

RAIDERS PLAYER Q&A  
ARMANI GOODWIN +P.8  
SCOTT SPALEK +P.11

**FAMILIAR STORY**  
STACEY ELLIS WENT FROM THE STANDS AS A FAN FOR 40 YEARS TO THE SIDELINES AS A VOLUNTEER. +P.9

# Raider Report



JUNE 24, 2023 | FREE



## NOT JUST FOR KICKS



**ALEX GONZALEZ HAS A GOAL OF NOT MISSING A KICK THIS SEASON**

PHOTO: Scott Olsen

BY DON WADEWITZ + P. 4

# 2023 SCHEDULE



## TONIGHT'S GUESTS

### HONORARY CAPTAIN

Brannan Hood  
President/CEO  
MCU

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

Laura Shapovalov

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 *	W, 34-0
June 10	@ Cin City Buccaneers *	W, 35-11
June 17	@ Indy Bison *	W, 24-0
June 24	Illinois Cowboys	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

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All times listed are Central Time

\* - Gridiron Developmental Football League (GDFL) game





## RAIDERS FACE THIRD STRAIGHT UNBEATEN OPPONENT

It's another week and another unbeaten opponent staring down the Racine Raiders. After dispatching the Cin City Buccaneers and Indy Bison on the road in back-to-back weeks, the Raiders return home to face the Illinois Cowboys (7-0). The Cowboys are one of two unbeaten teams in the Northern Lights Football League. The other? The Raiders opponent next week, the River City Rough Riders.

The Raiders defense has allowed just 11 points in four games played on the field and haven't allowed a point in the second half of any game this season. They face a familiar foe in the Cowboys, who were previously members of the MidStates Football League. Like the Raiders, the Cowboys have a lot of new faces with many teams south of the state border folding up shop in the offseason.

While astute Raiders fans will notice multiple-time MSFL most valuable player Tony Powell on the roster, he hasn't been the actual quarterback for the Cowboys. Instead, semi-pro veteran Rance Hughes has been the signal caller and he currently leads the NLFL in passing yards (731) and is second in touchdown passes (8).

The Cowboys have two of the top four rushers in the league as well. Devon Sanders is third in the league with 430 yards on the ground while Devion Hodges is fourth with 318 yards. Hodges leads the league in rushing yards per game with 106. Sanders and Hodges each have scored four touchdowns.

With Hughes leading the league in passing yards, his favorite target, Deonta Stevens, also leads the league in receiving yards with 379 and is third with four touchdown receptions. Marlon Martin has added three touchdown catches of his own.

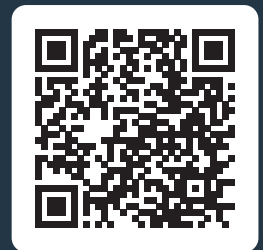
The Cowboys defense is good as well. Defensive back Reginald Haynes has eight interceptions to lead the league and defensive lineman Vonte Smith has a league-leading ten sacks. Defensive back Corey Dalton has three interceptions and defensive lineman Evan Pegues has five sacks for a team that's allowed 48 points this season.

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# PLAYER PROFILE: ALEX GONZALEZ



Racine Raiders third-year kicker Alex Gonzalez was a late-bloomer when it came to sports.

“I feel like I was really just not interested,” says Gonzalez. “I was always athletic but I didn’t go out of my way to ask my parents if I could play for a team.”

Gonzalez picked up soccer first because he saw a lot of family playing the sport. He gave football a try as an eighth-grader at Mitchell Middle School.

“They had a middle school league and I was the kicker for that team,” he remembers. “It was something that I knew how to do and I liked it.”

Gonzalez says he didn’t continue football after that year until his senior year of high school when he played soccer and football at the same time. Injuries derailed his opportunities, however.

Gonzalez is mostly self-taught when it comes to kicking picking up a lot of tips from YouTube. Raiders athletic trainer Christian Venegas has connected him with an expert and he got to learn alongside former Raiders kicker T.J. Hearn as well.

Gonzalez says he enjoys doing things that reflect his values, including being in college, raising a daughter, and kicking for the Raiders.

“I feel my values tie into all of these in regards to wanting to improve and develop as a person, as an athlete, as a father, as a leader,” reflects Gonzalez. “I feel like why not take on this responsibility because I can do it pretty well and see if I can excel in it.”

Gonzalez now has a regular kicking routine he does three to four times during the week and has set a high goal for himself on the field.

“I don’t want to miss a point,” he told us. “You never know if it comes down to it if my kick is the deciding factor for the game, I need to not fail and that’s one of my goals is to not fail one of my kicks.”

Gonzalez could see himself kicking for the Raiders for awhile.

“I can honestly see myself playing football and kicking for the Raiders for a very long time,” Gonzalez says. “It’s a nice community, a good team, and not something that’s going to tax my body too much.”

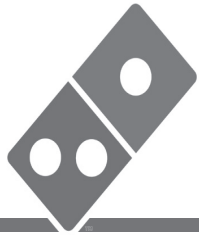




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# GAME ROSTER

#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	HT	WT	POS	SCHOOL
0	Foster	Jashon	WR	6' 6"	231	Coahoma Community College
1	Locke, Sr.	Andre	QB	6' 2"	175	Upper Iowa University
2	Benko	Justin	LB	6' 0"	228	North Park University
3	Lewis	Robert	DB	5' 9"	175	Boise State University
4	Garcia	Joe	QB	6' 2"	190	Highland Community College
5	Payne	Jordan	WR	6' 2"	235	Alcorn State University
6	Benko	Tom	RB	5' 11"	230	Carthage College
7	Hardy	J.D.	DB	6' 1"	220	Waukegan HS
9	Azor	Stanley	DB	5' 10"	185	Carthage College
12	Farr	Mitch	QB	6' 2"	185	Central Methodist University
13	McKinney II	Antoine	QB	5' 11"	214	Gallaudet University
14	Schick	Sawyer	QB	5' 11"	210	UW La Crosse
15	Young, Jr.	Gary	LB	6' 3"	250	Bemidji State University
16	Wodack	Brady	P	5' 11"	170	St. Norbert College
17	Fitch	Terrance	WR	6' 1"	190	UW Whitewater
18	Schultz	Channing	DB	6' 0"	180	Iowa Central Community College
20	Gonzales	Chuey	LB	5' 10"	225	William Horlick HS
21	Davis	Bibby	WR	6' 0"	192	Simeon HS
22	Davis	Jay	DB	6' 3"	205	Bradley Tech HS
24	Rewolinski	Alex	TE	6' 1"	205	Union Grove HS
26	Danowski	Jordan	DB	5' 11"	170	UW Parkside
29	Smith	Daquan	DB	5' 10"	170	Carroll University
30	Ruffin	Torie	LB	6' 2"	260	Concordia University Wisconsin
31	Lemke	Niko	DL	6' 2"	240	UW Whitewater
32	White	Sean	RB	5' 7"	165	UW Parkside
33	Scott II	Jerome	DB	5' 10"	170	UW Oshkosh
34	Triplet	Howard	RB	6' 1"	215	Warren Township HS
36	Gonzalez	Alex	K	5' 10"	205	UW Parkside
37	Reyes	Ulises	LB	5' 11"	235	Carthage College
40	McGee	DaMeon	LB	5' 9"	220	Washington Park HS
41	Holloway	Marquan	DB	5' 11"	210	U.S. Navy
43	Graham	Anton	DE	6' 3"	250	UW Whitewater
45	Ivy	Aarion	LB	6' 4"	216	Bloom HS
46	Vann	DeonTay	TE	6' 2"	245	UW Oshkosh
47	Flores	Rico	TE	6' 3"	225	U.S. Marines
48	Jones	Nick	DL	6' 2"	240	Grant HS
50	Harris	Conner	OL	6' 0"	285	Gateway Technical College
52	Bester II	Gerald	DL	6' 1"	265	UW Oshkosh
54	Nelson	Matt	OL	6' 0"	290	UW Parkside
56	Dundy	Antonio	DL	6' 0"	295	Minnesota State University-Moorhead
57	Villegas	Matt	OL	6' 4"	250	Gustavus Adolphus College
58	Zimmerman	Jacob	OL	6' 2"	280	Wisconsin Lutheran College
59	Tate	Isaiah	LB	6' 0"	205	Millikin University
62	Gwin	Caleb	OL	5' 10"	300	Racine Lutheran HS
64	Gails	Ryan	OL	5' 11"	295	Ripon College
67	Carey	Shanault	OL	6' 3"	295	Fenger HS
70	Seidler	Travis	OL	6' 2"	305	Wisconsin Lutheran College
73	Day	Kaleb	DL	6' 2"	315	Minnesota West Comm. & Tech College
78	Thomas	Cordero	OL	6' 2"	310	
80	Mosley	Brian	WR	6' 3"	195	Southwest Baptist University
84	Norwood	Will	WR	6' 2"	210	Ohio University
85	Nelson	Nick	TE	6' 3"	235	St. Norbert College
86	Plaza	Elias	WR	6' 1"	233	Mary D. Bradford HS
87	Flores	Dillon	TE	6' 4"	269	U.S. Army
89	Kant-Hull	Dan	OL	6' 3"	285	Carroll University
91	Morris	DeAngelo	OL	6' 4"	338	Carver Military Academy
94	Imel	Brandon	DL	6' 2"	305	Rockford University
97	Goodwin	Armani	DL	6' 0"	330	J.I. Case HS
98	Parker	Najee	DL	5' 10"	310	Rochester Comm. & Tech. College
99	Zahradnik	Gage	DL	6' 3"	290	Ripon College
	Hicks	Chris	TE	6' 4"	290	Rochester Community and Technical College





# GAME ROSTER

#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	HT	WT	POS	SCHOOL
00	Allen	Tevin	RB			
0	Jackson	Artis	DB			
1	Hodges	Devion	RB			
2	Stevens	Deonta	WR			
3	Dalton	Corey	WR			
4	Moffett	Darius	LB			
5	Daniels	Maurice	DE			
6	Barksdale	Gregory	LB			
7	Miller	Kaylon	DB			
8	Sanders	Devon	RB			
9	Hughes	Rance	WR			
10	Winesberry	Shannon	LB			
11	Grace	Jalen	WR			
12	Moore	Jah	WR			
13	Martin	Marlos	WR			
14	Blackmon	Denzel	DB			
15	Smith	Vonte	DE			
16	Haynes	Reginald	DB			
17	King	Darrell	WR			
18	Treadway	Tre	WR			
19	Pegues	Evan	DE			
20	Holmes	Don	DL			
21	Davis	Dcaris	DB			
22	Hampton	Josuha	WR			
23	Conley	Deshon	DB			
24	Nunez	Luey	LB			
25	Terrell	Xavier	RB			
27	Anderson	Arnell	LB			
28	Patton	Kori	DL			
31	Purnell	Brandon	DB			
32	Gore	Moses	RB			
33	Canady	Keshawn	DB			
35	Odicho	Markos	K			
37	Fox	Darvell	DB			
40	Burchfield	Dante	DB			
41	Anderson	Jonathan	DE			
42	Moore	Kelly	DE			
43	Mcneil	Brian	DL			
51	Smith	Shannon	DL			
55	Turner	Elvin	LB			
56	Crosby	Darius	OL			
57	Foster	Stanford	DL			
58	Solebo	Brandon	DL			
59	Dora	Jalen	OL			
70	Haynes	Da'bearn	OL			
71	Haywood	Keith	OL			
73	Erby	Chris	OL			
75	Hearns	Xavier	OL			
77	Flanagan	Jeffrey	OL			
78	Walker	Deonta	OL			
80	Boldian	James	WR			
83	Miller	Dwayne	WR			
84	Osborne	Aaron	WR			
88	Pajak	Filip	WR			
89	Collins	Jordan	WR			
92	Rattler	Carlos	DL			
94	Clay	Willie	DL			
97	Sutton	Maurice	DL			
98	Sakal	Jake	DL			
99	Wills	Keajaun	DL			
98	Sock-ull	Jake	DL			
99	Wills	Keajuan	DL			



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# PLAYER Q&A



## **ARMANI GOODWIN** **DEFENSIVE LINEMAN**

**CURRENT JOB(S):** Sales Associate at Champs Sports

**STARTED WITH THE RAIDERS:** 2018

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Goat Curry

**FAVORITE BEVERAGE:** Tropical Body Armor

**FAVORITE PLAYER ON TEAM OTHER THAN YOURSELF:** My whole defensive line brothers

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL:** Gym

**FAVORITE TELEVISION/STREAMING SHOW:** 85 South

**FAVORITE RAIDERS MOMENT/MEMORY:** Winning the MSFL championship in 2019



# VOLUNTEER PROFILE: STACEY ELLIS



Stacey Ellis is like many Racine Raiders volunteers. He got a taste for the team as a fan and, at some point, the call to serve a greater purpose took him from the stands to the sidelines.

“I watched them play for 40-some years,” says Ellis. I had some free time now so I figured I’d finally start helping them out.”

Ellis joined the Raiders as a volunteer last year and made an immediate impact. He was one of two first-year volunteers to receive a volunteer of the year award from the organization.

Ellis says he enjoyed winning the award but also offered a challenge.

“I wish more people would volunteer,” Ellis says. “It’s not a lot of hours but it would really help out the whole team as we’re a little short-handed right now and it would be nice to have some more volunteers!”

Ellis says he spends about 8-10 hours a week with the Raiders and enjoys helping the players and getting a different view of all the fans that come to Racine Raiders games.

“I’ve been to other fields with other teams and they don’t have many fans like we do,” states Ellis.

Ellis says over 40 years of being a fan and over a year of being a volunteer, the crowds at Raiders games are what stands out to him most.

“The crowds here is very enjoyable,” he says. “Seeing the amount of people from Racine that come and support the Raiders.”

Ellis helps to take care of the equipment and water, sets up tables, tents, and a variety of other things to help out with operations.

“We’re like a family,” says Ellis. “It’s fun and people should think about joining.”



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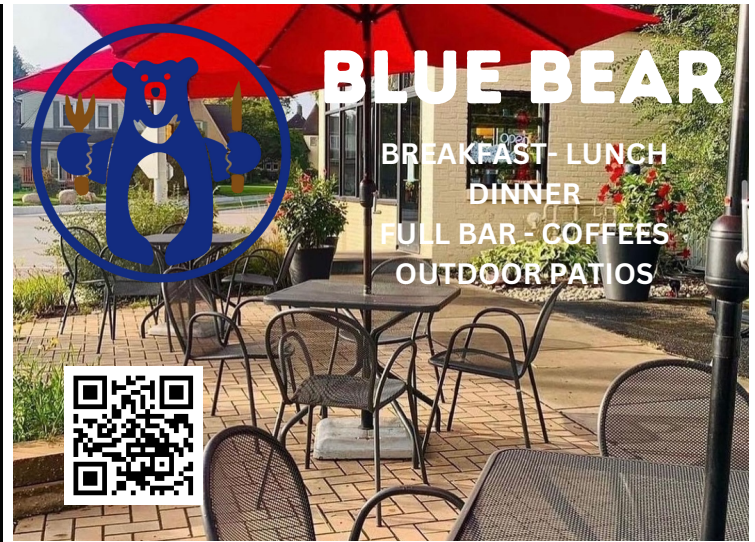
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# PLAYER Q&A



**SCOTT SPALEK**  
OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

**CURRENT JOB(S):** Owner, As Good As Gone Junk Removal

**STARTED WITH THE RAIDERS:** 2023

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Mushroom Soup

**FAVORITE BEVERAGE:** Coconut Water

**FAVORITE PLAYER ON TEAM OTHER THAN YOURSELF:** Ryan Gails

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL:** Horticulture

**FAVORITE TELEVISION/STREAMING SHOW:** Vikings

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL:** Gym & Math

**PREGAME SUPERSTITION OR ACTIVITY:** Tape all my fingers

**FAVORITE RAIDERS MOMENT:** Winning the grand prize at the Spring Fling raffle

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Scott is a newlywed, getting married before last week's game, so wish him well when you see him!

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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](mailto:mnelson@racineraiders.org) to join!



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MAY 17 - JUNE 2, 2024

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