

Vidlak's dual-sport decision

Hidden Valley senior holds college offers in both football and baseball, plans to decide after season

By Ehsan Kassim
of the Daily Courier

MURPHY — Football?
Or baseball?

That is the question that Nate Vidlak will have to decide.

The Hidden Valley senior star holds NCAA Division I offers for both sports, adding a wrinkle to his college plans.

Vidlak announced on Twitter on May 12 he had picked up an offer from Idaho State for football. He then added a baseball offer from Oregon on July 25.

On the one hand, Oregon offers a chance to play in the Pac-12 Conference. On the other, Idaho State offers more money while playing at the Football Championship Subdivision level in the Big Sky Conference.

"I love baseball, I love football," Vidlak said. "I couldn't pick between the two. For football, I can get a full ride. Baseball doesn't offer a full scholarship. I am completely open right now with the Oregon baseball offer coming in."

FCS football teams have 63 scholarships and those dollars can be divided among up to 85 players with some getting full offers and others partial scholarships.

FBS football programs are allowed 85 scholarships on its roster at any given time. All 85 scholarships are full rides.

Meanwhile, NCAA Division I baseball programs are allowed to offer a maximum of 11.7 athletic scholarships, which can be divided up among a maximum of 27 players.

"If it were the same money offered, the choice would be even tougher," Vidlak said. "But I also don't have Power Five offers for football. It doesn't get any better than playing for a Power Five program."

"[The Oregon baseball] program is rising. They have a fantastic coaching staff. Playing Pac-12 baseball is big time."

Vidlak said if he were to receive an offer from Oregon State for either baseball or football, whichever offer came first, he would jump on board right away.

His brother — Sam Vidlak — is a quarterback with the Beavers, while Hidden Valley senior Isaac Hill is committed to OSU baseball.



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Hidden Valley senior Nate Vidlak is a dual-sport star, and that creates an interesting dynamic for him as he decides his college future. He has an offer to play football at Football Championship Subdivision Idaho State and an offer to play baseball at Oregon. For now, he's not concerned about the process. He wants to enjoy the season.

Dual Sport Superstar

- Has played in the state championship game in both football and baseball in his high school career.
- Has Division I offers from Idaho State for football and the University of Oregon for baseball.
- Earned first team Skyline Conference honors and third-team all-state as a freshman.
- The onset of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 cost all teams their spring season, including the HV baseball team. The Mustangs were considered a real threat to win the state title that year.
- Became the first Hidden Valley player to win Player of the Year for baseball.
- Younger brother of Sam Vidlak, who plays football for Oregon State University.

If he were to get an offer to play both sports at a school, the scholarship would count against the football program, since it has more to offer.

For now, the focus is on the football season. The Mustangs are coming off a 4-0 season in the spring in which they earned a share of the Skyline Conference title. It was Vidlak's first season at quarterback, taking over for his brother, who graduated early to enroll in Corvallis.

Nate Vidlak accounted for over 1,000 yards passing and 15 total touchdowns in that COVID-19-shortened season.

He's been getting tips and training from his older brother to become a better passer.

"It's been fun being able to help out Nate in whatever way," Sam Vidlak said. "We both work together and improve both of our games. He's a very good football player. It's a lot of fun doing football work with my brother and one of my best friends."

While Sam Vidlak holds many passing records at HV, he and Nate play two different styles.

"Nate's skill set has a lot of tools," Sam Vidlak said. "He is a big, strong, fast kid. He has a lot of tools to work with. He's a talented player who only comes around so many years."

"I am excited to see what he does and what Hidden Valley does."

Sam is more of a pocket presence who relies on his arm and accuracy. Nate is more likely to tuck the ball and make plays with his legs.

Nate Vidlak's teammates who have played with him his entire career believe he has the tools to lead the team this season and continue to play QB at the next level.

"Nate is a very-well rounded quarterback," senior lineman Aidan Moon-Reed said. "He can do a lot of things well. I am expecting improvement from him this season. He has one of the best work ethics I have ever seen."

After playing for James Powers and his father Mark Vidlak for his first three seasons, Nate Vidlak will have a new offensive

Turn to VIDLAK, Page 20