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Wednesday, November 10, 2004**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

Bearcats players vary from norm

Student-athletes changed by journeys in other countries

REID ENGLISH

Statesman Journal

November 10, 2004

Willamette football players Jeff Liepman and Calvin Keyser-Allen are vivid examples of the student-athlete in NCAA Division III.

While many college football athletes were going through workouts last spring, Liepman and Keyser-Allen were as far away from the sport as possible.

Liepman was at the University of Granada in Spain as part of Willamette's study abroad program.

Keyser-Allen was in northeast Brazil through a youth organization from his hometown, Santa Cruz, Calif. He took a leave of absence from school last spring.

The two seniors are scheduled to graduate in May. Football has been a big part of their college life; their final regular season game is Saturday at Linfield. But it hasn't consumed them like it might for a student-athlete at a higher level.

Because there are no athletic scholarships in Division III, student-athletes often are involved in other activities. Studying abroad is a common choice for many students, including athletes, at Division III schools.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Liepman, a biochemistry major. "It's something I wouldn't be able to do at a higher level."

Liepman took a full load of classes at the University of Granada and spent much of his free time traveling to Portugal, Ireland and England. He tried to stay fit by playing basketball at the university.

"You have a lot of time to think and learn about yourself," he said. "It was a great experience. It opened my eyes to things I hadn't noticed before. I heard a lot of criticism of our nation."

On the football field, Liepman is one of the most versatile Bearcats. He was a quarterback at Central Valley High School in Spokane, Wash., but has played wide receiver and flanker.

Coach Mark Speckman said Liepman is a swing guy.

Willamette vs. Linfield

WHEN: 1 p.m. Saturday.

WHERE: Maxwell Field, McMinnville.

TICKETS: General admission only at gate, \$8, adults; \$5, students with ID.

ON THE AIR: KBZY (1490 AM), KLYC (1260 AM), 12:45 p.m.

"We'll line him up as a wide receiver, at tight end or in the slot," Speckman said. "He's an experienced guy who is good enough to run, catch or block."

Keyser-Allen's trip was far different from Liepman's in climate and intention.

"My main purpose was to see what life was about in a third-world country and learn what's important in life," Keyser-Allen said. "I learned their lifestyle, and I visited historical sites. It was a neat experience in a tropical climate."

An exercise science major, Keyser-Allen works on his senior thesis during the week. Saturdays this fall, the 5-foot-9, 190-pound running back has been working over defenders.

"He's a tough kid with great ability," Speckman said. "He's a hard-nosed football player."

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