



## **OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS FOR GLOBAL FOOTBALL ITALIAN CLASSIC**

Wednesday, May 19, 2010 - The Ohio Northern University football team led by head coach Dean Paul will travel to Italy from May 24 to June 1 for a unique cultural experience that combines local sightseeing with a game against local opposition in the Global Football Italian Classic.

Yes, this is football – the American version – to be played on a continent that where soccer is commonly known as football, but the gridiron game has a growing presence on the sporting landscape.

While exploring the many historical places of interest that Italy has to offer, the Polar Bears will find time for practices as they prepare for a game against the Fedearazione Football Italiana All-Stars on Sunday, May 30 in Florence, Italy.

The visit is organized by Texas-based Global Football, which provides the opportunity for young amateur athletes from different countries to compete against one another, while experiencing and learning first hand about each other's cultures.

Global Football President Patrick Steenberge has produced football games in 18 nations and this year Global Football is scheduled to travel with NCAA DIII college teams to Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

"We have hosted American football games in some of the greatest venues in the world in 18 different countries with each place being an honor," said Steenberge. "Our mission is to share our passion for the sport with intrigued onlookers and hardcore fans, of which there are many in Italy. We hope the challenge of a game against American opposition will help the global development of the sport and be a great spectacle for the fans."

Seventh-year head coach, Dean Paul led the Ohio Northern University football team to an 8-2 overall record this past season. Quarterback Kyle Simmons finished his junior year throwing for 1,793 yards and 16 touchdowns while running back Brent Donley recorded 1,133 yards and 16 touchdowns. Incoming junior defensive back, Chad Coward played a big role in the ONU defensive presence as he collected 73 tackles (39 solo) and two interceptions.

During the Global Football Italian Classic, the Ohio Northern University football team will visit three historical cities – Venice, Florence, and Rome – as well as numerous sites along the way.

The team will enjoy the spectacular sights of the Famous Roman Coliseum in the center of Rome, which is the largest amphitheatre built during the reign of the Roman Empire. It is considered of the greatest works of Roman architecture. They will also visit St. Mark's Square and Basilica, Rialto Bridge, Florence Duomo, Piazza Signoria, and the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica.

"These tours provide an opportunity for young amateur athletes from different countries to compete against one another, while experiencing and learning firsthand about cultures, customs and history," said Steenberge. "The game at the end of the week is the highlight, but the friendships and memories the players bring home with them will last a lifetime."

For more information regarding Global Football tours and events contact Patrick Steenberge:  
Tel: 817-219-7274 Email: [Patrick@GlobalFootball.com](mailto:Patrick@GlobalFootball.com).