

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

8 NCAA PLAYOFF APPEARANCES • 5 MIAC TITLES • 2 NCAA WEST REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS

ROYALS FOOTBALL

PERSPECTIVES ON BETHEL UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

BEN WETZELL
BETHEL UNIVERSITY
QUARTERBACK: 2004-2007

Ben Wetzell came to Bethel as a highly-recruited quarterback and took over the position midway through his first year. He started the remainder of his career and led Bethel to conference championships in 2006 and 2007 and to the National Semifinals in 2007. He earned All-MIAC honors in '06 and '07 and was the league's Most Valuable Player in 2007. Wetzell is 4th on Bethel's all-time passing list and 12th on Bethel's all-time rushing list. Even with his success on the field, bigger is the legacy that Wetzell left off the field through his leadership, service and the way in which he impacted his teammates and the Bethel community.

Why I chose Bethel:

Ultimately, I ended up at Bethel by the grace of God. I knew very little about the school, program or what the institution stood for. I was looking at other MIAC schools as well as D-II schools where scholarships were available. I was fortunate to have a friend connect me with Coach Johnson. Throughout the recruiting process, I was able to meet with Coach Johnson, Coach Petie, Coach Miller, as well as several current players. Throughout the various meetings and visits to the Bethel campus, I noticed that there was an obvious difference with the people and on the campus of Bethel. Being recruited as a football player by colleges is a fun time of your life. Many schools will treat you like a big shot and tell you about how great things can be. What I saw at Bethel was a group of men who loved the Lord and loved each other and were after me not only as a football player, but someone who would have an impact on the university. I'll never forget the joy and passion displayed as I met with coaches and players. This is what sold me on Bethel.

What's special about Bethel?

Matthew 7:24-25 tells us that a wise builder chooses solid rock as his foundation to help weather the storms that come. When I chose to attend Bethel, I was choosing to take the first step towards building that foundation. What I experienced over the course of my years at Bethel was a continuation of building this foundation on solid rock for my role as a husband and father, as well as my career. Bethel offers an amazing opportunity to be surrounded by a strong community built on the love of Christ while developing and preparing yourself for your future. Being a part of the football program was frosting on the cake. Roommates, teammates, coaches and professors continually pushed me to make me a better person and prepare me for the road ahead. One of Coach J's famous quotes is "give yourself away." By doing this at Bethel as a football player, student and peer, you will come away from Bethel with a solid foundation that cannot be sunk...and have a lot of fun doing it!

How did the football program impact me?

As boys we all group up wanting to be the biggest, toughest and strongest so we can call ourselves a "man" in our society. This mindset is shaped by a society where men are supposed to be strong, get all the girls and have no emotions to go with it. We have role models who attain success in sports but fall short in life, yet we somehow put them on a pedestal as someone we strive to be. The Bethel football program radically changed this mindset for me and taught me what it truly means to be a "man." I had 100+ accountability partners who were challenging me everyday to be getting better. I'll never forget the sense of brotherhood I had with my teammates and coaches. All the people I was able to interact with as part of Bethel football shaped my faith and my character. It helps in my career and with my family as I strive to be the "man" that Bethel football shaped me to be.

What am I doing today?

I currently work for Dem-Con Companies, a small waste management company located in Shakopee. My wife Amanda and I have two boys, Eli and Peyton (hoping for similar path of the Manning's) and reside in Jordan, MN.



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