



Michael Schweitzer filling big shoes

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The last former basketball player to suit up for the Ashland University football team went on to be an All-American and a second round draft pick by the Chicago Bears and now a redshirt freshman will attempt to fill those shoes.

The All-American is Adam Shaheen and the redshirt freshmen taking his place is Michael Schweitzer.

Both Shaheen and Schweitzer did not get their starts on the gridiron but rather on the basketball court.

“Out of the love for the game of basketball I just played it in high school and played it all through my life,” Schweitzer said.

Schweitzer was a dominant basketball player at Bishop Watterson high school as he was an All-Ohio honorable mention in Division II.

“I was a solid player in high school and I had some looks DIII, but nothing too crazy,” Schweitzer said.

He led his high school team in scoring, but when it came down for Schweitzer to decide whether or not he would play football or basketball in college, he put down the basketball and picked up the pigskin.

Schweitzer was nothing short of dominant on the gridiron as well as he earned special mention All-Ohio in his senior year after missing his junior year due to an injury.

“I was injured my junior year and I just had my senior year to get my tape out there,” Schweitzer said. “I already had contact with Ashland so it was kind of an easy choice.”

Schweitzer’s contact with Ashland came from his older siblings who also attended Ashland. His older brother, Matt, played tight end on the football team, while his sister Lauren was on the volleyball team.

The family’s connection to the university is the main reason why, Ashland was the right choice for Schweitzer.

“Ashland was kind of always my No. 1 Division II choice,” Schweitzer said, “but I had Tiffin and the other small D2 schools offer me, but I didn’t think much of

them.”

Schweitzer is in the midst of his second season with the Eagles football team, but it is the first season that he has actually been on the field.

Coming into his freshmen year in 2016, Schweitzer was stuck behind one of the best football players to ever come through Ashland, Adam Shaheen.

This made the decision to redshirt very easy for the young tight end from Dublin, Ohio. Not only did Schweitzer have an additional year to adjust to the college game while not using a year of eligibility, he also had time to spend with Shaheen and he used it to his advantage.

“His athletic ability is unreal,” Schweitzer said about Shaheen. “I try to model my game after him, try to run my routes just like he did, try to get separation, I mean that’s the one thing I’ve tried to model my game like he does, his basketball player mentality out on the field, the way he targets the ball, the way he adjusts to the ball I try to model my game after that.”

Schweitzer said that his basketball career has really helped him become a better player on the football field.

“Targeting the ball in the air, getting leverage on defenders in certain situations, like in the first game there was a play in the end zone where I had to box out a defender and just hold the position, that’s what I’ve taken from basketball,” Schweitzer said.

Not only does Schweitzer model his on the field performance after Shaheen’s but he also tries to follow what Shaheen did off the field.

“[I admired] The mentality, how he approaches the game of football and academic side of the football and of course the academic side of college, the way he would study the playbook, the way he came into practice everyday, I mean the way he bought into the weight room and training his body,” Schweitzer said.

Schweitzer even models his diet after Shaheen’s, at least in some aspects.

“I had two burrito bowls yesterday,” Schweitzer said in response to whether or not he could out eat Shaheen in a Chipotle eating con-

test. “I’m definitely not trying to get up to 280 pounds like he was because I don’t have the frame like he does, but I definitely try to eat Chipotle, I am really pumped about getting a Chipotle in Ashland.”

Schweitzer is off to a hot start in his collegiate career.

In his first game in the purple and gold, the tight end caught seven passes for 57 yards and hauled in two touchdowns.

“I was pretty pumped,” Schweitzer said. “It was a weird feeling going out there for your first college start, but after getting that first catch, it was kind of an awkward catch but that really settled me in.”

Through three weeks, Schweitzer has been a force in the Eagles’ offense, especially when inside the redzone.

He has caught nine passes for 78 total yards and three touchdowns.

“It’s good that we have a tight end that has exceptional hands,” head coach Lee Owens said. “He is a good player.”

Schweitzer said that he is very happy with his early season production and will try to stay consistent throughout the season.

“I am going to do what I can to get as many touches as I can, run my routes the best way and that’s all I can control,” he said.

Schweitzer said that this season he would like to limit his drops for the rest of the season and to amass 500 receiving yards and five touchdowns, but beyond his personal goals, he says that the team wants to win the rest of their games and win the GLIAC and compete deep into the playoffs.

For Schweitzer there is more than just the success on the field that comes with playing the game of football.

“The brotherhood, the brotherhood is for sure the best,” Schweitzer said. “being able to go to practice with my guys and enjoy it everyday. Enjoy the win after the game with everybody and just knowing that these guys will have your back for the rest of your life.”

The Ashland football team will continue their season on Sept. 23 with a marquee matchup against GLIAC North rivals, the Ferris State Bulldogs.



SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL SCHWEITZER
Michael Schweitzer is a redshirt tight end that is looking to fill the big shoes Adam Shaheen left behind.



SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL SCHWEITZER
Schweitzer during his high school basketball career at Bishop Watterson.

Eagle volleyball, soaring to new records

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The clean gym floor of Kate’s Gymnasium shines against the lights hanging from the ceiling. The doors burst open as girls with swinging ponytails run in and circle up.

The sound of hands smacking against a white volleyball fills the air as the ball makes its way over the net, ready to be hit again.

The Ashland University women’s volleyball team is ready to make a comeback from the 2016, 23-11 season they just had. Even though the team has only played nine games, they are currently 7-4 on the season and 5-0 at home.

“We are off to a good start and we had a great opening weekend,” head coach Cass Dixon said. “We learned a lot about ourselves and found out the things that we are doing well and have an added emphasis on the things we need to work on.”

The Eagles opened their season at the start of September with the Quality Inn Ashland University Tournament and a 4-0 record. Sophomore outside hitter, Shelby Woycik, led the team and earned a career high of 26 kills and 12 digs. The next tournament brought two more wins and the team’s first loss on the year.

“Our goal, like any year, is to compete and to always put ourselves in a position to compete,” Dixon said. “Ultimately, of course,

we would love to win the conference tournament and love to go back to the NCAA tournament and eventually win a national championship. That’s why we play.”

After losing Alli Cudworth and Casey Clark, two of the best players the program had ever seen, to graduation, the question of who was going to fill their shoes remained.

Although together as a team many of the girls were able to help, it was Woycik who stepped up and strapped the laces together.

Woycik started off the season with a career high in digs and kills and continued to step up to the net. In the second tournament of the season, she recorded a double-double of 21 kills and 12 digs. She was named to the all-tournament team after finishing the Missouri S&T Middle of Everywhere Tournament with 68 total kills and 44 digs, while hitting .221 hitting percentage.

“Shelby has been putting up really great numbers and is naturally stepping in to fill that role that our two previous seniors had left,” Dixon said. “Offensively she can be unstoppable but the only way that happens is if our system is good. Our middles have been doing a fantastic job of being able to hold blockers so it creates more opportunities and our setters have been getting her the ball at the right time.”

Coach Dixon also said that along

with Woycik, everyone has taken on more of a sense of involvement and the team chemistry is strong.

“Volleyball, unlike some other team sports, really relies on everyone,” Dixon said. “Everybody has taken on a greater sense of involvement this year. Our team chemistry has been really strong and everybody is doing their part, we are not having to rely on just one person.”

The team does not have to rely on just one person, which is how a balanced team should be Dixon said.

She also credited junior middle Reanne Neal and redshirt sophomore middle Michaela Ping for holding down the middle while the sides and defensive back row are also putting up good numbers as well.

As the team looked to open GLIAC play against Grand Valley and Wayne State on Sept. 15-16, the only thing on the team’s mind was to compete like they have in the past.

The Lakers are 3-5 on the season so far. When the Eagles met the Lakers last year, the Eagles fell 3-1.

The Warriors are currently 4-4 on the season.

Both teams went head to head three time last season with the Warriors winning the first match 3-2 and the Eagles taking the last two 3-0 and 3-2.

In the game against Grand Valley, the Eagles won the first set and losing the other three and fell to the Lakers 3-1. Woycik led the

team with nine kills while Ping followed closely behind with seven.

The next battle of the weekend was against the Bulldogs. That match ended in a 3-0 loss for the Eagles. Freshman Ellie Jensen played in her second collegiate match of the season and put up eight kills to lead the team.

“We want to have a great year and compete and put ourselves in

a position that we can be successful,” Dixon said. “Working hard and having fun while we are doing because ultimately that is what it’s about. Just really enjoying what we do is what I’m looking forward too.”

The Eagles will be back in action again on Sept. 22 for GLIAC play against Lake Superior State and Saginaw Valley State.



AU ATHLETICS
Woycik leads the GLIAC in kills per set averaging 4.14 per set. She is second in the GLIAC for individual kills