

# Message from President Cook and Jaxon Duttonhefer

January 3, 2025

Hello Bison Nation!

I'm here on campus at the Nodak Insurance Football Performance Complex with Jaxon Duttonhefer, Bison defensive tackle from Mandan, North Dakota.

So first of all, congratulations to you and the team on having a great season and making a run down to Frisco. We're really excited to be watching you guys all play down there.

Thank you.

But first, Jackson, tell us a little bit about yourself. You're from Mandan. You played football in high school.

What got you excited to come to Fargo?

It has to be the tradition of, one: NDSU as a football team, but also NDSU as an amazing college. The level of education that we have here is second to none here in the state. And then also our athletics across the board is also super competitive.

I love it.

So you started right away with academics.

So tell us all what you're studying.

I am an accounting major. Actually, already in my graduate program here at NDSU.

How about that?

That's cool.

Graduated with my bachelor's degree in three years so I'm now studying for my master's in accountancy.

And last year, you're one of seven Bison players named to the Academic All-District football team based on how well you do in the classroom.

So congratulations for that.

Yeah.

Thank you so much.

Really love it. That's very, very cool.

So what is the life like of a student athlete at North Dakota State? Like what does your week look like?

Well, our coaches always stress the student before the athlete. So we're always going to be, we call it the power T. So, you know, you always have to sit in in the front of the classroom or in the middle.

But you always hit every single one of your classes because it's mandatory.

You have to.

Love it.

But it's typically early mornings, you know, you have to get up. You have either a lift in the morning or position meetings in the morning. You hit your classes. Make sure you also get your lunch in. Coach Kramer over there. You always have to get your food in. But then you have to come back and practice.

And, I mean, we're typically either at the Dome or here in this amazing facility, from about 2 to 7:30 every day.

Yeah.

And if you haven't been in this facility, I'm telling you, it really is amazing.

So, heading to Frisco, what does that feel like?

It's, it's so exciting.

The whole team's excited.

This is always our...

This is our standard and our goal, year in and year out, to always go down to Frisco and play. And we're ready.

You ready to go?

I love it.

So how many years have you been a Bison, playing football?

This is my fourth year.

Fourth year?

What is your favorite moment as a football player?

Favorite moment easily has to be this year.

Getting the rock back.

It's it's been a long time coming.

And it was, it was an amazing time to play in that game and be able to hoist that thing.

And it's a lot heavier than it looks as well.

Is that right?

Okay, well, good. Good to hear on that front.

So what does the preparation look like to head to Frisco?

Oh, we're going to be here, for the next couple of days. But as soon as we get down to Frisco, it's going to be just getting unpacked, getting used to the hotel.

But we'll actually get a couple of practices down there, a couple of walkthroughs.

We all actually have to play on grass and not turf.

Okay, so you got to get used to that.

Get your cleats in the ground. But there's going to be still position meetings. Still unit meetings.

You got to continue to watch film, continue to prepare. But other than that, it's also just take a moment just, you know, sit back and take it in and enjoy it and have a lot of fun doing it.

Well, I love it.

It's been fun watching your career.

You've done an amazing job.

We're all super excited about heading down to Frisco.

It's going to be 38 degrees is that...we're going to be able to handle that?

Oh, absolutely.

I mean, we're bringing North Dakota down with us, right?

Yeah, I love it.

That's exactly right.

Well, Bison Nation get behind these guys.

They've had a great season.

They're back where they belong in Frisco.

Super excited to be heading down there.

Can't wait to see all there. You're going to have a great game.

We know it. And best of luck!

1, 2, 3. Go Bison. Go bison.