

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

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

ROYALS FOOTBALL

PERSPECTIVES ON BETHEL UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

KIRBY CARR
OUTSIDE LINEBACKER
2003-2006

Kirby Carr came to Bethel University in the fall of 2003 and immediately made an impact on Bethel's defense. He earned a starting position as a freshman and was recognized with All-MIAC 1st Team honors in all four of his years playing for the Royals. In 2006, his senior season, he was named the MIAC's Most Valuable Player and led Bethel's defense as the Royals won the MIAC Championship and advanced to the NCAA national playoffs. In 2005 he set an NCAA record by scoring a defensive extra point in back-to-back weeks. He is sixth on Bethel's career tackles list. In addition to Kirby's success on the gridiron, he also was a four-year starter on Bethel's baseball team and again earned All-MIAC honors all four of his years. He is Bethel's career leader in batting average (.414), slugging percentage (.747), hits (196), runs (140), RBI's (154), and home runs (37). In addition to his legacy as a player, Carr impacted his teammates and the entire Bethel community through his humility, kindness and the way he cared for those around him.



Why I chose Bethel:

I had made multiple official visits to Division I and Division II schools during my senior year of high school. While these schools and football programs had their positives, I still felt as though I hadn't found the right fit. It wasn't until I spent a weekend on campus at Bethel's annual recruiting event did I discover a place that had everything I was looking for in a college experience: athletics, academics, and atmosphere. I had seen schools with two of the three, but Bethel encapsulated all three and I knew the Lord had something special in store for me at Bethel.

What's special about Bethel?

I've often tried to explain my experience at Bethel and particularly my involvement with Bethel football. Many people can relate to playing football and others to forging life-long relationships. Few however, can understand what me, my teammates, and other Bethel football players have enjoyed and experienced during four short years of practices, games, and everyday campus life. Many of my high school friends that went on to play football at other colleges would tell me how much they dreaded practice and were actually happy once the season was over. Practice was the highlight of my day and when the season ended it left a pit in your stomach simply because you knew you wouldn't spend those few hours everyday with your buddies until the following year.

How did the football program impact me?

Bethel football is simply a platform and an arena to learn how to be a man and more importantly a man of Christ. As a husband and father I am now realizing even more the importance of what I learned about what it means to be a real man. Football, like fatherhood, marriage, and life has a tendency to throw unexpected situations and adversity at us every day. The ability to keep perspective, lean into difficult challenges, and persevere through tough times were all things I had to deal with on the football field as well as in my everyday life as a man of Christ. Having a group of players and coaches that are committed to this and to each other only sharpens everyone and motivates us to become the men that God designs us to be.

What am I doing today?

I am senior account executive for SPS Commerce, a software company in the Twin Cities. I am married to a Bethel grad and have two daughters.

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