



## Players to watch:

### **#12 QB D'Angelo Fulford:**

D'Angelo Fulford, born on September 27th, 1997, in Miramar, Florida, USA, emerges as a standout quarterback renowned for his exceptional skills and leadership on the football field. His football odyssey commenced at Miramar High School, where he honed his talents before taking them to the collegiate level.

In 2016, Fulford embarked on his college football career at the University of Mount Union, joining the Purple Raiders in the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) Division III. His impact was immediate, as he showcased his prowess in both passing and running plays, earning recognition as a dynamic force on the field. Throughout his college journey, Fulford's achievements spoke volumes about his talent and dedication. In his sophomore season, he led the Purple Raiders to a perfect season, culminating in the Division III National Championship. His stellar performance earned him numerous accolades, including the OAC Bob Packard Offensive Back of the Year award. Fulford's success continued to soar in the following years, with multiple appearances in championship games and additional accolades recognizing his outstanding contributions to his team's success. His impressive statistics, including over 9,000 passing yards and 134 touchdowns, solidified his reputation as a top-tier quarterback.

### **#25 RB Tobias Bonatti:**

Tobias Fabian Christoph Bonatti, born on May 18th, 1998, is an Austrian American football player renowned for his prowess as a running back. Bonatti's journey in American football began at the age of twelve when he joined the youth program of the Swarco Raiders in Innsbruck, Austria, while also being active in track and field at LAC Innsbruck. His talent quickly earned him recognition, leading to his selection for the Austrian U15 national team for the inaugural Next Generation Bowl in November 2013. This marked the beginning of a series of invitations to various youth All-Star games over the subsequent years.

Bonatti made his debut in the Raiders' senior team during the 2016 AFL season, culminating in winning the Austrian Bowl. The following season saw him contribute to the Raiders' success in winning the CEFL Bowl. Additionally, he played a pivotal role in securing the Junior European Championship title for the Austrian U19 national team in Paris in 2017, where he was honored as the Final MVP. In 2018, Bonatti continued to excel, winning the CEFL Bowl, European Superfinal, and Austrian national championship with the Raiders. His standout performance in the 2019 AFL season, where he led the Raiders in rushing yards and contributed significantly to their titles in both the AFL and CEFL, earned him further acclaim. In 2020, Bonatti's talent caught the attention of the National Football League (NFL), leading to his invitation to a regional scouting event in Innsbruck. Despite facing challenges due to injuries in the 2021 AFL season, he remained a crucial part of the Raiders' success in winning the Austrian Bowl. For the 2022 season, Bonatti signed with the Raiders Tirol franchise, marking their debut in the European League of Football (ELF). He continued to showcase his talent, leading the team in rushing yards during the regular season and helping them reach the semifinals.



Bonatti's remarkable journey in American football has been marked by numerous individual accolades, including MVP titles in major championships and invitations to NFL scouting events.

**Last season's stats:** 153 Att, 776 Rushing Yards, 8 TDs, 6 Fumbles

#### **#8 WR Darion Chafin:**

Darion Chafin will lead the Raiders Tirol as their number one wide receiver in the 2024 ELF season. Chafin had a notable college career at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas, where he played all 14 games in his final season, recording 70 receptions for 1,244 yards and 18 touchdowns. These achievements earned him spots on the 2022 All-American Third Team and the Southland All-Conference First Team, attracting interest from NFL teams like the Green Bay Packers and the New England Patriots.

In 2023, Chafin was drafted by the St. Louis Battlehawks in the XFL but was released after the league's merger into the UFL. Previously, he played two seasons at Cisco College and started his football journey at Burkburnett High School.

#### **#4 WR Marco Schneider:**

Marco Schneider, born on May 28, 2001, hails from Austria and is a prominent figure in American football, particularly as a Wide Receiver. His football journey began under the guidance of his cousin, Andreas Hofbauer, and he started his youth career as a quarterback, honing his skills under the coaching of future teammates like Adrian Platzgummer and Sean Shelton. Schneider's early talent quickly caught attention, leading to invitations to prestigious events such as the Next Generation Bowl. He showcased his versatility on the field, contributing as a punter and making significant plays, including a crucial rushing touchdown, during the U19 European Championship, where he helped secure the title for his team. His dedication and performance led to notable achievements, including winning the Austrian Bowl and CEFL Bowl championships multiple times with the Swarco Raiders Tirol. Schneider's impact on the field was further recognized when he was named AFL Youngstar of the Year in 2021 and ELF Rookie of the Year in 2022. Additionally, his contributions to the offense earned him the title of Team Offense MVP in 2022. Off the field, Schneider's commitment to the sport and his country is evident as he was admitted to the Heeressportprogramm (Army Sports Program) in 2021. Despite his young age, Schneider has become an integral part of the football community, even extending his involvement to coaching the Swarco Raiders U12 team. In the 2021 AFL season, Schneider made his mark with 53 catches for 734 receiving yards and twelve touchdowns in ten games, including playoffs. Transitioning to the European League of Football (ELF) in 2022, he continued to impress with 41 receptions for 629 yards and eight touchdowns in twelve regular-season games.

**Last season's stats:** 43 rec, 524 Receiving yards, 4 TDs

#### **#6 WR Adrian Platzgummer:**

Adrian Platzgummer, born on May 10, 1995, in Hall in Tirol, Austria, is a distinguished figure



in Austrian American football, primarily known for his role as a Slot Receiver and Holder. His football journey began at a young age, and he quickly rose through the ranks, showcasing his skills and commitment to the sport. Platzgummer's tenure with the Swarco Raiders Tirol spans over two decades, demonstrating his loyalty and dedication to the team. Throughout his career, he has been instrumental in the team's success, contributing to numerous championship titles, including six Austrian Championships and multiple Central European Football League and European Superfinal championships. As a key member of the Raiders Tirol, Platzgummer serves as the team's captain, exemplifying leadership both on and off the field. Known for his exceptional route running and blocking abilities, he plays a crucial role in the team's offensive strategies. In addition to his contributions on the football field, Platzgummer has pursued a successful career outside of sports. He earned his law degree from the University of Innsbruck and recently passed the bar exam to become a licensed attorney. Despite his professional endeavors, Platzgummer remains deeply committed to football, balancing his legal career with his passion for the game.

On the field, Platzgummer's statistics speak volumes about his impact, with notable performances in the AFL playoffs and regular seasons. In 2022 alone, he recorded 41 receptions for 476 yards and five touchdowns during the regular season, further solidifying his reputation as a formidable Slot Receiver.

**Last season's stats:** 30 rec, 327 Receiving yards, 2 TDs

#### **#94 DL Berend Grube:**

Berend Grube, born on October 15, 1991, in Lübeck, Germany, is a formidable Defensive End known for his imposing presence on the field. Standing at 197 cm tall and weighing 120 kg, Grube commands attention with his physical stature and relentless determination. Grube's football journey began in his youth with the Lübeck Cougars, where he honed his skills and developed a passion for the game. He continued to pursue football at various levels, including a stint with the Peters Township Indians before attending Thiel College, where he excelled both academically and athletically. During his time at Thiel College, Grube garnered recognition for his contributions to the football team, earning accolades such as Team Rookie of the Year and College All-Conference Honorable Mention. Despite initially playing as a Tight End and Kicker, Grube's versatility and athleticism allowed him to transition seamlessly to the defensive side of the ball. After completing his studies and earning a Bachelor of Arts in International Business, Grube continued to pursue his football career while also working in the IT sector and as an athletics trainer. His dedication to both his professional career and his athletic pursuits exemplifies his commitment to personal and professional growth. In 2021, Grube joined the Hamburg Sea Devils, where he made a significant impact as a key member of the defense, recording impressive statistics including 40 tackles, 14 tackles for loss, 5.5 sacks, four pass break-ups, and a forced fumble. His stellar performance earned him recognition as a member of the ELF All-Star Team, further solidifying his reputation as one of the top defensive players in the league.

**Last season's stats:** 51 tackles, 9.5 sacks, 13 TFL, 2 Forced Fumbles, 2 Fumble Recoveries

#### **#99 DT Armin Husarevic:**



Armin Husarevic, born on November 26th in Barre, USA, is a versatile football player known for his prowess as a Defensive End. Standing at 188 cm tall and weighing 105 kg, Husarevic possesses the size and agility to make a significant impact on the field. Husarevic's football journey began with the Swarco Raiders Tirol in 2020, where he quickly established himself as a key contributor to the team's success. His dedication and hard work on the field did not go unnoticed, as evidenced by his team's U18 Austrian Championship victory in 2020. In addition to his on-field accomplishments, Husarevic has also been recognized for his leadership and skill. He was awarded the U18 Big Man Award in 2021, further solidifying his reputation as a standout player in the league.

Off the field, Husarevic is actively involved in coaching and mentoring young athletes. He serves as a Defensive Line Assistant for the U18 team of the Swarco Raiders Tirol, where he shares his knowledge and experience with the next generation of football players.

**Last season's stats:** 3 tackles

#### **#43 LB Precious Ogbevoen:**

Precious Ogbevoen, born on October 28th, 1995, in Nigeria, is a formidable Linebacker known for his tenacity and skill on the field. Standing at 180 cm tall and weighing 111 kg, Ogbevoen brings a combination of size, strength, and agility to the Raiders Tirol defense. Ogbevoen's football journey began with the Vienna Vikings, where he honed his skills and quickly emerged as a standout player. Throughout his career, he has achieved remarkable success, including winning the Jugend Bowl Championship in 2011 and the Austrian Bowl Championship multiple times. In addition to his team accomplishments, Ogbevoen has received recognition for his individual contributions to the game. He was named Team Defensive MVP in 2015 and earned the title of Team Most Motivational Player in 2019, highlighting his leadership and impact on his teammates. After stints with various teams in the United States and Europe, including the New Mexico Military Institute Broncos and the Frankfurt Galaxy, Ogbevoen joined the Raiders Tirol in 2023. His experience playing at both the collegiate and professional levels has equipped him with valuable knowledge and expertise that he brings to his new team.

Off the field, Ogbevoen is known for his resilience and determination. Despite suffering a hand injury during the 2022 season, he only missed one game and continued to contribute to his team's success.

**Last season's stats:** 55 tackles, 0.5 sacks, 3.5 TFL

#### **#7 DB Devin Taylor:**

Taylor last played in the USFL (United States Football League) for the Philadelphia Stars, where he made eight tackles in five games. The defensive back from Lansing, Michigan, has had a strong tenure in college. After his time at J.W. Sexton High School, he chose Illinois State University, where he played in a total of 35 games between 2017 and 2019 (26 starts) and recorded 9 interceptions, 31 pass break-ups, 118 tackles and one sack. In 2020, Taylor transferred to Virginia Tech University. There, he played ten games for two



interceptions and 55 tackles. In 2021, he joined Bowling Green University, where he made a name for himself with two interceptions and 37 tackles. After his strong college career, Taylor was part of the Washington Commanders in 2022 and was able to gain experience in the NFL. In 2023, he made the move to the USFL with the Philadelphia Stars.

## **Notable Performances:**

### **Stadium:**

#### **Tivoli Stadion:**

Capacity: 16.000. Tivoli Stadion opened in 2000. It is the homefield of the Raiders AFL and ELF team, FC Wacker Innsbruck (4<sup>th</sup> Division soccer) and WSG Tirol (1<sup>st</sup> Division soccer). It hosted three games during the 2008 European Soccer Championships. Besides being the venue for nine games of the Austrian soccer national team, Tivoli Stadion hosted four Eurobowls, one Austrian Bowl and three games during the 2011 American Football World Cup.

## **Coaching Staff:**

#### **Head Coach - Jim Herrmann:**

James Herrmann, born on December 8, 1960, is a prominent figure in American football, serving as both a coach and former player. Herrmann boasts an extensive coaching career, including a tenure of three years as a player and 21 years as a coach for the Michigan Wolverines. His coaching journey also led him to the National Football League (NFL), where he served as a Linebacker Coach from 2006 to 2019. Notably, Herrmann was part of the coaching staff for the New York Giants when they clinched victory in Super Bowl XLVI in 2012. He further expanded his coaching portfolio with stints as Defensive Coordinator for the New York Guardians and the San Antonio Brahmas in the XFL.

Herrmann's roots in football trace back to his days as a player at Divine Child High School, where he excelled as a Defensive End. He continued his football career at the University of Michigan, playing as an Inside Linebacker for the Wolverines from 1980 to 1982.

Transitioning to coaching, Herrmann returned to the University of Michigan in 1985 as an Assistant Coach, eventually assuming the role of Defensive Coordinator in December 1996. His notable achievements include winning the Frank Broyles Award in 1997 for his exceptional coaching contributions to college football.

After his successful collegiate coaching career, Herrmann ventured into the NFL, where he made significant contributions to various teams. His wealth of experience and proven track record in coaching earned him the position of Head Coach for the Raiders Tirol in the ELF, marking a new chapter in his coaching journey.

#### **Offensive Coordinator - Jeff Jagodzinski:**



Jeff Jagodzinski, born on October 12, 1963, is a notable figure in American football, known for his coaching expertise and previous playing career. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, where he excelled as a fullback, Jagodzinski embarked on a successful coaching journey. His coaching career began in 1985 as the running back coach for the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, followed by positions at Northern Illinois University and LSU. In 1997, he joined Boston College as the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach, marking the start of his collegiate coaching tenure.

In 1999, Jagodzinski transitioned to the National Football League (NFL), serving as the tight ends coach for the Green Bay Packers under head coach Mike Sherman. He later became the offensive line coach for the Atlanta Falcons before returning to the Packers as the offensive coordinator. Jagodzinski's coaching prowess was evident during his tenure as the head coach of Boston College from 2007 to 2008, where he led the Eagles to consecutive appearances in the ACC Championship Game. Despite his success, his tenure at Boston College was cut short when he was fired after interviewing for the head coaching position with the New York Jets.

Subsequently, Jagodzinski held coaching positions with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Omaha Nighthawks in the United Football League, and Ave Maria University. He also served as the offensive line coach for the Dallas Renegades in the XFL.

In 2020, Jagodzinski joined the coaching staff at Kentucky as the offensive line coach, showcasing his continued dedication to developing players at the collegiate level.

Throughout his career, Jagodzinski's coaching acumen and leadership have left a lasting impact on the teams and players he has worked with.

### **Special Teams Coordinator - Benjamin Barton:**

Ben Barton, a seasoned football coach with a wealth of experience, brings his expertise to the TiroL Raiders in the ELF as the Special Teams Coordinator. With seven years at the University of San Diego (USD) under his belt, Barton has honed his skills coaching defensive backs and overseeing special teams. Starting his coaching journey in 2008 at USD alongside head coach Dale Lindsey, Barton returned in 2015 to continue his impactful tenure. During his time with the program, he's celebrated five PFL championships and four FCS Playoff appearances. Under his guidance, 12 members of the secondary have earned all-conference honors, showcasing Barton's ability to develop top-tier talent. Prior to his role at USD, Barton coached at various levels, including FBS, FCS, junior college, and high school. Notably, he contributed to South Carolina State's MEAC championship in 2014 and mentored Darious Leonard to the MEAC Freshman of the Year award. Barton's experience spans across renowned institutions like Louisiana Tech, New Mexico State, and Utah State, where he played crucial roles in player development and team success. A Nebraska alum, Barton's coaching journey began during his time as a student-assistant for the Huskers football program. Hailing from Tyler, Texas, Barton's passion for the game and dedication to coaching have made him a valuable addition to the TiroL Raiders coaching staff, where he now leads the special teams unit, aiming to elevate the team's performance in the European League of Football.

## **Game against the Vikings - Strategy, details and more**



**What are your “keys to the game”?**

Being great on all 3 Faces of the Game.

**What are your goals for this season?**

Our primary goals are to win the league championship and establish ourselves as the most formidable team in the league. We also aim to continuously improve each week, both as individuals and as a unit, and to deliver a performance that makes our fans proud.

**What is your biggest strength as a team?**

Our biggest strength lies in our unity and depth. We have a well-rounded roster with experienced veterans and promising young talent. This diversity allows us to adapt to various situations and maintain high performance levels throughout the season.

**What are the key areas you'll be emphasizing to your team in order to secure a win?**

Key areas of emphasis include maintaining high energy and focus throughout the game, executing our plays with precision, and minimizing mistakes. Additionally, we stress the importance of strong defensive stands, effective communication, and leveraging our physical and strategic advantages.