Vegas Recruits 5:00 P.M. 9/15/16 Z.DWYER

MP3 RUNS 1:43 Q: STANDARD

ZACH DWYER: FOR FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M ZACH DWYER. RECRUTING FOR DIVISION III FOOTBALL IS ALWAYS A CHALLENGE, WITH LARGER SCHOOLS BEING ABLE TO OFFER GREAT BENEFITS TO THE PLAYERS THEY ARE SEEKING. UW-RIVER FALLS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH MATT WALKER HAS SEEN THE RISE IN IN-STATE RECRUTING.

MATT WALKER: THERE’S MORE SCHOLARSHIP SCHOOLS FROM OUTSIDE OF OUR STATE THAT ARE NOW RECRUITING WISCONSIN PLAYERS. I THINK THE RESPECT FOR WISCONSIN FOOTBALL IS HIGH. .

ZACH DWYER: WITH THE INCREASE IN INTEREST IN MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN PLAYERS, THE UWRF STAFF HAD TO BECOME CREATIVE IN THEIR APPROACH. THIS LED TO AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN COMPARED TO OTHER SCHOOLS WHO HAD TRIED TO FIND POCKETS OF RECRUITS IN THE CHICAGO AREA.

MATT WALKER: BUT WE DECIDED TO GO THE OTHER WAY. WE MADE A COMMITMENT TO GO WEST TO LOOK FOR POCKETS THAT MADE SENSE. GOING OUT WEST TO ARIZONA AND VEGAS IS WHAT WE DECIDED TO DO.

ZACH DWYER: AFTER BEING INVITED IN BY LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL COACHES IN ARIZONA AND LAS VEGAS, THE FALCONS RECEIVED NINE COMMITMENTS FROM LAS VEGAS AND TWO FROM ARIZONA.

MATT WALKER: OUR STAFF DID A PHENOMONAL JOB CONTINUING OUR SUCCESS IN MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN. AND PROBABLY HITTING MORE OF A HOME RUN THAN WE COULD HAVE EVER DREAMED OF WHEN WE WENT OUT WEST.

ZACH DWYER: FERNANDO ORTEGA PLAYED AT A LARGE HIGH SCHOOL IN MESA BEFORE COMING TO RIVER FALLS. IT MAY BE A LONG TRIP FROM ARIZONA, BUT ORTEGA SAW SOMETHING SPECIAL IN THE FUTURE OF THE RIVER FALLS PROGRAM.

FERNIA ORTEGA: I WOULDN’T HAVE CAME HERE IF THERE WASN’T ANY POTENTIAL I GUESS YOU COULD SAY. THERE’S NO POINT COMING TO A SCHOOL WHERE WE AREN’T GOING TO GO ANYWHERE. ME AND ALL THE OTHER PLAYERS AND OF COURSE THE COACHES WE SEE WHAT’S BUILDING UP. HOPEFULLY BY MY JUNIOR OR SENIOR YEAR YOU GUYS WILL GET TO SEE WHAT’S IN STORE.

ZACH DWYER: WITH THE NEWLY-OPENED FALCON CENTER AND ONE OF WALKER’S LARGEST FRESHMAN CLASSES TO DATE, THE FALCONS LOOK POISED TO MAKE A RUN AS THEY ENTER CONFERENCE PLAY AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. FOR FALCON NEWS SERVICE, THIS IS ZACH DWYER.

 ###