6' 2"	252 370	Arlington HS North Dakota State College of Science
96	WINSTON	Terrance	DL DL	6' I"	370	Minnesota State University
98	BYSE	Daniel	DL	6' 1"	250	Southwest State University
99	PAYNE	Tony	DE	6' 2"	250	Central Lakes Community College

RAIDER REPORT 7 June 3, 2023



### PLAYER Q&A



## ANTON GRAHAM DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

**CURRENT JOB(S):** Head Football Coach and Freshman Advocate at Case High School; Owner/Founder at Anything Goes Training

**STARTED WITH THE RAIDERS: 2017** 

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Chicken Wings and Tacos

**FAVORITE BEVERAGE:** Charged Lemonades

FAVORITE PLAYER ON TEAM OTHER THAN YOURSELF: Joe Garcia and Nick Jones

FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL: Math

**FAVORITE TELEVISION/STREAMING SHOW:** Fresh Prince of Bel Aire

#### **FAVORITE RAIDERS MOMENT/MEMORY:**

Our comeback win against M3 in the MSFL championship game in 2019. Still mad that we didn't go on to win the national championship that year but that game against M3 was a classic!

#### **VOLUNTEER PROFILE: AMANDA PUTZER**



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Amanda Putzer has volunteered with the Racine Raiders for nearly 20 seasons.

"The Raiders have been my second family for almost 20 years," she says. "I love it - the feeling of the fans, the announcers, the lights, the wins, the losses - it's just so invigorating to know I'm a small part of that."

Last year, Amanda was named the Curt Barnes Memorial Volunteer of the Year for her efforts which included managing a new digital ticketing system on gamedays.

"This award meant the world to me," she says. "Curt Barnes and I were friends and he was always there to guide me and to teach me."

"He showed me what truly being a part of this community meant," she reminisces. "He gave his heart to this city in many ways and to be honored with an award in his name for being a volunteer was beyond amazing."

Amanda loves her role in the ticket office where she runs a team of six-to-eight people every home game, gets the ticket booth set up, and works through the logistical challenges that come with running a ticket office.

"I have the first interactions with our fans," she told us. "Our team in the ticket booth gets to set the tone for what they see and how they view our organization."

The Raiders have truly been another family for Amanda and she remembers back to 16 years ago when she was pregnant as a favorite memory.

"I was super pregnant and would waddle up to the stands every Saturday (I didnt volunteer that summer)," she recalls. "Wilbert Kennedy's mom would watch for me and every time she saw me would just shake her head and say, 'You haven't had that baby yet?"

"This went on for weeks and finally I wasn't there one Saturday and she knew," she continued. "Her and another woman, one of the coach's wives, had a gift waiting when I returned. We are family."





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### PLAYER Q&A



DAN KANT HULL TIGHT END

**CURRENT JOB(S):** Sports Scientist with

**Catapult Sports** 

**STARTED WITH THE RAIDERS: 2016** 

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Free food. **FAVORITE BEVERAGE:** RC Cola

**FAVORITE PLAYER ON TEAM OTHER THAN** 

**YOURSELF:** The entire offensive line

**FAVORITE TELEVISION/STREAMING SHOW:** 

Family Guy

FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL: Gym & Math

PREGAME SUPERSTITION OR ACTIVITY:

Warming up...because I'm old

**FAVORITE FOOTBALL MOMENT/MEMORY:** Winning the 2019 MidStates Football League championship

"Making Life a Little Better"



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#### JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Are you a former player, coach, volunteer, or board member of the Racine Raiders or Racine Gladiators? Whether you played one down or volunteered for one game, you can join the Racine Raiders Alumni Association!

The Alumni Association was started by Mr. Raider, Bob Milkie, in 1991 following his retirement after 35 years as a player and coach with the team. The Alumni Association now boasts almost 200 members, many of whom make the trek back to Racine to celebrate the seven-decade tradition that is Racine Gladiators and Raiders football.

The Alumni Association is a great way to stay connected with former teammates and friends and reminisce about the "good ol' days" or to debate what national championship team was the best in Racine history.

Alumni Association members receive free admission to every home game, entry into Alumni Night and a special tailgate party, and on-field recognition at halftime of the annual Alumni Night game. New in 2023, Alumni Association members also receive free access to the livestream of every Racine Raiders game through our partners at HomeTeam Live! The Racine Raiders and Alumni Association are exploring additional benefits for the future as well.

The Racine Raiders and the Alumni Association have kept the cost very reasonable. A one year membership costs just \$20. A lifetime membership is just \$120. Make sure you join today to help keep the legacy of semi-pro football in Racine alive and well!

Contact Matt Nelson at (262) 498-3163 or mnelson@racineraiders.org to join!



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## RAIDERS ANNOUNCE 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Tonight, the Raiders are pleased to announce the 2023 Raiders Scholarship Winners. This year, 46 applications were received and it was not an easy task for the scholarship committee to pick out only four from so many talented academic athletes.

**NOAH FERGUSON** (Case High School) - Awarded the Gary Suhr Memorial Scholarship. Noah was a three-year varsity starter in football for the Eagles and was named to the First Team All-Southeast Conference and Second Team All-County team. He will be attending UW-La Crosse and working toward a major in Criminal Justice.

**GRACE SCHMITZ** (Case High School) - Awarded the Jean Mooney Memorial Scholarship. Grace played varsity soccer three of her four years at Case, missing out her freshman year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This Case Eagle will become a Golden Eagle as she heads up to Marquette University to pursue a degree in business and public health.

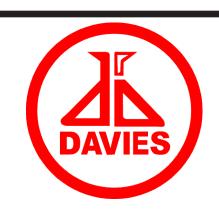
**ISABELLA LICHTER** (Union Grove High School) - Awarded the Len Ziolkowski Memorial Scholarship. Isabella was a varsity cheerleader all of four years at Union Grove. She was also involved in competition cheerleading with her team coming in second at the state competition which she described as an amazing time of hard work, perseverance, and dedication.

**RABEKA LIBERTO** (Burlington High School) - Awarded the Herb Hoppe Memorial Scholarship. Rabeka's involvement in 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) opened a path for her to UW-Platteville where she will study Agribusiness with a minor in Communications and Marketing. As a freshman at BHS, she joinedthe Burlington Co-op swim team. In her senior year, she swam on the varsity swim team and was selected as a team captain by her teammates.

The scholarships are open to graduating seniors from the eleven Racine County high schools. Applicants must be involved in athletics in one form or another as a member of a team sport, cheer team, team manager, or volunteer coach or official for a youth sports organization. They are also evaluated on academic performance, activities in and out of school, and involvement in volunteering in the community. The four finalists will receive a one-time \$500 scholarship to be used for their post-high school education.

Information regarding the scholarship process for the graduating class of 2024 will be available to students in their school's guidance office in late-January 2024.

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