



## A Consummate Professional

Although Williams senior captain Eric Davis didn't start his football career until his freshman year of high school, he has already climbed high and far since his debut at 15 years of age. Now, in the final season of Davis's football career, Davis knows how critical his role is for the Ephs and the meaningfulness of each and every snap.

The Princeton Junction, New Jersey native is an elite leader - and also a damn good lineman. "Eric is a team captain because of his work ethic. He will out-work you and will give you everything he has. Eric's style of football is old school. He leads by example and is not afraid to speak up when he needs to. He has been a two-year starter and is a tremendous individual," said Ephs assistant coach Kyle Smesko. Clearly, Davis's peers have the utmost admiration for him. From his closest teammates and coaches to opposing coaches and players, they all know what Davis is capable of.

For Davis, Williams seemed like a perfect fit. Throughout his years he has immersed himself in the rich tradition and culture that is Williams College. "I picked Williams because of the winning tradition. The football program is one of the best in the country and walking through the coaches' office reminds you of just how many great teams and players there have been. Every day the pictures and records on the walls remind me why I picked Williams and the importance that being a Williams football player has for so many people other than just myself." While Davis

has already left behind a legacy for himself, he'd also like to restore the legacy of the purple and gold as a whole after the final whistle sounds.

If you ask any Williams player or coach, they'll tell you that this year's squad is a different one - there's something extra inside of them this time around. In the eyes of Davis, he believes, "This team's chemistry is by far the best I have seen. We all have been together or in communication so often during the off-season and past few years that when we're on the field we gel. Whatever group is on the field at a given time functions as a unit." Additionally, Davis mentioned, "This year's team can do it [be successful] by not shying away from close games. Nobody wins the conference by blowing everyone out and we must be ready to take it down to the wire if necessary. We have shown the ability to win close games before and this year we will be more prepared than ever. The team needs to believe that we can win these games and play like it for all four quarters." In order to achieve the success expected by a Williams football team, the leadership must be at a high level. With new head coach Mark Raymond, Davis and the rest of his teammates believe their style of play can outmatch their opponents. "Our team is going to be built to wear opponents down. I'm most looking forward to being in the fourth quarter and knowing that coach has prepared us to play at the same level we did in the first quarter. The type of football we will play is one in which opponents will be tired long before we are. It's tough and hard-nosed and I can't wait to take it to the rest of the conference," Davis noted.

As a person who enjoys the grind of strapping on the pads and working the trenches on the gridiron, Davis recalls a memory from his college career in which a career's worth of work was put to the test. "My favorite football memory is halftime of the Amherst game my sophomore season. Being under the lights for the first time against Amherst created an incredible atmosphere. Coming off of a great first half, the fight that we showed and the energy that the team had that night are exactly what Eph football is supposed to be. If you weren't in that locker room you could not imagine how amped every single player was and how hard guys played for their teammates." Davis's work ethic and commitment to the program is why he is captaining his team

this year alongside junior Christopher Hattar. When asked about what it means to him to be chosen as a captain, Davis responded, "It's hard to put into words what this means. Coming in as a freshman and seeing all the names of captains, award winners, and Eph legends can send a chill down your spine. You can feel the history of the program. To be acknowledged by my own teammates, guys I respect so much, as an equal to those leaders that came before is an incredible honor. I'm ready to lead the team into Saturdays and know that we have each other's backs."

Davis is aware that his last season will be special regardless of outcomes, but he also knows that the season is far from over and moments may still be cherished. "It still has not fully hit me and I don't think that it will until week eight. In the back of your mind there is the thought that everything is a last. The last spring offseason, summer, training camp. It serves as extra motivation on difficult days. Football is not like other sports; you can't play another truly organized game when it's over. There are no adult leagues. The thought of having to find something new to be competitive in is hard to come to terms with. When all is said and done after we beat Amherst, I will not have any regrets. My time playing football at Williams will stay with me forever. When I'm older I will be sure to have my jersey hung up somewhere in my home so that everybody will know that I was, and still am, an Eph." 🐅

### Q + A FAVORITES

<b>FOOD</b>	Mom's Chicken Parmesan
<b>TV SHOW</b>	Top Gear
<b>CARTOON</b>	SpongeBob
<b>BOOK</b>	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> , F. Scott Fitzgerald
<b>ACTOR</b>	Denzel Washington
<b>WILLIAMS PROFESSOR</b>	Professor Kohut
<b>PRO ATHLETE</b>	Bo Jackson
<b>NFL TEAM</b>	Eagles
<b>SPORT OTHER THAN FOOTBALL</b>	Baseball