

## Scott gets his kicks with Saints

Written by Jim Ecker

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It's not unusual for brothers to grab a football and toss it around in the back yard, but the Scott family of Cedar Rapids can form the guts of its own place-kicking team.

Drew Scott, the eldest brother, is a long-snapper for the Kansas State Wildcats in the Big 12 Conference. Shane Scott, the middle brother, is the top place-kicker for the Xavier Saints. And Jack Scott, the youngest brother, is a back-up quarterback for the Saints and certainly capable of being the holder.

Here's the snap ... Here's the placement ... Here's the kick ... It's gooooooood!

Drew Scott starred at Xavier before heading to Kansas State, where he's a fifth-year senior. Shane Scott, a senior, has made all three of his field goals this season, including a 44-yarder two weeks ago against Decorah. And Jack Scott, a junior, is an important reserve and member of the Scout Team at Xavier.

And if the Scott brothers need any tips, their father Andrew Scott can steer them in the right direction as a former coach at Regis Middle School (and a former player at Regis High School).

"It's neat to have the whole family aspect with the three Scott boys," Xavier Coach Duane Schulte said this week.

Like many football players at Xavier, Shane Scott had to wait his turn to play for the varsity. He was the No. 2 place-kicker last year behind Dallas Klein, who's now playing in college.

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"Klein was a great mentor and for sure a great kicker," Scott remarked. "He's at Loras now, kicking for them. What I struggled with last year was consistency. That's what he beat me on."

Scott is more consistent now, something he learned from Klein.

"I learned to always keep my eye on the tee, because I was always looking up to see where the ball was going," he said.

Scott has made 23 of 27 PATs this season and has scored 32 points for the Saints. He kicked an important 23-yard field goal in the 45-17 victory over Linn-Mar in the second game of the season and booted a 34-yarder against Independence last week.

Scott has not had a chance to kick a game-winning field goal for the Saints, but he's ready and willing if called upon.

"For sure," he said. "I'd do anything for my team and hopefully I'll get the chance to do it for them."

Scott is also a member of Xavier's strong boys soccer program and collected four assists for the Saints last season as a junior.

Scott and the Saints are headed for a big test Friday night at Waverly-Shell Rock in a Class 3A District 3 showdown. The top-ranked Saints are 6-0 overall and 4-0 in the district, while Waverly-Shell Rock is 4-2 overall and 3-1 in the district, tied for second place with Charles City and Benton Community.

Xavier has posted four lopsided victories in its four district games so far, but Schulte expects a much stiffer game Friday night.

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"I know we're going to get a competitive game from Waverly-Shell Rock," he said. "They're well-coached and they've played well, so we're certainly expecting a competitive game, no doubt about it."

This will be the 200th varsity football game in school history for the Saints. They've posted a 135-64 record so far, all under Schulte's guidance, and are seeking their 10th straight trip to the playoffs.

The Saints have a 2-0 record against Waverly-Shell Rock, with Class 3A playoff victories in 2014 and 2015.

Xavier tailback Maliki Wilson enters Friday night's game with 2,388 rushing yards in his career and needs just 111 yards to break the school record of 2,498 set by Brendan Miller in 2012 and 2013.

Xavier quarterback Bryce Schulte has throw 45 touchdown passes in his career and needs four more TD passes to match the school record of 49 touchdown passes set by his brother Reggie in 2011 and 2012.