

RAIDERS PLAYER Q&A

GERALD BESTER + P. 8

MATT VILLEGAS + P. 11

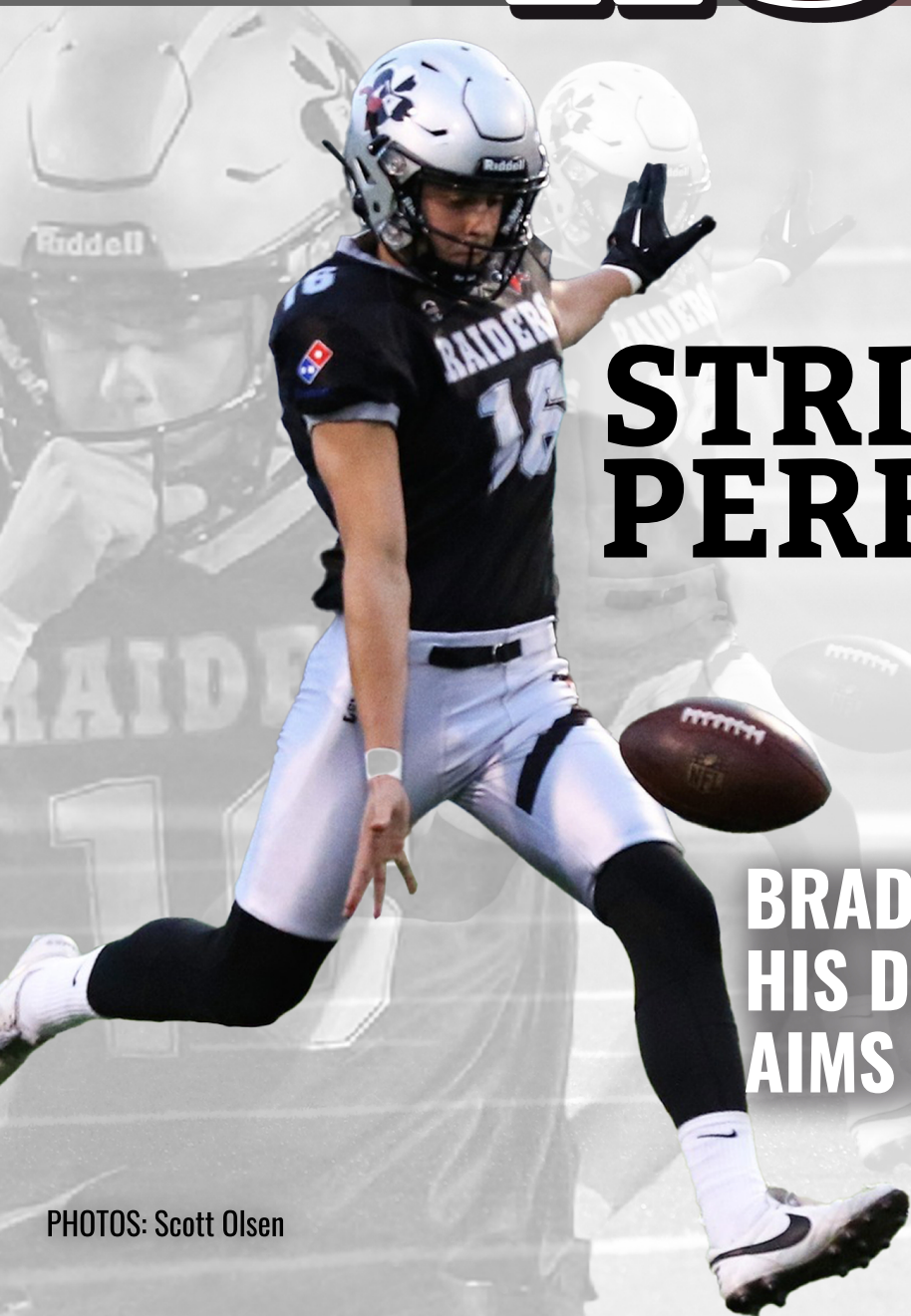
# ROLLING STRIKES

ASHLEY TURNER IS A COLLEGIATE BOWLER AT CARTHAGE COLLEGE AND HAS DONE NOTHING BUT ROLL STRIKES WITH THE RAIDERS. + P. 9

# Raider Report



AUGUST 12, 2023 | FREE



## STRIVING FOR PERFECTION



BRADY WODACK PRACTICES HIS DROP EVERY DAY AS HE AIMS FOR PERFECTION.

BY DON WADEWITZ + P. 4

PHOTOS: Scott Olsen

# 2023 SCHEDULE



## TONIGHT'S GUESTS

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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	W, 66-0
July 15	Motor City Rams *	W, 27-19
July 22	@ St. Paul Pioneers *	W, 30-22
August 5	Bye Week	
August 12	Tri-City Outlaws	7 PM
August 19	GDFL Quarterfinals	TBD
August 26	GDFL Semifinals	TBD
Sept. 32	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

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# THE SECOND SEASON BEGINS TONIGHT

The Racine Raiders joined the Gridiron Developmental Football League (GDFL) for this exact reason. The team has a chance to participate in a true national playoff structure with the opportunity to claim the truest national championship in existence in semi-pro football today. If the Raiders can win four more games, they'll extend their all-time semi-pro record to ten national championships.

The 14 teams in the GDFL playoffs represent nine different states - Alabama, Arizona, California, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington (state), and Wisconsin. Every team in the GDFL playoffs have won at least one national championship game or bowl championship game. It'll be a tough task to get to Washington, D.C. metro area for the September 2nd GDFL National Championship game and it'll be an even bigger task to beat a dominant West Coast team to lay claim to the Raiders tenth national title.

The road starts tonight as the Raiders host the Tri-City Outlaws, out of the metro Nashville, Tennessee area. The Outlaws finished the season 6-2 and were the seventh-seed in the playoffs in the Xtreme Conference. It's the first time the Raiders played a team from Tennessee since beating the Nashville Storm in the 2012 national championship game right here at Historic Horlick Athletic Field. With a win tonight, the Raiders would then host the winner of the Huntsville (AL) Rockets and Columbus (OH) Fire next week.

Should the Raiders make it to the semi-finals, likely to be played in Syracuse, New York, and hopefully the national championship game, we may be reaching out to the community for some financial support and giving you the opportunity to sponsor a player. More details about that will come out as it becomes relevant.

In the meantime, get out your cow bells, bring some friends, grab some food and drink from concessions, and let's have a great time cheering on YOUR HOMETOWN TEAM!



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# PLAYER PROFILE: BRADY WODACK



Racine Raiders punter Brady Wodack developed an appreciation for his punting talents but not until his sophomore year at St. Norbert College. Wodack was recruited by the Green Knights primarily as a field goal kicker.

“In high school, I didn’t really think punting was my strong suit,” Wodack remembers. “I honestly thought that I was a better receiver, defensive back, and kicker than I was a punter.”

The change greatly benefited Wodack and St. Norbert as Wodack would be named a first team all-conference punter in his senior season. D3football.com also chose

him for their All-Region 5 Team.

Wodack heard about the Raiders through a co-worker and sent in his film after researching the team.

“It seemed like a great place to continue my playing career after college and get more film out there in hopes of maybe getting a pro opportunity,” he said.

Wodack says he wanted to make a positive impact on special teams and be a great teammate and to help bring another national championship to Racine.

He believes things aren’t too different from his college playing days other than the practice schedule and the longer road trips..

“In college, you practice almost every day,” he says. “Here, you practice only once or twice a week and you have to prepare for games a little more individually.”

He says the speed of the game was similar which aided his transition. The community and welcoming teammates also helped him.

“The community support is similar to college since the community at St. Norbert is very involved in the football atmosphere,” he says. “Teammates and coaches were very welcoming, making the transition from college to this very easy.”

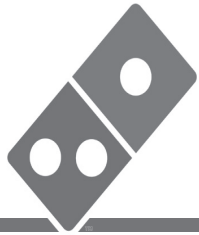
Wodack is finished the regular season averaging just a touch under 40 yards per punt and placed 11 of 26 punts inside the 20-yard line. Wodack has made his only extra point attempt of the year and 11 of his 49 kickoffs have gone for touchbacks.



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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	College of the Desert
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	Bubba	TE	6' 2"	215	U.S. Army
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
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
67	Carey	Shanault	OL	6' 3"	300	
68	Spalek	Scott	OL	6' 0"	300	Glenbrook South HS
70	Seidler	Travis	OL	6' 2"	305	Wisconsin Lutheran 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	6' 4"	275	Rochester Comm. & Tech. College
89	Kant-Hull	Dan	TE	6' 3"	285	Carroll University
94	Imel	Brandon	DL	6' 2"	305	Rockford University
95	Clay	Willie	DL	6' 1"	284	Mississippi Valley State 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
1	Hawkins	Demery	6' 1"	245	LB	
2	Duncan, Sr.	William	6' 4"	280	DL	
3	Smith	Randall	5' 7"	155	DB	
4	Moore	Tyran	6' 2"	190	WR	
5	Cooper, Jr.	John	5' 10"	200	RB/QB	
5	Turner, Jr.	Christopher	6' 5"	255	DE/TE	
6	Key	Tamarrion	6' 1"	175	WR	
7	Dyson	Anthony	5' 7"	155	DB	
8	Whithead	Kervin	5' 9"	180	DB	
9	Rucker	Jevell	6' 3"	225	LB/DE	
9	Burford	Deandre	6' 2"	225	QB	
10	Dillard	Darrick	6' 1"	190	DB/LB	
11	Brown	Mark	5' 9"	180	WR	
13	Homer	Davaunte	6' 3"	250	TE/DE	
14	Hancock	Greg	5' 11"	200	RB/DB	
15	Thomas	Demarco	5' 9"	230	RB/LB	
15	Bush, Jr.	Stevie	5' 10"	210	LB/RB	
16	Miller	Deangelo	6' 1"	220	LB/RB	
17	Ignacio	Justin	6' 1"	245	DL	
19	Jeter	Kalon	6' 0"	170	WR/QB	
20	Manion	Kyle	5' 8"	165	DB	
21	Hudson	Melandreous	5' 9"	195	DB/LB	
22	Jones	Kenny	6' 1"	230	LB	
23	McGuire	Alex	6' 0"	180	DB	
24	Chapman	Charles (Jamaal)	6' 2"	270	DL/OL	
26	Miller	Haden	5' 10"	195	K	
28	Weston	Joseph	6' 2"	180	DB	
32	Moore	Brendan	6' 2"	185	WR	
33	Katina	Daniel	5' 8"	245	FB/HB	
34	Majors	Jeffery	5' 9"	195	LB/RB	
57	Rogan	Jalen	6' 3"	300	DL	
60	Williams	Ryan	6' 0"	260	OL	
72	Anderson	Jordan (Lee)	6' 1"	295	DL	
77	Watkins	Zach	5' 11"	265	OL	
78	Hunter	Luis	6' 3"	275	OL	
79	Watkins	Chase	6' 2"	300	OL	
90	Walton	Fred	6' 2"	300	DL	
92	Nellum	Khalil	6' 4"	255	DL/OL	
94	Nelson	Xavier (Ike)	6' 2"	270	DL/OL	
99	Turnipseed	Zachary	6' 0"	245	DL/OL	



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# PLAYER Q&A



## **GERALD BESTER** **DEFENSIVE LINEMAN**

**CURRENT JOB(S):**

Transportation Manager

**STARTED WITH THE RAIDERS:** 2018

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Wings

**FAVORITE BEVERAGE:** The dark blue Gatorade

**FAVORITE PLAYER ON TEAM OTHER THAN YOURSELF:** Gage Zahradnik

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL:** History

**FAVORITE TELEVISION/STREAMING SHOW:**  
Power

**PREGAME SUPERSTITION OR ACTIVITY:**

Contrast shower 30 seconds cold water, 30 seconds warm water for 2-3 minutes

**FAVORITE FOOTBALL MOMENT/MEMORY:**

2015 at UW-Oshkosh ending number 1-ranked UW-Whitewater's 36-game winning streak



# VOLUNTEER PROFILE: ASHLEY TURNER



Ashley Turner is in her first year volunteering with the Racine Raiders. Ashley originally joined the team back in February of this year to help with social media efforts. She soon joined the marketing team and, once the season was underway, she began showing up several hours ahead of her shift to take on setup and other miscellaneous duties to help the team get ready for home games.

Ashley is a student at Carthage College where she's majoring in Public Relations and has three minors - Communications, Business Administration, and Sports Management.

"I've had an interest in sports media, sports marketing, sports sales, and anything in sports really for awhile," she says. "So, when I was able to gain some experience on campus with the Strategic Communications team, I went searching for other things."

After that experience, Ashley searched for organizations where she could gain even more experience and stumbled across the Raiders. She's found her time with the team thus far to be a wonderful experience.

"Everyone is so welcoming," she says. "When coming into a new environment, it can be kind of nerve-racking but everyone has been welcoming and the team has been super nice!"

She particularly appreciates the atmosphere at home games and she is one of a few people that can compare road and home games as she's made the trip for every Raiders road game this year.

"Being able to see what kind of an impact and potential this team has is amazing - the kids asking for autographs - just the overall camaraderie and community engagement is great," Ashley says.

Ashley likes to keep busy. Outside of the Raiders and school, she works at ITU AbsorbTech and American Eagle. She particularly enjoys bowling, a sport she's played for 17 years, and bowls on the Carthage team.

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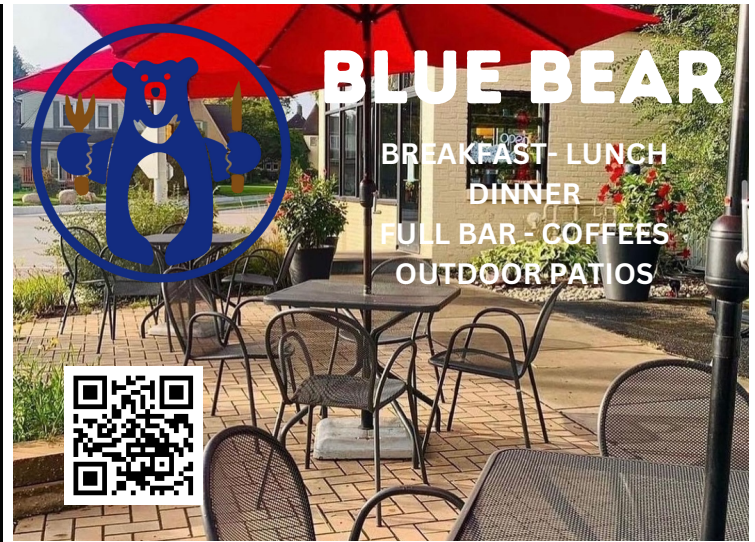
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# PLAYER Q&A



**MATT VILLEGAS**  
OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

**CURRENT JOB(S):** Assistant Center Manager for CSL Plasma

**STARTED WITH THE RAIDERS:** 2023

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Sushi

**FAVORITE BEVERAGE:** Cranberry Juice

**FAVORITE PLAYER ON TEAM OTHER THAN YOURSELF:** Andre Locke, aka Uno

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL:** English

**FAVORITE TELEVISION/STREAMING SHOW:** Supernatural

**PREGAME SUPERSTITION OR ACTIVITY:** I have to touch the cross bar on the goal post by jumping during warmups

**FAVORITE RAIDERS MOMENT:** Spending a night out with my teammates in Minneapolis

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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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