

# EPH LEGEND – SCOTT FARLEY '03

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Scott Farley #24

**WESTON FIELD HAS BEEN AS** much a part of Scott Farley's life as football and family.

As a young pre-teen Farley could be seen lounging around the sidelines with his friends or acting as a ball boy during one of his father's — Hall of fame Coach Dick Farley — game's in the 1990s. As a college transfer from Villanova, Farley starred for three seasons on the same field, once being named all-conference in three positions and earning All-America status as well.

Fast forward to 2013, and in the newest chapter of his life, Farley is back at Weston, beginning his journey as a college football coach this fall as a member of Aaron Kelton's coaching staff.

Full circle doesn't do justice to Scott Farley's first 32 years.

"After I stopped playing football, I probably always knew I would end up going into coaching," said Scott, who spent the previous three years in Boston working as a strength conditioning trainer. "I need the time away to understand the importance the game commanded in my life. Now I have an opportunity to pass on the knowledge and values my father, coach (John) Allen, coach (Bill) Belichick and coach (John) Fox instilled in me over my career."

Farley's career in football after Williams was certainly an interesting one. Just before graduating in 2003, he signed as a free agent with the New England Patriots. He

was released that July but signed again the following year and assigned to the Berlin Thunder of the NFL Europe. The Thunder won the World Bowl in his first season.

On August 15, 2004, he was back in the states and playing for the Patriots in an exhibition game against the Philadelphia Eagles. He was released by the Patriots — signed for a third time — and released again. He was then signed to the practice squad of the Carolina Panthers coach by Fox and remained there for a season. Unfortunately, injuries curtailed his chances of being a full-time NFL player.

"It seemed easy at the time (to walk away from football)," Farley said. "But something didn't feel right, and seven or eight months later it crept up on me, how much I missed it."

But even that feeling could not immediately draw Farley back to the gridiron. He was hired as an athletic director at a charter school in Charlotte, took a job in a therapeutic behavioral program, went back to school for awhile, and then took on the strength conditioning world just outside of Boston at the Beacon Hill Athletic Club.

"It was something I was studying as I was teaching," he said. "I had always been kind of a gym rat — if you will — and it seemed like a good fit."

After three years though, Farley finally had to scratch the itch he could not get rid off: Getting back to football.

"I have a fairly strong idea of what has been successful for me and some of that goes back to the principles my father instilled in me as well as what I took from being a captain in NFL Europe and here," Scott said. "I'm going to continue to be who I am and I hope it transitions well into coaching. The most important thing for me is to give our players a good experience and enjoy it myself."

Ironically, Farley who has played nearly every offensive and special teams position between Mount Greylock, Villanova, Williams, the Berlin Thunder, the Patriots and the Panthers, is coaching the tight ends at his alma mater, an all together new experience.

"It's the position I know the least and I like that," he said. "Tight ends are a big part of the passing game but also a key factor in the rushing game, which is something I'm not familiar with. I've been leaning on Kyle (Ephs' offensive line coach

Kyle Semsco) to get an understanding of the terminology and technique. It's like learning a foreign language."

That's certainly not the way it was for Farley during his playing days in the purple. One of his fondest memories is the 2001 Amherst-Williams game which pitted two undefeated teams against one another on Weston Field.

Despite separating his shoulder in the first half, Farley punted, kicked off, returned punts and kick-offs, played defense and offense and finished with six tackles, made two interceptions, caught four passes for 24 yards, booted a field goal and two PATs, ran back two punts for 15 yards and two kickoffs for 35 yards as the Ephs completed their fifth perfect season in 116 years of football with a 23-20 overtime win.

Earlier in the season, Farley had set a Williams record when he returned a punt 73 yards for a touchdown at Middlebury in a 23-3 victory, another memorable moment. It should be noted that, after football season ended, Farley participated in track and wound third in the nation on the 400-meter hurdles.

"The thing I remember most about that (football) season was we had tremendous senior leadership, including Dan DiCenzo (now associate coach/defensive coordinator at Wesleyan)," Farley said. "I recall there were a couple of guys who had leadership roles who stepped up and said those words that some times need to be said to spark a team."

When Farley left Mount Greylock to attend Villanova, it was because he wanted to play football on the big stage. When he returned to Williamstown to play football at Williams, it was because he wanted that all-around college experience and not football 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

And, after growing up around Williams is whole life, he found what he was looking for in his own backyard.

"I had an opportunity to play three sports, a chance to enjoy the college experience academically, athletically and socially, and I had some great professors like Charles Dew and Peter Frost," Farley said. "It made the educational experience a really valuable one. The professors at Williams are passionate about what they do and who can communicate about their areas of expertise. I think that translates to the student body and makes for a great experience." 