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## Old-fashioned work

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GENEVA – In this day and age of position-specific summer camps and other methods to get noticed, Geneva senior wide receiver Joe Augustine is doing things the old-fashioned way.

Augustine, the 6-foot-6 star receiver for the 3-0 Vikings, did not wing his way across the country to camps at major universities over the summer.

“I spent most of my time this summer right here, working [on] my timing with [first-year quarterback Mike Mayszak],” Augustine said. “Hopefully [colleges] will see how I’m doing because of our team’s success.”

Despite not using any of the new methods to get his name out there, Augustine has been getting noticed. He attended Northern Illinois University’s game last week against Southern Illinois as a recruit. He also has received several letters from Division I schools, with Kansas and Kansas State showing the most interest.

Being a tall receiver with the speed to return kickoffs for touchdowns, as he did last year in Week 2 against South Elgin, will tend to open some eyes even if you’re not trying to be seen. Augustine was on the Vikings’ 4x400-meter relay team that reached the state meet in the spring and was a part of the 4x400 and 4x200 relay school records, both set last spring.

“He didn’t do anything [except work with Geneva over the summer],” Geneva coach Rob Wicinski said. “He just stayed with us. I’ve already got parents lined up to set up a summer schedule for next year for camps to get their boys noticed. It’s awfully unusual. He’s the ultimate team player.”

That is what stands out the most to Wicinski, besides the physical talent.

“His attitude has been outstanding,” Wicinski said. “He really had a great off-season, worked hard, and he took it right into the season. He doesn’t try to hog the limelight. He just does the job. If the ball comes his way, he executes.”

That is due in large part to the work Augustine and the other receivers did with Mayszak over the summer. Mayszak is making the transition from being Shaun Ratay’s top target last season at receiver to playing quarterback full-time for the first time. Mayszak and the receivers held their own practice between two-a-days to develop chemistry, in effect turning those practice days into triples.

His work as a receiver has helped him develop a solid relationship with Augustine and the other receivers despite his lack of experience as a quarterback.

“I know the position well that they’re playing, so I know what they’re thinking in most situations,” Mayszak said. “It’s easier for me to read the defense, where they’re going to be, because I was with them last year.”

Wicinski also has noticed in the young season that Augustine is continuing to improve.

“He’s got great hands,” Wicinski said. “The one thing he hasn’t had to do a lot is out-jump people. He just glides and stays 6-foot-6. But now, he’s starting to go up and get it. That makes him even more dangerous.”

Augustine is well aware that he has more work to do this season. In his typical team-first manner, Augustine is ready to keep getting the job done, and make some D-I college happy next year.

“We’ve still got a lot of things to work on,” Augustine said. “I don’t think we’re as good as we can be. We can still get better.”

# COMMENTS

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