



February 16, 2009

ODU Fans,

Greetings from Norfolk! We are getting better everyday here at Old Dominion. We continue to get tremendous feedback from all over the state. We are now reaching outside our Virginia borders and are getting favorable responses from all over the country about ODU Football.

We currently have 71 student-athletes working out and “Aiming High” in the classroom. We are in week five of our eight week off-season conditioning drills. As a team, we are looking forward to spring practice which begins March 16. We will have 15 practices and conclude with our spring game on April 11.

Exciting developments have taken place with our facilities for football. The Powhatan Sports Complex is now complete. A 6,500 square foot weight room, training room, equipment room, coaches’ and players’ locker rooms are all on the first floor. In addition, we have a players’ lounge with leather couches and flat screen TV’s. On the second floor we have coaches’ offices and meeting rooms. State of the art video systems are used as teaching tools for our players. A 120 seat team meeting room can easily divide into three rooms for our special teams, defense and offense. This type of learning environment helps us tremendously in working towards our goal of becoming champions.

Even more exciting than Powhatan Sports Complex is the plan for Foreman Field. This 20,000 seat structure will be fully renovated by our first game in 2009. The response for luxury suites and season tickets has been incredible. In just 10 months time over 11,000 season tickets have been sold and with the response thus far, we are confident that every home game will be sold out. We expect our attendance to be among the top five in the country for I-AA football.

In closing, I will share with you our philosophy as a football program. Everything we do at ODU we will “Aim High.” Our goal is to build a championship program. Within that goal, we will strive to be the best people, students and athletes we can be. I am a firm believer that “good things happen to good people.” We will aim to be great representatives of our families and school. We will aim high in the classroom. We want to be Dean’s List students. Everyday our players will strive for this goal and lastly, we will “Aim High” on the field. We want to be champions! When I addressed the 2,500 freshmen during the freshman orientation program, I

challenged them to “Aim High” in everything they do! I want to personally challenge all of you to “Aim High” in everything you do!

Sincerely,

Bobby Wilder

Bobby Wilder
Head Football Coach
Old Dominion University



Old Dominion Football Recruiting Q & A with Coach Wilder

1.) Where will ODU play home games?

Coach Wilder – “We will play our home games in the 20,000 seat Foreman Field. The field will be completely enclosed with 7,500 seats on both sidelines and 5,000 seats in the ‘north end-zone.’ The ‘south end-zone’ will consist of locker rooms, training rooms and luxury suits. Not only will this be one of the top I-AA stadiums in the country, but the best part is it’s on campus! Our students will love the fact they can walk from their dorms to the games!”

2.) What are the anticipated crowds for 2009?

Coach Wilder – “All indications are that we will be sold out for each game and we may have standing room only. Everywhere we go on campus, in the Norfolk community or around the state we are asked about season tickets. People are fired up about the start of ODU Football with 11,000 season tickets having been sold in the first 12 months!”

3.) What will the football facilities look like?

Coach Wilder - “I am convinced that we will have the finest facilities in the country. I have personally been to Montana, Appalachian State, Delaware and James Madison. I have no doubt in my mind we will have better overall training and game-day facilities for our players. Our football building, the Powhatan Sports Complex, has everything we need to be successful: 6,500 square foot weight room, training room, equipment room, and player and coaches’ locker room on the first floor. We also have a player lounge with flat screen TV’s and leather couches. The second floor has coaches’ offices with state-of-the-art video systems and a 120-seat team meeting room that can divide into three 40-seat meeting rooms. This is critical for providing great learning environments for all players. Each coach’s office has a laptop computer and video production units. We will also have two practice fields that are for football only. This will allow for our practices and off-season conditioning programs to be run at the times we decide.”

4.) What surface will Foreman Field have?

Coach Wilder – “We will play on a synthetic surface, Astro-Turf Game Day 3D. We are going to be built for speed as a team and we need to play on a fast surface! This field will also be a football only field which allows our players access to it whenever they need it. We also have the same surface on our practice fields. Play on it, practice on it.”

5.) What league will ODU play in?

Coach Wilder – “We will play in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), formerly known as the A-10. The league consist of ODU, William and Mary, Richmond, JMU, Towson, Delaware, Villanova, Hofstra, URI, Massachusetts, Northeastern, New Hampshire and Maine. It is considered by many people (myself included) to be the top I-AA conference in the country. Evident by the fact that in 2007 and 2008, five if the 12 teams made the NCAA playoffs”

6.) How many scholarships will ODU have?

Coach Wilder – “We will have the full allotted amount for I-AA football which is 63. Not everybody in I-AA football has the maximum allowable scholarships. Old Dominion has made that commitment to be at the highest level.”

7.) When will the coaching staff be completed?

Coach Wilder – “We have nine coaches on staff now. By the kickoff in September of 2009, we will be at the maximum number for I-AA which is 11 coaches; one head coach, five offensive coaches and five defensive coaches. We will also have a specialist that will coordinate all aspects of the kicking game. Every position has a coach. These coaches were chosen from a pool of 350 applicants because I believe they are great people and great teachers.”

8.) What is the first class of recruits doing in the Fall of 2008?

Coach Wilder – “We are doing everything that our future opponents are doing with the exception of playing games on Saturday. We had a preseason camp, we’ve played simulated games on Saturday and we have practiced during the week. The great advantage our first recruiting class has is that they have all red-shirted. Each player has the opportunity to get five years of college! This will allow for maximum growth and development as a student athlete. The other advantage is the chance to be a four-year starter! No other Division I college football program can offer this opportunity to a high school recruit. We can say it and mean it!”

9.) When will Old Dominion start playing games?

Coach Wilder – “In 2009 we will play a full schedule of 11 games. We plan on playing a very competitive non-CAA schedule the first two years as we ‘recruit and develop’ a championship caliber team. Our plan is to play seven home games each year, the first two years. The Old Dominion fan base is so excited for football; we know our 20,000 seat Foreman Field will be rocking! We want our team to learn and grow in that environment. We also plan on traveling (by plane and bus) to a number of very competitive sites for our away games. We need to educate our team on how to win on the road in a hostile environment.”

10.) What style of football can people expect from ODU?

Coach Wilder – “We will play a wide-open, exciting style of football in all three facets of the game; special teams, defense and offense. If game time is 6 p.m. you better be in your seat by 5:59 p.m. or you might miss something on the opening kickoff or kickoff return! On defense we will be a blitzing group, we plan on being built for speed on defense! Our speed guys will be allowed to utilize that speed every play of the game! On offense we will run the ‘spread’ we are going to be a one-back team that spreads the defense from sideline to sideline. We will look to create mismatches with our speed players. We want to constantly work for the ‘game changing’ plays on offense.”