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Sequoit kicker from past sets new minor league record

By Heather Kiddoo

Antioch Community High School football alumnus, Kurt Hintz, followed the faith he had in his talent to a record-breaking performance in one of football's minor leagues.

Hintz, brother of current ACHS junior, Kari Hintz, was a kicker and defensive end for the fighting Sequoits in 1995.

"He had the best leg we have ever had since I can remember," said Del Pechauer, ACHS head football coach.

In high school, tall, slender, Hintz enjoyed the adrenaline rush of the big hit and aspired to be a starter at defensive end, but former ACHS coach, Steve Scott got him into kicking.

"We would work on kicks after practice and over the summer. I encouraged him to go to camp and he went," said Scott.

Following high school, Hintz went on to play football in the Big Ten at the University of Iowa. Even though Hintz received little playing time in college, he still says that it was a great experience. When college ball came to an end, Hintz thought his football days were over. It was then that he received a phone call from Wisconsin's minor-league football team, the Racine Raiders.

Hintz was healing from knee surgery at the time, but the Raiders still wanted him to come to tryouts. After several phone calls from Raiders' coaches, Hintz decided to try it. Hintz liked the Raiders' structure and organization, and ultimately was named the team's number one kicker.

"The guys are the best, I couldn't have done it without my snapper, Brian Erickson and my holder, Anthony Wooden," said Hintz.

For two years now, Hintz has played for the

Raiders, the 2001 National Champions. Going into the last season, Hintz had a lofty list of goals, most of which he achieved by the end of the season. Among these goals was to become the leading scorer on the team and he did, with 118 points. Hintz feels that he has a good chance to earn the All American Award and to be chosen to play in Las Vegas on the All Star team in April.

His first year with the Raiders, Hintz received honorable mention for the Mid-Continental Football League and this year walked away with First Team MCFL honors. Hintz's statistics speak for themselves. A 35-40 yard kick is considered a medium distance. Hintz's longest career kick is 53 yards.

Hintz always had the leg strength, but it wasn't until the summer of his sophomore year at Iowa that he had the opportunity to practice with former Chicago Bear kicker, Kevin Butler. Hintz credits Butler for his increase in accuracy. Butler completely changed Hintz's kicking style, which was enough to help him make 22 out of 33 field goals last season.

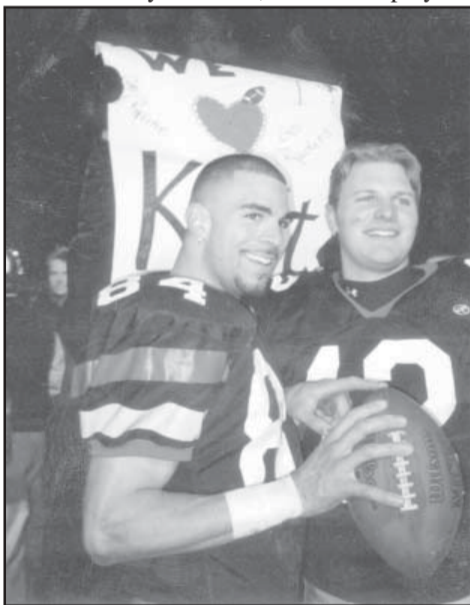
"I was never the most accurate kicker, but I had a lot of strength behind it," said Hintz.

His 22 field goals broke the minor-league record set by Walt Willis for the most field goals in a season. Out of 55 extra points, Hintz missed only one.

Hintz's self-reflection says it well: "I always knew I had the talent, given the chance. [But this year] I amazed even myself," said Hintz.

Currently, Hintz is looking for a chance to earn a tryout with an NFL team or possibility with an Arena Football League team for next season. If that doesn't work out, he would be proud to play for the Raiders again.

"I'm not surprised that he made it this far. I always knew he had the talent and ability," said Scott.



Photos Courtesy of Kurt Hintz
FRUITS OF LABOR: Hard work has payed off for Kurt Hintz, a former Sequoit kicker and defensive end.

Girls have grim start, losing nine straight

By Dan Moore

The Sequoit girls basketball team picked up their ninth straight loss of the season at home on Sat. Dec. 8 against the Stevenson Patriots.

They lost to Stevenson 35-32. Starla Williams led the team with 10 points and Alex Mika had 9.

The girls suffered another major loss recently. The Sequoits leading scorer, Erica Brown decided to leave the program.

Brown was the girls leading scorer and a four year varsity player. Last season Brown had her breakout season, scoring a team leading 240 points with 130 rebounds, second on the team.

This leaves the team with only one returning senior to lead the team, guard Meredith Nelson

The Sequoits traveled to Warren

Girls Basketball

High School to take on the Blue Devils. Game results were unavailable at press time

The girls have a chance to split their games with the Wild-

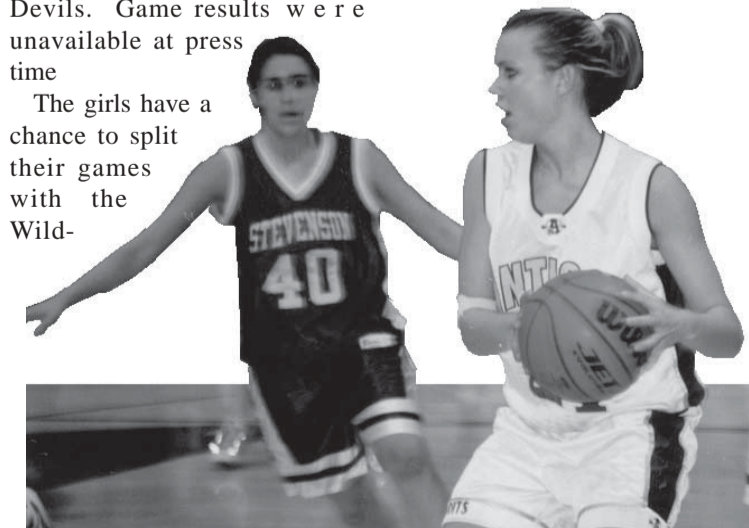


Photo by Amy Dembinski
PLAYING HARD: Sequoit senior Meredith Nelson attempts to work around Stevenson's Lauren Fishman in the Sequoits 32-35 loss to the Patriots.

cats of Libertyville next Monday at 7:00 when the Wildcats come to Antioch.