Brady Aiello - From Acalanes to Oregon ... to the NFL

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It was a big adjustment to play for Oregon, but Coach Ivankovich really prepared me to play at that level. Technique wise, I was definitely ready."

In his four years at Oregon, Aiello played in three bowl games: the Las Vegas Bowl, the Redbox Bowl and as a senior, the Rose Bowl, defeating Wisconsin 28-27. Aiello would start at four different positions for the Ducks: left and right tackle, right guard, and even tight end (catching a touchdown pass). Another highlight for Aiello was having the Ducks come in second for the Joe Moore Award which goes to the best offensive line unit in the country. Winning the Rose Bowl and defeating the 11th ranked University of Utah in Salt Lake were also memorable moments for Aiello.

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The National Football League is Aiello's next challenge. Having originally signed with the Minnesota Vikings, Aiello has spent time with the Cleveland Browns and has had tryouts with the Washington Redskins and the New Orleans Saints. As with everything else, the NFL pays more than lip service to the coronavirus. Teams used to fly players into their city, work them out and either sign them or send them home, but it's a far more extended process these days, according to Aiello:

"I'm now in New Orleans for a tryout. They have put me up in a hotel and I'm not allowed to go anywhere for three days, getting a COVID test each day before I am allowed to show up at their facility."

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At some point, Aiello is anticipating a career in medical sales having made connections through Oregon that he anticipates will help him throughout his career.

From Acalanes through Oregon, it's been years of

growth for Aiello: "I'm a much more mature person. I did not have to work that hard for things prior to college, but going through college and college football, it taught me the meaning of hard work and dedication and having discipline and not straying away from anything. I learned the values of hard work and discipline. You are the only one that is responsible for the rest of your life."

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