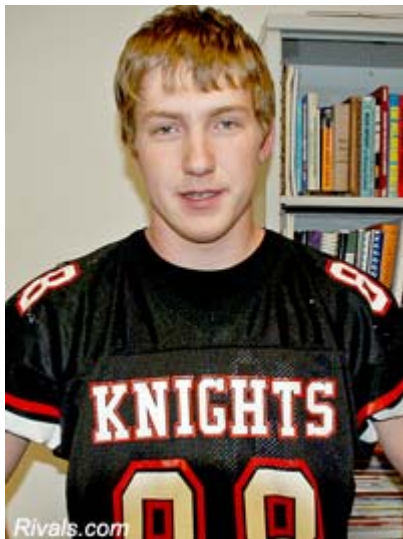


ELKHORN, Neb. - Don't be fooled by Elkhorn Mount Michael's 1-8 record.

Despite the fact the Knights didn't put out very big numbers on the field, they still have a pair of prospects that will garner looks at the next level.



Iowa, Kansas State and North Dakota State have all already made stops by Elkhorn Mount Michael to inquire about defensive end Eddie Ridder.

through our reads. He's a good blocker when he can lock onto a kid. We run behind him quite often, because he's by far our biggest kid.

Leading the way for EMM is defensive end prospect [Eddie Ridder](#) and quarterback prospect [Jake Rauterkus](#).

The 6-foot-6, 215 pound Ridder is the son of former Husker scholarship defensive end **Tom Ridder**, who signed with the Huskers out of West Point Central Catholics in the 1970's.

Besides Ridder's father, his cousin **Tim Ridder** (Notre Dame) and uncles **Dave Ridder** (Nebraska), **Paul Ridder** (Iowa State), **James Ridder** (Nebraska-Omaha) and **Don Ridder** (UNO) all played major college football as well.

When second year head coach **Dave Plendl** talks about Ridder's potential for the next level, the one thing he knows for sure is he's far from reaching his full potential.

"I don't think I'll see Eddie's best football and I mean that in a positive way," Plendl said. "If he's not my hardest worker, he's right there. He works extremely hard, he's very coachable and just drinks in what you are trying to teach him. I think we are going to be even better next year when the kids have another year in my offense. We were the No. 2 team in Class B for passing yards and we were able to move the ball. Eddie is our first look as we go

"Obviously he's 215 pounds, so he's still lean. When he gets to college and just concentrates just on football he's going to get a lot bigger. I am really excited about his potential and what he'll bring to the table to some college because he's just going to pack on muscle like crazy when he concentrates

just on football as he matures."

This past January, Iowa assistant coach [Reese Morgan](#), Kansas State assistant coach [Del Miller](#) and North Dakota State assistant coach **A.J. Cooper** all stopped by Mount Michael to inquire more about Ridder.

Nebraska Director of Football Operations **Jeff Jamrog** is also a Mount Michael graduate, so don't be surprised if the Big Red shows some interest as well when you factor that in along with his family ties to NU.

"On defense, Eddie kind of moves around," Plendl said. "He's kind of our hole plugger, because again he's our biggest kid. He's the only player on our team that commands a double team. Sometimes he plays tackle and sometimes he plays end. I think he's a good pass rusher, has a nose for the football and is just a hardnosed kid. He's kind of a throwback. He's just very coachable.

"He's a 'yes sir' kid that just goes after it and he'll do whatever you ask him to do to the best of his ability. That's one of his best qualities. I can rely on him and depend on him to give his best effort play after play."

Meanwhile when Plendl talks about Rauterkus, his overall competitiveness stands out. Plendl said last summer Rauterkus attended NU's elite quarterback in Lincoln and more than held his own.

On the field, he'll do whatever it takes to make a play.

"What's nice about Jake is he's not just a pocket passer," Plendl said. "He can throw on the run both right and left and he's accurate. Don't be fooled by his interception stat. He stays in the pocket and tries to make plays. He's not just trying to throw grenades up there. He does not bail out, he'll take a hit and try to make a play. He's a very tough hardnosed kid."

[*Article Courtesy of HuskersIllustrated.com](#)



Mount Michael QB Jake Rauterkus had a solid showing at Nebraska's QB camp last summer.