CLASS OF 2002

GREG ESLINGER

Greg Eslinger, a 2002 graduate of Bismarck High School, is the first football player in the history of Bismarck High to have his jersey retired. Eslinger was a three year starter for the Demons. During his senior year Eslinger led his team to a perfect 12 – 0 record and a state title. Eslinger was named North Dakota AAA Player of the Year, and was also selected to the First Team, All State Team and named the Demons MVP for two consecutive years. He was also a member of the National Honor Society.

Greg was a four-year starter at center for the University of Minnesota, starting as a true freshman. He never missed a college game and started every game at center (50 straight) for the Maroon and Gold. By the time he was a junior, Eslinger was leading an offensive line that allowed only nine sacks in 12 games, the best mark for the team since 1970. In 2006, Eslinger was the recipient of the Rimington Trophy awarded to the nation's top center, the Outland Trophy awarded to the nation's top interior lineman, and was named a semifinalist for the Lombardi Award for the nation's top lineman or linebacker.

Eslinger was a U of M standout and received numerous college, state and national awards for his outstanding performance that included being the first football player in Gopher history to be named first-team all-conference by the media and coaches for three consecutive seasons. He was recognized throughout his college career for his high academic achievement which included the Academic All Big Ten, Big Ten Medal of Honor for proficiency in athletics and academics and a finalist for the Draddy Trophy given to the nation's top scholar athlete. In his senior year, he was also a First Team Selection to the following All-America Teams: First Team All Big Ten, Walter Camp, Associated Press, American Football Coaches Association, Football Writers Association of America, Sporting News, Rivals, ESPN.com, Playboy, and Sports Illustrated. Lindy's named him the Number One Center in the Country in 2005. He was drafted by the Denver Broncos in 2006 and spent three seasons in the NFL.

Greg lives in West Fargo, ND with his wife Stephanie and their sons Easton, Grant and Heath.