



MIKEY DUDEK
NVHS BOOSTER CLUB FEATURED ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
FOOTBALL PROGRAM

The NVHS Athletic Booster Club is proud to present the featured athlete of this week, football player MIKEY DUDEK, who, in the words of coach Ellinghaus, represents everything for which the football program stands. Mikey is leaving Neuqua for the University of Illinois, where he plans to study finance or accounting as well as keep playing football, which inspired the portrait to show both aspects of his future in academics.

Booster Club Reporter: *Mikey, for how long and in which ways has football been a part of your life?*

Mikey: I joined football when I was in kindergarten. It has always been my first choice since my brother Danny and I played together as we were younger. It has always been a blast for us.

Booster Club Reporter: *And then you joined the team at Neuqua. Tell me about your journey and what the team means to you.*

Mikey: I didn't get to play much during my freshman year, I am not sure why, but I realized I had to put even more work into it. During my sophomore year I was brought up to varsity for a game and then for the playoffs. I was able to contribute to the team which made me see that all the hard work and determination were paying off. This whole journey taught me that nothing is handed to you. It comes down to hard work and being a team player and ALWAYS giving it your best. I love my team and coaches at Neuqua. The support from the students and teachers is amazing. From the coaches I've learned that you have to work hard for what you want out of life. I believe that having a strong work ethic will definitely help me throughout life.

Booster Club Reporter: *Is there anything you would have done differently?*

Mikey: Finding the right trainers and coaches is huge in preparing for the future. I wish I had started preparing earlier. I have joined Acceleration in Naperville for further conditioning and I find that they have helped me achieve my performance goals.

Booster Club Reporter: *I suppose that it requires a lot of dedication. How do you keep up with good grades?*

Mikey: Time management is key for me in keeping good grades and staying physically fit for football. Some days I leave the house at 7am and only get home after 9:30pm. Every minute of those days are filled with school, acceleration, homework and library time for studying.

Booster Club Reporter: *What keeps you motivated to put in such long hours?*

Mikey: The pride factor for playing for your school and the lifelong friendships you make are priceless, but mostly, my family motivates me. I look up to my dad for his hard work and to my mom for positive attitude and compassion for others. I can still hear my grandpa say to my brother and I: "the world is in the palm of your hand", all you have to do is "take what you can get and go with it".