

Allain all in for Robert Morris University football

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Now that Michael Allain has reached one of his lifetime goals, the six-foot-four, 255-pound defensive lineman is focusing on another new challenge after recently signing his NCAA letter of intent to play football and study business at Robert Morris University.

Allain said on the weekend that he was relieved the difficult decision-making is over and can't wait to get in his first snaps for the Pittsburgh, Pa.-based Colonials this summer.

"I'm really excited about the bright new energetic coaching staff they've brought in with a commitment to make changes for the better and to build a winning program," said the 18-year-old Allain, referring to the December hiring of head coach Bernard Clark, a former NFL linebacker.

"The slate is clean. We can't wait to get into training camp and start work on the new season. With the new coaching staff and the recruiting class of '18, anything is possible."

Allain spent his first three years of high school at Georgetown's Christ the King before enrolling at the Lake Forest Acade-

my near Chicago at age 16. But after that school decided to change its program to the eight-man game last spring, Allain transferred over to Mercyhurst Prep School in Erie, Pa., for his senior season and said the move paid off in spades.

Mercyhurst went 10-1, losing by a late touchdown in the District 10 final, with Allain starring on the school's 3-4 defensive front, earning him an honourable mention for the Pennsylvania Class 3A All-State Team.

He ended up with eight sacks, nine tackles for a loss, a blocked punt and 59 tackles.

A highlight video on Hudl of Allain's senior year contains more than seven minutes of quarterbacks and running backs being tracked down and dropped to the turf by the lightning-quick No. 55, along with some plays featuring his impressive blocking as a moonlighting offensive lineman.

"We had two running backs get over a thousand yards last year in an 11-game schedule, which is off the charts, and it was a privilege to help out the team in any way I could," he added.

"As a defensive end, I would say 60 per cent of your game relies on mastering your technique in order to be a successful player.



Robert Morris University photo

Local native Michael Allain realized a dream of his recently by signing his Letter of Intent with NCAA Division One school Robert Morris University, located in Pittsburgh, Pa. The 6-foot-4, 255-pound defensive end is coming off a standout year for a high school prep team in Erie, Pa.

You're making sure you've got good feet, hands and hips and you're constantly working on your craft to improve. Strength plays a big part of it, for sure, but I've seen a few giant muscle dummies who are beasts in the weight

room, squatting six plates at a time, but they're not going to get to the quarterback."

Allain said he received several offers from U.S. schools over the past couple of months and his 3.3 grade point average was a key as-

set during the recruiting process. He will major in finance at RMU.

His roommate and best friend at Mercyhurst, linebacker Jesse Luketa of Ottawa, just signed with Penn State University.

Allain is so eager to get a head start on his U.S. college career that he plans to find lodging on the RMU campus shortly after graduating from Mercyhurst, take a summer course and start working out well before the start of Colonials' training camp.

"It's been my dream for a long time to play Division 1 football and to be able to play a five-hour drive from home, I can't think of a more ideal situation," said Allain, who also developed in the North Halton Crimson Tide summer organization.

"The business program there is really well respected and I'm looking forward to playing some great football. Coming into training camp, I understand that I'm at the bottom of the pecking order and all I can do is keep working hard to show the coaches what I can do. Wherever they need me, whether that's on special teams or being a freshman on defence, I'm ready. Then after four years, hopefully I can come out of it with a great education and have an opportunity to keep playing football at the next level."

HOCKEY

Georgetown Raiders continue to rack up wins

Winger Derek McVey earned first-star honours for the second straight game as the Georgetown Raiders skated past the host Mississauga Chargers 5-1 Saturday night in

an Ontario Junior Hockey League matchup in Port Credit.

Eighteen-year-old Oakville resident McVey tallied twice, including the go-ahead marker early in

the second period, to send the 33-11-1-2 Raiders to their fifth consecutive victory and 11th win in their past 12 starts.

Rookie goalie Nathan Torchia made 27 stops to

improve his record to 8-2 on the season, while Bailey Molella, Matt McJanet and affiliate player Dustin Hutton added single markers.

Next up is a key clash

Wednesday at the Alcott Arena as the West Division-leading Raiders take on the South Division front-runners, the 35-8-1-2 Toronto Patriots, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Georgetown is four points behind Toronto in the chase for the OJHL's South/West Conference regular-season crown with seven games remaining.



Saturday Feb 10th, 2018
Georgetown Raiders
vs. Milton Icehawks

Games are 7:30pm, Mold-Masters SportsPlex

Wednesday Feb 14th, 2018
Georgetown Raiders
vs. Toronto Patriots

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