

August 3 vs Knoxville Grizzlies

# Raider Report



#### **PLAYOFFS ARE HERE!**

Tonight is opening night for the 2024 Gridiron Developmental Football League playoffs. Racine vs Knoxville is just one of four playoff contests happening this evening. The winner of our game here in Racine will play the victor of the Tri City Outlaws vs Huntsville Rockets, which is being played in Clarksville, TN tonight. That game will be held on August 17th to determin the Xtreme Division champion, and if our Raiders win tonight it will once again be here in Racine! Also on the gridiron tonight out east in the Impact Division, the Buffalo Stampede (5-3) are at the top-seeded Syracuse Storm (8-0), and the Capital City Seahawks (7-1) host the Upstate (NY) Predators (6-2).

The Xtreme Division champ will meet the Impact Division champ on August 31st here at Horlick Field.







# GAME PREVIEW: Raiders vs Knoxville Grizzlies



#### by Jack Redlin, Racine Raiders

As the sun sets on the regular season and the intensity of playoff football rises, all eyes are set on the Gridiron Developmental Football League's upcoming first round of playoffs. The Xtreme Division gets a first-time showdown between the Knoxville Grizzlies (4-4) and the undefeated Racine Raiders (8-0). This matchup promises to be thrilling, pitting a tenacious underdog against a dominant powerhouse.

The Racine Raiders have been the epitome of perfection this season. Sporting an unblemished record – and 24 straight wins over the past two seasons - the Raiders have steamrolled their way through the competition, leaving a trail of battered opponents in their wake. Their success has been anchored by a historically formidable defense that has set the league ablaze. Allowing a mere 2.5 points per game, Racine's defensive unit has been a fortress, impenetrable and unyielding. This extraordinary feat is accentuated by their current streak of 23 quarters without conceding a defensive touchdown, a testament to their discipline, coordination, and relentless pursuit of excellence.

Led by head coach Wilbert Kennedy, the Raiders' defense is a well-oiled machine. The defensive line, spearheaded by a relentless pass rush, has been a nightmare for opposing quarterbacks. The Racine defense has racked up 47 quarterback sacks in league games, led by Raider first-year player Cordero Williams. Williams's ability to penetrate offensive lines and disrupt plays has resulted in a team-leading sack tally (7.0), and his presence alone commands double teams, freeing up his teammates to make impactful plays. The linebacking corps, featuring the versatile and hard-hitting Gary Young, Jr, has been pivotal in shutting down both the run and pass. Young's football IQ and instinctual playmaking have made him a key component of the Raiders' defensive success and put him in consideration for GDFL postseason awards.

The secondary, often the last line of defense, has been impregnable. Cornerbacks Corey Dalton and Marquon Holloway have consistently blanketed receivers, forcing quarterbacks into costly mistakes. The three-man rotation in the safety roles - Channing Schultz, JD Hardy (aka "The Tattoo Artist"), and Jordan Danowski- have been exceptional in providing support over the top and in the box, making game-changing interceptions and bone-crushing tackles.







#### Raiders Tame Bobcats on the Road

#### by Jack Redlin, Racine Raiders

The Racine Raiders secured home-field advantage throughout the Gridiron Development Football League (GDFL) playoffs with their win over the Southern Indiana Bobcats on Saturday. The Raiders faced a tense battle with the Bobcats where tempers flared but the Raiders left with a win, 30-3. The Raiders extended their winning streak to 24 games, to put themselves in sole position of the third-longest winning streak in team history. Along with extending their winning streak the Raiders also extended their streak to 23 quarters without allowing a defensive touchdown.

The Raiders' offense struggled to start the game but were able to pick it up in the second and third quarters. They totaled just over 350 offensive yards while tallying one rushing touchdown and three passing touchdowns in their win over the Bobcats.

The Raiders' defense continued their dominant run allowing just over 200 yards and only conceding a field goal in the second quarter. The Raiders defense also added three sacks in their win over the Bobcats.

The Bobcats started the game with a drive that ate up half of the first quarter but the Raiders defense held them to no points when they snuffed out an apparent fake field goal pass. The first quarter ended with the teams tied at zero.

Racine's first score of the game came after a quick three-and-out forced by the defense where the Bobcats had a short 31-yard punt which put the Raiders at the Bobcat's 49-yard line. This led to a quick six play drive where Rashawn Herron ended it with a 17-yard rushing touchdown. After a bad snap on the extra point Sawyer Schick wasn't able to find anyone open which made it 6-0 less than ten seconds into the second quarter.

The Raiders defense then forced another quick three play drive which led to the offense getting the ball at the Bobcats' 48-yard line. This led to Andre Locke, Sr., and Jashon Foster taking the top off the defense and airing it out for a 48-yard passing touchdown. Brady Wodack came in and made the extra point making it 13-0 just under three minutes into the second quarter.

"A Cat Named Bob" continued on page 5



#### Continued from page 4: A Cat Named Bob

The Raiders offense and Locke struggled at the end of the first half and to open the second half having three straight drives resulted in interceptions, but the defense stepped up again forcing another quick drive by the Bobcats. Corey Dalton then appeared to return a punt for a 90-yard touchdown, but the play was called back due to multiple flags for illegal participation and unsportsmanlike conduct.

After the officials were able to clear everything up, the Raiders ended up with the ball at their own one-yard line. The Raiders fed Herron the football and he was able to gain 42 yards on three carries before Locke connected with Jordan Payne on a short route where he took it to the endzone for a 57-yard passing touchdown. Wodack made the extra point making it 20-0 with just over three minutes remaining in the third quarter and the momentum swung back to the Raiders.

The Raiders' final touchdown of the day came from a quick two-play drive where Locke found Bubba Rewolinski near the sideline where he powered his way into the endzone for a 15-yard passing touchdown. Once again Wodack made the extra point making it 27-0 to end the third quarter.

Racine's final score of the game came from Wodack when he hit a 31-yard field goal after a long eightplay drive by backup QB Sawyer Schick and the offense. This made it 30-3 with just under three minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

Locke completed 8-of-17 attempts for 199 yards while adding three passing touchdowns with three interceptions. Schick completed 2-of-5 attempts for 48 yards with a long of 35 yards.

Once again Payne led the way in receiving in his second game played this season with four receptions for 100 yards and one touchdown. Terrence Fitch was behind him adding 52 yards on two receptions. Foster tallied one reception for 48 yards and one touchdown while Rewolinski totaled two receptions for 28 yards and one touchdown.

Leading the way in rushing was Herron who totaled 82 yards on 11 attempts while also adding one rushing touchdown and Sean White totaled four attempts for 12 yards on the night.

Leading the defense was lineman Ronald Haggins who totaled four tackles and two sacks on the night. Linebacker Gary Young, Jr. led the team in tackles with nine and Corey Dalton led the secondary with four tackles and multiple pass breakups.





#### **JULY 27 @ SO. INDIANA BOBCATS**

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	от	FINAL
RACINE RADIERS	0	13	14	3	0	30
SO INDIANA BOBCATS	0	3	0	0	0	3

STATISTICS	Racine Raiders	So. IN Bobcats
First Downs	13	14
Third Down Efficiency	4 - 7 - 57%	3 - 14 - 21%
Fourth Down Efficiency	0 - 0	0 - 5 - 0%
Rushing Att-Yards-Avg	18 - 104 - 5.8	25 - 104 - 4.2
Passing Att-Yards-Avg	23 - 247 - 24.7	33 - 109 - 8.4
Pass Cmpt-Att-Int-%	10 - 23 - 3 - 43%	13 - 33 - 0 - 39%
Tot Off Yards	351	213
Sacks-Yards	3 - 23	0 - 0
Penalties-Yards	8 - 62	7 - 43
Fumbles-Lost	0 - 0	2 - 0
Punts-LG-Avg	2 - 55 - 51.0	6 - 40 - 31.3
Field Goal Made-Att	1-1	1-1
Touchdowns Tot-Run-Pass	4-1-3	0 - 0 - 0
# Possessions	11	11
Time of Poss	19:02:00	40:58:00

Additional GDFL Playoff Games Tonight
Huntsville Rockets @ Tri City Outlaws
Buffalo Stampede @ Syracuse Storm
Upstate Predators @ Capital City Seahawks

August 17th - 4 teams - locations TBD



## LAST GAME STATISTICS: OFFENSE

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD			
32 Herron, Rashawn	11	82	7.5	34	1			
1 Locke Jr, Andre	1	9	9	9	0			
27 White, Sean	4	12	3	5	0			
25 Kennedy, Greg	1	1	1	1	0			
12 McKinney II, Antoine	1	0	0	0	0			
Total	18	104	5.8	34	1			
PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	SAC	LG	TD	INT	RTG
1 Locke Jr, Andre	17	8	199	0	57	3	3	90.1
8 Schick, Sawyer	5	2	48	0	35	0	0	77.8
Total	23	10	247	0	57	3	3	85.1
PASS RECEIVING	TAR	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		
Unspecified	3	0	0	0	0	0		
32 Herron, Rashawn	1	0	0	0	0	0		
5 Payne, Jordan	4	4	100	25	57	1		
27 White, Sean	1	0	0	0	0	0		
14 Woodland, Jacques	4	1	19	19	19	0		
3 Rewolinski, Bubba	4	2	28	14	15	1		
00 Foster, Jashon	2	1	48	48	48	1		
17 Fitch, Terrence	3	2	52	26	35	0		
21 Davis, Bibby	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	23	10	247	24.7	57	3		
PUNTING	NO	TB	YDS	AVG	LG	IN20		
16 Wodack, Brady	2	0	102	51	55	1		
Total	2	0	102	51	55	1		
PUNT RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		
13 Dalton, Corey	4	0	89	22.3	31	0		
Total	4	0	89	22.3	31	0		
KICKOFFS	NO	TB	YDS	AVG	LG	SH		
16 Wodack, Brady	6	0	270	45	65	-35		
Total	6	0	270	45	65	-35		
KICK RETURNS	NO	FC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		
27 White, Sean	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Total		0	0	0				



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#### **Last Game Statistics: Defense**

DEFENSIVE	UA	AS	TOT	SK	YDS	IN	F	FR	TD
15 Young Jr, Gary	7	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
52 Turner, Elvin	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Hardy, JD	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
47 Mittelstaedt, Jake	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 Dalton, Corey	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
90 Haggins, Ronald	4	0	4	2	16	0	0	0	0
26 Danowski, Jordan	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Benko, Justin	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
98 Williams, Cordero	2	0	2	1	7	0	0	0	0
43 Graham, Anton	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 Woodland, Jacques	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Schultz, Channing	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 Kennedy, Greg	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
29 Smith, Daquan	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Rewolinski, Bubba	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
58 Zimmerman, Jacob	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
59 Tate, Isaiah	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
85 Nelson, Nick	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Azor, Stan	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 lvy, Aarion	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	47	6	53	3	23	0	0	0	0





# Player Profile: Gage Zahradnik



Defensive lineman Gage Zahradnik is entering his sixth season with the Racine Raiders and is coming off of a season where he totaled 31 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, and 4-1/2 sacks while appearing in 13 games.

Before joining the Raiders in 2018, Zahradnik played his final year at Ripon College before leaving because he believed college wasn't for him. After leaving college Zahradnik thought his football career was over and wasn't sure exactly what to do.

This led to his mother filling out the online tryout form for the Raiders during the offseason. Following the online signup, head coach Wilbert Kennedy reached out to Zahradnik and shared his thoughts about continuing Zahradnik's playing career. After a little convincing from Coach Kennedy, Zahradnik tried out for the team and did well during the tryouts. This led to Coach Kennedy reaching out once again to try and convince Zahradnik to continue his career. "It meant a lot to have a coach reach out to play for him," Zahradnik recollects. "After college I thought my playing career was over, so having a coach reach out to continue my career meant a lot to me."

The start of Zahradnik's Raiders career got off to a hot start in 2018 where he totaled 39 tackles and seven sacks on the season leading to him being named the 2018 defensive Most Valuable Player (MVP). Building off his phenomenal first season, Zahradnik continued his dominant play, being named the co-defensive lineman MVP in 2022 and repeating the following year winning once again in 2023.

While playing at such a high level, Zahradnik's goal for himself involved making sure the physical and mental work is there every season. "Every year I make sure to stay in shape for the season. Going to the gym multiple times a week makes sure I'm physically ready for the season and each game of the season," Zahradnik stated. "In terms of the mental side of preparing after every season I make sure my mental work and love for the game is still there. I don't want to continue playing if the love for the game is no longer there, but the Raiders keep bringing the love of the game back every year."

Over the years, Zahradnik has been given multiple opportunities to play for other semi- pro teams in the surrounding area and many teams selling point is the fact that Zahradnik has to travel four hours for every practice and game with the Raiders, but Zahradnik believes there is no reason to leave the Raiders.

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#### Player Profile continued from p.10



"My first year with the Raiders we were only just above .500 (winning percentage), but building a brotherhood with players, especially the defensive linemen made me want to stay. During COVID, I was asked to play for other teams since the Raiders didn't field a team, but I didn't want to leave because of the loyalty I felt for the team," Zahradnik said. "I've never had a bad experience with the Raiders so there is no reason to want to up and leave. The friendships and brothers that I've made along the way are a large part to why I still play."

Off the field, when he isn't with his family, Zahradnik is working to be a sheet metal worker where he is in the final year of his apprenticeship and will become a journeyman next year, but what means the most to him is his family and his four boys.

"It means everything to me to be a father and I'm proud that I have four happy and healthy boys that bring so much joy and love into our home," Zahradnik said. "It makes me so proud that even when I step away from being a football player that I will have someone to go watch play and possibly even coach. When they come and watch me play it's an amazing feeling to see four little boys wearing my number on their back and cheering 'Go dad' or 'Dad get a sack for us'."

Zahradnik's heart and dedication is shown every day whether it's on-the-field in his stellar play or off-the-field in the time he spends with his family and working towards becoming a journeyman. Zahradnik has the same goals this season of improving his play every week and winning back-to-back national championships for Racine.

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# RACINE RAIDERS

#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAM	POS	HT	₩T	SCHOOL
0	Foster	Jashon	WB	6'6		Coahoma CC
1	Locke	Andre	QB	6'2	175	Upper Iowa Univ
2	Benko	Justin	LB	6'		North Park Univ
3	Rewolinski	Alex	TE/H	6'3	220	U.S. Army
4	Garcia	Joe	WB	6'2	180	Highland CC
	Payne	Jordan	WB	6'2		Alcorn State
7	Hardy-Parsall	Jedeniah	DB	6'1		Waukegan HS
	Schick	Sawyer	QB/LS	5'11		UW-La Crosse
	Azor	Stanley	DB			Carthage College
	McKinney II	Antoine	QB			Gallaudet Univ
	Dalton	Corey	DB	5'9		College of the Desert
	Woodland	Jacques	WB	6'2		Missouri Southern
	Young Jr	Gary	LB	6'3		Bemidji State
	Wodack	Brady	P/K	6'1		St. Norbert College
	Fitch	Terrence	WR	6'1		UW-Whitewater
	Schultz	Channing	DB	6'		Iowa Central CC
	lvy	Aarion	LB	6'4		Bloom HS
	Gonzales	Jesus	LB			Iowa Central CC
	Davis	Bibby	WR	6'		Simeon Career Acad
	Davis					
_		Jay	DB	6'3		Bradley Tech HS
	Flores	Richard	LB	6'3		U.S. Marine Corp
	Kennedy	Gregory	RB	5'6	190	Warren Township
	Danowski	Jordan	DB	5'11		Waterford HS
	White	Sean	RB	5'7		UW-Stevens Point
	Eickhorst	Jersey	WR	6'		Univ West England-Bristo
	Smith	DaQuan	LB			Carroll University
	Ruffin	Tori	LB	6'2		Concordia Univ WI
	Lemke	Nikolalus	DL	6'2		UW-Whitewater
	Herron	Rashawn	RB			Bradley Tech HS
	Savarino	Wyatt	DB	6'2		Muskego HS
37	Gonzales	Alex	K		175	
38	Jones	Damone	DB	5'10	160	N. Dakota Pottineau
39	Hayes	Travis	RB	5'11	185	UW-Whitewater
40	Pike	Jonata	TE/H	5'11	230	Upper Iowa Univ
41	Holloway	Marquan	DB			J.I. Case HS
	Graham	Anton	DE	6'3	245	UW-Whitewater
	Lewis	Lavantis	TE/H	6'1	215	College of Dupage
	Mittestaedt	Jake	DL	6'1		UW-Platteville
	Turner	Elvin	LB			
	Nelson	Matthew	OL	6'		Wm. Horlick HS
	Dundy	Antonio	DL	6'		Minn State Moorhead
	Hill	Michael	OL	6'5		Arizona University
	Zimmerman	Jacob	OL	6'1		Wisc Lutheran College
	Tate	Isaiah	LB	6'		Millikin University
	Gwin	Caleb	OL			Univ North Dakota
	Tucker	Steven	OL	6'4		New Mexico Highland
	Carey	Shanault	OL	6'3		Fenger HS
	Spalek	Scott	OL	6'		Glenbrook South HS
	lmel	Brandon	OL.	6'2		Rockford University
	Bullock	Anthony	OL.	6'6		Indiana State Univ
	James	Darrell	WR	6'		So Illinois University
ŏ4	Norwood	William	WR	6'2		Ohio University
	LIVIOLOGO	Nick	TE/H	6'3		St. Norbert College
85	Nelson		TE/H	6'4		U.S. Army
85 87	Flores	Dillon				
85 87 89	Flores Gaines	lan	TE/H	6'5		Argo HS
85 87 89 90	Flores Gaines Haggins	lan Ronald	TE/H DL	6'5 6'3	260	Simeon Career Acad
85 87 89 90	Flores Gaines	lan Ronald Willie	TE/H	6'5	260	
85 87 89 90 94	Flores Gaines Haggins	lan Ronald	TE/H DL	6'5 6'3	260 295	Simeon Career Acad
85 87 89 90 94 97	Flores Gaines Haggins Clay	lan Ronald Willie	TE/H DL DL	6°5 6°3 6°1	260 295 330	Simeon Career Acad Miss Valley State









## Page Held for Knoxville Grizzlies Roster



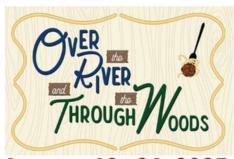


# 24 | 25 87<sup>™</sup> SEASON





October 25 - November 10, 2024



January 10 - 26, 2025



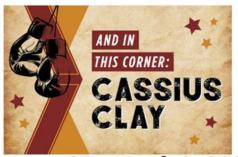
March 28 - April 13, 2025



September 13 - 29, 2024



December 13 - 22, 2024



February 21 - March 2, 2025



May 16 - June 1, 2025

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