

EPH LEGEND – BRENDAN FULMER '07

by Dick Quinn, Director Sports Information



IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT A football game helps change one's life direction, but it did for Brendan Fulmer on November 12, 2005, when he made his 26th catch of the season and the 51st of his career.

That catch was good for 24 yards and set up a touchdown in the fourth quarter in an Eph 34-23 win over archrival Amherst on Weston Field.

Fulmer caught the ball around the Amherst 25-yard line and attempting to get more yards after the catch he planted his right foot to change direction and evade an oncoming Amherst tackler.

Fulmer though was hit as soon as he planted. The pain Fulmer felt and the reaction of the Amherst player confirmed to him that he had a serious problem. "I knew immediately because I first saw the Amherst tackler run away from me saying "ahhhhh *****" and then I looked down and my foot was facing the wrong way," Fulmer recalled.

"My surgery consisted of a plate on the fibula and a few screws through the tibia," stated Fulmer. "I rehabbed at Williams before heading to France for the spring semester, where I continued rehab with a hilarious French physical therapist. I learned most of my French language skills from those appointments."

"Attempting to Change Direction Versus Amherst, Influenced His Life's Course"

When Fulmer came to Williams College from Le Roy, NY, known as the birthplace of Jell-O, medical school was a remote thought. Fulmer ultimately selected a major in geosciences.

"I was very happy with my choice of major but it was around the same time as my injury that I started to think about medical school again," Fulmer added. "It was purely coincidence that those two things overlapped." Or was it?

At 6-6 and 205 pounds Fulmer was an ideal target for Eph quarterbacks as a wide receiver. He was fast with his exceptionally long strides, had soft and sure hands, and he could also out jump any defensive back in NESCAC.

In addition to being a standout wide receiver Fulmer also served the Ephs as a punter and placekicker. He graduated owning the single season (8) and career TD catch records (18). Fulmer remains today tied for most TD catches in a game by an Eph with three.

On 73 punts Fulmer averaged 38.2 yards, third best all-time at Williams in Division III play. As the placekicker he made seven field goals and converted 23 PATs and is currently sixth all-time in Eph Division III scoring with 153 points.

Fulmer, who hauled in 79 passes in his career for 1,575 yards and an Eph record 19.9 yards per catch, most remembers his final Eph game at Amherst and not his three-TD catch game versus Tufts.

Then Eph President Morty Schapiro noted that afternoon in Amherst that he had been the guest of the Amherst president the previous evening and they had gone to the Amherst football rally, where an Amherst defensive back proclaimed that Fulmer and Jon Drenckhahn (Eph WR) would not catch

a single pass on Pratt Field.

Technically the Amherst defensive back was correct. Fulmer did not catch a single pass – he caught five, including a 74-yarder, where he reached back over the talkative defensive back to snare a pass and then out ran the defense for the game's first score.

Fulmer's fourth catch of the day came in the second quarter when he caught a 15-yard TD pass, putting the Ephs up 34-7 at the half, en route to a 37-7 win. In his final Eph game Fulmer caught 5 passes for 205 yards and two were TD grabs.

"That is definitely my most memorable game, as I opened the scoring with a 74-yard touchdown pass from Pat Lucey and ended the first half with 4 catches for 190 yards and a couple of touchdowns," Fulmer said. "A little personal revenge for the previous year."

Fulmer was honored as much for his football prowess as he was for his academics during his career at Williams. He was named First Team All-NESCAC as a wide receiver and punter, named All-East as a wide receiver, and won the Tuss McLaughry Award as the top scholar-football player in Western Mass. Additionally, he won the Gridiron Club of Boston's top academic honor, the Swede Nelson Award.

"After Williams I took a physics course at Syracuse University in order to finish up my prerequisites for medical school," recalled Fulmer. "I didn't actually start at Tulane Medical School for a couple of years as I spent a year teaching in eastern Italy and a year doing some physiology research at University of Wisconsin."

This fall Fulmer began a four-year residency in anesthesia at Fletcher Allen Health Care Center at the University of Vermont.

