

American Football in le Havre

Damien Fiquet, a twenty-eight-year-old American football player, began the sport two years ago. He plays on the Le Havre Salamanders, whose emblem (the salamander) comes from Francis the First. Founder of Le Havre in 1517, the salamander was the 16th century French king's favorite animal. When he sports the Salamander, Damien plays the role of wide receiver, but he wants to coach the offense of a team in the future. According to Damien American football is an alternative to soccer. Further, he is of the opinion that, while soccer is a collective sport, American football champions an individualistic mentality; all players must train alone to succeed together. For example, when he was questioned about Clement Schaeffer, a talented young quarterback from



Le Havre, Damien spoke about how Clement's individual talent helps his team win. Clement started playing American football at fourteen-years-old. Currently, he is coached by Guillaume Marignan. When asked if he thinks that Clement has the capability of playing American football overseas, Damien replied with marked uncertainty. Indeed, American football is the most popular sport in the United States, and competition between quarterbacks is high. Nonetheless, even if Clement does not leave France to continue his athletic endeavours, Damien makes it clear that the skills American football players gain through the sport extend far beyond the field : equipped with the value of teamwork, American football players contribute to civic prosperity. Given Le Havre's legacy of teamwork (a city which required teamwork to rebuild after a series of devastating bombings during WWII), citizens like Damien and Clement are certainly worth documenting.

