

# PROFILE



Not a pleasant sight for opposing defenses — Tony Domingue with the ball.

## TD An end who's center of attention

Tony Domingue would just as soon avoid the issue. When somebody asks him how it feels to be looked at as one of the best high school football players around, the rangy 6-5, 223-pound Reynolds senior merely shrugs.

"Best player around where?" he asks. "Reynolds High, the league or what?"

How about the United States, Tony?

At least in the opinion of a least one football magazine — which lists Domingue's hometown as "Reynolds, Ore." — the Lancer tight end-defensive tackle looks to be your basic hot property when college recruiting season rolls around.

No surprises there. Domingue finished last season with 27 catches for 525 yards and nine touchdowns. He was also a first-team all-state selection at tight end, the only junior on the elite team.

The sight of Domingue rumbling downfield while peeling off would-be tacklers last season was certainly something to behold. But if you think that was the crowning achievement of Domingue's prep career, think again.

"He's looking even better this season," says Reynolds assistant coach Carl Collins.

One reason for that might be a weight-lifting program Domingue was on during the summer.

"I'm up to around 223 compared to 217 last season," he says. "I did it mainly to just get stronger."

Domingue moved into the Reynolds district when he was in the eighth grade. He came from southeast Portland, the Cleveland High School area, to be exact. Lancer followers will note that it's the same area from whence came Tim Reed, who did a fair job of terrorizing opposing ball carriers during his years in a Reynolds uniform.

Oddly, despite his size, Domingue was a running back as a sophomore for the Lancer JV team. He might have been a pretty good one, too, but with guys like Dane Gjesdal, Vince Wappler, Melvin Renfro, et. al. already on hand, Domingue wasn't getting a whole lot of exposure.

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"I was a running back at a school full of running backs," he says. "We've had good runners as long as I've been here."

Thus it was that last year, No. 88 found his position at tight end. Or vice versa.

"I didn't really find my spot, they just put me there one day," he says.

If the Reynolds staff made one smart move, that was it. After the first few games of the Lancers' unbeaten Wilco League season, even the people in the press box were wondering, "Who IS that guy, anyway?"

After a few more games, Domingue was a bona fide star on a team of stars. He went both ways, playing defensive tackle when Reynolds didn't have the ball. It was a position he played with relish.

"I probably got more recognition on offense," he says.

"Everyone considers me an offensive player. But as far as hitting goes, I've always felt it was better to give than receive."

Domingue will be doing both again this year. But he'll be catching passes from a different quarterback and playing under a new head coach in Ed Sowash.

"There haven't been any problems (in adjusting to Sowash's coaching style after playing under Craig Ruecker last year)," he says. "He's not putting too much on us at one time that we can't pick up."

Adjusting to new quarterback Rod Gjesdal hasn't been a problem, either. But there are differences.

"Jack threw a softer ball than Rod does," Domingue says. "I think (Gjesdal's) having been a pitcher in baseball might have something to do with it. But as far as accuracy goes, they're about the same."

Considering his ability and reputation, Domingue can be expected to draw most of the opposition's attention when Reynolds is on offense. That, he says, could be a fatal mistake.

"The teams we beat will be the ones who don't play us honest," Domingue says. "Our other receivers are as fast and catch as good as anyone's. Teams will have to play us honest."

As the lone returning starter and a senior, Domingue will naturally be expected to provide the Lancers with leadership on the field. That, plus his status as a major college prospect, might put considerable pressure on Domingue. It's something he shrugs off, however.

"I expect people do expect me to be a leader, but I'm not feeling any pressure," he says. "I'm just going to work on the fundamentals and get the job done."

Which is what got him there in the first place.

JIM HAYS