

FOOTBALL

Colosimo set to make move inside for Akron

Thursday, September 6, 2007

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Although Andrew Colosimo lines up as a tight end for the Upper Arlington High School football team, the 6-foot-5, 245-pound senior considers himself to be an extension of the offensive line. He rarely leaves the line of scrimmage.

"I have only two or three passing routes," he said. "I'm basically a tackle. I'm just one spot over."

Akron football coach J.D. Brookhart evidently shares the same viewpoint, as he recruited Colosimo to play offensive tackle. Colosimo, a two-year starter and co-captain of the Golden Bears, has made a verbal commitment to the Zips and plans to sign with the Mid-American Conference school during the winter signing period, which begins Feb. 6.

"It just seemed like a good fit for me," he said. "They have great facilities over there and the coaches are really nice."

Colosimo also had drawn interest from another MAC school, Miami, as well as Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, but none of those schools was prepared to offer a scholarship until seeing him in action this season. Akron made a scholarship offer last July and, according to Colosimo, wanted an answer quickly.

"(The Akron coaches) told me that they had offered me and a couple other guys for one spot, so I had to make a decision right away," said Colosimo, who faxed his response to the Akron coaches on July 31, his 18th birthday. "Things happened pretty fast."

Colosimo, who also starts at defensive end for the Bears, was not surprised when he learned Akron wanted him as an offensive tackle. Once he began attending football camps this summer, including one at Akron, he knew that he was destined to be an offensive lineman at the collegiate level.

"When I started going to camps, I knew I would be a tackle," he said. "I knew it was kind of inevitable because of my big frame."

Colosimo, who has gained 20 pounds since his junior season and knows he will have to put on more weight once he gets to Akron, does not have experience playing tackle, but Bears coach Mike Golden believes Colosimo has the skills to play the position.

"In our offense, the tight end almost is like a tackle," Golden said. "Andrew is a good blocker and he's aggressive. He also has very good feet. He's got good footwork, and that's what Division I

(college teams) want. I think (playing) tight end is great training for that because you're always moving your feet around."

Although Colosimo's primary duty as a tight end for the Bears is to block, Golden said opponents should not overlook him as a receiver.

"You have to honor him," he said. "He's a big target."

No passes were thrown in Colosimo's direction in the Bears' 70-0 win over Westland on Aug. 24, though they attempted only three passes. He had only two receptions last season, but one represented the winning score in a 17-13 win over Westerville North. With the Bears trailing 13-10, he caught a 21-yard pass from quarterback Robert Anderson in the right corner of the end zone with nine seconds left.

Colosimo believes most, if not all, opponents view him as solely a blocking tight end.

"I don't think they expect me to catch a pass," he said, "but I'll surprise them every once in a while. I don't go out on many passing routes and I don't get the ball passed to me much, but that's OK. I don't mind blocking. That's football."