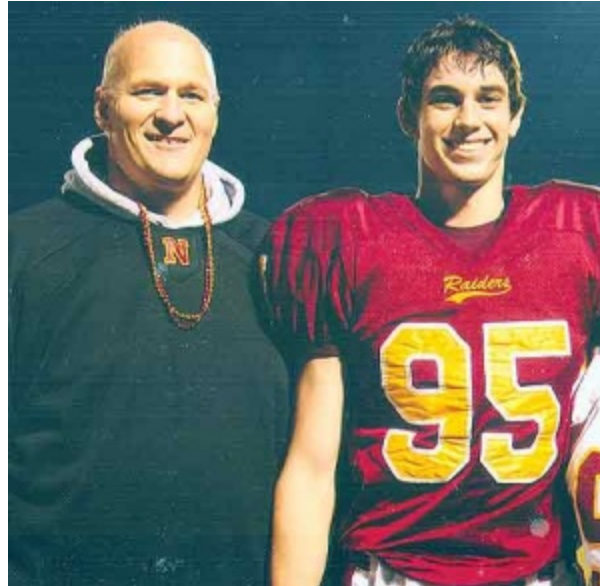


Following a father's football footsteps

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Posted: Tuesday, April 6, 2010 11:03 pm



Northfield senior Alex Bisch (right) has been selected to play in the Minnesota High School All-Star Football Game in June. His father, Steve Bisch (left) played in the same game back in 1978. Steve Bisch also played for the University of Minnesota.

NORTHFIELD — Like father, like son for Steve and Alex Bisch and the football field.

Steve Bisch grew up in LeSeuer, played football there for four years and went on to play at the University of Minnesota.

His son, Alex, is two months away from graduating from Northfield High School. Alex Bisch is coming off a football season where he played tight end and defensive end for the Raiders and played in his second straight state tournament.

He led the Raiders in receiving (16 catches, 414 yards and five touchdowns) and was also one of the team's top tacklers at defensive end. The NHS senior was notified recently that he was selected to play in this year's Metro versus Out-state all-star football game, which will be played at St. Cloud State University in June.

Steve, his father, played in the same game back in 1978. NHS football coach Bubba Sullivan talked with Alex about playing in this year's game after the football season ended. Alex recently got a letter saying he had been selected to play.

"It was a really cool feeling," Alex said. "There's a lot of great players who will be in the game, so it will be fun."

Steve lettered four times for the Gophers between 1979 and 1982. He was a defensive tackle for his first three seasons, then an injury forced him to move to the offensive side of the ball for his senior year.

He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in sociology, including an emphasis in

criminology. Steve said his roommate at the high-school all-star game was also his college roommate for three years.

“I met some great guys there. A lot of Gopher recruits played in it,” Steve said. “It was North against South back then, and I played on the South team that won the game so that was fun.”

The South team had to make a key defensive stand deep in its own end in the fourth quarter of that game. It included a play where Steve helped make the tackle on a play that ultimately decided the game.

“I played right defensive tackle, and they switched me to the left for that play,” Steve said. “I didn’t actually make the tackle, but I moved the O-line so that the end could make the tackle. It was fortunate, it was fun.”

Steve said he is thrilled that his son will get a chance to end his high school career playing with and against the best senior football players in Minnesota. Steve said he’s still friends today with many of the players he met at the game in 1978.

Alex will play the game in June as a tight end, which is what he has been recruited to play in college. Steve said watching his son play in state tournaments the last two years has been a huge reward.

“When you see your kids succeeding at things that mean a lot to them, there’s nothing better,” Steve said. “That’s just thrilling. The feeling they have when those victories come rolling in, it’s a real sense of accomplishment. Watching that was thrilling.”

But where will Alex attend college?

It’s something that Carleton College football coach Kurt Ramler would love to know. Carleton is one of Bisch’s top choices, but he might follow in his father’s footsteps.

Alex took a visit to the University of Minnesota, and Gophers head coach Tim Brewster has offered Bisch a spot at tight end to walk on with the team.

“My dad was also a Gopher so that’s really cool,” Alex said. It would be great to walk-on at the U and be a tight end. It’s unbelievable, a completely different atmosphere and level. We watched them practice before their bowl game. It’s remarkable how fast guys are at that level.”

With college still looming, Bisch said he’s going to enjoy the spring baseball season and the football game to come in June.

“I’ve played in all-star baseball things before and that’s been fun,” Alex said. “I’ll be playing with some really good players in that football game. It will be a great experience.”

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