

Matt Milisor
Kicking His Way to the Pros
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Matt Milisor is the place kicker/punter for Page High School, and I had the privilege of talking to him about his future aspirations. Matt is a senior this year and he says that he has loved playing the game of football. He started “kicking” when he was in 8th grade, often previously playing soccer. It happened that the football team needed someone to take the position for kicking so he volunteered and had his first taste of the game. He then went back to soccer his freshman year, but was yearning for the game he truly loved. His freshman year passed, while the sophomore year was opening the door to opportunity. The football team once again needed a kicker, and this time he jumped at the chance to play.

He has now been kicking his way towards success for three years, each year getting better and showing everyone just how good he is. When I interviewed him, only two games had transpired. But in that time he had 3 for 4 in field goals, and 12 for 12 in extra points. His biggest kick was 40 yards in his junior year, and now, with only 2 games played, he is one yard shy of tying that at 39 yards. I also asked him what goes through his mind before a pressure kick, “nothing” he says, “I simply pick out my target, and kick the ball into it.” When asked how he trains for the season he replied “Well, I take about 2 months off after the regular season, kicking about once a week. Then I start practicing 3 days out of the week up until summer, then it’s everyday!”

As we spoke further I wanted to know what colleges were looking at him. As I brought this subject up, I could feel his excitement, and watched as his eyes lit up and he happily told me some campuses; Wake Forest, Clemson, South Carolina, Wofford, Furman, East Carolina University, Penn State, and UNC-Chapel Hill. After that long list, I wanted to know what he would say when talking with a college coach and attempting to convince that person to recruit him! He simply said, “I am a hard worker,” and from the numbers, that is not hard to believe. But what impressed me the most was that he wanted to be a part of the team and cheer them on, not just off in his own world thinking about the next time he is going to kick.

Some of the people Matt admires are Ryan Succop #14, kicker for the South Carolina Gamecocks, and Mike Nugent #1, professional kicker for the New York Jets. Both of these men are amazing people to look up to, but what really stands out is his “Role Model,” and that would be none other than his sister. She is a senior in college and inspires him by (her) hard work and dedication. He says that “no matter what she does, she always gives it her all,” which is what motivated him to push to rehabilitate a torn ACL and come back strong, so that he could get a scholarship to help support his parents. The last thing I asked him was if he wanted to go pro. His response was, “Absolutely!”

-Veritas Sports Academy-Ethan Wall