

# Greco goes against all odds

## *Fisher freshman follows his dream of coaching football*

SPORTS EDITOR  
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Freshman Bobby Greco is one in 3,000.

Those are the odds, according to emedicine.com, of being born with arthrogryposis, a disease that affects Bobby everyday of his life.

Arthrogryposis is a disorder that is present at birth. It causes the tissues surrounding the involved joints to be abnormally short, making the joints difficult to move. Muscles are often replaced by fat or fibrous tissue. These conditions have left Bobby in an electric wheelchair and needing the care of aides for assistance in small tasks that many people take for granted.

Bobby was also plagued by multiple surgeries early in his life – 22 to be exact, mostly to correct the position of his body. His last surgery was the most memorable for Bobby, and the one he would most like to forget.

“The worst one I had was in third grade when I had a spinal fusion,” said Bobby, as he recalled the surgery to put metal rods in his back. “I was only supposed to be in the hospital for two and a half weeks and have two surgeries. Instead I ended up there for six weeks and had six surgeries.”

Despite how chronic Bobby’s problems have been, there has always been one constant ... his love for football.

“I’ve loved football ever since I was a kid, and I think coaching got into my head because I couldn’t play,” Bobby said. “I just wanted to do something with the game.”

So coaching was what he did.

In eighth grade, Bobby started to help coach at his hometown Geneva High School. He was a student assistant with the offensive line for a team that was in the New York State high school football championships during his junior and senior years. In 2006, Geneva won the Class B state title.

“We got to play up at Ralph Wilson Stadium [during the playoffs],” Bobby said. “That was probably one of the best experiences ever.”

Although his senior year began with the spark of winning a state championship, Bobby’s spring semester was much the same as any other senior – finding the right college.

That college was St. John Fisher, and he didn’t have any plans to stop coaching because of the transition.

“When I came here on my visit, I



Brad Waters

Freshman Bobby Greco is surrounded by (from left to right) offensive linemen Ben Musall (79), Ryan McQueen (65), Kevin Dwyer (71) and Mike Frasca (67).

talked to coach [Paul] Vosburgh and he said I could help coach,” Bobby said. “I pretty much made my decision off of that – plus the Bills have training camp here.”

Vosburgh was happy to have Bobby come to him but made him aware of some changes.

“I told him that this was going to be different than Geneva High School,” Vosburgh said. “But that’s not any different from what I tell the high school football players. It’s just a different game.”

Bobby soon found out what Vosburgh said was true.

“This is definitely an adjustment from high school,” Bobby said. “This year, I’m just here to watch and learn

about the offensive line. Starting next year, I hope to start helping with breakdowns of film and running some drills here and there.”

One of the coaches that have direct contact in teaching Bobby is assistant head coach Jim Scacchetti.

“When he first got here, he wasn’t really well-informed about the zone blocking scheme that we do,” said Scacchetti, who also coaches the offensive line. “But he is always curious to learn, and I think he is getting a lot out of it.”

Scacchetti was also quick to praise the importance of Bobby to the team, not only as a coach, but as a person.

“It’s unbelievable how optimistic he is with all of the challenges that he’s

faced,” he said. “I think a lot of people in that situation expect things to be done for them. Bobby’s not like that at all. His demeanor, personality and sense of humor is really something to look up to.”

Vosburgh believes that Bobby has an excellent chance of being able to make a name somewhere for himself in the coaching profession. The main reason is because of one intangible thing – a true love for the game.

“I think that there’s a niche that he can find in coaching because he wants to know the game and be able to explain it and teach it to others,” Vosburgh said. “Having not been a player is not going to destroy a goal he could meet of being a football coach.

It’s mostly about love of the game and despite what we all say, we all have a shortcoming somewhere.”

Bobby hopes to one day extend his coaching to the highest level.

“I’m hoping that I can keep going as long as I can with coaching,” Bobby said. “My dream job would be to be able to coach in the NFL for the Bills someday.”

The odds of him getting his NFL dream job may be worse than one in 3,000, but that doesn’t matter to Bobby. The things that have been stacked against him have never stopped him before, and he’s not about to let them start now.

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## SPST class offers students chance to become Cardinal Gladiators

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Remember the *American Gladiators*, the popular TV show that ran through most of the early to mid 1990’s? The program featured competitors battling for victory in events as varied as tug of war, jousting, running the gauntlet and wall scaling. It made household names out of gladiators like Gemini, Blaze, Laser, and Storm, who were even made into action figures. NBC is planning to bring *American Gladiators* back to television in 2008, with the one and only Hulk Hogan slated as the host, introducing the show to a whole new generation.

St. John Fisher students don’t have to wait until next year to get a taste of *American Gladiator* style competition, however. The SPST 240: Facility and Operations Management class is putting together a similar event for the enjoyment of the entire Fisher community, fittingly called Cardinal Gladiators. The class, which is part of the Sports Studies Department, is designed to teach the various aspects of organizing and running such a large, challenging event, including budgeting, operations, marketing and risk management.

At the beginning of the semester, Dr. Todd Harrison asked the class to create an event that would cover all of the aforementioned criteria. Senior Brendon Dever came up with the idea for an *American Gladiators*-themed activity, with the caveat that it would be team oriented in order to get more people involved, making it an intramural-styled event. Because it was his brainchild, the class voted for Dever to be named the event director. Also working in Dever’s favor was past experience managing such



Event Director Brendon Dever designed the logo for the event. The logo will be present on the T-shirts that are handed out.

large-scale events.

“This summer I fulfilled an internship with the Delaware North Sport Service Company, where I fulfilled the duties of assistant director of operations,” Dever said. “I managed all aspects of the food and beverage at PAETEC Park in downtown Rochester.”

After deciding on a director, the class had to get down to the nuts and bolts of setting up the basic structure of the event. Each participating team will have five members. First, contestants will battle it out in three games of dodgeball against random opponents. The squads will then move to a Can Jam, a Frisbee game in

which each side attempts to hit or enter the can. Teams will then play a three game series of Rock Paper Scissors, with each member of the team lining up face to face with their counterpart on a different squad. The team that wins the majority of these matches receives the points for the event. Each win a team notches in the first three events is worth five points. Teams are not penalized for losses.

Next is the Punt Pass Kick portion of the tournament. Team members will be allowed three chances to punt, pass and kick the ball as far as possible, after which the total yards will be tallied. The final leg of the event is the Eliminator, a relay race designed to test the mind, body and spirit of each team. Teams will be able to walk the obstacle course before hand to determine what team member will run each part.

Both the Punt Pass Kick and the Eliminator will be scored in descending order. For example, if there are 20 teams participating, then the first place team will receive 20 points for the event, and so on and so forth. The team with the most points at the conclusion of the tournament will be named the champion of Cardinal Gladiators.

The event is scheduled to take place Nov. 3 in the Student Life Center and on the football field. There is a \$25 entry fee for each team. Participants will be given a Cardinal Gladiator T-shirt, food, beverages, prizes and giveaways to the winners and runners-up. All proceeds from the event will be given to Camp Good Days and Special Times.

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