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Alum Working in the NFL Now Mentoring SNC Student

St. Norbert College

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Alum Working in the NFL Now Mentoring SNC Student

One of the many benefits of an SNC education is that our alums learn to love to give back. And they do it not just financially, but by serving as mentors for current students. They mentor in many fields, now including professional sports.



Matt Swanson '22 hopes to one day become an NFL scout, a position that's not the easiest in the world to snag. Enter Dan Zegers '11, the Midwest area scout for the Cleveland Browns. After the two were introduced, Zegers took Swanson (pictured) under his wing.

"I remember the first time I spoke with Matt," Zegers said. "I was driving to Bloomington, Ind., to scout a Hoosiers game. I told him I could talk between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m., and sure enough, he called me right at 5 and we talked for over an hour. He took it seriously and had questions prepared. I could tell he had a passion for it."

Besides passing on his own knowledge and experience, Zegers helped Swanson get into an elite scouting school tied to the January 2022 Hula Bowl. This fall, Swanson has been completing scouting reports using multiple templates and videos the scouting school provided. The work is all done online, so Swanson isn't missing any class time at St. Norbert.

In January, while SNC is on winter break, Swanson will go to Orlando to work as an

assistant scouting intern for the Hula Bowl. There, he will get to speak with NFL scouts about the players he scouted and reported on for the scouting school. He will also get to make connections with NFL scouts, who may be able to open more doors for him.

"Working there all week, Swanson will have access to the players that we [scouts] won't have," said Zegers. "It will be a great opportunity for Matt to build relationships. After all, it's a people business. He will get fresh perspectives and will get to see what NFL scouts are saying and doing."

Swanson is excited, knowing this experience could be key in helping him achieve his goal. "Life is too short to have regrets and not give your dreams a shot," he said. "I have had great professors and mentors that have continuously guided me throughout my four years at St. Norbert College, which is something you would likely not find at a larger university."

Nov. 22, 2021



National Mentoring Month

January is National Mentoring Month. Young adults who have a mentor are 130 percent more likely to hold leadership positions and 78 percent more likely to volunteer regularly, according to **Mentor**, a mentoring resource site.

Also in This Issue

This article first appeared in the November 2021 issue of Parents of St. Norbert College. Other features in this edition included:

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100 Grant Street
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