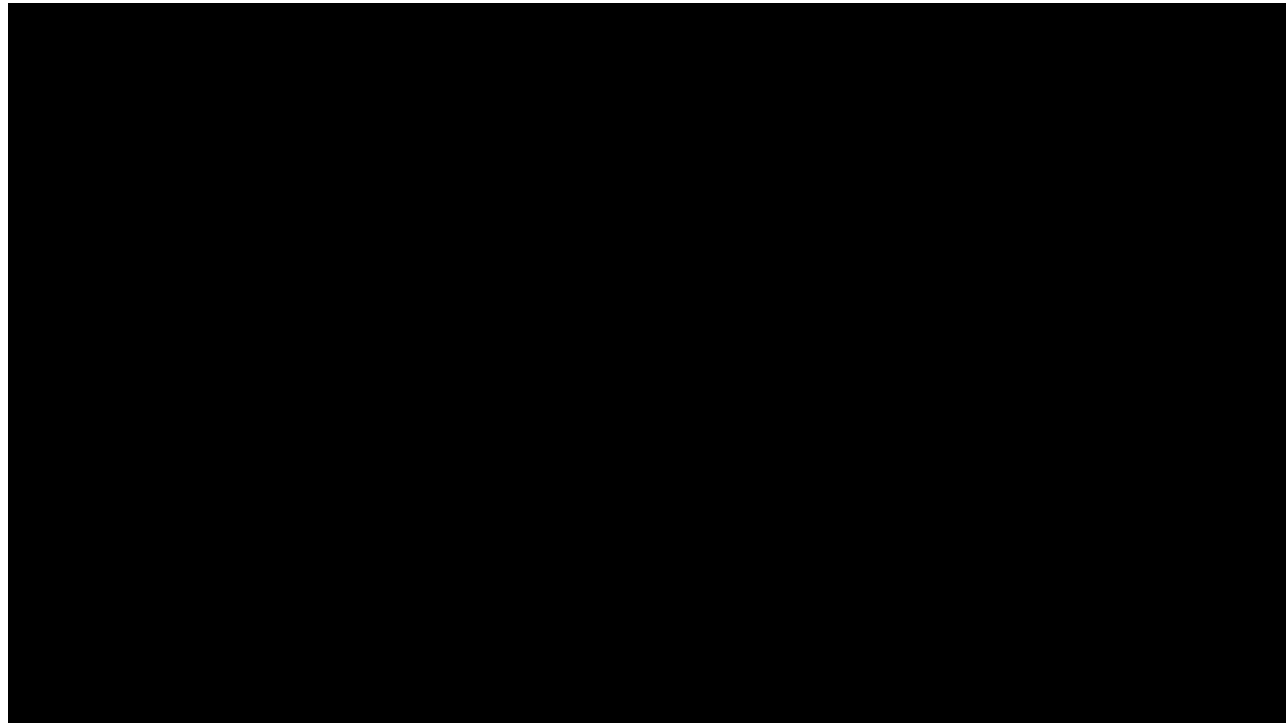




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Passion for Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Help Define UMC Senior Defensive End



You are sleeping in the back of a pick-up truck, while traversing a few of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes ice fishing over Spring Break. Eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and getting a chance to fish for whatever is in that specific lake. While it might not sound like the most glamorous lifestyle it is something that UMC senior defensive end [Drew Selvestra](#) truly loves to do. Being one with the wilderness and just enjoying a few of Minnesota's outdoor traditions which he considers to be his favorites like trapping, fishing and hunting.

Selvestra first caught the fishing bug when he was two years old and his Father, former University of Minnesota offensive lineman [Drew Selvestra](#), went out and caught his first-ever fish.

"Ever since that moment I have been hooked," Selvestra said.

Later in his childhood, Selvestra would develop a passion for trapping when he went out at age 10 with his Grandfather on his trap line and the first fell in love with that outdoor sport, as well.

A lot of people don't quite understand what goes into trapping, but Selvestra has developed a good understanding of it over the last 10-plus years and hopes to continue to build on his passion and his knowledge of trapping. Currently Selvestra has trapped everything from badgers, muskrats, otters, mink, weasels, fox and fishers. However he has that one animal that continues to elude him in his pursuit.

"The one animal that I haven't caught but that has been my ultimate goal has been a coyote," Selvestra said. "They are so common, but they are unbelievably smart. I have not caught a coyote in a trap yet. I have caught fox, which is very similar, but that is definitely one of the animals I want to go for this year, as well as Bobcats. Bobcats are a really cool animal, as well."

The real thing that continues to drive Selvestra in his outdoor pursuits is the adrenaline rush he gets when hunting or fishing in a dangerous situation.

"I love that feeling you get any time that you might fear that your life is in danger," Selvestra said.

The senior defensive end explained a few of his most interesting moments during his hunting, trapping and fishing expeditions over his life. His most memorable occurred at the young age of 13 when he was going out bird hunting.

"I was out bird hunting in the woods of Northeast Minnesota and all I had was a shot gun with just bird shot in it," Selvestra said. "Not a very powerful load and I was walking through the woods and came upon a moose 20 yards from me. A 1,000 pound animal. They don't have great eye sight but they have great hearing and sense of smell. It knew I was there. Moose typically run away but this one didn't, it stood its ground. It was looking at me trying to figure out what I was. I didn't know what it was going to do. They are known for killing people. What I did was snuck away and hid behind a tree for 10 minutes and it trotted off. That was pretty frightening."

He has also had some interesting expeditions out on the trap line in Northwest Minnesota during his time at UMC.

"I have been out in blizzards when I was checking traps," Selvestra said. "Minnesota law says you have to check your traps daily, regardless of the circumstance. So when you are out in a blizzard, you really can't see more than five or 10 feet in front of you. You don't know how you are going to make it back to the truck unless you have a compass."

It has been a sometimes dangerous hobby, but Selvestra still loves it and it is a passion that he has formed bonds with other UMC students over the years. Two of those are former UMC football center Sam Smith and UMC men's golfer Matt McClure.

"Sam, Matt and I have a really good relationship in terms of fishing," Selvestra said. "We will each drive a couple of miles and meet somewhere in the middle just to fish a lake for a couple of hours."

Selvestra and Smith what they hope turns into a tradition the last two years over Spring Break going and ice fishing lakes between Crookston and the Twin Cities, where both are originally from. That is where the two poor college students developed the habit of sleeping in pick-up trucks and eating PB an J's, One that Selvestra is hopeful will change a bit as both are able to make money.

While Selvestra has been able to complete several of his goals in each of his outdoor passions he still has a few places and animals or fish that he would like to catch during his life.

"I would have to say the one fish I would love to catch would be an alligator gar in Texas," Selvestra. "They get about 250 pounds. They are very prehistoric and basically look like dinosaurs. The size bait you look are chunks of fish that are about 10 pounds. They are an absolutely huge fish. I would love to task a trip down South for an Alligator Gar."

As for the animal he wants the opportunity to go after.

"If I could ever have the opportunity to go up to Alaska trapping, I would love to catch a wolverine," Selvestra said. "They are just the coolest animal and one of my favorites. I would love to catch a wolverine."

So while Selvestra has had a great career on the field for UMC, earning All-NSIC Honorable Mention honors in 2014 and hoping to end his career earning similar accolades, it isn't just football that has defined him. It has been a love and passion for being out in the Minnesota wilderness and continuing to take part in hunting, trapping and fishing.

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#91 Drew Selvestra
DL / 6' 3" / Redshirt Senior

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