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Plamowski hits books as hard as opponents

By Kim Trigilio/ beverly@cnc.com

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Ed Plamowski is used to heavy lifting - both the physical and the academic varieties.

The Beverly High School senior is a tackle on the football team and he is getting college experience a little early - he is one of three BHS students attending college while still in high school.

Plamowski takes sociology and psychology at North Shore Community College. Both courses are pre-requisites for his two major interests in college - political science and foreign relations.

A recent trip to the Junior National Young Leadership Conference sharpened his interest in both subjects.

"I like the faster pace of college classes, and we cover a lot more," said Plamowski.

BHS Assistant Principal and Football Coach Dan Bauer said Plamowski deserves the opportunity to study at the college level.

"He has a proven track record of being able to handle the academic load," said Bauer. "He has done a great job at the high school and this allows him to expand his horizons and prepare himself for his future.

Bauer said Plamowski is as dependable on the field as he is in the classroom.

"I just think he is a wonderful young man, a hard worker and a pleasure to be around. Somebody who I think is going to go far and do some great things," said Bauer

In addition to his college classes, Plamowski takes a health class at BHS and an online history course on Lewis and Clark through the Virtual High School program - an on-line program that allows high-school students from all over the country to participate in the same classes.

Plamowski decided to enroll at NSCC because he had already fulfilled most of his requirements for high school graduation. NSCC allows anyone to sign up for college classes as long as they meet the prerequisites for the specific course.

The application process for high school students is similar to that of an incoming freshman. Students pay regular tuition of \$498 per course, which can add up to significant cost savings compared to tuition at other state and private universities.

Salem State charges \$705 per course and Boston University charges \$2,811 per course not including fees.

Most colleges will accept the credits as long as Plamowski maintains a B average.

"The Internet classes and the college classes are a good way to get a lot of credits done before starting college," said Plamowski

It is also a way to make Plamowski more competitive in the admission process because he will already have a college transcript to submit with his applications.

In between his high school schedule, football practice, and his college classes, Plamowski still manages to find time to indulge in his hobby of studying the U.S. constitution and U.S. Supreme Court cases.

He just returned from a five days in Washington, D.C. where he attended the Junior National Young Leadership Conference with other high achieving high school students from all over the United States.

While in Washington D.C. Plamowski visited the Capital Building sat on the floor of the House of Representatives, and toured all the senator and congressmen's offices.

"I really liked going to the Supreme Court. We got to look into the courtroom and everything. It was the most amazing building. I'm interested in law, so I really liked seeing it. I've studied it a lot," said Plamowski.

He also participated in a mock Supreme Court case on eminent domain. "That was really interesting. I was Chief Justice on that. Our final vote came back five-four, so I had to decide," said Plamowski.

Plamowski is looking at Gordon College, Endicott and Suffolk University for next fall. He plans to stay



Beverly High School senior, Ed Plamowski, hits books and opponents hard. (Staff Photo By Toni Carolina)

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close to home for four years, and then move away to attend law school.

"Right now I'm really interested in constitutional law, civil rights cases or something related to government agencies," said Plamowski.

The leadership conference, he said, taught him some important lessons about community.

"We looked at the idea of leadership in the community. Being able to get people to work more for the community instead of just getting them to work on themselves," said Plamowski.



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