Seniors leaving with coach

BY CURTIS PAINTER
For SN Today

Playing my whole career for coach (Joe) Tiller has been great. I would have hated to see him go out last year and have my senior season under someone else. It's special to go out with him. Us seniors, we're treating him like he's a senior. All the seniors feel that way. That kind of attitude makes it special for everyone this season.

You listen to him talk and he's one of the more exciting guys to listen to. He's always telling a joke. The average person doesn't know his sense of humor. People think it's all about football, football, football, football with him. But that's not it at all. I'll stick my head in his door and we talk about anything but football. His ability to sit down and talk about things outside of football, that's something I don't think a lot of people outside the program would expect out of him.

He's pretty calm. He'll get you going if he feels he needs to. But he's not necessarily the guy who will start screaming his head off. He's all about having that positive attitude.

I think coach Tiller has done a tremendous job and really turned the program around. With coach (Danny) Hope (Tiller's successor), he's a guy who can step in with the transition process and pick up where coach Tiller is leaving off. He'll be able to put teams together that compete year in and year out. He's been at Purdue before and that's a good thing. It puts him in position to hit the ground running.

He's a very intense guy. Always up to speed, running from drill to drill. Having that in a head coach will keep guys going. He makes sure guys aren't slacking. Getting extra reps. Getting everything done on the field. He'll build a great attitude.

— As told to Derek Samson

About the author

Curtis Painter, Purdue QB
Painter is second in school history in career completion percentage (.599), fourth in completions (760), fourth in passing yards (8,763), fourth in touchdowns (54) and fourth in total offense (9,101).

DARRON CUMMINGS / AP

The routine of preseason football camp can get boring, and Boston College TE Ryan Purvis (80) knows how to find comic relief.

Entertainers break up camp

BY RYAN PURVIS
For SN Today

Training camp is kind of monotonous and boring. It's literally 100 yards from where we live to the Players Club, where we eat, and it's another 100 yards from there to the stadium. And every day is the same. You get into these routines, and the meetings are long. But we have a couple of guys who break it up a little bit.

One linebacker, Will Thompson, is a phenomenal singer. He'll get up and sing before meetings or in the cafeteria after a practice. He's been making up songs about guys on the team, and it's really funny. No songs have been sung about me, yet. He's a linebacker, so he's usually singing about the rest of the linebackers. He does a great job. He's big into a cappella, so I think he does some stuff on the fly. But the stuff he's been doing that's been making us laugh is stuff he's prepared. And we have a guy, Billy Flutie, who'll play the guitar. Will Thompson will get a beat with the guitar and just go with it, really.

They had a talent show at the bowl banquet in Orlando last year, and he sang, I think it was "My Girl" on stage in front of all the bowl sponsors and both teams and coaches and everything. He did an awesome job. Everyone was telling him he should be on *American Idol*. I think he'd be good; I think he could make it.

We've got another guy, Mark Maglio; he does these impressions of the coaches. So before a meeting, he'll come in and pretend he's one of the coaches, and it's actually pretty funny. The coaches are starting to figure out what he's doing when we're all laughing, and they walk in and he runs to his seat. So whenever he's standing up I think the coaches kind of try to listen in and hear who he's impersonating. He does a good coach Jags but I think he'd argue that his best one is coach Yanowsky, my tight ends coach. They've been entertaining us a lot. It's good because you get so serious and everything is so regimented and routine that it just feels good to laugh sometimes.

— As told to Erin Farrell

About the author

Ryan Purvis, Boston College TE
The senior has been named to the Lombardi Award watch list. He was a first-team All-ACC pick last season after making 54 catches for 553 yards and four touchdowns.

Ready for class, game week

BY JOSH FREEMAN
For SN Today

I can't wait to get school started. I enjoy class. I actually do. It's very rare that I don't look forward to going to class.

I'm taking 12 hours this semester, but one of my classes is the History of Rock 'n' Roll. It's just as it sounds, an academic look at rock 'n' roll. Now, it's not like you just sit there and listen to music all the time. That's part of it. But you learn about where all the types of rock 'n' roll came from.

It should be a fun class. I'm just going into it with an open mind. I've always been a fan of AC/DC, so I hope they'll be part of it.

Who knows? I might need that information someday when I'm on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*.

I've always liked class, though. World history was fun. Business calculus, now that was a challenge. I loved all the explanatory writing, and the speech classes. I think it's fun talking in front of people. It's never bothered me. It's kind of cool to prepare, put it down in an outline and research. But other times, it's more fun to go up there and wing it, string them along and make them think you know a lot more than you do.

Debate, that's something I never got into. I always thought I was too cool for that in high school. Now that I look back on it, I wish I would have taken it.

Camp is finally winding down after what seems to be a couple years. We're getting a lot of work done. All the days start to run into each other, but there is still a lot of intensity.

You know, camp is camp. Everybody around the country is excited for the season to get started. It's no different here. It's just been football, football, football. That's why it'll be nice to get school started and get into a game week.

— As told to Derek Samson

About the author

Josh Freeman, Kansas State, QB
Freeman, a 6-6, 250-pound junior, is projected to be one of the top three QBs taken in the 2009 NFL draft, if he leaves school early. He started 20 games in his first two years, setting a school record with 3,353 passing yards last year.