



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Jordan Poyer gives his gloves to his mom, Julie Poyer, after the game. See more photos of Poyer online at www.dailyastorian.com.

Poyer: 'He will compete to win'

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Howard Rub, Poyer's high school coach, made the trip to see his former player perform live at the highest level. Poyer is the first Astoria High School graduate to play in the NFL since Del Bjork, who played for the Chicago Bears in 1937-38.

Competitive nature

What makes Poyer able to compete in the NFL is his competitive nature mixed with his natural ability, Rub said. Rub recalls the same competitive spirit in Poyer during his high school days.

"He is as competitive as anyone you will ever meet," Rub said. "If you play him in checkers, he's going to want to win. He will compete to win."

Although the current high school football players may have been too young to appreciate Poyer's time in Astoria, Rub said, his players know Poyer and his legacy well.

"It's certainly great to have a local kid who did make it, and to have someone that everyone locally can aspire to be like," Rub said.

Visits to the Northwest are few and far between for Poyer. He flew into Seattle with the team Saturday and flew back to Cleveland Sunday night.

He said it felt good to spend time away from the snow in Cleveland and play under familiar cloudy skies.

Being in Seattle, the closest NFL city to Astoria, made for a good opportunity to see his family, who cannot make it to all of his games.

"I love the support I get from back home. I will always be playing for the town. That's why I love the game, I like making people back home proud," Poyer said. "I'm going to keep grinding, I'm going to keep fighting and hopefully this isn't the last time you see me playing around here."

A proud father

Before the game, Fa'aleao Poyer, Poyer's father, stood along the front row of the stadium watching his oldest son warming up on the field.

Fa'aleao Poyer described how proud he is of his son and how well Poyer represents Astoria. Poyer's father was looking forward to catching up with his son after the game.

"Above everything, I love watching him, but it's also an opportunity for me to just give him a hug and just say, 'Hi, how are you doing?' and look him in the eyes and see how he is really doing," Fa'aleao Poyer said. "It's a more personal thing for me."

'It would be a lot more fun if we were winning'

SEATTLE — In his return to the Pacific Northwest, Jordan Poyer did not have a tackle or sack in the Cleveland Browns' 30-13 loss to the Seattle Seahawks.

Overall this season, the Astoria native has 37 total tackles (23 solo, and 14 assists) in the 14 games played so far. Poyer also has one sack on Dec. 13 against San Francisco and one interception that came Nov. 15 against Pittsburgh Steelers' quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

Poyer is playing his third season in the NFL after being drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in April 2013 in the seventh-round of the draft. He joined the Browns in October 2013.

The Browns are 3-11 this season. "It would be a lot more fun if we were winning," Poyer said. "The city is behind the football team huge. The fans out there are great. We want to win for them. I'm upset we can't win for the city. It's tough."

— Kyle Spurr



Jordan Poyer, center, walks along the sideline with teammates during the game against the Seahawks at CenturyLink Field in Seattle Sunday.

'I love the support I get from back home. I will always be playing for the town.'

Jordan Poyer

Former Astoria Fisherman and current Cleveland Browns safety



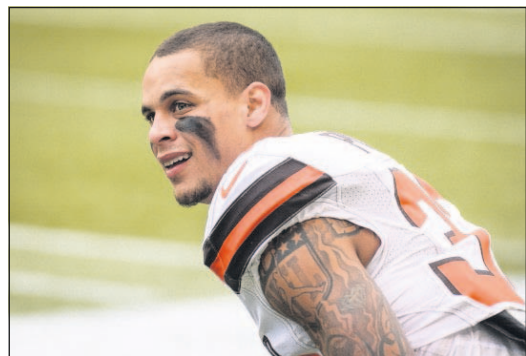
ABOVE: Jordan Poyer smiles as he talks with family and friends after the game. LEFT: After the game, Jordan Poyer poses for a photo with his uncle, Chris Crocker, while meeting with friends and family.



Jordan Poyer blitzes during a play in the third quarter of the football game.



Jordan Poyer hugs his aunt, Jac Crocker, after the game against the Seattle Seahawks.



Jordan Poyer stretches on the sideline before the game.