

ECE Senior Tackles Academics and Athletics

ECE senior Josh Gabler has spent the last four years tackling both difficult equations and football opponents. A computer engineering honor student, Gabler is a hard-hitting athlete and scholar. Last year, he played safety for the Colorado State Rams, while earning a 3.668 G.P.A.

On the football field, safeties are the last line of defense, expected to be sure tacklers. In the classroom, computer engineering students take some of the most rigorous courses on campus. Despite his demanding interests, Gabler has excelled at both. He is a recipient of the Claude W. Wood merit-based engineering scholarship and he lettered in football.

Between studying for exams and practicing for games, Gabler has little free time. "I don't think people realize how much studying is required for football," said Gabler. "We spend five to ten hours per week just watching films of our opponents, analyzing their tendencies." A typical day for Gabler includes a morning run, classes, weight lifting, more classes, football practice, plus hours in the laboratory and a part-time job.

Gabler, who has always been an avid Rams fan, was born in Fort Collins and his father graduated from Colorado State's math department. He later moved to Longmont, where he went to high school. Gabler knew all along that he wanted to major in engineering but did not firmly decide on computer engineering until he had taken a few classes in the major. He said he likes the challenge of solving complex problems. "When we were given a difficult assignment, I would have dreams about it," he said. "It was all I could think about. I would wake up the next day and be thrilled when the answer became obvious."

Gabler currently works on campus as a part-time information technology specialist for the honors department in the Academic Village, managing their web site and databases. He plans to play football again this fall and attend graduate school at Colorado State next spring. In the future, Gabler hopes to live in Northern Colorado and dreams of starting his own company. "I think of myself as an entrepreneur. I like to start and finish a project, building it from the ground up," he said.