

PROFILE

Normand is quite a guy

If you went to a Gresham football game last fall, you saw him. He was the cheerleader without the pom poms. He can't dance real well or kick his leg very high in the air, but show him the backside of some running back and his kicking game improves considerably.

Guy Normand didn't make a lot of friends last year. Oh, his teammates like him a lot and the coaches think he's just about the cat's meow. But it's tough to make friends on the football field when you knock the socks off someone, then jump up and scream and roll your eyes back in your head and wave your arms around and just generally carry on.

But that's just the kind of guy Guy is. And his Gresham teammates and coaches would have it no other way.

Last fall, as a junior linebacker and part-time fullback, Normand was one of the most improved players on the Gresham squad. This season he is one of the players the Gophers will hitch their wagon to in hopes it will carry them into the state playoffs for a third consecutive year.

Normand will be a full-time fullback in addition to his regular duties. No sweat, says he. "It's going to take quite a bit of conditioning," Normand says. "Because of baseball lasting almost all summer I haven't got in as much weightlifting as I wanted. But it will come around."

Normand, your basic rah-rah guy, thinks he can conserve some energy by toning down some of his on-field theatrics — "I don't know if I'll be doing as much jumping around this year," he says — but that will never come about if the Gresham staff has anything to say about it — and it usually does.

"He gave us everything we could ask for as far as inspiration," defensive coach Jack Flitcraft says. "He just acted like he was having a great time and I think that was contagious. We needed some of that bubbling enthusiasm to carry us early in the year when we weren't quite sure who we were. I hope he doesn't change his style just because he has to play some more football for us."

Normand began his career some seven years ago as a miniature defensive end, a position he held down until entering Gresham, where he was switched to linebacker. "There's more action there," he says. "It's more fun. You don't have any restrictions on where you go. You just go to the ball."

Sounds simple enough, and the 6-1, 185-pound Normand made it look that way, earning second-team all-Wilco League honors in his first year on the varsity.

"He started that first game for us," Flitcraft says, "and, frankly, I thought he might not be as good in football as some of the other sports (he was an all-league pitcher on Flitcraft's baseball team this spring). But he has skills in any pursuit he takes up. He has a nose for the ball and loves to get involved. He's got to be one of the fleetest people in the league. I think he'd make a great defensive back for us, but he's so valuable to us up there where he can get his nose on the ball."

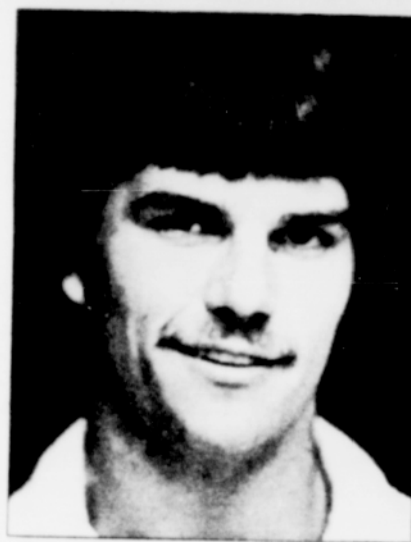
It is Normand's all-around skills that make the Gresham staff think he will be a top-notch fullback this year, also. He played sparingly last year behind senior Brian Crouser, but often enough to make his mark.

"The fullback in our offense is usually a blocker," Normand says. "But you do get to run with the ball once in a while and that's fine with me. I've always been a fullback. I'll do anything to help the team and if being a fullback is going to help it the most I'll do it. But when it comes down to it, linebacker is where I want to be."

Normand didn't just stumble onto his athletic skills; he came by them honestly. Father Don was a linebacker at Gresham



On defense Guy Normand (30) will close in for the kill, something to avoid on offense.



back when they were still using Roman numerals on jerseys (sorry, Don) and he passed on his traits so that everybody could wear the genes in the Normand family.

Guy's brother, Dale, graduated from Gresham in 1976 after a career as a three-sport athlete. Guy may have picked up some of his cheerleading techniques from Joy, who opted for rally instead of sports and also graduated in '76. Wayne, a junior at Oregon Tech, was another three-sport athlete at Gresham who was named to the all-Conference and all-District baseball teams as a pitcher this spring at the same time Lisa, an '81 grad, and Guy were being selected to the all-Wilco softball and baseball teams.

Those two brothers helped Guy develop some of the meanness that always comes with the linebacker territory. "That comes from always getting your nose slammed into the ground by big brothers," he says.

Fairly soon, now, Normand will be faced with the decision of whether to pursue baseball or football in college. He has had quite a few contacts with schools concerning his skills as a pitcher.

Normand isn't ready to make that kind of decision just yet, but you can see him leaning. "I think I'd have more of a chance as a college baseball player," he says. "If I decided to go football, it would have to be an everyday thing, running and lifting weights."

Not to mention leading cheers.

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