

Slezak finds new home with Kohawks

Written by Christine Ebekebrede

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Coe College junior Ben Slezak is easy to spot on a football field.

At 341 pounds, he's easily one of the biggest players on the gridiron.

He's also easy to spot off the field, with his long hair and thick, bushy beard.

Slezak, who graduated from Xavier High School in 2011, is starting at right tackle on a rebuilt offensive line for the Kohawks. He was one of their top blockers Saturday in a 37-21 loss to Wisconsin-Stevens Point at Clark Field.

Slezak attended Southwest Minnesota State for two years before deciding to come back home.

"Then I went to Coe," he said Saturday. "I kind of lost some credits when I transferred, so I have another year."

Coe's offensive line suffered heavy graduation losses from last year, so they've had to put new pieces in place this season.

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"It's tough," Slezak said. "We've got some good guys ... We've just been working hard.

"We have some young guys, which is kind of a weakness, but as long as we work on it, it will become a strength."

Slezak is trying to improve in practices and games.

"I'm just working on my pass sets," he said. "I'm new at tackle. I just started playing this year."

Slezak has switched from guard to tackle.

"The footwork is different, some of the assignments are different. I switched over this year at camp."