



Q&A With ODU Football's Matthew Carrillo

Tight End from La Mirada, Calif.

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A weekly Q&A with an Old Dominion University football player

Matthew Carrillo – Junior - Tight End - La Mirada, Calif.

When did you begin playing football? I started playing football at the age of 10 years old. (Flag Football)

Who has had the greatest impact on your career?

I'd have to say that my parents and grandparents have had the greatest impact on my career.

Why did you choose to attend ODU?

Well even before being offered I had heard about Old Dominion before and heard about its strong academic excellence as well. It's a great school to be involved with academically and socially.

What has been the biggest difference between high school football and college football?

The biggest difference from high school to college would have to be the size of the players and the speed of the game. Everybody is just as good as you are and equal athletically.

What has it been the best part about being a member of ODU's first football team in over 60 years?

The best part about being a part of this team is that I am a part of the first team in over 60 years and no matter what, nobody can take that away from me.

If you could play another position what would it be and why?

I would have to say defensive end. As a matter of fact, I think I can still play defensive end!

Favorite sports other than your own? Definitely baseball and basketball. I played three sports in high school.

After meeting Coach Wilder for the first time, what were your thoughts?

I thought that coach was a man with a goal in mind. Not only to win games, but to let his players have the best opportunity to succeed in the classroom and leave ODU with a degree.

After meeting your position coach for the first time, what were your thoughts?

I felt that Coach Malloy was the type of coach that would push his players to their maximum potential and more. He expects a lot out of his players and expects us to give everything we got on and off the field.

Do you have a pre-game ritual, if so what is it?

I like to get to the field or locker maybe about an hour or so before everybody else and relax and think about what I need to do to help our team win. My iPod usually gets me going too.

What is your funniest memory from an ODU practice this far?

My funniest moment would be when Nick Mayers got smacked by the football machine that shoots balls out that we are suppose to catch. It can out to hard one time and smacked Nick in the head straight on!

If you could line up opposite any player in the NFL and go 1-on-1, who would it be and why?

I would have to say Mario Williams. I mean the guy is good, but I could pancake him.

What song is stuck in your head right now? Justin Timberlake, "Cry me a river."

What is one thing people would be surprised to learn about you?

That I am Mexican American and from Los Angeles, CA.

What is your dream job? My dream job would to be a professional football player without a doubt.

What is your most valued possession? My most valued possession would have to be truck back at home!

What is your favorite place to eat on campus?

My favorite place to eat on campus would have to be Grill Works in the Webb Center. They make a mean crispy chicken burger!