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WALSH UNIVERSITY

# THE SPECTATOR

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Photo from Walsh Athletics



The rest of the **2025 Season** 

Sept 20 @1pm @<u>Kentucky Wesleyan</u> <u>College</u>

Sept 27 @4pm v Ohio Dominican University

Oct 4 @1pm v<u>University of Findlay</u>

Oct 11 @ 1pm @ <u>Tiffin University</u>

Oct 18 @ 1pm @ Lake Erie College

Oct 25 @ 12pm v <u>Thomas More</u> <u>University</u>

Nov 1 @ 1pm @ Ashland University

Nov 8 @ 12pm v <u>Hillsdale College</u>

Nov 15 @ 12pm v Northwood University

#### Walsh Football Looks Ahead to Fall Season with Confidence

by Derrick "DJ" Reed, Staff Writer

The fall semester brings with it the excitement of Walsh football, and this year the Cavaliers are preparing with renewed energy and focus. After a summer of hard work and conditioning, the team is eager to show what they can do when they take the field. Players and coaches alike have emphasized their commitment to growth, unity, and competing at the highest level in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC).

One of the key leaders heading into the season is Nate Watkins, a member of the defensive line who has already established himself as a strong presence on the field. Watkins spoke about the determination that the team has carried into practice, highlighting how the defense has worked tirelessly to sharpen their skills. "We've been focused on building chemistry, staying disciplined, and playing with intensity every snap," Watkins explained. "As a defensive line, we take pride in setting the tone early and making it tough for our opponents."

The defensive line, often called the heart of a football team's defense, will play a major role in Walsh's success this year. Watkins pointed to the importance of stopping the run and applying pressure on opposing quarterbacks as two areas where the unit hopes to excel. He also mentioned that leadership and accountability have been major themes for the team as a whole. "Everyone has bought into the system, and we push each other to be better every day," he said.

Looking ahead, the Cavaliers are eager to prove themselves in several key matchups. With a challenging schedule on the horizon, Watkins emphasized that the team is approaching each game with focus and confidence. "Our mindset is simple: one game at a time. If we stay locked in, we can do something special this year."

Students, faculty, and fans will have plenty of opportunities to support Walsh football this fall. With leaders like Nate Watkins anchoring the defense, the Cavaliers are determined to make this season one to remember.



The rest of the 2025 Season

Sept 13 (Sat) @2PM @ Purdue University NW

Sept 18 (Thu) @7:300M v Ohio Dominican University

Sept 20 (Sat) @4:30PM v Northwood University

Sept 23 (Tue) @7PM @ Cedarville University

Sept 25 (Thu) @7PM v Tiffin University

Oct 2 (Thu) 1PM

@ University of Findlay

Oct 4 (Sat) 7PM @ Lake Erie College

Oct 9 (Thu) 7PM v Cedarville University

Oct 11 (Sat) 4PM

@ Malone University

Oct 16 (Thu) 7:30PM

@ Thomas More University

Oct 18 (Sat) 3:30PM v Kentucky Wesleyan

Oct 25 (Sat) 12PM

@ Ohio Dominican University

Oct 30 (Thu) 7:30PM v Thomas More University

Nov 4 (Tue) 7:30PM v Malone University



Walsh men's soccer players (from left) Josh Sarver, Noah Huda, Nick Bertolini, and Gabe Anderson share that the team's ultimate goal this year is to win the GMAC. **Photo by DJ Reed** 

## Walsh Men's Soccer Sets Its Sights on a GMAC Title

#### by Derrick "DJ" Reed, Staff Writer

The Walsh University men's soccer team is entering the new season with one clear mission: to win the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (GMAC). After a summer of training and preparation, the Cavaliers are ready to take the field with renewed energy and a shared commitment to success.

Several players, including Nick Bertolini, Gabe Anderson, and Noah Huda, spoke about the team's mindset and goals heading into the season. Each emphasized that this year is about more than individual performances—it's about coming together as a group and competing for the conference championship.

Bertolini noted that team chemistry has been a major focus during preseason practices. "We've all bought into the same goal," he said. "The coaches have pushed us to work hard every day, and that effort is going to show when we step onto the field. We're aiming for nothing less than the GMAC title."

Anderson echoed that sentiment, highlighting the team's determination to improve on last year's performance. "We know what we're capable of," he explained. "Every training session has been about sharpening our skills and building trust in each other. We want to raise the standard this season."

For Huda, the excitement of the new season comes from the opportunity to prove what the Cavaliers can accomplish. "Our goal is to win the GMAC," he stated firmly. "We have the talent, the work ethic, and the mindset to make it happen. It's just about executing when the time comes."

With a mix of experienced returners and talented newcomers, Walsh men's soccer is preparing for a competitive schedule. The Cavaliers will look to start strong and build momentum as the season progresses. Players and coaches alike are confident that with hard work and unity, the team can reach its ultimate goal of bringing a conference championship back to Walsh.



New Stunt coach, Shila Shreve, ready to take Walsh's team the next level of competition.

**Photo by Shila Shreve** 



# Walsh Stunt Coach Brings Experience and Excitement to the Upcoming Season!

by Katelynn Popovic, Staff Writer

With nearly twenty years of experience in the cheerleading world, Walsh's newest stunt coach, Shila Shreve, is ready to lead her athletes into a brand new season of growth, confidence, and competition.

Her journey began as a sideline cheerleader, spending four years uplifting the crowd during her college days. However, her passion extended beyond the sidelines, where she committed three

With nearly twenty years of experience in the cheerleading world, Walsh's newest stunt coach, Shila Shreve, is ready to lead her athletes into a brand new season of growth, confidence, and competition.

Her journey began as a sideline cheerleader, spending four years uplifting the crowd during her college days. However, her passion extended beyond the sidelines, where she committed to the stunt team for three years, a fast-paced, skill-driven sport developed from cheerleading. During this time, she not only participated but also stepped into many leadership roles for three of those years, helping to guide her teammates and build the foundation for her future as a coach.

Her leadership skills were further sharpened through her work with Cheer Ohio summer camps. For many summers, she worked as a staffer, and in one year, she advanced to a co-director position, which helped train and mentor young athletes from all over. After college, she stayed connected to the sport as a college stunt official for two years, gaining many different perspectives on the rules and strategies of the game.

Last year, her passion for the sport inspired her to launch a club stunt team at Ashland, giving younger Athletes, 8-11 and 11-14, opportunities to compete in this new, growing sport. Her dedication and drive have already made an impact, and she sees this year as another step forward.

Looking ahead to the spring season, the coach is focused on building her team's confidence and competitiveness. "My expectations for this season are overall growth, confidence, and to be competitive," she explained. "We want to put points on the board and hopefully win some GMAC conference games."

With her deep background, her excitement for the sport, and a clear vision for her team, the stunt program at Walsh is set for an awesome year.

# Want to write for The Spectator?

We are looking for writers for the 25-26 Spectator. Sports, academics, faith life, and so much more here on campus we want to report on!



## Swords Up for the WIN!!

# Cavalier Football Starts Off Strong by Kyle Perry, Staff Writer

In front of a nearly record-breaking Walsh University crowd, the Walsh University Cavaliers began their 2025 football season in dominant form, defeating the West Liberty Hilltoppers 38–10 at Larry Staudt Field.

Walsh immediately took over after West Liberty took the lead early on with a 34-yard field goal. The Cavaliers led 7-3 after a well-organized 13-play, 75-yard drive that culminated with quarterback Hayden Wickard connecting with Austin Knowles for a 27-yard score.

The second quarter saw a rise in Walsh's well-balanced attacking approach. Josh University West Liberty University Athletics greatmidwestsports.com The Cavaliers' third-quarter blitz, which included a combination of field goals and spectacular drives, further accelerated the momentum after Jake Gill's 4-yard running score put them up 14–3.

Spread over nine receivers, Wickard put on a strong effort, ending with 223 passing yards and three

touchdown passes. Gill spearheaded a four-pronged rushing attack on the ground, leading the assault with two running scores and 96 yards.

The Cavaliers played fierce defense, forcing three turnovers. Jerijah Moore and Jajuan Jackson both intercepted passes at crucial times to stop West Liberty's threats against Walsh University, while Michael Howman Williams had six tackles and a fumble recovery.

Walsh's performance in all three phases made sure the game was never in question, even though West Liberty's only offensive burst occurred early in the fourth quarter.

The Cavaliers started the season 1-0 with that decisive victory, reminding supporters why Walsh and West Liberty had squared off to start the year four times in the previous five seasons, with Walsh winning each time.

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