

ELI PARKES ROUNDS OUT GREAT CAREER AT MOREHEAD

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Most young people think of five years as a long time. For Eli Parkes of the Morehead State Eagles it was not so.

"Real fast, it seems like it was yesterday," Parkes said.

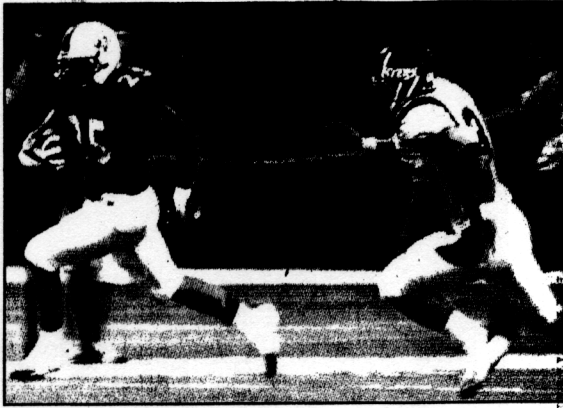
Eli went to Morehead State (Pioneer Football League - South Division) due in part to family members receiving ELI PARKES advanced degrees as Eagles.

Eli tried it, liked it and stayed put.

"I love it here, it is a great place to play, great atmosphere and the people are very friendly," Eli said. "I came in, got to play as a freshman and I didn't see a reason to leave the opportunity here."

During Parkes freshman season he rushed for 217 yards on 33 carries, caught 16 passes for 154 yards and scored two touchdowns.

His sophomore year Eli



Eli Parkes breaks away for a 27-yard pass reception in the first quarter against the University of Dayton September 24th.

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caught 27 passes for 389 yards and four touchdowns.

As a junior his rushing totaled 250 yards and caught 32 passes for 526 yards and six touchdowns.

Then came his senior year and the first game.

Early in that game Eli suffered a season-ending fractured fibula and received a medical red-shirt.

He had carried the ball four times for 35 yards with one six-yard pass and a touchdown.

Eli returned completely healed and ready for 2005.

Eli's talent, speed and effort has not changed from Friday nights at Minford.

Eli was all everything, SOC Conference, All-Area performer and Second Team All-State.

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But the competition is faster, bigger and harder to move.

"In high school I could push those linebackers off. You can't do that as often in college. You can't outrun them either very often. Everybody is quicker and more equal," Parkes said.

Additional duties include holder for field goals and extra points. A job that never gets credit unless you mess up.

"I don't feel any pressure when its a big kick. I just catch the ball, set it down and let the kicker feel the pressure," Eli said.

In high school he ran, in college Eli has been an effective pass receiver and likes it.

"I think I enjoy receiving more than anything else. It is easier to go downfield and catch the ball than run it to the same spot. In high school I didn't get to catch it much, most of my time I was rushing up-field, so, yes I think I like receiving better."

Was the five-year effort worth all the hard work?

"Oh yeah. I will look back ten years from now and be glad I did it. It has gone so fast, like you said before. I will always be proud of what I accomplished here," Eli said.

The five foot 11 inch - 215 pound senior will complete his degree in Physical/Health Education in 2006. So what is next?

"I would like to go back to Portsmouth and would like to

get a position in education, hopefully at Minford, teaching Physical Education and Health.

Along with Eli's father and mother, James and Cindy Parkes, other family members visited Morehead's Family Weekend, September 15th.

"My grandfather, James is here tonight. He lives down in Tennessee and gets up about two or three times a year," Eli said. "My Aunt Kathy is also here. She is a Morehead graduate and was Homecoming Queen her senior year.

Eli was asked if he had found a pretty Morehead girl to bring home to mom and dad.

He said, "No, I have one at home waiting for me now. She is a Chillicothe girl but attends Shawnee State and plays volleyball for them," Eli said.

Parkes said her name is Lindsey Grubb, a SSU sophomore from Huntington Ross High School.

Excluding this year's accomplishments Eli has 754 yards rushing (5.4), 76 receptions for 1,075 yards with 14 total touchdowns.

He has been an excellent academic student also.

He has given much to Morehead and they have given much to him.

An excellent education, a fantastic football career, long-time good friends, a proud and loving family.

It has been quite a ride for Parkes the past nine years.

The future looks as bright as the past.