

GETTING TO KNOW
**DAQUAN
SMITH** +P.8

POUND THE PAVEMENT
WHO IS ON THE BLACK TOP CREW AND
WHAT DO THEY DO? +P.9

Raider Report



MAY 14, 2022 | FREE

BRINGING IT HOME

↓

WHETHER HIS TALENT
OR HARDWARE,
JOE GARCIA BROUGHT
IT BACK TO RACINE

BY DON WADEWITZ + P. 4



PHOTO: Scott Olsen

2022 SCHEDULE



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501c(3) Not-for-Profit organization

May 14	Sheboygan Cty. SaberCats	7:00 pm
May 21	St. Paul Pioneers	7:00 pm
May 28	Wisconsin Raptors	7:00 pm
June 4	@ Illinois Cowboys *	7:00 pm
June 11	Wisconsin Hitmen *	7:00 pm
June 18	Midway Marauders *	7:00 pm
June 25	Chicago Birdgang *	7:00 pm
July 2	Grand Rapids Seminoles	7:00 pm
July 9	@ Leyden Lions *	7:00 pm
July 16	Illinois Cowboys *	7:00 pm
July 23	@ Midway Marauders *	7:00 pm
July 30	@ Chicago Birdgang *	7:00 pm
August 6	@ Wisconsin Hitmen *	7:00 pm
August 13	Leyden Lions *	7:00 pm

All home games played at Historic Horlick Athletic Field

* - MidStates Football League (MSFL) game

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2022 TICKET OUTLETS

DeMark's Bar & Grill - 1600 Albert Street
Kortendick's Ace Hardware - 3806 Douglas Avenue
Lieungh's on Lathrop - 1933 Lathrop Avenue
Piggly Wiggly - 5201 Washington Avenue
Rock Inn - 600 High Street
Sausage Kitchen - 1706 Rapids Drive

SUMMER STARTS HERE

The landscape of semi-pro football has changed over the last seven decades. Part of that change has included the start date of the season moving up, up some more, and up even more. The Racine Raiders season used to start in late-June or even later. Due to schools adding activities, the proliferation of turf fields, and other factors, the Raiders season starts tonight, May 14th. The earlier start date has been trending for decades now.

Still, fans come to a game in late-July or August, not realizing they're coming at the end of the season now. Board members, coaches, players, and volunteers get the annual questions from these fans of, "When did your season start?"

This year, the Racine Raiders deployed two different marketing slogans to help fans realize that the season is starting earlier each year. The two slogans included "Saturday. Summer. Football." and "Summer Starts Here." The slogans were plastered across social media, electronic billboards, and digital and print advertisements.

"We hope that we raised awareness that our season has moved from a summer/fall season to a spring/summer season," said Vice President of Marketing Don Wadewitz. "Fans became so accustomed to the

later season but other teams in our league and in the region have a difficult time getting fields when the season starts later in the year."

The latest trend in semi-pro football has been a real challenge for a team like the Raiders who rely entirely on volunteers to put on the spectacle you see every week at Historic Horlick Athletic Field. Every member of the organization gives of their time and talents - coaches, players, support staff, concessions staff, broadcast crew, equipment team, dance and cheer team, and board of directors - to help make our community a better place to live.

That's hundreds of people invested in the Racine community and one of the key reasons we call ourselves "Your Hometown Team." You'd be hard-pressed to find another organization that's able to pull together that many people with one vested interest. Yet, the Racine Raiders do it every single week.

Even with that many dedicated individuals, we're always looking for more people because our season now runs through the entire summer and that's prime vacation time! If you're interested in joining us, please visit www.RacineRaiders.com and click on Contact!

RAIDERS FOOTBALL

Saturday, May 14
7:00 pm
Historic Horlick Field

PROMOTIONS
Youth Bike Giveaway
Courtesy of United Commercial Travelers
Georgie Porgie's R.J.'s Kids Area
Domino's Halftime Pizza Toss

BUY TICKETS ONLINE

JOE GARCIA III BROUGHT IT HOME

Joe Garcia III had that special talent at a young age. Racine Raiders board president Matt Nelson helped coach a young Garcia and often talks about how him and the other coaches knew there was something special about him.

Opposing coaches that had to try and limit what he could do against their team even talked of having the potential to play in the National Football League. While that hasn't been the outcome for Garcia, he got a chance to play collegiately at Highland Community College before returning home to Racine.

Prior to last season, Joe's dad pushed him to tryout for the Racine Raiders. The younger Garcia took the urging from his dad and came to a tryout and made the team. As the old saying goes, "the rest is history." Garcia had an amazing rookie campaign but more on that later.

During preseason practices, Garcia's dad died in a motorcycle accident. The younger Garcia had to reflect and decide what he was going to do. He decided to honor his dad by continuing to play football with the Raiders.

"I remember the game at the Leyden Lions," says Raiders broadcaster Don Wadewitz. "I'm walking on the field and the entire Lions defense is trying to figure out who number four was because nobody was wearing their jerseys yet."

Garcia finished the season with a team-leading 47 receptions for 715 yards. His eight receiving touchdowns tied for the team lead with Jordan Payne, a former NCAA Division 1 receiver that got looks from the National Football League and Canadian Football League.



Garcia seemed to come up with the big play whenever the Raiders needed it, including the game-winning punt return in overtime at the Lincoln-Way Patriots on August 14.

For his efforts, Garcia earned rookie of the year, offensive player of the year, and special teams player of the year from the MidStates Football League. He also earned several accolades from the Raiders and was a first-team all-league selection.

So, what's left for Garcia in 2022 with all that hardware he brought home after last season?

"Coming off of those rewards into my second year, it really puts a chip on my shoulder knowing other teams know how well I played my first year and that number four is going to be ready to come each and every game this year," says Garcia. "Coming into this year, I have to ease my mind and let the game of football come to me. I just want to play team football and win."

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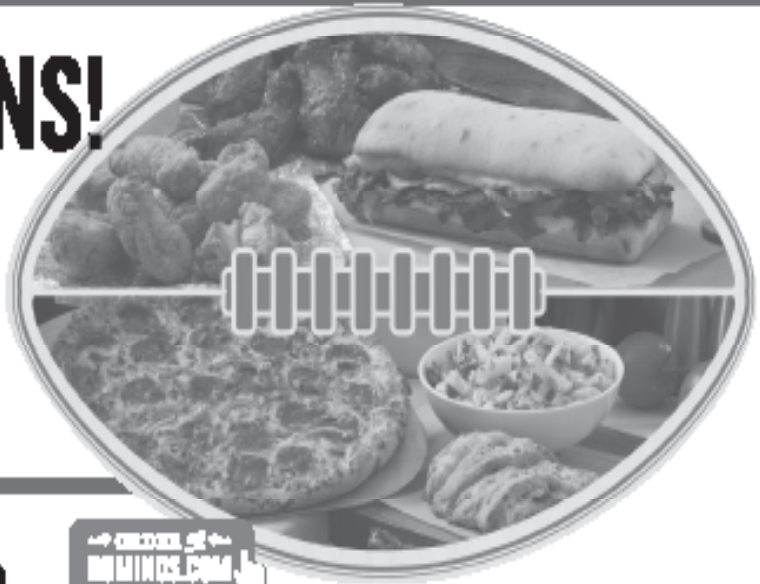
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GAME ROSTER

#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	HT	WT	POS	SCHOOL
1	WILLIAMS	Ricardo	6' 0"	215	WR/QB	Northern Illinois University
2	BENKO	Justin	6' 0"	220	LB	North Park University
3	TENNER	Austin	5' 4"	180	RB	University of Dubuque
4	GARCIA III	Joe	6' 3"	190	WR	Highland Community College
5	PAYNE	Jordan	6' 2"	228	WR	Alcorn State University
6	BENKO	Tom	5' 10"	205	RB	Carthage College
7	HARDY	J.D.	6' 1"	210	DB	Waukegan High School
8	SANDERS	Erick	5' 8"	180	P	University of Wisconsin-Waukesha
12	FARR	Mitch	6' 2"	210	QB	Central Methodist University
13	MCKINNEY II	Antoine	5' 11"	221	DB	Gallaudet University
14	WROBLEWSKI	Dale	6' 3"	235	QB	University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
15	CONRAD	Noah	6' 2"	235	QB	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
16	TURNER	Torin	6' 0"	180	QB/WR	William Horlick High School
17	FITCH	Terrence	6' 1"	195	WR	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
18	SCHULTZ	Channing	6' 0"	184	DB	Iowa Central
19	LEWIS	Robert	5' 9"	175	WR/DB	Boise State Univ. / Sacramento State Univ.
20	MCRAE	DiQuan	6' 0"	225	LB	J.I. Case High School
21	EICKHORST	Jersey	6' 0"	185	DB	Benedictine University
22	NORWOOD	Will	6' 2"	215	DB	Ohio University
25	LYMON	Joski	5' 11"	210	DB	Washington Park High School
26	DANOWSKI	Jordan	5' 10"	170	DB	Waterford Union High School
27	GARCIA	Angel	5' 6"	165	RB	Washington Park High School
28	PERRY, SR.	Malik	5' 6"	190	RB	William Horlick High School
29	SMITH	Daquan	5' 10"	178	DB	Carroll University
30	RUFFIN	Torie	6' 2"	225	DB	Concordia University-Wisconsin
31	HEARN	T.J.	6' 5"	205	K/P	University of Wisconsin-Parkside
31	WILLIAMS	Allieas	5' 6"	195	RB	William Horlick High School
32	KENNEDY	Greg	5' 6"	195	RB	Harper College
34	TRIPLETT	Howard	6' 1"	205	RB	Waukegan High School
36	JONES	Damone	5' 10"	160	DB	William Horlick High School
40	ERVIN	Jamie	6' 2"	250	TE	Washington Park High School
43	GRAHAM	Anton	6' 3"	250	LB/DL	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
45	REYES	Ulises	5' 11"	240	LB	Waukesha South High School
48	JONES	Nick	6' 2"	240	DL	Grant High School
52	BESTER II	Gerald	6' 1"	260	DL	University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
57	WILLIAMS	Desmond	6' 1"	228	RB	William Horlick High School
58	ZIMMERMAN	Jacob	6' 2"	250	OL	Wisconsin Lutheran College
62	GWIN	Caleb	5' 10"	290	OL	Racine Lutheran High School
64	GAILS	Ryan	5' 11"	320	OL	Ripon College
70	SEIDLER	Travis	6' 1"	305	OL	Whitnall High School
72	DEXTER	Dakota	6' 2"	320	OL	Carthage College
73	KANT-HULL	Dan	6' 3"	285	OL	University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
77	TRUSSELL	Isaiah	6' 3"	305	OL	Carthage College
80	JOSSART	Bennett	6' 2"	190	QB	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
81	JACKSON	Quan	6' 2"	187	QB	William Horlick High School
84	VAUGHAN	Aaryn	5' 11"	170	WR	J.I. Case High School
85	NELSON	Nick	6' 3"	245	TE	St. Norbert College
86	PLAZA	Elias	6' 1"	250	TE/P	Mary D. Bradford High School
88	CONVERSE	Ken	6' 6"	220	TE	Whitewater High School
89	RACHAL	Michael	6' 0"	280	TE	Gateway Technical College
92	MARSHALL, JR.	Bruce	6' 2"	335	DL	Grand Canyon University
94	IMEL	Brandon	6' 2"	260	DL/TE	Rockford University
97	GOODWIN	Armani	6' 0"	350	DL/OL	J.I. Case High School
98	PARKER	Najee	5' 10"	310	DL	Rochester Community and Technical College
99	ZAHRADNIK	Gage	6' 2"	280	DL	Ripon College



GAME ROSTER

#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	HT	WT	POS	SCHOOL
00	LOLLIS	Riquel			DB	
0	BASS	Keith			RB/WR	
1	WEBBER	Dashawn			DB	
2	JACKSON	Tarrell			WR/RB	
3	HANSON	Brady			QB	
4	WELCHER, JR.	Frank			WR	
5	GREENING	Aus			LB	
6	FLOWERS	Jermiah			WR/RB	
7	GONZALEZ-SEMA	Erik			QB	
7	STENSON	Wyatt			K/P	
8	HOFFMAN	Rob			DB	
9	SIMON	John			QB	
10	MCCOY	Walker			WR	
11	DYKEN	Nathan			WR	
12	MCDONALD	Andre			WR/DE	
13	STRONG	Steve			WR	
14	CLAVELLE, JR.	Phillip			WR	
15	PLAUTZ	Nathan			WR	
15	ENDRIES	Jordan			K/P	
16	RANDAZZO	Michael			QB	
17	VERIHA	Anthony			WR	
18	MANNING	Tyler			QB	
19	KINCH	Devon			DE	
20	WILSON	Tashun			LB/DL	
21	ELLNER	Shelton			WR	
22	BOOSE	Rafeal			FB	
23	YOUNG	Malcome			RB	
24	GIBBS	Dwonya			DB	
25	SEIDEMANN	Rick			LB	
26	LAIKEN	Adam			LB	
27	GREEN	Devon			DB	
28	SUMMERVILLE	Kaden			WR/DB	
29	MCCOY	Maxwell			RB	
30	VERVELDE	Mitch			RB	
32	STOKES	Jerry			LB	
33	MOORE	Pablo			LB	
34	BLUCHER, JR.	Henirol			DB	
35	MCCOY	Kellen			DB	
36	WILDMAN	Andy			LB/RB	
40	GREEB	Joe				
41	DIMOFF	C.J.			DB	
42	WELCHER	Abram			RB/TE	
44	ANDERSON	Ashon			WR	
45	BOLDEN	Patrick			LB	
46	BLACK	William			DB	
47	WILDMAN	Johnny			DB	
50	DANIELS	Mark			DL	
52	SCOTT	Jordan			LB/DE	
54	WILLIAMS	Steven			OL	
55	SALLIE	Robert			DL	
70	MASON	Jimmy			OL/DL	
72	STOKES	Sema'			OL/DL	
76	WATTS	Austin			OL/DL	
79	THOMPSON	Laine			OL/DL	
80	WHITE	Rashad			WR	
85	TURNER	Jawon			WR	
87	PARKER	Travis			WR	
88	CRAWFORD	LaMarco			WR	
89	VANDENBUSH	Aaron			DL	
90	GRANT	Cordell			DL	
93	CLARKE	Don			OL/DL	

PLAYER PROFILE

DAQUAN SMITH

DEFENSIVE BACK

CURRENT JOB(S)

Spectrum retention agent and owner of Junoesque by Bree with his wife

STARTED WITH THE RAIDERS

2019

FAVORITE FOOD

Chicken Alfredo

FAVORITE BEVERAGE

Hot Lemon Ginger Tea

FAVORITE PLAYER ON THE TEAM OTHER THAN YOURSELF

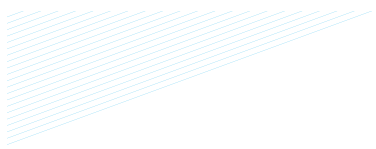
"My boy and best friend Channing Schultz."

FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL

Abnormal psychology and consumer behavior psychology

FAVORITE RACINE RAIDERS MOMENT

"We were playing M3 and Jordan Payne threw the game winning touchdown to Will Norwood to win that game with three seconds left on the clock."



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MEETINGS:
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Veterans Center - 820 Main St., Racine, WI

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE

BLACK TOP CREW

An offense can't operate effectively without a good offensive line. A band can't be their best without good roadies and sound engineer. The Racine Raiders can't be considered the best team in semi-pro football without a group like our Black Top Crew.

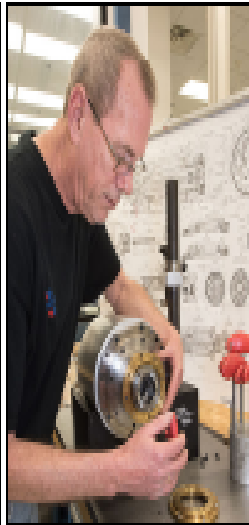
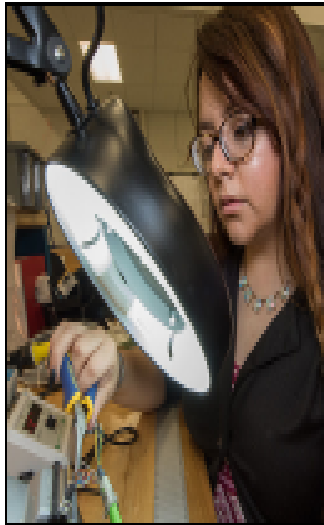
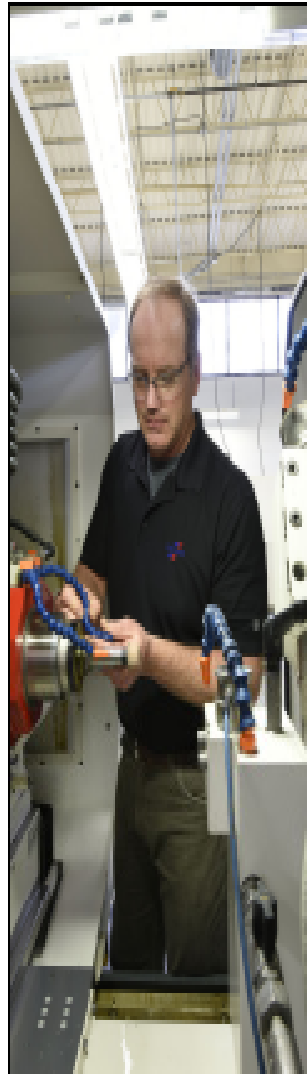
The members of the Black Top Crew are among the first to arrive at Historic Horlick Athletic Field and the last to wrap up their duties. They take care of much of the game day setup and tear down. They set up all of the tables and chairs for the 50/50 raffle, yearbook sales, and any Raiders "Major Sponsors" at the game. They take care of setting up the new R.J.'s Kids Area and the games that go with it. They also set up the Eastside beer tent and cooler, pregame player tunnel, and postgame meal equipment and beverage preparations. They also take care of the presentation for the United Commercial Travelers bike giveaway, hang the retired number and national championship flags, and much more.

"The Black Top Crew have been and continue to be a vital part of our gameday setup and tear down," said Gary Bednar, Vice President of Operations. "This team operates largely behind-the-scenes and is relatively unnoticed, much like a good offensive lineman."

Without the Black Top Crew, many of the experiences for Raiders fans coming to games might not exist. They help set the rhythm of the entire operations, much like a drummer in a band.

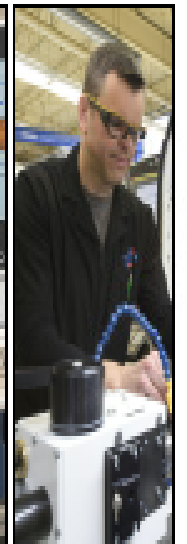
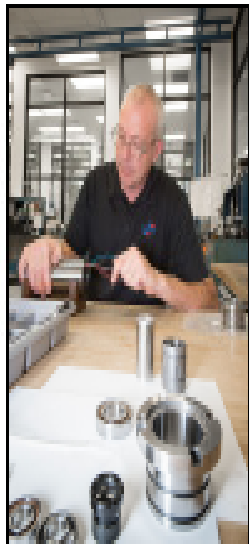
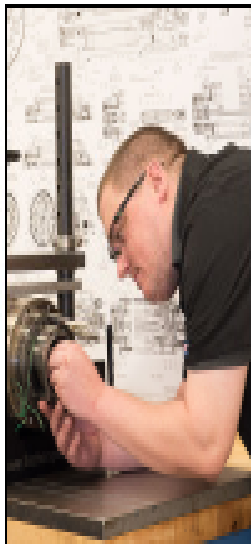
"Their efforts greatly aid in the overall gameday experience for our fans," notes Bednar. "We're blessed for their hard work and continued support."

If you're interested in being one of the nearly 100 volunteers for the Raiders, please visit the Raiders website at www.racineraiders.com and click on *Contact* and then *Volunteer Form*. Even if the Black Top Crew might not pique your interest, we're looking for help in a number of areas in 2022 and beyond. Come see what it's like to support the Raiders and the Racine community in a different way!



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