JOE REITZ

For Joe Reitz, football is not the most important thing in life.

The starting offensive lineman for the Indianapolis Colts says it's not what he lives for.

"First, it's my faith," says Reitz. "That's always number one. Next, is my family. Then, it's football." It's the same Three F's that former Colts head coach and founder of All-Pro Dad, Tony Dungy, talks about to audiences all over the country.

Reitz got his start playing football in Fishers, Indiana, all the way through playing for Hamilton Southeastern High School. But rather than play football in college, he ended up as a center at Western Michigan University, in the Mid-American Conference. He figured it was either a few years playing basketball in Europe, or a career in finance, his major in college.

He didn't count on getting a call from the Baltimore Ravens, where he joined them as a free agent, ultimately ending up on their practice squad.  He spend two years on the Baltimore practice squad  before being released and landing with the Indianapolis Colts.

Reitz credits his commitment to working hard that saw him go from such an unlikely position — an underweight, undrafted free agent who hadn't played a single down of college football — to a starting offensive lineman for the Colts.

In the past 4 years with his hometown team, Reitz has appeared in 47 games, starting 27 at both guard and tackle.

Reitz brings the same dedication to his family.

During his free time, Reitz loves spending time with his wife Jill, daughter, Juliana (3), son AJ (1) and daughter Virginia Lynn (1 week).  He is close to his family, which includes parents Dave and Jane, and siblings Andy, Betsy (Hoffman) and Katie (Shelbourne).  They all reside in the greater Indianapolis area.

"Our family is awesome," Reitz says.  "We really enjoy being around each other and it is such a blessing that we are all close by and can see each other often."

Reitz has continued to further his education while playing, taking advantage of the programs that the NFL offers.  He completed the Business Management & Entrepreneurship program at Notre Dame in 2014, and is currently enrolled in the IU Kelley School of Business program which will begin March of 2015.

But it's his faith — the first F — that Reitz builds his life on.

He and his wife Jill are both active in their local church, Our Lady Mt. Carmel, and he is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization that focuses on doing community service.

Reitz also makes sure he spends time in his hometown too. He does sports camps at area churches, speaks to Christian groups around the area, is active in the All-Pro Dad organization and even speaks to Central Indiana high school and middle school groups about his Three F's of life.

"I tell them that's the only time it's okay to get F's," says Reitz.