

For the Love of the Game... Madson plays football at 37

At the age of 37, Tom Madson is ready to retire. Not from carpentry, though — football.

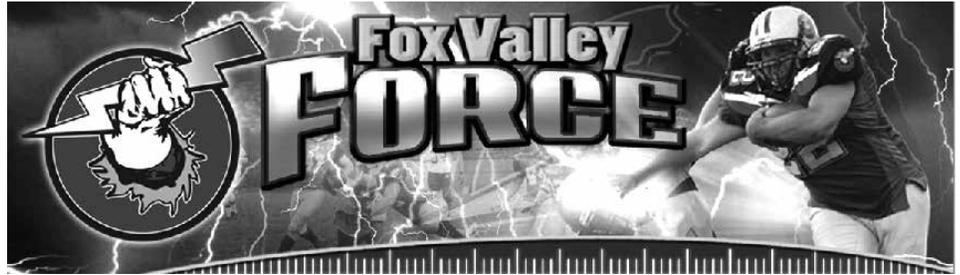
Madson has played with the Fox Valley Force minor league football team in Appleton, Wis., since it was established in 2006. He has played as a guard, tackle, and the last two years as center.

Games are generally played May-July. There are typically one or two preseason games, eight regular season games, divisional play and then championship games in August. During his tenure as a player, the team was 2007 Wisconsin State Football League Champions, 2008 Undefeated WSFL League Champions, 2009 Northern Elite Football League Eastern Conference Champions, and 2010 and 2011 NEFL Eastern Division Champions (for which Madson has two rings to show for his efforts).

Madson played football in high school and was playing in a flag football league game when owners of The Force came around and asked players to try out for their team. He did, and the rest is history.



Tom Madson, Local 955



Like professional teams, the Fox Valley Force includes players, coaches, a team doctor and cheerleaders. Coaches include those who have played and/or coached at the high school and college levels, including former Chicago Bear Jeff Timmerman. The team travels throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan.

The team plays and practices at The Banta Bowl at Lawrence University in Appleton. They practice each Wednesday and Saturday until the games get under way, and then they practice on Wednesdays and play on the weekends. This coming summer the team will play and practice at Fox Valley Lutheran High School.

To be a member of the team you must be at least 18 years old and have graduated from high school. Tryouts begin in February with practice beginning in March. They practice indoors until it gets nice enough to practice outdoors. Practices are generally two hours long, and while they are not absolutely mandatory, you better have a good excuse as to why you are not there.

The team is all volunteer and plays by NFL rules. Some members have played into their 40s.

Madson said he and other members of the team play “to prove you can still play the game, and for the love of playing the game.” More than just football, though, the team gives back by sponsoring games for Breast Cancer Awareness, Domestic Violence Awareness and more.

Though his playing days are over, Madson will continue as Vice President and co-owner of the team, which includes finding sponsors for the team, scheduling games, planning promotions to support local foundations, hiring referees, buying jerseys, planning transportation and other needs the team requires to function properly.

Tickets to the games are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. For more information, visit www.fvforce.com.



During his time as a player for the Fox Valley Force, Madson collected two championship rings.

Do YOU have a fun story to share for “Member Spotlight”?

**If so, contact Tracy Madden at
651-379-0235 or tmadden@ncsrc.org.**