

Web site pins senior quarterback Curtis Painter as Heisman candidate in 2008

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If the Big Ten and NCAA didn't know Purdue senior quarterback Curtis Painter was a Heisman candidate, they know now.

At the Big Ten media days in Chicago, Painter awaited questions at a table with self-promoting DVDs both titled "Painting a Masterpiece" and calendars portraying Painter's career statistics. The DVD was just part of the Heisman promotion Purdue sports is endowing upon the fifth-year Boilermaker QB. The Web site CurtisPainter12.com set sail last Thursday in recognition of Painter, who could break numerous Purdue and Big Ten records this season.

"We don't do it every year," said Purdue sports information director Tom Schott. "Only when there's a player deserving of national recognition."

The Web site offers video highlights, career statistics, awards and blog entries written by Painter. Painter said the site is a good way to get people excited about Purdue, but probably is not going to help him on the field.

On the field, Painter is set to statistically pass another Boilermaker quarterback who received a similar Web site his senior year, Drew Brees. Painter is on pace to break Brees' career statistics for passing attempts, passing yards, total offense and passing efficiency. Brees finished third in the Heisman voting following the 2000-2001 season.

Traditionally the Web site has not been just for Heisman candidates. During their respective senior seasons, Stu Schweigert, Kyle Orton and Anthony Spencer all played a part of Purdue player Web site promotion. Schott said the blog section began with Schweigert, something they titled "Stu's News." The Web site opened up a writing avenue for Schweigert, who continued to write blogs for the Oakland Raiders years after his departure from Purdue.

It's not just all for himself, Painter explained. Other players on the team will get a chance to blog throughout the year. Senior wide receiver Greg Orton believes the site goes further than that for his teammates.

"It's saying a lot for Curtis," said Orton, who will become the likely go-to receiver in 2008 since Dorien Bryant and Dustin Keller graduated. "It says a lot for the receivers to make him shine and do everything possible. We're being represented, too."

Painter will begin his Heisman run on Sept. 6 vs. Northern Colorado.