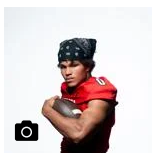


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Dynamite Dozen: Xavier Rucker, Allatoona

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Xavier Rucker is a loyal person, and it stems from his time at Allatoona. He said he plays the hardest for a coach who loves him the hardest.

“The loyalty is 100%, and I would never leave them (Allatoona) for anybody,” he said. “I had 100 high schools trying to hit me up and try to get me to come, but I'm a loyal type of person.”

Loyalty is what influenced Rucker to commit to Georgia Tech in late May. When asked about why he chose Georgia Tech, Rucker said he just wanted to go to a place that feels like he can depend on a coach.

Xavier Rucker, Allatoona

“I wanted to go to a school that actually cared about me,” he said. “When I went to Georgia Tech, Jamal Haynes took me around the whole city (Atlanta). He taught me how to be a man of a character, and I could call Jamal any time. Coach McKenzie always invites me over to his crib and coach K.”

Once Rucker chooses a team, he is devoted. He treats his team like family, and he will fight for them.

This is evident in Rucker's motivation to excel on the football field. When asked about his motivation, Rucker said his motivation comes from his desire to move his sister out and to help out his family.

Rucker said his favorite part about football is its intensity.

"The intensity and the mental capacity that you have to have to be able to continue each day in practice, not just games," he said.

Rucker's mindset when he steps on the field is "They're not messing with me," he said.

This intensity comes from his passion for the game, his teammates and family.

Rucker said he was influenced to play football because of Odell Beckham Jr, and he started in the fourth grade.

"Once I watched him, I just chose to play football myself, and ever since then I've been kind of on point with it. "

As far as a favorite running back, Rucker said he likes to watch Alvin Kamara.

"I feel like I play a little like him, I like to study him a bit," he said

Rucker said Allatoona has helped him develop, and the way Allatoona uses him resembles Kamara's play style.

"They can get me in space, and I can play both sides of the ball," he said. "It gives me the opportunity to show coaches what they think is the best fit for me in college."

Rucker has improved substantially over the course of his career, but he said he understands there is still room to grow.

"My eyes, I got really good at eye reading, at the running back position," he said. "I still need to get bigger, I need to put on some weight and I need to get faster."

Rucker said a game playing Cass was his most memorable moment of his football career.

"It was my first game playing a wide receiver, and I had like 150 receiving yards against a four star safety and a ranked corner," he said.

Xavier Rucker is a 5-foot-11, 195-pound senior running back for the Allatoona Buccaneers.

The dual threat running back logged 1,135 yards and 11 touchdowns. He averaged six and a half yards per carry across nine games last season.

He also recorded 281 receiving yards and 2 touchdowns during his junior season

Rucker said he has set some personal goals for himself for this upcoming season. He wants 1,000 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns along with 500 rushing yards.

The Tech commit has lofty goals for this season, but above all he said he is chasing team success.

“I want us to win the region, be able to compete to play in the region championship and compete to play in the playoffs,” he said.