

Alexandra Samargia

Roosevelt Football is Back

Fall is upon us and so is sweatshirts, pumpkins, Halloween, and most importantly, football. The Roosevelt University football team has been having a successful season so far with their winning streak hitting 3-0. With the lakers beating Lawrence Tech, 42-28 on Saturday September 24. And on Saturday September 17, the lakers beat Concordia of Ann Arbor, 28-20. After the game, Hayden Ferrigno (71, right tackle) said he felt “Absolutely amazing.” Ferrigno said the team this year is closer and are ready for the season. “It’s a whole different team, everything is different, the atmosphere is different. After a disappointing year like last year, we know how good we are this year.”

Jared Williamson has been a coach of the lakers since 2010. He built up the Robert Morris football team from scratch and is now the head coach of the Roosevelt football team. “We have a great group of young men who have been really working hard since August 1.” Williamson says. “We play in the best conference in the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics), and we understand that each week will present a huge challenge.”

Roosevelt University merged with Robert Morris on March 9, 2020. Since then, sports for the lakers has increased in popularity and success. The University has applied to be a part of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC), a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II league. Right now, Roosevelt participates as members of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Mid-States Football Association (MSFA) and Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC). Roosevelt will submit its application to the NCAA by February 1, 2023 and based on the performance of the lakers this year they may be in the NCAA Division II for the 2024-25 year. Once the membership process is completed, lakers will be eligible to compete in NCAA tournaments in the 2026-27 year.

“I think the future is bright not only for the football team but for the entire athletic department.” Williamson says, “No matter what happens, I am excited to be at an institution like Roosevelt which gives our student-athletes the unique ability to achieve academically, athletically, and socially. This potential transition to NCAA D2 along with other initiatives the university has put forth continues to show Roosevelt’s commitment to providing support and opportunities to our students that are unique and exciting.”

Many students have expressed in the past that they have had trouble finding a way to get to the home football games which take place in Arlington Heights. One of the only ways students can get there is by Uber, or Metra. State schools and even high schools have “fan buses” that transport students to sporting events from campus for a small fee. Parents grill and tailgate in the parking lot before home games, father of Alex Tran, Hieu Tran says, “we wish more students were here to cheer on the team”. “I would love if more students would come to the games, we want all the support we can get, and we’d love to see the stands packed with as many students as we can.” Ferrigno says. The lakers play their home games at Morris Field in Arlington Heights. Check out the Roosevelt football schedule and bring your laker pride to the next game!

“There is no place like this in the entire country and the experience our students get no matter what governing body athletics is under is very exciting.” - Coach Jared Williamson.