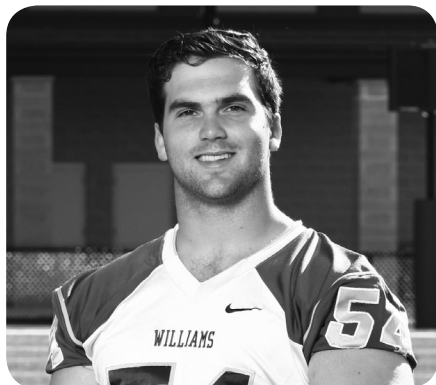


EPHLIGHT 2015 - JAMES HOWE '16

by Cal Filson



Former 49er legend, Dwight Clark, and Williams senior football captain, James Howe, have some differences. For one, Clark was a wide receiver in his playing days, while Howe is a defensive end. Additionally, Clark was a professional player. For Howe, his profession will most likely be in the finance field instead of the NFL. Now, you might be asking yourself, "Why is James Howe being compared with the great Dwight Clark?" Good question.

Both Howe and Clark hail from the Tar Heel State. Clark is from Kinston, North Carolina and Howe is from Charlotte, but perhaps the closest connection between the two stems from Howe's youth football days when Clark was his Pop Warner coach. As a young player, Howe learned a lot from Clark. As far as youth football coaches go, there's not much better than having a former professional as a mentor. Howe notes, "It was a great way to get my first exposure to organized football. He was a really high-energy, passionate coach who obviously knew the game well. The "chip-on-your shoulder" mentality that I learned playing for him has been something I've carried through my entire football career." Above all, both Clark and Howe possess the impact factor on the field. Howe's head coach, Aaron Kelton, believes, "[James] has been an impact player since he stepped on the field. Every team is concerned with James and the impact he can have on a game. He possesses a good motor with speed and power. James has a tenacious attitude on the field. He is a leader and sets the example for others to follow."

Howe is pursuing a dual major in economics and history. His passion for learning about the past can be partly credited to his time at Williams and the thought-provoking history classes he's taken and his inspiring professors. Howe might be able to make history in his future endeavors outside of college, but for now, in his


Selfless leader, tenacious player

final Eph football season, he and the rest of his team have been looking to emulate the historic seasons of Williams football. They're striving to channel the success of the Dick Farley-era teams and the teams of Coach Kelton's predecessor, Mike Whalen. A much needed win against Amherst (it's been four years since the last win) is always the goal.

On the defensive side of the ball, Howe and fellow seniors John Bond and James O'Grady, all three North Carolina products, have been going to battle together since freshman year. Howe and Bond have been playing together for even longer. According to Howe, Bond talked him into playing football in sixth grade. Both played on the same Pop Warner team; yes, the one coached by Dwight Clark. In addition, Howe believes that this year's team is balanced; neither side of the ball is stronger than the other. "I think this year's strength is our front seven on defense and our receiving core on offense. We have a pretty young defensive line, but those younger guys have proven to be some of the strongest and hungriest on our team. At the linebacker level, we returned three guys who have all had two seasons of game experience; all guys who play with a ton of energy and passion. As for the offense, we have some tall, athletic guys at receiver and a quarterback that can get it into their hands," noted Howe.

Individually for Howe, his production statistically was at its highest point during his sophomore season. However, Howe knew what it would take to replicate his output and perhaps better his production from two seasons ago. "I think that in order to replicate the productivity that I had in my sophomore season I needed to just have a motor this year and get more out of my pass rush. My junior season I was a bit better against the run but didn't get a whole lot out of my pass rush. This year I had to figure out a way to get to the QB," said Howe. To get more out of his pass rush, Howe needs to use his best attribute as a defensive player: leverage. As a 6' 1", 240 pound defensive end, Howe is a little smaller than the average NESCAC offensive tackle. "I'm usually lining up against

guys that have a good 30-40 pounds on me, so I think the fact that I am able to stay low, keep good power angles and lock out my arms is helpful in negating some of that size advantage that the offensive tackles have." What Eph football fans, players and coaches can learn from Howe is that leverage, tenacity and a chip-on-your shoulder attitude are all greater than size.

Howe's favorite football memory from his time at Williams came in 2012 when the squad beat Wesleyan on homecoming day. On that glorious November day, Howe had five total tackles, completed The Walk up Spring Street, and received an unprofessional postgame haircut from a senior player. In 2015, Howe and the Ephs have a chance to do The Walk again if they can stifle Amherst today. He takes it one week at a time and tries to make the best of his final season as an Eph football player. "They told us when we came in as freshmen how fast it goes by, but you really don't take it that seriously until you've only got one more game of football in your entire life. We haven't performed the way that I would have liked or expected these last few years, but nothing will change the fact that being a part of this family has been one of the most special things in my life. We've got one game left to show this league what the purple and yellow is all about, and I'm not going to take a second of it for granted." 



Q + A FAVORITES

FOOD	Chipotle Steak Burrito
TV SHOW	It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia
CARTOON	Family Guy
BOOK	Rebel Yell by S. C. Gwynne
ACTOR	Denzel Washington
WILLIAMS PROFESSOR	Ben Rubin
PRO ATHLETE	J.J. Watt
SPORT OTHER THAN FOOTBALL	College Basketball
NFL TEAM	Detroit Lions