

alumni news & class notes



Horace Gant Goes to Washington ... the Redskins, That Is.

BY MIKE LUDWIG '03

WIDE RECEIVER HORACE GANT '08 spent his career at St. Olaf breaking records and helping St. Olaf to one of its best four-year stretches (31-9) in school history by making big-time plays. He set St. Olaf career receiving records for catches (185), yards (3,061) and touchdowns (27) as the Oles finished 8-2 in each of Gant's final three seasons.

On August 3 Gant made his first step toward the biggest of big-time football when he made his preseason debut for the NFL's Washington Redskins in the league's Hall of Fame Game.

"From the time I walked into the locker room and saw my pads sitting with my jersey already on them, I knew it was the bigs," says Gant. "I walked out onto the field for warm ups and saw all the fans, and it sent chills through my body."

Gant played more than 20 snaps in the preseason opener for the



Redskins, who defeated Indianapolis 30-16. He had one ball thrown his way, a Colt Brennan third-quarter incompleteness that sailed out of bounds.

Washington signed Gant on April 29, months after St. Olaf head football coach Chris Meidt left the college for an offensive assistant position with the "Skins." Meidt maintained in a recent interview with the *Free Lance-Star* that the Washington Redskins

team gave no special treatment to Gant.

"I told wide receivers coach Stan Hixon he's worth looking at, and that's it," said Meidt. "If you like him, great. If you don't, great."

Virginia's *Free Lance-Star* notes that "the Redskins liked Gant enough to sign him to a free agent contract. And that led to an improbable reunion between the Division III coach and the Division III player, and perhaps a few more Redskins fans sprouted in Minnesota."

Meidt said he gives Gant no preferential treatment. But both the player and the coach admitted to the *Free Lance-Star* that it's nice to see a familiar face in such a new place.

"It's kind of funny seeing Coach so laid-back here," Gant said. "He's new to the NFL and so am I, so we're not going to be as vocal as we used to be."

His chances at making the roster may be slim, but Gant, who would still have a chance at making the practice squad, isn't concerned.

"I never look ahead or worry about what I can't control," Gant says. "I only worry about what I can change to get better each day." 🦅



A new director of Alumni and Parent Relations

Nathan Soland '04 has been named director of Alumni and Parent Relations. Soland has served as interim director for several months, and he possesses a wealth of experience, deep knowledge of St. Olaf's alumni, and the creativity that this position demands. "I'm so pleased to be the leader of the already fantastic Alumni and Parent Relations team," Soland says. "I'm honored to be a caretaker of St. Olaf's long-held traditions while simultaneously bringing our alumni, parents and friends along as the college continues its pursuit of excellence."

