



Wednesday,
July 9,
2008 10:03
PM EDT

Former Woodland standouts headed to New Haven

BY MARK JAFFEE REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

NEW HAVEN — Well before Chris Anderson resigned as head football coach at Woodland High to take an assistant's job at the University of New Haven in June, former Hawks players Will Volage and Josh Woodin had decided to go to the NCAA Division II school after being recruited by head coach Peter Rossomando during the winter.

Volage, one of the top players in the Naugatuck Valley League for three seasons, will play for Anderson, the UNH receivers coach.

"Coach Anderson is the one who has kept me motivated," said Volage, who along with Woodin was preparing with the New Haven County All-Stars for tonight's Hall of Fame Classic against Fairfield County. "He always tells me that I took advantage of the opportunity that I was given."

Still, Volage doesn't expect any favors from Anderson in college.

"I'm hoping to be able to start, but I know that I have to compete hard," said Volage, who will likely redshirt as a freshman. "I am only 5-foot-9 and 170 pounds, and I know that I have to step up my game."

Though Woodin will play on the defensive line in college, he'll enjoy having Anderson close by for advice.

"It's good to keep the Woodland spirit alive," said Woodin, who is playing center Friday. "Coach Anderson taught me to play hard, no matter what."

Woodland's Eric Alfieri, who will play tight end for New Haven County, is glad to have one more game with his ex-teammates.

Alfieri, headed for UConn to compete in the weight events for the men's track team, says his last high school game will be a bitter one to swallow.

Alfieri was hurt in the first half of the NVL Championship game on Nov. 15 against Ansonia, a game Woodland lost, 41-0.

He then missed the regular-season final against Seymour and also the Class SS semifinals against the Wildcats.

"My high school football season ended badly, and hopefully, I can leave now on a good note and have some fun," said Alfieri.