

Toledo tackle Swartz going out a winner

BY BRAD ENOKS
STAFF WRITER

When Noah Swartz was looking for a school to play college football, he took the motto from Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis, "Just win baby."

Five years later, the 6-foot-5, 302-pound right tackle for the University of Toledo can safely say he's going out a winner.

After redshirting his first season (1998), Swartz has helped the Rockets rack up a 35-12 record in four years and two consecutive bowl appearances, including today's career-ending finale for Swartz against Boston College in the Motor City Bowl at Ford Field.

"We had a winning tradition at John Glenn (high school) and I liked that, and wanted it to continue, that was the big thing," said the Westland

FOOTBALL

native, who has been a regular on Toledo's offensive line for three years after seeing spot duty as a freshman. "I feel it was a good decision. I came to Toledo to win and I feel I've done that."

In 2000, Swartz played and started in all 11 games at offensive tackle as the Rockets finished 10-1, capturing a Mid-American Conference co-championship and finishing ranked in the top 25. He was part of an offensive line that allowed just five sacks and ranked ninth in the country in rushing yards (254 yards per game).

In 2001, Toledo went 10-2, won the MAC and beat Cincinnati in the Motor City Bowl at the Pontiac Silverdome. Swartz played in all 11 games,

starting three. He was part of an offensive line that finished 17th in rushing offense with 213.5 yards per game, while allowing just 13 sacks.

This season has arguably been his best as the Rockets finished the regular season 9-4 and fell to Marshall in the MAC championship, 49-45. It was quite an accomplishment for Swartz and his teammates, who won four straight games at the end of the year to win the MAC's West Division.

"If we had another minute, we might have won it," Swartz said of the Marshall defeat. "It was two championship teams duking it out. The last four games we had our backs to the wall and the team rallied together."

Swartz may be the most underappreciated of a stellar Toledo offensive line. As far as

MAC postseason honors, Swartz was overlooked, but not in the eyes of Toledo Sports Information Director Paul Helgren.

"He may have been overshadowed by some of his teammates because you can take everybody from the same team, you have to spread it around," Helgren said. "But he got gyped, pure and simple."

The lack of recognition, however, just rolls right off Swartz's easy demeanor. "I feel I had a good year," he said. "The awards, if you don't get them, didn't bother me. Winning is what matters."

Over 200 family and friends will be in the stands at Ford Field to see Swartz play his final game. The right tackle says he feels rested and ready for his final game.

"It's the last game and I'm

going to miss everything about it because you work so much on the field," Swartz said. "It's definitely sad and it's going to be emotional on both sides of the field. Being in the dome (Ford Field), it's going to be a fun game to play. I can't wait to get there. It should be nice and I'm going to give it everything I have."

Academically, Swartz has technically already graduated but will attend four more classes during second semester to complete a double major in Information Services and Economic Commerce, along with a minor in Marketing.

He would like to go into an internet-related field, preferably in graphics. He also would like to opportunity to get a pro tryout.

"I want to give it a crack somewhere," Swartz said. "It's

something I'd like to do, but I'm ready to go either way."

Swartz has another important date on Jan. 4, when he'll marry his fiancée, Mary Gillispie, who is working toward a degree in Chemistry from Eastern Michigan University. Swartz and Gillispie were classmates at Glenn, but never knew each other in high school.

Sounds like a win-win situation for the former Glenn Rocket and All-Observer selection. Now all that's left to obtain is a Toledo Rocket is one more victory.

"What I'll miss seeing is my friends every day," Swartz said. "It was a good program to be a part of."

And thanks to Swartz's efforts, it carried on a winning tradition.

benom@oehomecomm.net | (734) 953-2123

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

ACTIVITIES

FISH BUDDIES FISHING CLUB

The Fish Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester. Meetings are open to all anglers, boaters and non-boaters. Call Harold Leider at (248) 656-0556 for more information.

OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

The Oakland County Sportfishing Association meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at the Drayton Plains Nature Center, 2125 Denby, Drayton Plains. Call (248) 693-4389 or visit the club's web site at <http://go2oaloca> for more information.

DOWNRIVER BASS ASSOCIATION

The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain (14100 Pardee Road) in Taylor. For more information, call Ron Fodor at (734) 616-2863 or send an e-mail to river-rall22@home.com.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS

Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School, located on Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Visit www.mffc.org on the Internet for more information.

FOUR SEASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15219 Farmington Road. Visitors are welcome. For more information, please call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843 or send him an e-mail at judej@aol.com.

HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS

The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 27600 Hall Road, Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843.

CLINTON RIVER BASS 'N' RATS

The recently organized Clinton River Bass 'n' Rats meets the first Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Gander Mountain Lodge. Call (810) 247-9900 for direction and additional information. The club is an affiliated chapter of the B.A.S.S. National Federation.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS

Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, (800) 477-7756; Indian Springs, (800) 477-3192; Kensington, (800) 477-3178; Hudson Mills, (800) 477-3171.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS

Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (248) 625-6473.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS

Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (248) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (248) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (248) 665-287. For programs at Island Lake call (248) 229-7067.

when you can stay close to your family even after the holidays, that's mLife.



introducing
EXTRA CONNECTIONS
from AT&T Wireless

share unlimited night
& weekend minutes

plus 500 anytime minutes
with up to 4 phone lines

domestic long distance included
and no roaming charges
all on the AT&T Wireless Next Generation Network

add Extra Connections to the AT&T Wireless
GSM™ National plan

start with one line for **\$34.99** a month

add up to 3 more for **\$19.99/mo. each**

Limited-time offer.

call: 1 888 MY mLife.
click: attwireless.com/mobileinternet

AT&T WIRELESS THE WIRELESS CARRIER AMERICA TRUSTS

mLife your mobile life made better

AT&T Wireless

AT&T Wireless Stores Ask about AT&T Wireless QIN Cards. Extended Holiday hours now available - call store for details.

ANN ARBOR 928 W. Eisenhower Pkwy. 734 913-0229	BIRMINGHAM 3400 Woodward Ave. 248 983-8579	DETROIT 2660 E. Jefferson 313 259-1178	FLINT 3292 Linden Rd. 810 733-1770	GRAND RAPIDS 3100 John R. 248 509-2710	MIAMI 43257 Cresswell Blvd. 248 347-1840	ROCKFORD 2100 N. Rockford 815 963-1110	ST. LOUIS 3100 N. Rockford 815 963-1110	TEMPLE HILLS 2100 N. Rockford 815 963-1110	WICHITA 2100 N. Rockford 815 963-1110	WILSONVILLE 2100 N. Rockford 815 963-1110	YUKON VALLEY 2100 N. Rockford 815 963-1110
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--	---	---	--

ANN ARBOR CO2 • 734 741-7308 Wireless Text • 734 741-7308 Wireless Text • 734 741-7308 Wireless Text • 734 741-7308	BIRMINGHAM CO2 • 205 983-8579 Wireless Text • 205 983-8579 Wireless Text • 205 983-8579 Wireless Text • 205 983-8579	DETROIT CO2 • 313 259-1178 Wireless Text • 313 259-1178 Wireless Text • 313 259-1178 Wireless Text • 313 259-1178	FLINT CO2 • 810 733-1770 Wireless Text • 810 733-1770 Wireless Text • 810 733-1770 Wireless Text • 810 733-1770	GRAND RAPIDS CO2 • 248 509-2710 Wireless Text • 248 509-2710 Wireless Text • 248 509-2710 Wireless Text • 248 509-2710	MIAMI CO2 • 248 347-1840 Wireless Text • 248 347-1840 Wireless Text • 248 347-1840 Wireless Text • 248 347-1840	ROCKFORD CO2 • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110	ST. LOUIS CO2 • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110	TEMPLE HILLS CO2 • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110	WICHITA CO2 • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110	WILSONVILLE CO2 • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110	YUKON VALLEY CO2 • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110 Wireless Text • 815 963-1110
---	--	---	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	---	--

1800miles.com athenawireless.com Amazon.com Best Buy buy.com Circuit City Comp USA directstore.com Office Depot Office Max SimplyWireless.com Staples verizonwireless.com

Important Information

©2002 AT&T Wireless. All Rights Reserved. Requires new activation on a qualified plan, credit approval, a \$36 activation fee, one or two-year agreement, a GSM/GPRS phone and up to a \$175 cancellation fee. Not available for purchase or use in all areas. Hours shown are rounded up to the next full minute. Unlimited monthly minutes available. Send text messages, roaming, additional minute and long distance charges, and other restrictions, charges, universal connectivity charge, surcharges and taxes apply. Availability and reliability of service are subject to transmission limitations. Not available with other offers. Offer available for a limited time. You will be bound by the General Terms and Conditions and rate plan and promotional materials. Night and Weekend Minutes Promotions: Available on calls placed from the Home Coverage Area and applicable long distance charges additional. Night and Weekend Minutes: Monday-Friday, 9:00 p.m. to 5:59 a.m. Monday-Friday, 9:00 p.m. to 5:59 a.m. Extra Connections: A new contract term is required for each line on the account when an additional Extra Connections line is added. \$175 early termination fee applies for each Extra Connections line. See other printed materials for complete details. Nokia 8390 Mobile: Phone and service must be active for 30 days and when rebate is processed. Allow 8-10 weeks for rebate check. See rebate form for full details. Nokia, the connecting people logo and the Nokia 8390 phone are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Nokia Corporation and/or its affiliates. The GSM letter mark is a trademark of the GSM Association.



PEPL D000000000