

McNary two-sport star Ready for the next level



McNary senior Logan Ready plans to attend Pacific Lutheran University next year to play football and baseball. Photo by MATT RAWLINGS of Keizertimes

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Despite the COVID-19 pandemic throwing a wrench into high school sports for the last two years, McNary senior Logan Ready has been able to display his unique skill-set on the football field and baseball diamond over the last year.

Next year, Ready will be taking his abilities to the collegiate level.

After receiving offers from a number of Division III schools, Ready committed to play football and baseball for Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) in Tacoma, Wash. last month. Ready will be a kicker for the football team and a pitcher for the baseball squad.

"It was a busy process, but it feels good to be committed to PLU. I feel like it's going to be a good fit for me," Ready said.

Out of the more than 460,000 student athletes in the NCAA, only a select few play multiple sports in college. Ready said he received offers to play just one sport at multiple schools, but that he had his heart set on playing both football and baseball, an opportunity that Pacific Lutheran afforded him.

"I really wanted to play both. If I

played at a higher level, I probably would have had to choose one, but since it was a smaller school I wanted to try and do both. And they were one of the few schools that wanted me to do both," Ready said.

Ready also said he appreciates the small size of the college and that academics are the priority at Pacific Lutheran — Ready plans to major in business.

"I liked the campus. It was the right size for me. I wanted to go to a smaller school because I felt like I would be able to fit in more," Ready said.

Ready admitted that baseball is his favorite sport and that he really didn't have college football on his radar until last year. He had been a kicker while playing youth football, but hadn't kicked in a high school game until last March during the COVID-shortened spring season.

After losing all-league kicker Daniel Mood to graduation in 2020, McNary head coach Jeff Auvinen told Ready that he wanted him to be the team's kicker as a junior.

Ready was reluctant at first, but came to realize that he had one of the strongest legs in the Mountain Valley Conference.

"Auvinen came to me at the start of

the COVID season and told me we need a kicker, so I told him I would try it out. But I just kept getting better and better and more consistent," Ready said.

"We talked him into it and he took on the challenge so well. He knew that he wanted to kick at the next level after he had some success. It was nice to see him gain confidence," Auvinen added.

Ready made 18 of his 23 kicks and had five touchbacks during the six-game spring season. When the fall came, Ready showed even more improvement, making three field goals and going 35-of-39 on extra points to go along with his 20 touchbacks.

But the most notable kick of his career came in the second game of last season.

McNary and Newberg were tied at 14-all when Auvinen sent out Ready to try a game-winning 43-yard field goal. Before the attempt, Newberg head coach Jeremy Johnson tried to freeze Ready by calling a timeout. However, the decision ended up having the opposite effect of what Johnson intended.

"I felt less pressure after they called the timeout. When I went out there the first time, my whole body was shaking. I was really nervous," Ready said.

During the timeout, Ready went over

to assistant coach Brian Aicher, who gave him a substantial boost of confidence.

"He told me, 'We know you have this in you. Just go do it.' It was so nice to know they had that belief and support in me," Ready said.

After a perfect snap and hold, Ready booted the ball straight through the uprights, and was mobbed by his teammates after hitting the game-winner.

"I just loved it. I just knew that the whole team was going to come out and support me. I just loved the feeling," he said.

Less than a week after making the kick, Ready started generating interest from Division III football programs across the Northwest, which led to him eventually getting an offer from Pacific Lutheran.

"I definitely started getting looked at more after the kick," Ready said.

As a pitcher, Ready sits between 83-86 MPH on his fastball and has a 12-6 curveball that can be difficult for prep hitters to handle. However, Ready has had limited opportunities to show his ability for the McNary baseball squad over the course of his career.

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