

F R O M T H E

Sideline

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

INSIDE:

**NYSHSFCA
Award Winners
Announced**

**NYS 12th Man
Overcame
Septicemia**

PLUS:



**Joe Girard
Wins 2nd NYS
Title this year**

ALSO:

**NY State Briefs
President's Message
Extra Point**



The Lions' King

***Detroit Lions head coach Matt Patricia came home
to speak at recent NYSHSFCA Coaches Clinic***

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NFL Coaches Speak at Clinic

EXECUTIVE

Director's

MESSAGE

By Lyle Dixon



I want to begin by thanking the NYSHSFCA Executive Committee for putting on another outstanding Coaches Clinic this year.

It was our 19th year of the clinic and I believe that our Executive Committee continues to provide great speakers with a variety of topics that help keep coaches up-to-date with drills, skills, schemes and trends.

I need to thank Detroit Lions Head Coach Matt Patricia and Assistant Defensive Coach Steve Gregory for taking time out of their busy schedules to speak at the clinic.

Having NFL coaches speak at our clinic is a huge opportunity for our high school coaches to get information from the top level of our sport.

I also want to thank Syracuse Head Coach Dino Babers, along with his staff. The SU staff continues to do a great job and also continues to support the NYSHSFCA.

I would also be remiss if I didn't thank our sponsors, Hudl, The American Dairy Association, Riddell, the US Army and Turning Stone. Without their assistance we would not be able to continue providing a great clinic.

I want to congratulate all the individuals who received awards at our Friday night awards banquet.

The NYSHSFCA Awards Banquet is a first-class event that is sponsored by the American Dairy Association. We present awards to Players of the Year, Coaches of the Year and Scholar Athletes within each Class as well as an Assistant Coach award, 12th Man Award, Media Award and Skip Paridon Award.

The young men that won awards that night stand out as outstanding examples of what kids who play high school football can be.

In other news: Marc Vitticore, Head Coach at Fairport High School (Section 5) has created a new recruiting program for New York State players called

PROSPECT NYS.

Marc is working to provide college coaches with the most comprehensive list of high school football prospects in NYS. He recently held a showcase at Utica College with 50 of the best football players in NYS. For more information regarding PROSPECT NYS visit our Association's website or email Marc at marc@prospectnys.com.

The NYSHSFCA: Our organization continues to support USA football as well as Terry O'Neil, founder of "Practice Like Pros".

USA Football recently held its annual conference in Orlando, Florida. Rick Voight, a NYSHSFCA Executive Committee member and our next President, represented our association in Orlando.

USA football continues to work with youth programs along with being a strong proponent of Concussion Management.

We hope to have USA football represented again at our 2019 clinic. Practice Like Pros is a unique national movement to reduce needless injuries in high school football by limiting practice contact.

Terry O'Neil has presented this concept at our December Executive Committee meeting and at the

NYSHSFCA Clinic this in February.

Many states appear to be on board with this philosophy which I believe will help improve our game.

It is critically important: We need to continue to be leaders to preserve the great game of football which means getting involved with your state organizations, as well as national Organizations such as USA Football and Practice Like Pros.

Summer Sessions: It won't be long before your summer sessions begin in preparation for the fall season. Lets continue to promote the game in the safest manner that we can, so that all participants are able to have a great experience.

Yours in Football,
Lyle Dixon, Executive Director NYSHSFCA

**The young men who
won awards
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outstanding examples
of what kids who play high
school football can be.**

Summer Stuff and a Special Milestone

THE

President's

MESSAGE

By Nick Fitzgerald



As we quickly close in on our summer vacation, I don't need to mention that there really is no summer vacation for football coaches!

New York State coaches are preparing for the upcoming 2019 season, which includes skills camps, team camps, showcases, 7-on-7 tournaments, work in the weight room and (finally) in August, double-practice sessions!

This year we celebrate a very special milestone: the 150th year of football.

Rutgers is recognized as the birthplace of college football as the Scarlet Knights won the first-ever game against Princeton, 6-4, on November 6th, 1869.

The game was played with two teams of 25 men each under rugby-like rules.

Each score counted as a "game" and 10 games completed the contest. Following each score, the teams changed direction. The ball could be advanced only by kicking or batting it with the feet, hands, heads or sides.

About 100 spectators watched the event.

Football certainly has come a long way in the last 150 years!

We are the ones, as coaches, who make sure the greatest game on earth is still the most popular, exciting, and rewarding sport there is!

We will be holding regional combines this year again in May, please see the information for your area in the following pages. Again, we will invite the top 250 players from all of the regional combines to compete in our skills showcase at Utica College on July 13-14.

The skills showcase will be run by college coaches and free of charge to the players.

We will be having our NYS Championship 7-on-7 Tournament at Utica College the same weekend.

The tournament is free of charge; we just ask for a deposit to hold your spot. Please contact your Section Rep for details.

The NYSHSFCA want to give back to everyone in the state by putting on these two outstanding events.

As my presidency comes to a close this June, I wanted to thank the board of directors for all of their support and involvement over the years.

We have grown the clinic to over 600 coaches annually, increased the number of attendees at the regional

combines to over 700 players, and improved upon the 7-on-7 tournament as well.

In addition, we have grown our membership to well over 1,000 coaches - a number that brings us great pride. The more members we have, the stronger our organization is.

Rick Voight, from Section 8, will be taking over as NYSHSFCA President for a 3-year term.

Coach Voight has been a long-time member of the Board of Directors and is a strong advocate for the game of football. I am sure he will only help improve our association as well.

Again thank you for your support for the game of football and our association over the years.

It has been my pleasure leading the association.

**This year,
we celebrate
a very special milestone:
the 150th year
of football.**

Upcoming NYSHSFCA Events!

NYS Skills Showcase:

July 13 @ Utica College

Top 250 players from all of the regional combines invited to show their skills to college coaches.

NYS 7-on-7 Championship:

July 13-14 @ Utica College

Teams from around NYS will compete for Large School and Small School championships. Sponsored by the U.S. Army.

2020 NYSHSFCA Clinic

February 6-8, 2020 @ Turning Stone

A large selection of speakers from High School, College and the NFL will give classes to attendees on skills, drills and schemes.

NYSHSFCA 2019 State Combines

Western (Sections 3, 5 & 6)

Tuesday, June 4th, 2019

Fairport HS @ 8:30 am

Don Santini (585) 223-1274

dsantini1@rochester.rr.com

Lyle Dixon: jldixon13@gmail.com

Section 4

Sunday, May 19th, 2019

Union-Endicott HS @ 10am

Steve Virkler (607) 687-6232

virklers@oacsd.org

Jason Miller (607) 425-2777

jmiller@gstboces.org

Section 2

Sunday, May 19th, 2019

Hudson Valley CC @ 9:30 am

Nick Fitzgerald (518) 260-1231

nfitzgerald@cairodurham.org

Section 11

Sunday, May 5th, 2019

Smithtown West HS @ 9am

Greg Lauri (631) 379-9876

glauri@yahoo.com

Players with the Top 250 scores will be invited to the NYS Skills Showcase.

The NYS Skills Showcase will be held at 9:00 am, July 13th @ Utica College
A contingent of 20 college coaches from around NYS will run all drills and provide player instruction.

For Current Students in 8th to 11th Grade

For more information:

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(315) 254-5592

kdeparde@esmschools.org

Lyle Dixon:

(585) 330-6125

jldixon13@gmail.com





7 ON 7 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP/ELITE SHOWCASE WEEKEND

NYSHSFCA, along with the US Army is proud to bring to NYS the 7 on 7 State Championship and Combine Weekend at Utica College on July 13-14, 2019.

- 7 on 7 State Championship – July 13 and 14:
 - 48 teams will compete in two divisions over two days
 - 24 teams -Large School Division (Class A & AA)/24 –Small School (Class B, C, D & 8 Man)
 - Large School Division on Saturday – July 13 – 11 am - Registration – 12 pm - Start
 - Small School Division on Sunday – July 14 – 11 am Registration – 12 pm – Start
 - 2 Large Teams and 2 Small Teams per section – if more apply a lottery will occur
 - Send attached form to your Section Rep with a \$200 deposit (fully refunded day of event)
 - All registration forms must be into your Section Rep with the deposit by April 30th
 - Bring water and game supplies
 - Trainers will be provided
 - ALL GAMES WILL BE ON GRASS FIELDS
 - NO HELMETS – BUT PLAYERS MUST HAVE MOUTHPIECES
- Elite Skills Showcase – July 13:
 - Players qualifying from the NYSHSFCA Regional Combines
 - Regional Combines will consist of specific tests in order to qualify
 - See your Section Reps for Regional Combine information
 - Showcase will include position specific skills coached by College Coaches
 - Showcase will begin at 9 a.m. at Utica College
 - There is no cost to the players who qualify
 - Players must participate in the Regional Combines to qualify
 - Players qualifying will receive a personal invite from the NYSHSFCA
 - SHOWCASE WILL BE ON THE TURF FIELD

7 ON 7 NYS CHAMPIONSHIP – REGISTRATION FORM

SCHOOL NAME:_____

CLASSIFICATION:_____

COACHES NAME:_____

EMAIL:_____

COACHES PHONE:_____

\$200 DEPOSIT: CHECK CASH

Send to your NYSHSFCA Representative – contact information - NYSHSFCA website under “Officers”

NYSHSFCA - 7 on 7 Rules

1. FIELDLENGTH: 50 Total Yards – 40 Yards with a 10 Yard End Zone
2. STARTING EACH GAME:
The designated home team (2ND on schedule) begin possession on the +40 yard line-choice of hash
 - A. A horn will begin each game – each game last 40 minutes – running time-clock will only stop for 1 timeout
 - B. Official will declare when the clock goes under two minutes – a horn will end each game
 - C. 7 Players Only in the Huddle
 - D. Each Team will have “1” Timeout (1 minute)
3. MOVING THE BALL:
 - A. Offense starts on +40 choice of hash after change of possession
 - B. Offense has 3 downs to gain a first down. First down markers will be at the +25 and +10 yard lines
 - C. Once inside the +10, the offense has 3 downs to score a TD
 - D. For the conversion-offense can choose-1 or 2 pts. 2 pt-5 yd line-offense has choice of hash
4. COACHING YOUR TEAM
 - A. 1 off/1 def coach allowed on the field-must be positioned behind the offensive huddle
 - B. Coaches are not allowed to challenge any official ruling-REMAINING COACHES CAN WORK FROM SIDELINE
5. SPECIAL RULES (Mouth Pieces Required-NO HELMETS):
 - A. **NO BLOCKING–WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF DOWN-RETURN TO PREVIOUS SPOT**
 - B. Center must snap the ball when in Shotgun
 - C. Ball carrier is down when touched below the neck w/1 hand-defender cannot leave his feet to make a tag
 - D. Fumbles= dead balls at the spot w/last team in control retaining possession (AT SNAP REMOVED)
 - E. Each team will have 25 seconds to put the ball into play. Delay of game is loss of down.
 - F. Defenders no closer than 3 Yards to the LOS (Press Coverage is allowed)
 - G. Offensive team is responsible for retrieving & returning the ball to the official. Any delay from offense will result in delay of game – loss of down with exception of 1 timeout per team
 - H. Defensive pass interference or defensive holding will result in a 1st down at the spot of the foul.
 - I. Offensive pass interference will result in a return to the previous spot plus a loss of down.
 - J. QB is allowed 4.0 seconds to throw. ONE- ONE THOUSAND. TWO- ONE THOUSAND. THREE- ONE THOUSAND. FOUR- ONE THOUSAND! – Referees will stop play if 4.0 seconds is surpassed
 - K. An interception will result in an immediate stoppage of play and change of possession w/the team having possession at the +40 yd
6. TIE BREAKER
 - A. Any game that ends in a tie will go to a tie-breaker. There will be a coin toss at the beginning of the tie breaker with the home team calling the toss. The winner will choose to be on offense or defense.
 - B. Each team will have one snap from the +40 yard line choice of hash.
 - C. The team with the deepest completion will be declared the winner of the tie breaker.
 - D. If there is no completion or the deepest completion is equal the tie breaker will be repeated with the team that lost the initial coin toss making the choice to play offense or defense.
 - E. This format will be repeated until a winner is declared.
 - F. This tie breaking format will be used in all games including the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals.
 - G. WINNING THE TIE BREAKER COUNTS AS A WIN IN THE STANDINGS and a 1 point advantage in the scoring column.

*****AFTER EACH GAME THE COACH OF THE WINNING TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE TO REPORT THE SCORE OF THE GAME TO THE N Y S H S F C A COACH THAT IS CONTROLLING THAT BRACKET SITE*****

POINT VALUES

- A. Offensive touchdown=6 points.
- B. Extra point from =1 point.
- C. Extra point from the +5=2 points
- D. Tie Breaker victory= 1 point

Thank You to our Clinic Vendors!



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ADANE's CEO, Rick Naczi (right) is shown with the Clinic Director, Lyle Dixon (left) and the sponsored speaker, Qadry Ismail, who spoke about the importance of proper nutrition.

Central NY Native Latavius Murray Urges Coaches to Make Nutrition Part of Training

At the 2019 NY State High School Football Coaches Association Clinic, Minnesota Vikings running back Latavius Murray, an alumnus of Onondaga Central high school, spoke about the impact coaches have on their players from what they eat to how they perform on the field. Murray, who was named the 2007 New York State High School Class D Player of the Year, attended the annual clinic on behalf of the American Dairy Association North East (ADANE).

During his pro career with the Raiders and the Vikings, Murray has had the opportunity to promote health and wellness to students as an ambassador of the NFL and Dairy Association's Fuel Up to Play 60 program. Locally, he has brought that message to Central New York youth as part of the CNY Football Academy held annually since 2009.

While coaches attending the annual clinic participated in workshops focused on increasing productivity, technique, skills and safety during practices, Murray said nutrition needs to be part of the game plan to enhance overall performance and recovery. Encouraging coaches to use resources like the Fuel Up to Play 60 program, he spoke about the program's goals including increasing participation in school breakfast, adding new options like smoothies and yogurt parfaits to school menus and grant opportunities.

The Fuel Up to Play 60 program was created by the NFL and National Dairy Council to increase student access to healthy foods and increase physical fitness. The program is currently used in over 70,000 schools across the country. This past year, through ADANE, the program provided over \$40,000 in grants to schools in New York to purchase equipment for the cafeteria and the gym.

ADANE also sponsored the Awards Banquet on February 8, which honored players and coaches for distinguishing themselves as serious competitors, academicians and role models. Guest speaker at the banquet, ADANE CEO Rick Naczi, spoke about dairy farmers support of high school athletes through their sponsorship of the Coaches Association and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). As the official beverage of the NYSPHSAA, chocolate milk provides athletes with 9 essential nutrients including carbs and protein for recovery. ADANE's sponsorship provides funding for all NYSPHSAA championship events, chocolate milk for athletes and nutrition tips for coaches through the weekly newsletter. For their long-time support of football programs and athletes in NY, ADANE was named the recipient of the Skip Pardon award. For more information on the Fuel Up to Play 60 program, sports nutrition information and downloadable tip sheets, visit AmericanDairy.com.

From CNY to the NFL

By Mark Adair

Joe Gilbert, now an Offensive Line coach with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers came home to speak at the recent NYS Coaches Clinic.

Gilbert is from Horseheads, NY, where he played 3 years of varsity football and lacrosse. He was named an All-Twin Tiers all-star in both sports.

Gilbert was not a stereotypical “dumb lineman” in high school. He was a member of the national Honor Society and graduated 60th in his class of 560 students.

His high academic achievement allowed him to play football for 4 years at prestigious Hamilton College in the NESCAC.

“Linemen actually better be smart,” he said. “In the NFL, we are always looking for tough and smart linemen. It’s very hard to have a lineman out there who can’t think.”

Gilbert was a 4-year starter for Hamilton and was the first D-3 All-American to ever play for the school.

He loved Hamilton, despite the fact that the conference does not participate in the National Division III playoffs.

“Hamilton is a great school,” Gilbert said. “I wouldn’t change my situation there for anything.

We didn’t go to the playoffs but we beat Union College when they were ranked 2nd in the country. We finished the season ranked 13th in the country that year.”

During his junior season at Hamilton, Gilbert settled on a path for his career.

“I knew I wanted to be in football,” he said. “I wanted to either play or get into coaching.”

After deciding that he was going to be a professional football coach, Gilbert set his sights high.

“Once I made the decision that I wanted coach,” he said,

“I wanted to coach the best players I could, and that meant getting to the NFL.”

But getting to the NFL would be a long and winding road for the Central New York native.



Photo Submitted

Horseheads native Joe Gilbert spent six seasons with the Indianapolis Colts before moving on. He is now with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Gilbert graduated from Hamilton in 1987 and immediately began coaching. He started as a Graduate Assistant at Albany where he worked for NYS legend Bob Ford.

“It was an honor to work for Coach Ford,” Gilbert said. “He took care of me and became a very good friend of mine. He is a class act. He started so many guys into the coaching profession that I can’t even count them all.”

Gilbert stayed at Albany for 2 seasons before moving to the Ivy League.

“I worked for 2 years as a part-time coach at Penn,” he said, “and then I got my first full-time job at Northeastern University in Boston.”

That first full-time job was an enormous step for the coach.

“Oh man, a real paycheck, benefits, the whole nine yards,” Gilbert said. “It was a big deal. I thought I had hit the lottery.”

He coached at Northeastern, in the

Division I-AA Yankee Conference, for 3 years.

“There was a lot of good football in the Yankee Conference,” Gilbert said. “We played New Hampshire and Maine and they were always going to the playoffs.”

After three seasons at Northeastern, Gilbert stayed in the Yankee Conference but took a job at Maine. He stayed for 6 years, his longest coaching stay at one spot.

“Six seasons can be an eternity in the coaching profession,” Gilbert said with a laugh.

See Gilbert on page 15

He left Maine to take the head coaching job at Mansfield University - but left after one season to coach at Toledo.

From there, it was on to Central Florida University where he coached under George O'Leary for three seasons.

He left Central Florida for the University of Houston and, after that, moved on to Illinois in the Big Ten.

Finally, after almost 20 years and thousands of miles, Gilbert landed his first NFL job with the Indianapolis Colts.

"I was with Chuck Pagano for 6 years," Gilbert said. "It was a great opportunity. That first NFL job is a huge change. It's a completely different game than the college game."

Gilbert, who worked under Offensive Coordinator Bruce Ahrens, felt uncomfortable with the job at first.

"There is a real learning curve when you first go to the NFL," Gilbert said, "and it takes a while to understand how the game is."

After the entire staff was let go in Indianapolis, Gilbert coached at the University of Arizona for one season before making it back to the NFL.

"Bruce Ahrens is now the head coach at Tampa Bay and he hired me," Gilbert said. "I hope we can be here for a long time."

"Long", however, is a relative term. In the coaching profession, "long" doesn't necessarily mean very long at all.

"My 6 years with the Colts was an eternity in our league," he said. "I just hope we can do it again in Tampa."

Gilbert and his wife Cheryl, have 4 children.

"I'm not sure she understood the business at first," he said, "but she understands it now."

Gilbert's family has been on the move with him the entire way.

"Each one of our kids was born in a different state," Gilbert said. "There have been a lot of stops and a lot of moves along the way."

Gilbert says that his children, despite living a nomadic life, get experiences that most "normal" kids don't.

"The moving is tough at times," he said, "but our kids have experienced some things that other kids would never have an opportunity to experience. We have had bowl games, playoff games, coaching in Hawaii in the Pro Bowl. Not a lot of kids get to do those things."

When Gilbert spoke to the NYS Coaches at the Clinic, he broke his talk into two sessions.

"I spoke about training your linemen for the run block

during the first hour," he said. "I spoke about pass blocking in the second hour."

He said that if there was one thing he wanted the high school coaches to take away from his talk, it was the importance of fundamentals.

"If there is a young coach getting started in football," Gilbert said, "You can't ever forget the fundamentals. The offensive line is the epitome of fundamentals and technique."

Many NFL teams and college programs are now moving to different blocking schemes. Many high school programs are now starting to use zone blocking schemes.

"You can use combination blocks, zone blocks and all sorts of other schemes," Gilbert said. "But no matter what you do, offensive line is still about fundamentals and technique. You can not get caught up in schemes and forget about teaching the fundamentals."

Gilbert still has some "heroes" among the line coaches fraternity, including WNY legend Jim "Mouse" McNally.

"I followed Jim McNally for years," Gilbert said. "A lot of stuff I still use is from him. Alex Gibbs is a completely different type of coach than Jim but both of those guys are very successful."

Gilbert also says he has great respect for the work that line coaches Bob Wiley and Larry Zweirlein have done.

Almost every coach he speaks with shares a piece of knowledge that Gilbert is able to

use at a later date.

"Football coaches are very open with each other," Gilbert said. "especially the line coaches. We share things all the time."

Gilbert also understands that the offensive line is criticized in the media more than any other position except QB.

That is a reality that provides him a huge incentive to improve his players every day.

"If you have pride in your work and you are a competitor, you never want your position to be called out as inferior," he said.

And, despite his travels, moves and new jobs he has had over the last 33 years, he says that one thing has never changed.

"There is still nothing like Game Day," Gilbert said. "You can have all the money in the world but it still doesn't replace the experience of Game Day."



Photo Submitted

Gilbert came back to Central New York to speak at the NYSHSFCAClinic.

The Lions' King

By Mark Adair

Detroit Lions head coach Matt Patricia gave the keynote presentation to NYS high school coaches at the recent NYSHSFCA Clinic recently.

Patricia grew up in nearby Verona.

"It was a great opportunity to come back home," Patricia said. "The Turning Stone is 5 miles from where my parents live and just a mile from my high school."

Patricia also felt this was an opportunity to repay NYSHSFCA Executive Committee member George Mangicaro - who he credits with giving him a start in the coaching profession.

"Coach Mangicaro gave me a big opportunity," Patricia said. "He didn't know who I was when I asked him if I could volunteer coach for him. He could have said, 'Thanks, but no thanks' but he gave me an opportunity. He didn't have to do that."

Now that Patricia is in the NFL and coaching in front of 70,000 fans every week, he has not forgotten Mangicaro.

"What's great about the game is giving back," Patricia said. "I wanted to make sure I could do that for Coach Mangicaro. I really enjoyed it, too."

Patricia went to Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, where he played center under Ted Dorman. Tom Lowery and Jim Jacobson were also on staff at the time.

He was selected to play in the Arcaro Classic All-Star game as a graduating senior.

After high school, Patricia went on to play four seasons at RPI for Joe King.

"Coach King was great," Patricia said. "He was instrumental in getting guys who fit the mold and got that program turned around. He raised a lot of us and taught us how to be men."

King was not exactly "calm, cool and collected" on the sidelines.

"He was a fiery guy and really got animated," Patricia said. "He instilled a love for the game in you. You wanted to win for him. He was a great teacher but an even better mentor."

As an RPI player, Patricia was a combatant in one of oldest rivalries in football. RPI and nearby Union College have played 116 times now, making it the oldest football rivalry in New York State.

And even though he is busy with his NFL job, Patricia finds time to follow RPI's game against Union for the Dutchman's Shoes Trophy, which has been awarded to the victor every year since 1950.

"I do actually follow the game every year," he said. "I won a Dutchman's Shoes Trophy my freshman year."

Patricia's Engineers beat Union 23-0 in 1992. He still carries the rivalry with him.

"I have run into a couple of Union people that are in the NFL," he said. "We shoot a couple of text messages back and forth to try and harass each other. It's a great game and a great rivalry."

Patricia played four seasons for RPI, graduating in 1996.

"I just had a normal, grind-it-out career," he said. "I had to battle all the way through. I played center but I also moved to

right guard and even played a few games at tight end."

The Engineers were successful while Patricia was on the roster.

"We won a couple of ECAC championships and went to the playoffs a couple times," he said.

He stayed at RPI as a Grad Assistant coach for King.

"I was going for my MBA," Patricia said, "but that was really my transferring into the coaching profession."

He got his MBA in Aeronautical Engineering and spent the next two years as an application engineer with Hoffman Air &

See Patricia on page 17



Photo by Detroit Lions

Detroit Lions coach Matt Patricia came home to Central New York to speak at the recent NYSHSFCA Clinic. Patricia is starting his second season as an NFL head coach.

Patricia continued from page 16

Filtration Systems in East Syracuse.

But, he couldn't get football out of his system.

"That's when I walked into Coach Mangicaro's office," Patricia said, "and asked if I could volunteer to coach at Liverpool High School. It was a great program with a lot tradition."

After two years of working in Engineering, Patricia got his first "opportunity of a lifetime" when he received an offer to maintain nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers with the Westinghouse Electric Company.

"I was offered a pretty well-paying job," he said. "but one of my former college coaches had called me. He had a D-Line job with Amherst College for \$5,000 a year."

He called his mother, Lucy, to tell her that he had a new job.

"I told my mom that I was offered the job with Westinghouse," he said, "but I'm not taking it. I told her I was going to be an assistant football coach for \$5,000 a year."

Patricia quit the Engineering field and never looked back. Patricia's parents, Lucy and Ed, were school teachers and they were initially mystified at their son's choice.

"The Westinghouse job paid twice what my mom made as a school teacher," Patricia said. "She thought I was crazy. My dad was a little less vocal about it but he was thinking the same thing."

His parents, however, did not explode or freak out.

"It took them a little while," Patricia said, "but they supported me. They always do. My parents questioned a lot of my decision making at that moment but once the season started, they were right back there, coming to the games. Whether I was playing or coaching, they have always come to the games."

While he was coaching at Amherst College, Patricia earned a Master's Degree in Math Education.

"I basically started over," Patricia said. "I wanted to stay in the game of football. I wanted to help kids and young men."

After two seasons with Amherst College, Patricia joined Paul Pasqualoni's staff at Syracuse University as a Grad Assistant.

"I started as a grad assistant and worked my way up to full time with the offense," Patricia said. "I was working with the offensive line. George DeLeone was the coordinator."

Pasqualoni led the Syracuse program for 14 years and has more wins than any other coach in the history of the Big East Football Conference.

"He loved that school and put everything into it as a coach," Patricia said. "I don't think anyone understands what

a good coach he was."

Patricia obviously did - he hired his former boss to be his defensive coordinator with the Lions.

"He was one of the first people I hired," Patricia said. "It's interesting how the tide turns sometimes. There is not a situation where I have to worry about anything with him."

Patricia says he valued Pasqualoni's experience.

"When you get hired as a first-time head coach an awful lot comes at you from a lot of different directions," Patricia said. "He's a great coach and mentor and I can trust him to take care of things."

After working for Pasqualoni at Syracuse, Patricia landed a job with the New England Patriots and Bill Belichick.

"I originally started in New England as a Quality Control Coach on offense," Patricia said. "That's really the bottom rung. I worked under Charlie Weiss."

A year later, Patricia was promoted to assistant offensive line coach.

"I worked under Dante Scarnecchia," Patricia said, who is one of the best coaches in the NFL."

In 2006, he was promoted again, this time to Linebackers coach.

"I had the opportunity to switch sides to the defense," Patricia said. "I walked into a room filled with some pretty amazing players. Teddy Bruschi, Mike Vrabel and Junior Seau were all there at the time. They were guys that I learned a lot from."

In 2010, Belichick moved Patricia to Defensive Coordinator.

"I started calling the plays on defense in 2010 and I got the title in 2012," Patricia said.

Patricia was a part of three Super Bowl championships with the Patriots. After the Patriots won Super Bowl LI (51), Patricia was named the head coach of the Lions.

When he spoke to the NYS coaches at Turning Stone, Patricia talked about Smart, Tough Fundamental Football. He says that whether a coach is in the NFL or in high school, everything rides on using solid fundamentals.

"It even comes back to that in the biggest games and on the biggest stage," he said. "Winning or losing always comes down to fundamentals."

He says that coming back to Central New York was one of the best things he has done since he joined the Lions.

"It was really cool," he said. "It was really awesome. There were a lot of people there who were very generous with me over the years. There were a lot of faces I haven't seen in a really, long time and I enjoyed it."



Photo by Detroit Lions

Patricia played college football at RPI before starting his coaching career.

Players of the Year



Class AA

Caron Robinson - Aquinas (5)
Greg Campisi - St. Anthony's CHSFL

Class A

Amin Woods - Cornwall (9)

Class B

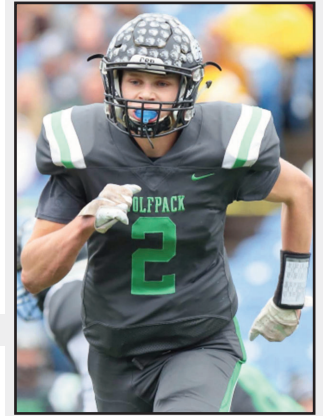
Joe Girard III - Glens Falls (2)

Class C

Jarred Freije - Susquehanna Valley (4)

Class D

Dereck Ecklund - Clymer-Sherman-Panama (6)



Greg Campisi



Amin Woods



Jarred Freije

Coaches of the Year

Class AA

Derek Annechino - Aquinas (5)

Class A

Kevin Hanifan - Kellenberg (CHSFL)
Eric Holzapple - Cornwall (9)

Class B

Pat Lilac - Glens Falls (2)

Class C

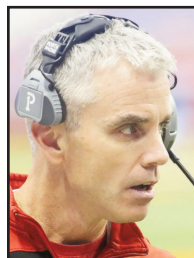
Mike Ford - Susquehanna Valley (4)

Class D

Ty Harper - Clymer-Sherman-Panama (6)



Holzapple



Lilac



Ford

2019 Scholar Athletes

Class AA

Nick Annechino
Aquinas HS (5)



Class A

Matthew Hansen
Warwick Valley (9)
also
Trevor Yeboah-Kodie
(Garden City, 9)
and
Nolan Penoyer
(East Syracuse-Minoa, 3)



Class B

Steven Mansicalco
Cobleskill (2)



Class C

Massimo DiCaprio
Fonda-Fultonville (2)



Class D

Austin Lamb
Tioga (4)



David Amelemah - St. John the Baptist
James Barnes - Windsor
Jakob Bennett - Westhampton Beach
Eric Cassar - Kings Park
Joseph Chedzoy - Watkins Glen
Jimmy Clements - Irondequoit
Antonio Corrado - Mount St. Michael
Ray Costa - Cold Spring Harbor
Connor Crabtree - Cassadaga Valley
Andrew Giaimo - Amsterdam
Jack Howe - Pleasantville
Tyler Kamen - Kings Park
Nolan Kinahan - Jamesville-Dewitt
Justin Scott Kohn - Gowanda
Spencer Lavin - Watertown
Jake Lazzaro - Oceanside
Will Leonard - Cornwall Central
Clarke Lewis - Westhampton Beach
Christian Luizzi - LaSalle Institute
Joey Mack IV - Dryden
Brandon Mailler - Dryden
Edward Mannone - Oceanside
Garet Marsh - Dryden
Liam McIntyre - Westhampton Beach

Bobby Mechalke - Corning Painted Post
Jon Mendoza - Westhampton Beach
Tyshawn Moody - Middletown
Faizan Munir - Southwestern
Andrew B. Musacchio - Gowanda
Edon Popi - Westhampton Beach
Sam Richard - Hoosick Falls
Jake Richardson - Stillwater
Zach Ripp - Warwick Valley
Quinn Robinson - Valley Center
Miguel Rodriguez - Bayside
Matt Scully - Kings Park
Cody Senecal - Dryden
Justin Shapiro - Kings Park
Darnel Shillingford - Putnam Valley
Jonathan Stevens - Clarence High
Tyler Toledo - Monroe-Woodbury
Issac Vasquez - Susan E Wagner
Dan Wager - Susquehanna Valley
Jacob Welch - Union-Endicott
Jared Welch - Union-Endicott
Jonah Wisniewski - Newfane
Shai Young - Colonie Central
Adam Zingler - Corning Painted Post



Skip Paridon Service Award

George Mangicaro, NYSHSFCFA



Assistant Coach of the Year

Nial Giordano - Lynbrook (8)



Hunter Low Media Award

Niko Tamurian - CNY Central



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12th Man Escapes Death

By Mark Adair

Eric Vought, a senior at Union-Endicott in Section 4, was named the recipient of the 12th Man Award at the recent NYSHSFCA Awards Banquet.

Vought would seem an unlikely candidate for such a high honor as he only saw action in one game over his career.

"I only played my junior year of football," he said. "I was a linebacker and wide receiver in training camp."

Vought had not played football before his junior year.

"I joined just because I wanted to be a part of the team," Vought said. "I knew I wasn't going to be a star or even a starter, but I wanted to be on the team."

Vought says that football was good for him.

"I didn't get out much before football," Vought said. "but after practicing we hung out as a team. I felt like I had a second family."

But, during the 2017 training camp, his first season with the program, Vought developed a blister on his right foot.

"At first I just wanted to deal with it because I wanted to keep playing," Vought said, "but the blister got infected. My foot got huge and discolored and my toe became purple."

He tried to wrap the foot but the pain in his foot prevented him from participating in practice.

"After that, I went to the doctor," he said. "They put me on antibiotics but those didn't work either."

At the doctor's office, Vought's father, John, insisted the doctor's order a culture to be done.

"We went to the doctor on a Friday and I said that I wanted a culture," John Vought said. "On Sunday they called and said that Eric had a staph infection."

Later that night, Eric Vought started to feel sick.

"I felt really awful and I went to sleep," Eric said. "When I woke up I had a fever. I was shaking and sweating."



Photo by Mark Adair

NYSHSFCA Directors Tom Heinzelman (left) and Nick Fitzgerald presented Union-Endicott senior Eric Vought with the NYS 12th Man Award at the recent NYSHSFCA Awards Banquet.

Vought's parents immediately took Eric to the hospital in Binghamton.

"I came home with the antibiotic," John Vought said, "and he had severe flu symptoms. We took him right to the hospital because we knew this was a staph infection and not the flu."

At the hospital, Eric knew something was seriously wrong.

"It didn't feel like a normal sickness," he said. "This was different. I started to throw up and my blood pressure was dropping. They started pumping me full

of fluids with IVs."

John Vought said that the scene took a sudden, frightening turn.

"All of a sudden everyone just converged on Eric," John Vought said. "His blood pressure was 20-over-50 and his heart was racing at 150 beats per minute. It really hit us that he was crashing and they were trying to save his life. It was scary as hell."

It was determined that Eric had Septicemia, a deadly infection caused by the blister. He was loaded into an ambulance and was sent to the hospital in Syracuse.

John Vought said that his son was most concerned with letting his team down.

"As they were putting him in the ambulance," John said, "he called out 'Dad! Make sure you tell coach that I can't be at practice.' He was in danger of dying and his biggest concern was that he was going to miss practice."

Union-Endicott coach Tommy Baleno got the call from John Vought.

"His father called me and told me he wouldn't be coming to practice," Baleno said. "I was told that Eric was recovering but I could tell his dad was really nervous."

See "12th Man" on page 22

12th Man

continued from page 21

When he arrived at the hospital in Syracuse, Eric was placed in the Intensive Care Unit.

"I spent 3 or 4 days in ICU," Eric said. "They tried 4 or 5 different antibiotics but up until that point nothing had been working. Finally, I started to feel better."

After four days, Eric was out of danger and allowed to return home.

"I looked up Septicemia online and I was shocked," Eric said. "I didn't realize how close I was to dying."

Baleno, who has been the head coach at U-E since 2013, also looked up Septicemia on the internet.

"I didn't know anything about it," Baleno said. "I looked it up and got really scared. I never realized that a little infection in his foot could be so deadly."

Baleno had to inform his players that one of their teammates was in grave danger.

"They didn't really understand how serious it was," Baleno said. "They kept asking when's he going to be back? I had to tell them that he may not be coming back. We just had to say a prayer for him."

Septicemia has a mortality rate of 50 percent. The long-term prognosis is equally poor; only 30 percent of patients survived the first year after hospital admission. More than 250,000 people die every year from Septicemia.

However, Eric was determined to re-join the football team.

"My body was slowly able to get better," he said. "I did get into a game but my foot started acting up again and I had to stop playing. I wasn't able to participate after that."

Baleno says that every high school football team has a spot for a kid like Eric Vought.

"He just loved the sport and wanted to give it a try," Baleno said. "Everyone has a role on the team. Everyone should try to be great at your own role. We have 2-way starters, motivational speakers, scout players. Everyone has a spot and Eric just wanted to be a part of it."

Baleno says that in his short time as a player, Vought displayed tremendous heart.

"He was just learning the game," Baleno said, "and always gave a great effort. He tried his ass off. A coach really can't ask a kid for anything more than that."

Once it was determined that Vought could not play foot-

ball anymore, he stayed with the team.

"I assisted the coaches," Vought said. "Whatever they asked me to do - move equipment, set up drills, run for whistles - whatever I could do to help out."

Despite the fact he could not contribute on the field, Eric was viewed as a full member of the team as the Tigers finished 8-2 and won the Section 4 Class AA title.



Photo Submitted

Union-Endicott seniors considered Eric Vought to be a full member of the team, even though he was not able to contribute on the field. Vought is hoping to attend Dental School in the future.

Vought held out hopes that he could try to play as a senior, but he was still healing.

"My body was slowly getting better," he said, "but there was no guarantee that this wouldn't happen again. Once I knew I couldn't play as a senior, I asked if I could stay on as the team manager."

Baleno was thrilled to have Vought in the program.

"Eric is a very humble kid," he said. "He really got something from being part of the team. It was everything to him. Of course we wanted him back."

In addition to assisting the coaching staff during practice, Vought also charted plays during the games.

"He was Johnny-on-the-spot with everything," Baleno said. "He would do things that we didn't even ask to be done. He loves football to his very soul. I wish everyone had his heart."

Vought, who has been on the Honor Roll throughout his time at Union-Endicott, is currently looking at colleges.

"I plan to get a degree in biology and apply to dental school," Vought said. "I want to be an orthodontist."

After everything he went through, dental school should be a breeze.

Two Titles, Two POY Awards

Joe Girard III caps amazing senior year at Glens Falls

Glens Falls Joe Girard III continued an amazing senior year as he led the Indians basketball team to the NYS Class B championships.

The championship on the hardcourt makes a nice companion to the NYS championship Girard won as the QB of the Glens Falls football team.

"He is a really talented kid but he is driven," Girard's football coach Pat Lilac said. "His competitiveness is as much of an asset as his talent is. That competitiveness made him pretty special. He just refuses to lose."

Girard was named the NYS Class B Player of the Year at the recent NYSHSFA Awards Banquet.

He was also named NY State's Mr. Basketball and the Gatorade Player of the Year.

"When he was in the 5th grade, he won a national free throw contest," Lilac said. "You could tell at an early age he was going to be a special athlete."

A few weeks ago, Girard was right in the middle of the Indians thrilling basketball championship.

He hit a 3-point shot with :09 left to tie the game.

"We had a perfect play, an elevator screen," Girard said. "My teammates set a great screen. I felt good as soon as it left my hand. Then we needed a stop on defense."

Then, with :03 left in the overtime session, Glens Falls had the ball under their own basket, trailing by a point. Girard took the inbounds pass, took one dribble and scored at the buzzer to give Glens Falls a 75-74 win over Lowville.

As Glens Falls set up for the game-winning shot,

Girard took the pass.

"We set up the same kind of play," he said. "This time they put a guy behind me. I went around the right wing. I got a step on him and needed one dribble to make a layup."

Lilac was not shocked that Girard was in the middle of both plays.

"He wants the ball in the biggest situations," Lilac said. "He wouldn't have it any other way."

Lilac first met Girard when his future QB was in elementary school.

"I met him when he was in the 6th grade," Lilac said. "He has always been around the school or the gym. He has a large extended family with a lot of cousins or uncles playing sports and he was always around. He watched those older kids playing basketball and football and he wanted to be like them."

Girard is a legitimate two-sport star at the high school level.

"Basketball has always been his first love," Lilac said, "but he loves football, too. He put a lot of work into basketball but he was just a natural in football. When he throws a pass,

the ball just pops off his hand."

Girard was a 4-year starter for Glens Falls.

"He started at safety and wide receiver when he was a freshman," Lilac said. "We moved him to QB after his freshman season."

In his 3 seasons as a starting QB, Girard simply rewrote the Glens Falls record book.

"He holds every passing record we have," Lilac said. "Total yards, yards in a game, season, career, touch-



Photo by Mark Adair

Senior QB Joe Girard led the Glens Falls football team to the NYS Class B championship at the Carrier Dome. He also led the basketball team to the NYS championship.

See Mangone on page 24

Girard continued from page 23

downs; it's just crazy."

Girard also finished 35-3 as a starting QB, leading the Indians to NYS titles in 2016 and 2018.

In 2017, Glens Falls lost to Pleasantville 21-7 in the NYS semifinals.

"That was the most upset I have ever seen him," Lilac said.

"Pleasantville was hungrier than we were that day and he definitely took it personally. That gave him even more resolve to play football. He wanted to right a wrong and he was determined to not let that happen again."

His determination made his teammates better.

"The other kids see him laying everything on the line and it rubs off on everybody else."

In last fall's win over Batavia in the Carrier Dome, Girard completed 10 of 18 passes for 314 yards and 2 TDs.

He tossed 7 passes to his cousin Trent Girard, who finished with 183 receiving yards and a TD.

Girard has, in all probability, played his last football game.

He has accepted a scholarship offer to play basketball at Syracuse for Jim Boeheim.

"I think he had 28 scholarship

offers," Lilac said. "He had offers from Tulane and UMass for football. All the others were basketball. Duke, Michigan and Boston College were on his final list before he chose SU."

Lilac says that all the attention he is receiving has not affected Girard's personality - a major feat considering

he has to sign autographs for 30 minutes after every game.

"He takes it all in stride," Lilac said. "He's just a regular high school kid. He's great with younger kids. You should see how they respond to him."

Girard was disappointed to not be able to pick up his NYS Player of the Year Award.

"It was a huge honor," he said. "I wish I could have come but I was a little busy with basketball."

Girard says that being named Player of the Year in football was extremely gratifying.

"Football was not going to be the sport I would play in college," he said, "but I still wanted to be the best foot-

ball player I could be. I've loved football for my whole life and wanted to play for four years. Now I'm doing something else that I love."

Girard said he had one goal in mind back in August.

"I wanted to help these guys win a state title," he said, "and I was thankful for the opportunity to do that. Going out on top as a senior is pretty special."

The player who tossed the court-length pass to Girard, was his cousin Trent - the same player who caught all those passes in the NYS championship football game.

"We changed roles there," Joe Girard said. "This time he was throwing to me."

Girard is more than an athlete, however. He maintains an academic average of 92 and is a member of the National Honor Society.

"He was one of the overall Scholar



Photo by Mark Adair

Girard completed 10 of 18 passes for 314 yards and 2 TDs in the Indians win at the Carrier Dome.



Photo Submitted

Girard was also a two-time NYS Player of the Year in basketball.

Athletes for Section 2," Lilac said. "He does it in the class room and on the field. He was always very focused and driven."

Girard will move on to play basketball at Syracuse for Jim Boeheim.

I had a few offers to play quarterback in college," Girard said, "but I thought the best option was to play basketball. I really felt most comfortable with Coach Boeheim."

Before he graduates, however, Girard will have one final act in high school. For the first time, he will perform in the school musical this spring.

"I always watched the musical," he said, "and it looked like fun. We are doing Sister Act and I'm in the chorus. I do have a mini-part where I have to dress up as one of the nuns."

He says that joining the school musical was, in part, a way to give back to his fellow students.

"Those kids supported me through all my athletic games," he said. "so I wanted to help support them with the musical."

Mangicaro's Football Life



George Mangicaro, the longtime coach at Liverpool, was named the recipient of the Skip Paridon Service Award at the recent NYSHSFCFA Awards Banquet.

Mangicaro started his coaching career in 1965 at East Syracuse-Minoa as an assistant, where he stayed until 1974. He got his first head coaching job in the fall of 1974 at Bishop Grimes.

He left in 1980 to take the head coaching job at Liverpool - where he made a name for himself as he led one of the top programs in NYS for the next 23 seasons.

In his time at Liverpool, Mangicaro's teams won 12 league championships, 5 Section 3 titles, and 2 Regional championships (before there was a NYS tournament.)

In 1982, Liverpool was co-ranked #1 in the state with Shenendehowa

"After we were ranked co-#1, I arranged a game with Shenendehowa in the Carrier Dome," Mangicaro said. "It was the first game of the season in 1983. It was the first high school football game played at the Carrier Dome and it drew 9,000 people."

Mangicaro's squad lost that game. "Shen beat us," Mangicaro said. "but it was a great game. It was a great atmosphere for high school football."

In 1987, Mangicaro had his best team as the Warriors finished unbeaten and ranked #1 in NYS. They were also ranked 20th in the nation in the USAToday.

"I had some really good players," he said. "We had one of the best backfields to ever play football in NYS."

Liverpool QB Chris Jones was offered a scholarship to play at Rutgers but chose to play professional baseball after he was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds. Jones played MLB for 13 seasons.

Fullback JJ Grant would go on to play linebacker at Michigan for three seasons

"He got hurt or he would have been in the NFL," Mangicaro said.

Halfback Hank Flournory went on to play at Syracuse while halfback Todd Richardson played for Alabama.

"We had 3 linemen the went on to play for Ivy League schools," Mangicaro said. "We were smart up front and talented in the backfield."

Mangicaro also led teams to the NYS semifinals where



they lost to Johnstown (in 1994) and Fairport (in 1998).

He retired from the sidelines before the 2004 season, but stayed on as Athletic Director until 2013.

"I had 49 years in education," he said. "I don't have many regrets. I enjoyed coaching, I enjoyed being around the kids."

Mangicaro also proved to be a creative, forward thinker as he, while working with his future wife Bonnie, was instrumental in putting together a Pouring Rights program for Liverpool High School.

"Coca-Cola came in and gave us \$1.53 million for the Pouring Rights," he said. "They had exclusive rights to sell only Coca-Cola products in our schools for 10 years."

The idea spread throughout the state.

"A number of schools throughout NYS copied us,"

Mangicaro said. "Almost every high school field in Section 3 has a synthetic field and most of them were done through a Pouring Rights Contract. The schools used the money to pay for the field so it didn't cost the taxpayers anything."

The Pouring Rights program was discontinued a few years ago.

"The state made it unlawful to sell soda during the school day," he said. "It's too bad because the money was used for a lot of good things."

Mangicaro is also a charter member of the NYS Coaches Association.

"I think we have done a lot to promote the game," he said. "We have the 7-on-7 tournament in Ithaca every year. We have the largest Coaches Clinic in the state at Turing Stone every year. We had over 600 coaches come to the clinic the last two years."

Mangicaro also said he has one last thing he would like to see accomplished before he leaves the game completely.

"Before I die, I want to see Long Island and the PSAL get into the tournament," he said. "It would make it a true state tournament. That would be fantastic."

He says, in order to stage a state tournament, NYS faces hurdles that other states don't face.

"Very few states have as many teams as we do," he said. "It's easier to run a state tournament when you don't have 700 schools."

He also says he understands why NYS seems to fall behind other states in the level of football played.

"Our football is getting better," he said. "Unfortunately, the state limits us to just 10 games. Other states have a 10-game regular season and then they start the playoffs. We would really benefit by a few more games."

The best part about being a retired coach is hearing from former players.

"I still get phone calls from former players," he said. "I still stay in touch with them. I still go to the games but all my players are either young adults or old adults. I'm watching their kids play now."



George Mangicaro.