

RAIDERS PLAYER Q&A

CHUEY GONZALES + P. 8

ELIAS PLAZA + P. 11

COLORFUL STORY

EVAN WITALISON IS IN HIS 10TH YEAR WITH THE RAIDERS WORKING ON THE BROADCASTS AND ON MARKETING EFFORTS. + P. 9

Raider Report



JULY 8, 2023 | FREE



SEEING IS BELIEVING



AS A FORMER RIVAL, SCOTT SPALEK WAS HESITANT ABOUT JOINING THE RAIDERS BUT IT'S BEEN EVERYTHING HE EXPECTED AND MORE!

BY DON WADEWITZ + P. 4

PHOTO: Scott Olsen

2023 SCHEDULE



TONIGHT'S GUESTS

**HONORARY
CAPTAIN**

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Gina DeGregorio

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	W, 40-0
July 1	River City Rough Riders *	W, 38-6
July 8	Chicago Falcons	7 PM
July 15	Motor City Rams *	7 PM
July 22	@ St. Paul Pioneers *	6 PM
July 29	Raiders 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 home games played at Historic Horlick Athletic Field
All times listed are Central Time

* - Gridiron Developmental Football League (GDFL) game



RAIDERS RUN THE UNBEATEN GAUNTLET

Four unbeaten team. Four straight weeks. Four convincing wins. The Racine Raiders made it through one of the most difficult stretches of games in recent history and made a statement while doing so, picking up four wins, allowing just 17 total points, and taking down four different teams that might win their league titles. Some critics say the Raiders just beat teams that are good in their respective leagues but not “really” good. Only time will tell how good this 2023 Raiders team might be but there are some impressive statistics when you consider they beat four straight unbeaten opponents and two of those occurred on the road.

The defense’s scoreless streak ended at 13 quarters, or 200 total game minutes, in the fourth quarter last week against the River City Rough Riders. That’s more than three straight games worth of shutouts against teams that were putting up gawdy point totals regularly in the 40’s and 50’s and even in the 70’s to 90’s.

The Raiders scored nearly as many points in their contests with the Indy Bison and Illinois Cowboys than they gave up in all of their previous games combined. The offense has now scored a touchdown in 12 straight quarters after getting off to a slow start in the first three games of the season.

The Raiders have at least three games remaining before the Gridiron Developmental Football League (GDFL) playoffs. They currently are the top team in the league with a 7-0 record and the best average point differential among unbeaten teams in the East. The league recently came out with power rankings which put the Raiders fourth in the league behind the defending champion Syracuse (NY) Strong and the 2022 runner-up Inglewood (CA) Blackhawks. The West Sound (WA) Rebels are ranked third.

The Raiders are focused on one thing - getting to Atlanta for a Labor Day weekend national championship game and a GDFL crown.

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PLAYER PROFILE: SCOTT SPALEK



things didn't quite work out due to grades. He started working and a boss opened his eyes to semi-pro football.

Outside of football, Spalek owns his own business, As Good As Gone Junk Removal.

"I worked on-and-off in the business for about ten years and then last year I...looked at the math and figured out the overheads...and decided I could do this myself and have a better model than these corporate businesses," Spalek says.

Spalek said he was hesitant about coming to Racine. He'd heard all of the things the Raiders offer to players but wasn't convinced it could be possible.

"I didn't want to believe it because we'd been rivals for four years," says Spalek. "When I came over I took it with a grain of salt thinking they can't have all the stuff they say they have."

Spalek has bought in to what the Racine Raiders are and what they offer now, appearing at almost every team function since joining the team.

"I was thoroughly impressed," he says with a smile. "They definitely have everything they say they have, if not more."

Spalek says he's the type of person that's going to give anything he does and believes in his all.

"If I want to do it, I'm going to do it and not waste my time," he says. "I'm going to help out the organization as much as I can."

Scott Spalek is a foe turned friend to Racine Raiders fans. Spalek has competed against Racine with a couple of different teams, most notably the Midway Marauders. With the Marauders not fielding a team, Spalek was left to find a new home.

"I attended four team's OTA's and none of them were like the Raiders," he told us. "The Raiders were the most organized, had the most coaches, most equipment, real structure, real practices, real everything and it was collegiate-level football."

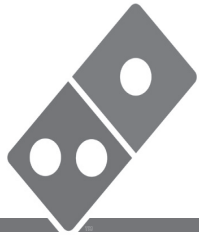
Spalek was a standout player for a very good team in high school. He was recruited by Murray State but



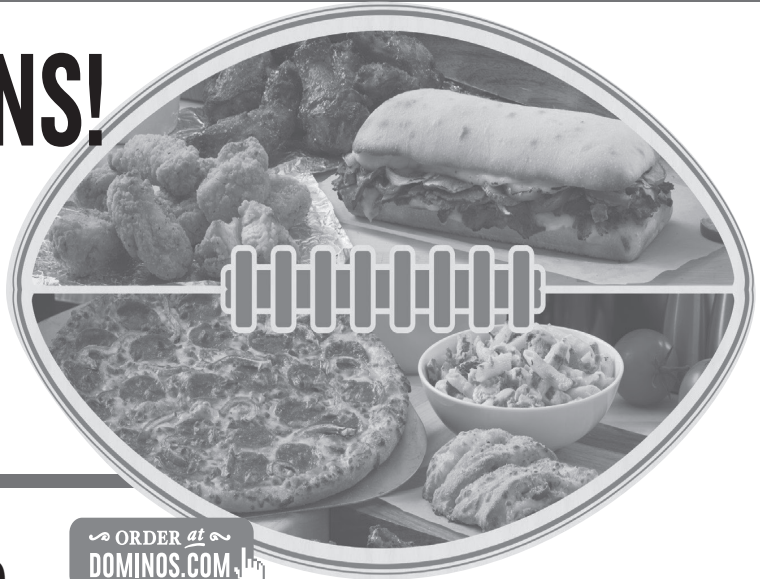
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GAME ROSTER

#	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	Dalton	Corey	DB	5' 9"	175	
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
25	Kennedy	Greg	RB	5' 6"	195	Harper College
26	Danowski	Jordan	DB	5' 11"	170	UW Parkside
29	Smith	Daquan	DB	5' 10"	170	Carroll University
30	Ruffin	Torie	LB	6' 2"	225	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	Triplett	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
62	Gwin	Caleb	OL	5' 10"	300	Racine Lutheran HS
64	Gails	Ryan	OL	5' 11"	295	Ripon College
68	Spalek	Scott	OL	6' 0"	300	Glenbrook South 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	
81	James	Darrell	WR	6' 0"	220	Southern Illinois 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
88	Hicks	Chris	TE			Rochester Comm. & Tech. College
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



GAME ROSTER

#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	HT	WT	POS	SCHOOL
0	Lawrence	Dorian				
1	Moore	Shawn				
2	Davis	Manson				
3	Hensley	Austin				
4	Wilson	Anthony				
5	Dupree	Shawn				
6	Jenkins	Darrell	FB/LB			
7	Blackmon	Chris	RB			
8	Padilla	Danny	WR			
9	Spivey	Anthony	DL			
11	Harris	Brandon				
12	Warnock	Lee				
13	Gordon	Chaz				
14	Chambers	Isaiah				
15	Williams	Anthony	QB/CB			
16	Viette	Lorenzo	CB/MLB			
17	Moore	Shawn				
19	McElroy	Woo				
20	Brown	Jason				
21	Hamlin	Pharoah	WR			
22	Warrior	Theo				
24	Valdavinovs	Elias				
26	Jordan	Michael	FB			
28	Minor	Anthony				
29	Adams	Theodore	DL			
30	Gaiter	Maddy	CB			
32	Kendall	Bullock	DE			
34	Williams	Anthony				
36	Stremoukhov	Dimitri				
37	Carr	Andre				
38	Jackson	Mario				
43	Robinson	Antoine				
45	Johnson	Dwane				
46	Thames	Parish	DE			
50	Ward	Brian	NT			
51	Tucker	James	OL			
52	Nunez	Laron				
53	Williams	Durall				
55	Musselmann	Jonas				
56	Galtney	Antonio				
57	Brown	Kendall				
68	Gibbs	William	C			
70	Outland	Joseph	OL			
72	Dunlap	Henry				
74	Murphy	Sam				
75	Parks	Mike				
80	Hardman	Ryan	WR			
81	Matthews, Jr.	Patrick				
82	Fonder	Jonathon				
83	Lafi	Rocky				
89	Kunz	Christian	WR			
96	Mcelroy	Joshua	FB			
99	Dunmore	John				



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PLAYER Q&A



CHUEY GONZALES LINEBACKER

CURRENT JOB(S):

Great Northern Corporation / Barber

STARTED WITH THE RAIDERS:

Summer of 2013/2014

FAVORITE FOOD: Pizza

FAVORITE BEVERAGE: Blue Gatorade

FAVORITE PLAYER ON TEAM OTHER THAN

YOURSELF: Gary Young / Nick Jones

FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL: Math

FAVORITE TELEVISION/STREAMING SHOW:

All American / Snowfall

PREGAME SUPERSTITION OR ACTIVITY:

Listening to music / Facetiming My Wife

FAVORITE RAIDERS MOMENT/MEMORY:

Winning the national tournament with the Racine Gladiators youth team.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: EVAN WITALISON



Evan Witalison is celebrating his 10th season as a volunteer with the Racine Raiders. Witalison has done game day marketing, marketing and sales, and broadcasting for the team. He also was involved as the producer of the broadcasts when WRJN carried the games, even hosting a postgame show on the station. It all started because Witalison needed an internship for his grad school program back in 2013.

"I originally met with (head coach) Gino (Perfetto) at the time to see about coaching and assisting with the offensive line during a practice and decided game day marketing would be a better fit for me due to my schedule," remembers Witalison.

Witalison is still part of the marketing team and can be seen doing other things to help the team. He's primarily known for his role on the broadcast team where he provides color commentary and sometimes fills in on play-by-play when Don Wadewitz isn't available.

He uses his past experience as a high school and college football player to help fans understand why a play worked or didn't work. Witalison has also worked to become a certified WIAA official, a background that helps him in his role in the broadcast booth.

"I enjoy working with Don and the media team and being around the players and being part of bringing something fun and exciting to the Racine community," says Witalison.

Witalison has also started recording a weekly podcast highlighting the previous game and previewing the upcoming game.

Witalison's favorite memory came in 2019 right here at Historic Horlick Athletic Field.

"My favorite moment was calling the 2019 MSFL championship game against the Midway Marauders when the Raiders won on a last second touchdown to win the championship," he says.

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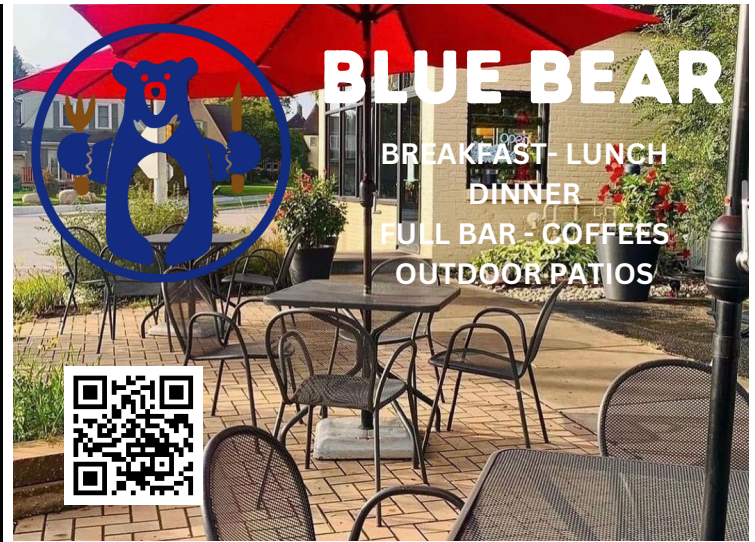
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PLAYER Q&A



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CURRENT JOB(S): CJW, Inc.

STARTED WITH THE RAIDERS: 2022

FAVORITE FOOD: Steak

FAVORITE BEVERAGE: Dr. Pepper

FAVORITE PLAYER ON TEAM OTHER THAN YOURSELF: Mitch Farr

FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL:
Math/Psychology

FAVORITE TELEVISION/STREAMING SHOW:
Demon Slayers

PREGAME SUPERSTITION OR ACTIVITY:
Salmon Sushi Roll

FAVORITE RAIDERS MOMENT: Seeing Jordan Payne truck a defensive back for a touchdown.

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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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MAY 17 - JUNE 2, 2024

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