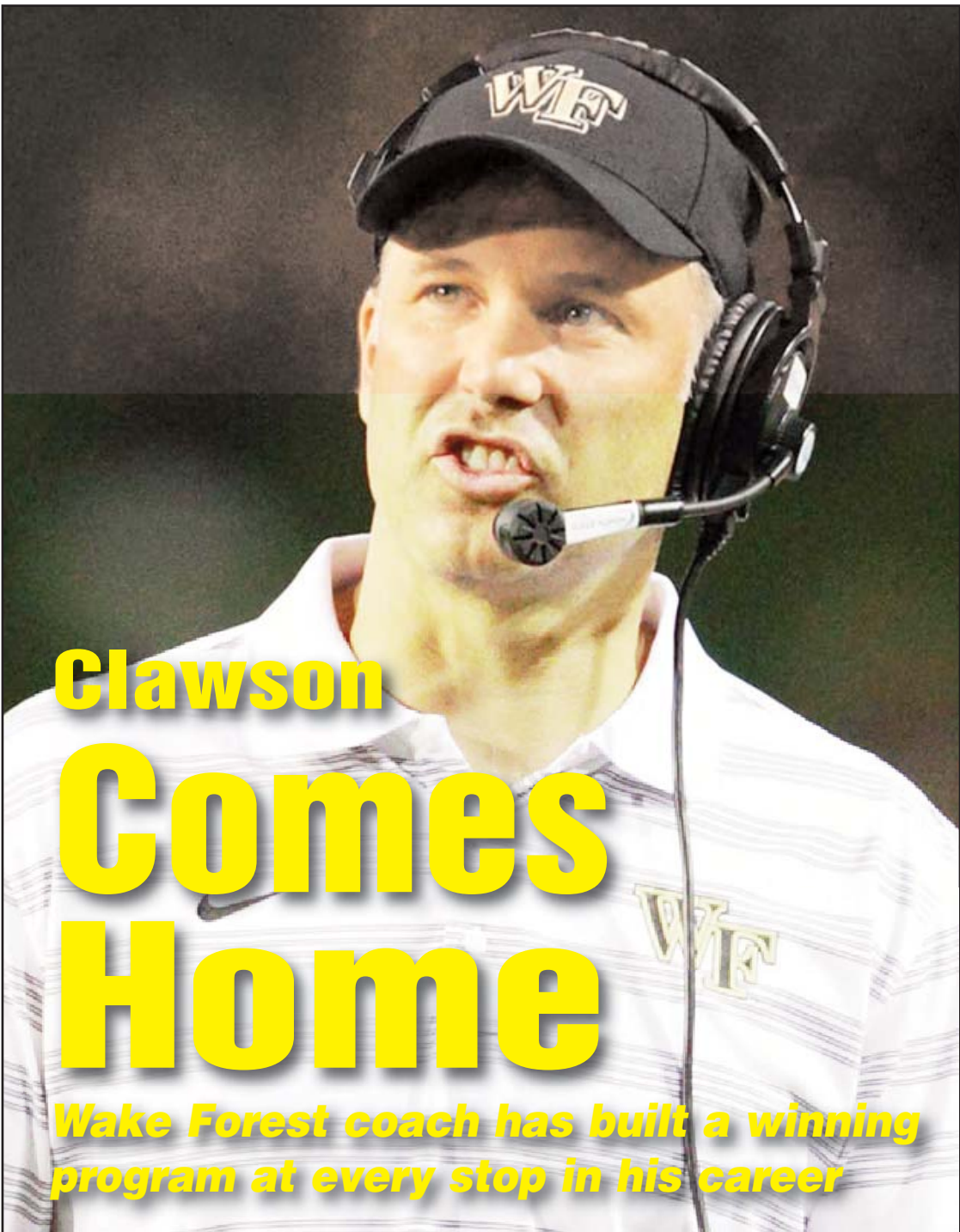


F R O M T H E

Sidelines

The Official Publication of the New York State High School Football Coaches Association



Clawson Comes Home

Wake Forest coach has built a winning program at every stop in his career

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Announces
Award Winners**

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Lance Leipold
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Loses Battle
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President's Message
Extra Point**



FROM THE
Sidelines

The Official Publication of the New York State High School Football Coaches Association

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NYSHSFC A

Editor

Mark E. Adair
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EXECUTIVE
Director's
MESSAGE
By Don Santini



The 2015 NYSHSFCA Football Clinic was held at Turning Stone Resort on February 5-6-7 and was a great success! Over 500 coaches attended and they were fortunate to be in the company of a group talented speakers led by our keynote speaker Dave Clawson from Wake Forest University.

Great job by all the Clinicians!

Our Clinics are as good as any football clinic in the country. There were a number of people who put in a ton of time and effort to make the Clinic a first class event.

Thank you to the following people.

- Lyle Dixon and Greg Sirico, Clinic Directors
- Tom Schmandt Exhibitors and Awards Program Director
- Bonnie and George Mangicaro, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Doris Liehs, Nan Dixon and Pat Santini who worked the Registration Table
- Tom Heinzelman, the MC at the Awards Banquet
- I would also like thank the largest group of

Exhibitors we have ever had. We could not run this Clinic without their support. Our Vendors are represented in this issue of *From The Sidelines...* and we ask our members to support the businesses that support our organization.

One of the highlights of every Clinic is the Awards Banquet, sponsored this year by the American Dairy Association, Chenango Contracting and Field Turf.

The Banquet is a first-class affair honoring the 2014 Scholar-Athletes, Players of the Year, Coaches of the Year, 12th Man Award, Media Award and Service Award. Congratulations to all of the Award winners and their families. It was great evening!

As we start looking to the Spring season (we hope it gets here soon) we have some exciting events coming up.

The Annual NYSHSFCA Underclassmen Combines will take place across the State on Sunday May 3rd. This is an opportunity for our

state's high school players to make themselves and their skills known to the many college coaches that regularly recruit the area.

The following Sections will host the Combines: Section 2, Section 3, Section 4, Section 5/6, and Section 11. Please alert your players of the opportunity to participate in one of these showcases.

Also, in perhaps our most exciting news, after a two-year hiatus, the Upstate-Downstate Senior Football Classic will be played on Sunday June 14th.

Section 4 will host the 2015 Classic at a site still to be determined. Head Coaches will find player nomination forms in this issue of *From The Sidelines*. Please fill out the forms and send them to Greg Sirico by March 6th.

Let's make this one of the best all-star games in the nation!

Thank you to all the high school and college coaches

(700 plus) that have re-newed their membership in our organization in 2015.

We appreciate your commitment and loyalty to New York State Football.

Sincerely,
Don Santini



Wake Forest University Dave Clawson was the keynote speaker at the recent NYSHSFCA Clinic.

Thank You to our Clinic Vendors!



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'Fuel Up to Play 60' Tackled at Coaches Clinic



American Dairy Association Dairy Council CEO Rick Naczi posed with speakers from the February 6, 2015 coaches clinic session: Robert Zayas, NYS Public High School Athletic Association Executive Director (far left); Joe Morris, former NY Giants running back; and, Lyle Dixon, NYS High School Football Coaches Association President (far right).

Sports nutrition and Fuel Up to Play 60 were among the topics covered during the New York State High School Football Coaches Association Clinic on February 5-7, 2015 at Turning Stone Resort in Verona, New York. Among the presentations, coaches heard from American Dairy Association and Dairy Council-sponsored event speakers Joe Morris, former New York Giants player, and Dan Liburd, Buffalo Bills Strength and Conditioning Coach. During his presentation on February 5, Liburd emphasized the nutrition component of Fuel Up to Play 60, a dairy farmer-sponsored in-school fitness and nutrition program. Liburd shared the Buffalo Bills' Stay Lean Principles and explained how dairy and other protein-rich food enhances body composition, improves performance and maximizes recovery to help players achieve success. Morris also promoted Fuel Up to Play 60 during his February 6 presentation to the coaches. Morris tackled the need for coaches to become program advisors and educating athletes about the importance of nutrition – not only for athletic performance, but for performance in the classroom.



Clawson still Building

By Mark Adair

Dave Clawson, a Western New York native, came home in February. Clawson, who will enter his second season as the head coach at Wake Forest, was the keynote speaker at the recent NYSHSF-CA Clinic in February.

"I love coming back to New York," Clawson said. "I get to see people I have known for 20 years; a lot of people who helped me out, from Albany to Buffalo to Fordham."

However, now that Clawson is coaching at a program in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, he did admit to being a bit unsettled by the typical February weather - with temperatures in the teens and snow falling throughout his stay.

"I miss a lot of things about New York State," Clawson said. "Winter is not one of them."

Clawson grew up in the very northwestern-most corner in New York State, playing football for Lewiston-Porter High School. His teammate on those Lew-Port teams was Daryl Johnston, who went on to have a great career with Syracuse University and the Dallas Cowboys.

While Johnston would go on to play big-time football, Clawson spent three years as a starting defensive back at Williams College. He was also a member of the basketball team.

After graduating from Williams, Clawson went on to serve as a graduate assistant coach at Albany in 1989 and 1990 under the legendary Bob Ford.

"Coach Ford taught me the work ethic and dedication required to be a college football coach," Clawson said. "He set up a very competitive environment for coaches and players and rewarded achievement. He was a great mentor for a coach to have."

He moved to Buffalo for the 1991 and 1992 seasons, tutoring the secondary his first year and the quarterbacks and running backs his second, under coach Bill Dando.

In 1993, Clawson was named the running backs coach at Lehigh and helped the Mountain Hawks to a 7-4 record and the Patriot League championship.

He was promoted to offensive coordinator in 1994 and spent two years in that role, adding another Patriot League title in 1995.

Villanova hired Clawson as offensive coordinator in 1996 and his offense helped the Wildcats to NCAA FCS playoff appearances in 1996 and 1997. During his tenure at Villanova, Clawson's offense established 70 program records, held the No. 1 ranking in the nation for six weeks in 1997 and won the 1997 Atlantic 10 championship. He tutored Brian Westbrook, who became the first player in college football history to gain 1,000 yards both rushing and receiving.

Following the 1998 season, Clawson became the nation's youngest Division I head coach when he was named head coach at Fordham.

Inheriting a team that had won just 22 games in the previous 10 years, Clawson turned the Rams into the Patriot League champions in his fourth season at the helm. He was the Patriot League Coach of the Year in both 2001 and 2002. Clawson helped the Rams to the 2002 FCS Playoffs where they defeated fourth seed Northeastern in the opening round before falling to Villanova.

Clawson was named the head coach at Richmond prior to the 2004 season. He guided the Spiders to the biggest

See Clawson on page 11



Photo by Wake Forest University

Dave Clawson is entering his second year as the head coach at Wake Forest University. Clawson is a Western New York native and spoke at the recent NYSHSFCA Clinic.

Clawson continued from page 10

two-year turnaround in school history, improving from 3-8 in 2004 to 9-4 in 2005. In 2007, his final year with the Spiders, Clawson guided Richmond to an 11-3 record, the Colonial South title and the FCS national semifinals.

He left Richmond in 2008 to replace David Cutcliffe as the offensive coordinator under Phillip Fulmer at Tennessee. Following that season, Clawson was named the head coach at Bowling Green in time for the 2009 season.

During his five seasons at Bowling Green, Clawson once again built the program into a championship team. He led the Falcons to the 2013 Mid-American Conference championship on Dec. 6, 2013 with a 47-27 win over No. 16 Northern Illinois.

Clawson has rebuilt every program that he has coached and has led each team to a conference championship. He has developed a national reputation as a builder of programs.

In his 14 years as a head coach, Clawson has delivered a conference championship at every stop. Prior to the 2013 Mid-American Conference title at Bowling Green, Clawson helped Richmond to an Atlantic 10 Championship in 2005

and a Colonial Athletic Association title in 2007. His first championship as a head coach came in 2002 when he led Fordham to the Patriot League title.

He has also earned numerous Coach of the Year Awards. He was the Patriot League Coach of the Year in 2001 and 2002 and was awarded the 2005 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year award in just his second year in the league. Clawson earned CAA Coach of the Year honors in 2007, giving him four Coach of the Year honors in his first 7 years as a head coach.

In 2002, Clawson was the Schutt Sports/American Football Monthly I-AA Coach of the Year and a finalist for the Eddie Robinson Award. In 2005, Clawson earned National Coach of the Year from I-AA.org and was again a finalist for the Eddie Robinson Award.

Clawson has compiled a 90-80 record in 14 career seasons including a 58-47 mark in conference games. He was 29-29 in five seasons at Fordham, 29-20 in four seasons at Richmond and 32-31 in five seasons with Bowling Green.

Clawson and his wife, Catherine, are the parents of two children, Courtney and Eric.



Clawson as delivered a conference title at every coaching stop.

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Players of the Year



Class AA

Stephen Carlson - Jamestown (6)

Class A

Densel Barnes - Indian River (3)

Class A

Jordan Fredericks - Lawrence (8)

Class B

Adam Gallagher - Maine Endwell (4)

Class C

Ryan Bronson - Chenango Folks HS (4)

Class D

Kory Fogarty - Red Jacket (5)



Barnes



Bronson

Coaches of the Year



Class AA

Shawn O'Connor - Abraham Lincoln (12)

Class A

Cory Marsell - Indian River (3)

Class B

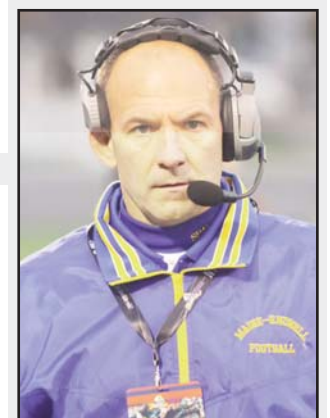
Matt Gallagher - Maine Endwell (4)

Class C

Dave Hogan - Chenango Folks HS (4)

Class D

Marc Vitticore - Red Jacket (5)



O'Connor



Marsell



Vitticore

2014 Scholar Athletes

Class AA
Tim Henry
 Washingtonville (9)



Class A
Quinn Zsido
 Cornwall (9)



Class B
Dan Wolfe
 Owego (4)



Class C
Jack Sherwood
 Chanango Forks (4)



Class D
Colin Claus
 Hoosic Valley (2)



Elmedin Dumani - Staten Island
 Ben Anthony - Loudonville
 Joe Carrier - Victor
 Nick DeLuca - Baldwin
 Derek Deoul - Washingtonville
 Jacob Dogal - Orchard Park
 Bryan Giuidi - Walden
 Domenis Godici - Brewston
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 Austin Kunick - Victor
 Keith Leonard - Washingtonville
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 Kyle Fogarty - Manchester
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Hunter Low Media Award
 Pete Tobey, Glens Falls Post-Star



Salomone Loses Battle

By Mark Adair

Many coaches at the recent NYSHSFCAClinic were saddened to learn of the recent passing of longtime Brockport State coach Rocco Salomone.

Salomone lost a 5-year battle with Gastrointestinal cancer on February 4th.

“He never gave up,” Salomone’s wife Kelly said. “He continued to fight it all the way to the end.”

Salomone was initially encouraged when he was diagnosed with cancer.

“He had surgery 3 years ago,” Kelly said, “but it came back. We were always hoping that we would find something to beat it.”

Kelly said that “finding something” was the way Rocco faced any hurdle in life.

“Rocco use to say that to me,” she said. “Whenever we had some sort of trouble he would say we’ll find a way.”

Salomone coached Brockport from 1995-2012 and compiled a 103-80-1 record. Under him, the Golden Eagles made four consecutive NCAA Division III playoff appearances (2000-03).

Salomone’s best team was the 2002 club that finished 10-3 and reached the NCAA Division III quarterfinals.

On that team were two players that played in the NFL.

Josh Warner, an offensive lineman, went on to play with the Chicago Bears. All-American linebacker Jayson



Photo Submitted

Rocco Salomone died on February 4th after a 5-year battle with Gastrointestinal cancer. Salomone had more wins than any coach in Brockport State history.

Johnson, later signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Salomone attended Arundel High in Maryland for two years before his family moved to Carlisle, Pa. before his junior year. He graduated from Carlisle High in 1983 and spent two years at Division II East Stroudsburg in Pennsylvania. He transferred to SUNY Brockport, where he started two years at center. His brother Blase was a three-year starter at linebacker.

Salomone graduated from Brockport in 1988 with a bachelor’s degree in Physical Education. He had try-outs with the New York Giants, New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks but returned to SUNY Brockport to take a job as an a graduate assistant under Ed Matejkovic in 1988.

He worked for one season as an offensive and defensive line coach at Camp Hill

(Pa.) High School in 1989.

Salomone returned as a full-time assistant for Matejkovic the following fall and earned his master’s degree in athletic administration in 1990.

He coached the running backs in his first season, then moved to the defensive side and was the Golden Eagles’ defensive coordinator in 1993 and 1994.

Salomone took over the program in November 1994 when Matejkovic resigned to concentrate on his duties

See Salomone on page 15

Salomone continued from page 14

as athletic director. At 29, Salomone became one of the youngest head football coaches in the country.

Salomone led the Golden Eagles to its first NCAA playoff berth in 2000. That team led all NCAA divisions in scoring defense, allowing just 44 points and five touchdowns throughout the entire season.

Coaches around the state spoke highly of Salomone - especially his former rivals.

"He was a fierce competitor and yet he was a gentleman," Buffalo State coach Jerry Boyes said. I loved the conversations I had with Rocco before and after the games. I wish I'd had the opportunity to spend more time with him off the field."

St. John Fisher coach Paul Vosburgh echoed those sentiments.

"He was just a genuine person," Vosburgh said. "He was a great competitor but off the field he was very soft-spoken. It was always fun to be around him at different off-season functions."



Rocco Salomone coached at Brockport for 18 seasons.

Vosburgh says that it was difficult to play against Salomone's Brockport teams.

"His teams were always well-prepared and his kids played hard," he said. "I have a lot of respect for the job he did at Brockport and was very sad to see us lose him. He was a good coach but he was a great person."

Vosburgh says that Brockport improved remarkably under Salomone.

"Brockport was just a good solid football program," he said. "He took over and took them to another level. He did a great job."

Boyes said that Salomone hated to lose but never let winning get in the way of leading his players.

"We were on the same wavelength," Boyes said. "He loved his players and would do anything or them. He was demanding but he really loved his players. It's a sad loss, especially when a guy like Rocco leaves so young."

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Brand New Bull In Town

Lance Leipold Takes the reins at the University at Buffalo

The University at Buffalo made headlines recently when they hired Lance Leipold as the new head coach of the UB football program.

The hiring surprised many in the college ranks, who had assumed that the Bulls would simply grab a coordinator from another Division I program.

Instead, the Bulls reached down to the Division III level to hire Leipold, who had spent the last 8 years as head coach at Wisconsin-Whitewater.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity," Leipold said.

Leipold admits that a coach rising from Division III to lead a Division I-A program is rare.

"It doesn't happen very often," Leipold said.

Leipold was contacted by UB about the possibility of replacing Jeff Quinn, who had been fired 7 weeks into the 2014 season.

Before he accepted the position Leipold, reached out to former UB coach Turner Gill - who was also a former co-worker with Leipold when the two were assistant coaches at Nebraska.

"I actually had a chance to talk to Turner at the AFCA Convention about the job," Leipold said. "He spoke very highly of Buffalo and said that the job would be a good fit for me."

Ultimately, he said, it was UB Athletic Director Danny White who sold Leipold on the Bulls.

"This is an unbelievable opportunity and his vision is what convinced me to come," he said. "This program is ready to take off."

While it may be surprising that UB reached out to Leipold, it's also a surprise that he decided to come.

Leipold led Wisconsin-Whitewater to 5 national championships in his 8 seasons at the school. Many

are wondering why Leipold would leave a place where winning (and job security) had become a formality.

"We knew we had worked hard to be successful," he said, "but, unfortunately, the players were being judged on perfection only. If we didn't go 14-0 and win the national title, we were failures."

So, Leipold decided to start over at a new place.

"I was looking for an opportunity to build a program," he said, "and this program is already in a good position to succeed. I think things lined up for a reason."

Leipold was extremely busy this past fall.

"An awful lot has happened since the first of the year," he said.

He led Wisconsin-Whitewater to the Division III national championship, while also trying to oversee and manage UB's transition from Quinn's staff

to one of his own.

"It was tough," Leipold said. "I had a lot of people who helped us get through the transition. I'm especially thankful to the previous staff who helped to keep some quality kids in spite of the coaching change."

Despite the ongoing transition, Buffalo announced the signing of 17 recruits on February 4th, the National Signing Day.

At UB's Signing Day press conference, Leipold men-



Photo by Paul Hokanson

Lance Leipold was hired as the new head coach at the University at Buffalo. Leipold comes from Division III Wisconsin-Whitewater.

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tioned his three local recruits who were high school stars in the Buffalo area.

Evin Ksiezarczyk, a 6-6, 290-pound lineman from West Seneca East, was a big-time recruiting victory for the program.

"It was very important to us to get Evin here," Leipold said. "I think we were behind on him back in December so we had some ground to make up. But to get a big body like that in here was pretty important."

Leipold also mentioned WR Brandon Smiley (Sweet Home) and DL Duke Hwang (Williamsville North).

"Both of those kids are quality young men," Leipold said. "I met with them on an unofficial visit and neither one of them was waivering on their commitment to UB. They are both talented, high-energy players."

While Leipold built Whitewater into a program that dominated nationally, his winning actually started long before he took the job at Whitewater.

A native of Jefferson, Wisconsin, Leipold began his coaching career at Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1987 as a QB coach and then wide receivers coach.

He moved to the University of Wisconsin from 1991-93 as a graduate assistant and helped the Badgers to a Big Ten title and a Rose Bowl appearance in 1993.

As an assistant coach at Division II Nebraska-Omaha from 1994-2000, Leipold helped turn the Mavericks from a 1-10 team in 1994 into three-time North Central Conference champions during his tenure. After being promoted to offensive coordinator in 2000, he moved on to the University of Nebraska, where he served for three seasons under current Ohio head

coach Frank Solich.

It was at this stop in his career that he was on the same staff as Gill. The Cornhuskers competed in the national championship game in 2001 and earned bowl bids in 2002 and 2003.

He returned to Nebraska-Omaha to serve as associate head coach and offensive coordinator from 2004-

06. The Mavericks finished 8-3 and won the conference championship each of his three seasons.

Even as a player, Leipold was successful.

Leipold, a 1987 graduate of Wisconsin-Whitewater, was a standout quarterback for the Warhawks. He ranks second in school history in career pass attempts (647), fourth in yards (4,277), sixth in completions (303) and tied for 10th with 27 TDs.

He was inducted into the Whitewater Hall of Fame in 2003... and that was BEFORE he led the program to 5 national titles in 8 seasons.

Leipold finished with an incredible record of 109-6 at Wisconsin-Whitewater. Interestingly, one of those six losses came against Buffalo State coach Jerry Boyes - who is now right down the street from Leipold.

Buff State traveled to

Wisconsin and stunned Whitewater, which entered the game ranked #1 in the nation. The Bengals scored with just :03 left in the game to snap the Warhawks 46-game winning streak with a 7-6 victory.

"Jerry is a great guy," Leipold said, "and he's a great coach. When I first got hired, he sent me an email and said when things slow down a bit, we need to go out for a cup of coffee. Hopefully, in the spring, we can do that."



Photo by UW-Whitewater

Lance Leipold led Wisconsin-Whitewater to the Division III National Championship 5 times in his 8 years as head coach of the Warhawks.

12th Man has Huge Heart



Tyler Muise, a senior at Valley Central High School in Section 9, was named the winner of the 12th Man Award, at the recent NYSHSFCFA Awards Banquet.

It's been quite a ride for Tyler as he has gone from unknown student with Down's Syndrome to National Sensation in just two years.

Two years ago, in the late spring of 2013, Tyler's mom died after a battle with cancer.

"We could see him struggling," Valley Central football coach Ron Introini said. "You could tell he was hurting. We talked about how we could help him. Everyone thought the best way was to get him involved in football."

Tyler was thrilled to join the team.

"When we mentioned it to him, he was so excited," Introini said. "He just loves football."

Joining the football team seemed to be a natural. Valley Central assistant coach Bob Leonard was Tyler's Adaptive Phys Ed Teacher. His Special Ed teacher, Carole Fitts, was also the school's Cheerleading coach.

"I got a jersey with his name on the back and the number 43," Introini said. "I first introduced him to the team during the pre-game before our first game. He had lost his mom but he gained about 50 football family members that day. You can't replace his loss but he was happy being part of our family."

That first season, Tyler was the team manager.

"Once he became part of our football team, it changed him," Introini said. "Every Friday, Tyler wore his jersey to school. Carole would coordinate everything to make sure he was able to come to all of our team dinners. He was a full member of our football team."

In fact, Tyler was accepted as a team member by every player on the Valley Central roster.

"During the school day, he would walk down the hallway and all the football players would be giving him high-5s," Introini said. "Everyone knew him in school. From the captains to the 50th person on our team, everyone felt the same way towards Tyler. He was one of us."

Over the summer, Tyler looked forward to joining the football team again... only not as the manager.

"On the first day, I saw him in Adaptive PE," Introini said.



Tyler Muise.

"He came running over and said, 'Coach, I want to play football.' I thought he wanted to be manager again but he said, 'No, I want a helmet.'"

While Tyler was on the roster as a player, there were legal issues that prevented him from actually getting into a game.

"He was with our team the whole year," Introini said, "but there are legal requirements with the physicals to actually play. We wanted to get him in but we wanted to do things legally."

As Week 8 approached, Introini hit upon an idea. He called the head coach of Washingtonville, who would be Valley Central's opponent on Senior Night.

"I told him we wanted Tyler to run a play," Introini said, "and he was all for it. His kids were excited about it too."

Someone notified the media that Tyler was going to make an appearance on the field... and word spread.

"It was easily our biggest crowd of the season," Introini

said. "Most of the students were there. We had 8 fire trucks there. The local paper ran an article that we were doing something special and that other team was helping out."

There was a specific procedure that had to be followed so that Tyler would be able to run his play.

"We had to do it after the coin toss but before the start of the game," Introini said. "Tyler goes out for the coin toss as one of our captains for every game. This time he had a helmet on."

Both teams lined up on the 15-yard line.

"He brought in the play from the sidelines," Introini said.

"We snapped the ball and he ran 15 yards up the middle and scored a touchdown. Both teams congratulated him and our kids carried him off the field. The fire trucks had lights and horns going. It was absolute chaos."

The local TV station interviewed Tyler.

"It made ESPN, Fox Sports and CBS," Introini said. "We never thought it would be like that. He turned into a Superstar and, believe me, he knows how to be a Superstar. He just loves being around people."

The state-wide 12th Man Award is something that Introini will cherish.

"Tyler has a great personality and we couldn't be happier for him," Introini said. "He's an inspiration to everybody and is the heart-and-soul of our football team. You can't measure heart and Tyler has a huge heart. This award will be up there with any other award that our school has won, without a doubt."

Introini also said that there is a place on the Valley Central sidelines even after he graduates.

"He could legally stay in school until he's 21," Introini said. "I'm not 100 percent sure he is coming back. Even if he doesn't come back, I am sure he will be on our sidelines on Friday nights."

2015 Upstate vs. Downstate Player Nomination Form

Game to be played June 14, 2015

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

(Please copy and use a separate form for each player)

Players Name _____ Team _____

Positions: Offense _____ **Defense:** _____ **Special Teams** _____

Height _____ Weight _____ Best Position _____

Home Address _____

City / Zip _____

Home phone _____

E-mail _____

Cell phone _____

Coach: _____ **Coach Phone:** _____

Coach E-Mail: _____ **Coach Cell:** _____

Has this player been offered a Scholarship?: _____

List Schools _____

Other Schools that Have Expressed Interest:

Additional Info:

For Graduating Class of 2015 Seniors

Must be Returned before March 6, 2015 to:

Greg Sirico

PO Box 383 Warwick, NY 10990

FAX: 845-987-3628

E-mail: gsirico@wvcsd.org

Nominations accepted from only Head Coach

