

Athlete pursues dream, earns starting position

Team is Idaho defending state champion

POCATELLO, Idaho — Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs tribal member Noah Eugene Suppah's goal since he was in little league football is to be a starting player on the Highland Rams varsity football team.

After three years of dedication and hard work he's achieved it, as he's the starting center for the defending Idaho state champion 5A Highland High School Rams.

Running every morning before school, doing wind sprints and extra workouts before and after football practice are just a few examples of his commitment to football. "Nothing pays off more than hard work and extra effort," he said.

Even in winter Noah would run in snowstorms. The only way his mom Lori could tell his location was by his headlamp he wore at night, jumping the sagebrush with his rez dogs by his side.

His beginnings as a football player were as a defensive tackle and center for the Fort Hall Seminoles Little League football team, then he played center for the Highland Rams freshman and junior varsity teams.

The Rams just won the Fifth District championship October 23, defeating conference foe



Courtesy of Lori Edmo-Suppah

Pictures highlight Noah Eugene Suppah's season.

Idaho Falls Tigers 20-7 at Idaho State University's Holt Arena.

They played the Skyline Grizzlies October 30 in Idaho Falls then begin state playoffs November 6 in Pocatello.

Highland plays all of their home games in Holt Arena. That can be challenging, Noah says, because the atmosphere is different—much louder, intense and the weather isn't a factor.

"I watched a few games in Holt Arena and decided I want to be a part of that," he said.

Suppah, 18, is a son of Delson Suppah Sr. and Lori Edmo-Suppah.

His paternal grandparents are atwai Frank Suppah Sr. and

"He is a person who has invested a lot of time off the field in the weight room and condition program to better himself as a football player and it's paying dividends this season."

Warren Whitaker
Offensive line coach

atwai Rena Wilson Suppah.

His maternal grandparents are Maxine Edmo and the late Kesley Edmo Sr.

His brother Roman lives in Warm Springs. Another brother Hoss is a junior at Idaho State University and his sister Lucy is a junior at Highland High School who plays basketball.

Being center brings more responsibility and pressure because he has to keep track of the snap count but he also played center in little league so it's a position he's familiar with. However, he said he would have rather played guard or tackle on the defensive line with his cousin Gaylen Edmo, who's also a starter.

The Rams are 7-1 with their only loss to Timpview from Provo, Utah, in their first game of the season.

Suppah said Timpview had so many gifted athletes, the team just beat on them but the Rams still should have won the game, however two mistakes cost them. "We've grown up a lot since then."

He loves playing football and he's happy to play for Highland as he could have gone to either Pocatello or Century High School. But Highland is special.

"It's probably the best place to play in Idaho or Utah," he

said. "It's such a good program because we work hard year round and the coaches are so smart."

Suppah said Head Coach Gino Mariani knows so much about the game and he expects more from the player's, as he wants them to get better.

Offensive line coach Warren Whitaker or 'Whit,' as the O-line refers to him, is passionate about the game. "We get that feeling—it carries over," Suppah said. "You can tell he was good when he played and he molds us into better players."

Whitaker said Noah has done a great job as center.

"He is a person who has invested a lot of time off the field in the weight room and condition program to better himself as a football player and it's paying dividends this season," Whitaker said.

Suppah cares about the team and always puts the team above himself, Whitaker said.

Although this year's team isn't as gifted athletically as last year's in Suppah's view, he believes they're improving. "We have to work harder to be more of a perfect team."

Going into the state playoffs he thinks they will do well but they need to keep level heads and not get too nervous.

His mentor is his wrestling coach Michael Hugues, who instilled in him a drive to get better when he was young.

His father Delson helped him athletically, teaching him how to train while Noah's mother Lori taught him work ethic, how to handle difficult situations and do good in school.

Suppah admires professional football player Ray Lewis because he came from the hood that's similar to the rez. "He's one of the best linebackers in NFL history," Suppah said.

His plan after graduation is to serve his country and his tribal people as a U.S. Marine. He's thinking about making a career out of the military but is not sure yet.

"I'd like to help the kids on the reservation be less 'rezzed out,' especially those affected by drugs or violence. There's so much adversity they have to deal with."

"I want to do my best," Suppah said.

Howlak Tichum

Garry 'Pinky' Hicks Jr.

Garry 'Pinky' Hicks Jr. passed away on October 24, 2009. He was 77.

Pinky was the youngest of seven siblings.

He served for the United States in the Korean War driving tanks.

In his youth he enjoyed playing baseball for the Nisqually team and driving his 18-wheelers as a career.

Most of his life he resided on the Nisqually Reservation and spent several years in Warm Springs with his family. He always tried to visit his family in Lapush, Hoh River, Queets, Tahola and Warm Springs.

During his last days, at age 77, he was found in the woods that he loved. He loved the outdoors—especially fishing in the Nisqually River and cutting

firewood.

His final resting place is Leschi Cemetery.

He was the son of Jimmy Hicks and Ester Kalama and father of Garry Hicks and Barbara Sue Hicks.

His children are Dee, Tyrene, Gloria, William, Cecil, Tiger, Chet, Marella, Lillie, Jewel and Wolfman.

He was grandfather of Garry Hicks III, Andrea Marie Hicks, Larry Vernon Hicks, Bobby Glenn Hicks and others.

He was great-grandfather of Thaelilah Rose Frazier, Katana Lynn Hicks, Hailey Lynn Busbee, Lotus Ann Hicks, Kal Radar Discipline Hicks, Layah Marie Hicks, Morgan Ya Hicks and others.

Active Pallbearers: Bobby Hicks, Garry Hicks III, Larry Hicks, Chet Van Pelt Jr., BJ Hicks, Aaron Lechi.

Honorary Pallbearers:

Ben Hicks, Gin Hicks, Russ Hicks, Raymond Hicks, Danny McGee, Roy Wells, Willie and Kelly Wells, Chuck Sampson, Butch Sampson, Cynthia Iyall, Hank Godfriedson, Chester Van Pelt family, Kirk Stanley, Eliza Brown Jim family, Wolfman Suppah, Levi and Pearl Van Pelt family, Robert and Marella Sam family, Tiger and Tate Van Pelt family, Chief Squally, Leonard Squally, Kenny Squally, Lillie (Itta) Van Pelt family, Lewis Squally, Victor Phillips, Bob Thomas, Roger Simmons, Sandy Wells Clifford Wells, Gene Sampson.

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