

Morningside College's Marshall Tuttle

Every American's All-USA

It used to be commonplace 40-50 years ago -- that side of life that saw young men and women working two and three jobs while going to college. For Marshall Tuttle, a junior at Morningside College, going old-school is simply a matter of course (no pun intended).

The 6'1" 225-pound muscular linebacker on this season's Mustang football team, is fulfilling a teacher practicum at Dakota Valley High School, Dakota Dunes, S.D., is interning with attorney Dan Shuck of the Shuck Law Firm, Sioux City, is a Big Brother in the Big Brother & Big Sister program, Sioux City, working the latter while he attends classes at Morningside College and plays football.

A Sioux City police officer, who has known Tuttle since his days at East High School (graduated, 2007), said he's "one of the most modest young men you'd ever meet." The officer said that Marshall was called by the coach of the Sioux City Musketeers to play hockey. Tuttle declined in favor of football at Morningside. "He was one outstanding hockey player," the Sioux City police officer said. "There is no doubt in my mind he would be playing professional hockey today had he chosen that path."

The son of Joe and Kelli Tuttle of Sioux City, the 21 year-old junior has 2011 as his graduation target date at Morningside. The young man and his teammates played always-powerful Sioux Falls University, Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009, and got stung 49-21; nevertheless, Tuttle, et al went undefeated up until that game and punched their own ticket into an NAIA-Division II playoff.

As an outside linebacker, Marshall has come quite a ways since his high school days. He got the call for his role the second half of his freshman year on the Mustang squad as a result of an injury to the senior who played the position. He's started ever since.

The biggest transition for Tuttle going from high school to college football, the Sioux Citian said the "most obvious difference is it's a faster game. Everyone is bigger, stronger, and the game is a little more complicated on the college level than it is in high school. It's not an easy transition," he explained.

Another difference, he said, is the fact that everyone specializes. "No one plays both ways," he said. The one thing that remains the same, he said with a smile, "is we don't have television time outs as they do in Division I ball. We pretty much play the game as it's supposed to be played -- non stop, and no commercial time outs."

Morningside's success on the gridiron, Tuttle said, has a lot to do with Coach Steve Ryan and his staff's recruiting. "They recruit the best football players in the region and this side of Iowa. It's competitive on the field and during the season, NAIA football is very competitive."

Marshall excels in football, and that's evident in the fact you'll find him in on just about every defensive play. But he excels in academics, too, and his 3.5-plus GPA is a testament to his study habits. He's majoring in U.S. History, and minoring in Political Science. This semester, he has a full load of 18 hours on the docket -- one of his classes requiring him to complete a practicum at a school. (Marshall is interning at Dakota Valley High School (DVHS) with Jason Jund his supervising teacher.) Tuttle put in 25 hours at DVHS.

He also is required to invest 80 hours of his time at Shuck Law Firm, where he works with attorney Dan Shuck. He works in both education and law because, as Tuttle puts it, "I'm still unsure whether I want to teach and become, perhaps, a principal, or go into the practice of law, which would mean graduate school for me. I wanted to look at both career fields as a means of gaining experience -- something that would give me an idea of what education is about as well as the day-to-day activities of a lawyer."

By the way, Tuttle is also a Resident Assistant at Morningside. Somewhere in his schedule he also referees hockey games on Sundays and stocks shelves at the Chesterman Company.

Yet there's even more to this young, northwest Iowa man: he has a big heart for kids that's been with him throughout his own high school years and has followed him since.

As a senior at East High, Marshall talked with junior high youngsters about staying away from tobacco, drugs and alcohol. Today, he works with youngsters as a Big Brother, making it a point to spend time with one local student and accompany him to movies, go bowling, go on a hike, share a pizza, or play mini-golf. "It's someone for him to hang out with," Marshall said of his mentoring youngsters. "I try to show him the positive possibilities that are available to him, and what he can do if he sets his mind to it." It's about being a role-model.

His schedule keeps him very busy. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Marshall attends classes at Morningside starting at 8 a.m. When classes are completed, he watches football film of upcoming opponents. He then departs for Dakota Valley High School, where he interns for two hours, stops for lunch, and then afterwards, early afternoon, makes his way to the Shuck Law Firm. By the time he's completed his tour at the law office, he has enough time to return to Morningside and attend football practice.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Marshall has classes from 8 - 11:45 a.m. He has lunch afterwards, then makes his way to the film room to watch either the last game he played or that of an upcoming opponent, or both. "It's a little less hectic on Tuesdays and Thursdays," he said.

"It's a matter of managing my time. I like the fact that I have a structured schedule," he noted. "I think about what I want to do the rest of my life. Some days I think it's teaching; the next, maybe politics, government, maybe law. Right now, it's just about keeping my options open." He will, he said, take the exam that determines if he is eligible for law school. He'll do the latter this summer.

He's a busy young man, no doubt about that. He's putting his youth and time to good use, and when it comes to decision time the one thing Marshall won't be faced with is figuring on the direction he chooses to take. Marshall Tuttle is genuinely what America has always been about: hard work, dedication, perseverance, honesty and the will to do the best he can.