

READY. SET. HUT!

Salem delivers dominant second half in action-packed opener as schools start season

By David Willis

» Staff Writer

The message was delivered, loud and clear, for the entire New Hampshire football world to hear.

“Salem’s coming!” said an overjoyed AJ Shikrallah.

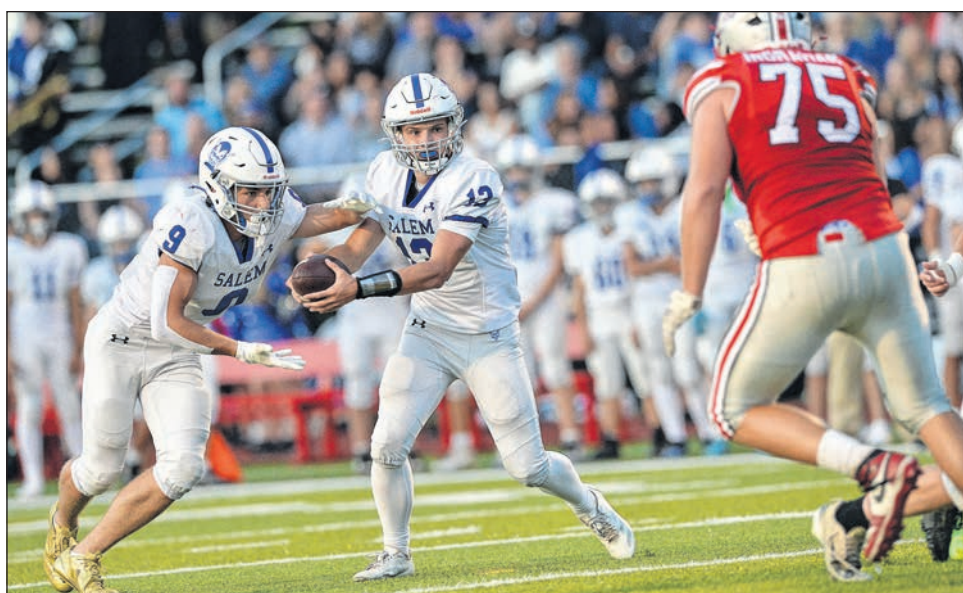
Added Elijah Maduro, joining the celebration, “Salem’s here! We’re ready!”

The Blue Devils delivered a dominant defensive performance, capped by a totally smothering second half, knocking off their rival and the preseason No. 1-ranked team in the state, Pinkerton Academy, 28-7 in front of a packed crowd of over 2,000 fans on Friday, Sept. 4.

“This feels amazing,” said Colin Salkowitz. “They ended our season last year. We did what we needed to do, came out and put it to them today. We wanted this more than anything. It’s a crazy feeling to do this. I love it. Everyone better watch out for Salem!”

Salem was out for revenge against a Pinkerton squad that beat them twice a year ago, including a dominant 28-0 effort in the Division I semifinals. The Blue Devils also beat the eventual state champion Astros at home two years ago.

“Last year losing in the playoffs hurt so much,” said Maduro, who clinched Friday’s win with an



Salem's Donovan Parlatore receives the ball from quarterback Van Mason, right, as Pinkerton's Elliot Ingraham closes.



Pinkerton senior quarterback Noah Rao breaks a tackle and runs for a gain against Salem.



Salem's Brody Longtin looks to avoid being tackled by Pinkerton's Gavin Edgecomb during Salem's big win.



Pinkerton's running back Brady Spellman breaks away for a big gain.

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 7

It's your government and you have a right to know

Jim Zachary



All government business is your business.

Government can only be of, by and for the people when it is out in front of the people.

State Sunshine Laws that demand governmental transparency should not only codify the public's right to know, but also facilitate access to both records and meetings. Meanwhile, there should be real penalties when elected and appointed officials block or stall access.

Unfortunately, in the vast majority of states public access laws have little to no teeth, and in the states that

do have stiff penalties for violations, enforcement is sparse at best.

That needs to change.

Every last penny government spends is your money.

It is your right to know every transaction, every decision, every expenditure and every deliberation of your government.

Whether at the White House, the Statehouse or the county courthouse, all the documents held in government halls belong to the people, and all the business conducted by our governors is public business.

The understanding that we are the government and the government is us is primary to our Republic.

The only powers held by federal, state or local government are the powers we give to them.

So, whether it is Congress, the state's General Assembly, county commission, city council or the board of education, it is your right to know all the people's business.

When you attend local city, county or school board meetings, and ask questions and hold elected representatives accountable, you are not minding their business, you are minding your own business.

When you make a public records request, you are not asking local records custodians to give you something that just belongs to them or the office where they work. You are simply asking for your own documents. Those custodians need to understand that.

The Bill of Rights guarantees the freedom of the press for very important

reasons. The founders built a hedge of protection around the media because the press, as the Fourth Estate, guards and fights for the public's right to know, holding government accountable.

Journalists help keep an eye on government, shine the light on its actions, fight the good fight for access to documents and meetings, champion transparency and defend the First Amendment because of a core belief in your basic, fundamental rights — principally, your right to know.

Access to public information, though, is not just for the press. It is for each and every one of you too.

Jim Zachary, our director of newsroom standards & practices, can be reached at jzachary@cnhi.com.

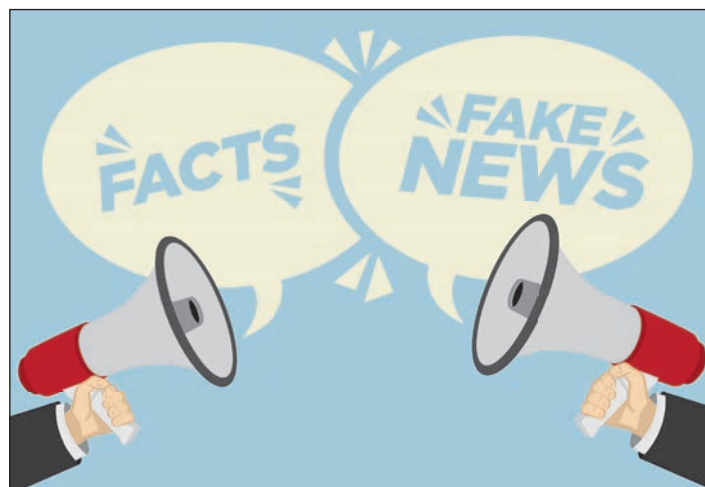
Looking to combat fake news?

Here are some resources to help you determine if what you've read is true:

» **Politifact** is the Pulitzer Prize-winning fact checking operation run by the nonprofit Poynter Institute. The site fact-checks statements by politicians and debunks myriad Facebook hoaxes. <https://www.politifact.com/>

» **FactCheck.org**, run by Annenberg Public Policy Center, performs much of the same tasks, and also let's you ask questions of the fact checkers. An example question: Did the Supreme Court rule that it is illegal to take the oath of office with anything but the Bible? (The answer is no.) <https://www.factcheck.org/>

» **Snopes** is the original fact-checking website. Use the site's search bar to get to the bottom of political statements, viral videos and urban myths. <https://www.snopes.com/>



» **A Google reverse image search** is the best way to find out if that photo you saw making the rounds on Twitter or Facebook is real. This story from PC Magazine walks you through how to do it on your desktop or your phone. <https://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2492468,00.asp>

» **Still need help?** Contact us at the Eagle-Tribune, and we'll get the answer for you, no matter the topic. Email editor Tracey Rauh at trauh@eagletribune.com.



REAL NEWS IN SCHOOLS

How the program works

Everything you need to know about Real News in Schools

Who: It involves local schools participating in the Eagle-Tribune's Newspapers in Education program, Real News in Schools.

What: Students and faculty at these schools are granted full access to EagleTribune.com and receive print copies of the monthly Real News in Schools publication you are currently reading.

Where: These free digital subscriptions are accessible on all electronic devices within participating schools. Schools currently enrolled include Haverhill High School, Methuen High School, North Andover High School, Salem High School and Austin Prep.

When: As soon as a school administrator contacts the Eagle-Tribune to set-up access and a sponsor is secured for that school, it is enrolled into the program. This process typically takes two to three weeks to complete.

Why: Local businesses understand the importance of local journalism and endeavor to strengthen their communities. The Real News is Schools program is designed to battle the fake news proliferating on social media, and introduce students to trusted news sources.

How: Teachers use the local newspaper and partner website EagleTribune.com/RealNews to design course work. This curriculum utilizes news stories to teach reading, vocabulary, math, geography and civics.

If you are a school administrator or business looking to get involved in this program, please contact the Eagle-Tribune at (978) 946-2200.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
EAGLETRIBUNE.COM/REALNEWS

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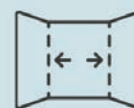
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'Athlete's Oath'

Michael Muldoon

Editor's note: To honor Michael Muldoon's incredible life — he passed away in the spring of 2022 at the age of 60 — and his 35 years here at The Eagle-Tribune, we are running his favorite column for students in your high school. This piece has appeared in the paper every year since 2001. Mike's message, now 25 years old, should always be heard. He would make slight adjustments some years. This was the last one he wrote, verbatim. Thank you, Mike!



Teachers, coaches, parents, classmates and entire towns do a tremendous disservice by giving a star athlete special treatment.

True story.

After playing big-time college football, the most popular, best looking kid in my high school class was living under a bridge. He had turned into a drug addict who robbed the unsuspecting, aging parents of his friends.

I always wondered if his receiving kid-glove treatment due to his athletic prowess was the reason.

Here is some advice for athletes, coaches and administrators worth keeping in mind this school year:

If the kid deserves to be failed, fail him. If he deserves to be suspended, suspend him. If he deserves to be arrested, arrest him.

If all your friends are athletes, you are shallow.

A lot of middle-aged guys who can't play ball with their kids today thought they were doing the right thing playing with pain. Listen to your body.

Pay it forward!

Kill them with kindness.

Girls, if he mistreats you, break it off immediately and never look back.

Begins at home

The greatest gift a child can have is devoted parents. Nothing else is close.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Salem High School took on Pinkerton Academy to open its football season at Pinkerton Academy last week. These athletes, along with those all over the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire, will do proud by their teams in living up to Mike Muldoon's "Athlete's Oath."

At my last reunion, most of the pretty girls and handsome guys were no longer pretty or handsome. But the classmates who had hearts of gold, still had hearts of gold.

From the ages of 12-18, there is nothing more important than being popular. From the ages of 19-99, there is nothing less important than having been popular from ages 12-18.

Ted Williams was dead wrong. The toughest thing in sports isn't hitting a baseball. It's being a parent of an athlete. Good parents shut their mouths, stay glued to their seats and let the players play, the coaches coach and the officials officiate.

It is easier to get into an Ivy League school than to earn a full scholarship. and that's a fact.

Value tradition.

Whether you like them or not, always look out for classmates in need.

Be the smart kid

Don't tease the smart kid. Work to be that smart kid.

Go out of your way to befriend the fat kid, the kid with the acne problem or the kid with the troubled home life.

Make sure you show the same respect to your high school coach as you do to your club team coach.

No matter how unsatisfying the season may have been for you, never skip the team banquet. That's the ultimate slap in the face to your teammates and coaches.

Your coach doesn't have it in for you. Repeat, your coach doesn't have it in for you.

Always give a kid a second chance.

Be a multi-sport athlete. You think that 155th AAU game of the year is making you a better player? The number of athletes who do one sport year-round who blow out their knees or quit from burn-out is frightening. Ask any college coach — they prefer multi-sport athletes.

Class and grace

Class and grace never go out of style.

When you're 90, it will still eat you up inside that you bullied that classmate as a teenager. There's a special place in heaven for the classmate who sticks up for the bullied peer.

Man, nothing is going to be sweeter than proving those critics wrong.

Being a captain is an honor not a right. If you aren't chosen, don't pout, moan, whine, hold your breath or try to get the coach fired. Parents, same goes for you.

Better to have three true friends

than 3,003 Facebook friends.

The perpetually offended will suck the joy out of any room.

A suggestion, before every school year, read "The Ugly Duckling."

Good teachers keep their politics out of the classroom. Good schools demand it.

Coaches Award winners tend to be more successful in life than team MVPs.

Humility is a virtue. False humility makes you a bore.

Only young once

You have the rest of your life to get a job.

Future employers may not be a big fan of that cool tattoo you got in high school. Think before you ink.

If a coach positively affected your life, write him/her a thank you note. You'll have a friend for life.

Don't use the n-word, regardless of your race.

Never be ashamed of being . Never be ashamed of being rich.

Any coach or athletic director who drones on about "kids nowadays" should get out of the business.

Any coach who swears too much is a lousy coach and an even worse role model.

The undersized bench-warmer who doesn't miss practice in four years should be more admired than the All-State quarterback who can barely fit his head in his helmet.

Thinking about spending too much for the prom? Cap it at \$500 and give the rest to the Jimmy Fund. You'll feel so good.

Do right things now

Do the right things now, reap the benefits for the next 70 years.

You'll never regret having said no to alcohol, drugs and sex in high school.

The pain you can inflict with social media is immeasurable. Don't hit send if you are in a bad mood, had too good of a time at a party or have a voice in the back of your head saying this might not be such a good idea.

If your coach instructs you to cheapshot an opponent, quit the team immediately.

Treat the team manager with the same respect as the star of the team.

A coach who makes fun of a boy's weight is a boor. A coach who makes fun of a girl's weight is dangerous.

Few things are more true than you reap what you sow.

Heart over biceps

The size of your nose, biceps or breasts is inconsequential to anybody who truly cares about you. The size of your heart is all that matters.

Any coach/athletic director who voluntarily hosts invitational events is a gem.

Any athletic director who doesn't have rosters for the fans for state tourney games isn't doing its job.

Administrators must stand up to meddling parents or it will be a slippery slide to chaos.

Play for the love of the game and only the love of the game.

You're not going to make the pros. Our region sends about one baseball player and one football player to the pros every 10 years. We've produced two NBA players in 70-plus years. You have a far better chance of becoming a brain surgeon.

Shock the world

A good captain will lead his team to a state title. A great one will take a stand against hazing.

It's never too late to change.

Look around your homeroom. Take a look at your teammates at practice. Now, finally, look in the mirror.

You've likely just witnessed several people whose lives will be ruined by drugs. Be smart.

A real athlete never misses a game or a practice for a dance, a concert or Senior Skip Day.

A loss should hurt like hell. Getting thrown out of a game should hurt even more.

Steroids make you a bigger athlete and a smaller person.

You're worth it.

Always feed the bench-warmer the ball at the end of a blowout.

Don't listen to the coach who cut you. Work like the dickens and shock the world next year.

Let the games begin.

VARSITY BOYS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Friday Sept 18

Methuen High	hosting	Tewksbury	7pm
Haverhill	at	Dracut	6:30 PM
North Andover	at	Masconomet Regional	6:30 PM
Salem High	hosting	Concord	7pm



Friday Sept 25

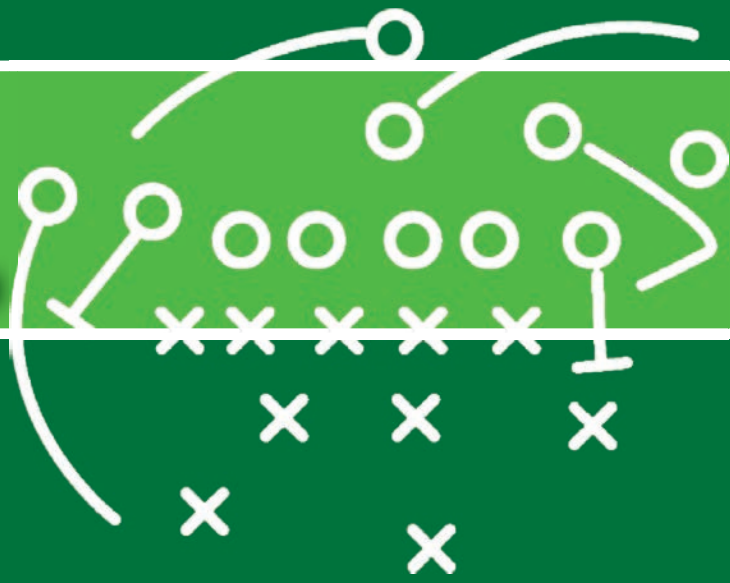
Methuen High	hosting	Leominster	7pm
Haverhill	at	Andover High	6:30 PM
North Andover	hosting	Burlington	6:30 PM
Salem High	at	Windham	7pm

Friday Oct 2

Methuen High	hosting	Leominster	7pm
Haverhill	hosting	Andover High	7pm
North Andover	hosting	Burlington	6:30 PM
Salem High	Sat Oct 3	Londonderry	10:00 AM

Friday Oct 9

Methuen High	at	Central Catholic	7pm
Haverhill	at	Concord	7pm
North Andover	hosting	Dracut	6:30 PM
Salem High	hosting	Bishop Guertin	7pm



» Football

Continued from Page 1

interception he returned for a touchdown. “Last year in the playoff game I broke my collarbone and tore the muscles around it. So when I heard we were playing Pinkerton again in the opener I was so hyped. I couldn’t wait.”

Pinkerton took a 7-0 lead into halftime on a 20-yard Ryson Michaud first quarter touchdown run.

But after the break, it was all Blue Devils.

Salem held the ball for all but one play in the third quarter — a fumble that was recovered by Jewry Nunez — and allowed the Astros just 71 yards of total offense in the second half.

Meanwhile, the Blue Devil offense was taking control.

Salkowitz capped a 15-play drive with a 4-yard touchdown to make it 7-6. Then, after the fumble recovery, he finished off an 11-play drive with a 2-yard plunge for a



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Pinkerton head coach Brian O'Reilly talks with his players during a timeout against Salem on Friday.

TD. After the Shikrallah two-point conversion it was 14-8 Salem.

“Neither was a big 60-yard run, but they all count the same,” said Salkowitz. “We had a really good talk in the locker room, then got to work. I just put my head and shoulders down and ran as hard as I could. The energy they brought us was wild.”

After a 3-and-out, Shikrallah — who ran for a team-best 115 yards — broke free for a 40-yard touchdown to make it 21-7.

“I actually stumbled at the beginning of that play,” he said. “But then I looked up and I had a wide open hole. Shout out to the line. Once I saw that while I couldn’t stop my feet. I just kept

sprinting and did it.”

Maduro, who was dominant with 10 tackles, then iced the victory when he stepped in front of the receiver and took it 64 yards for a touchdown.

“That as surreal,” he said.

“I saw the tight end going for a deep out, and I saw a guy going for a short out, and I knew from the break that he was going to throw it to the deeper one. I just saw an open field, ran and went for the touchdown.”

Both teams sent in the backups for the final minutes, and the celebration was on for Salem.

“It was a great team effort,” said coach Steve Abraham. “We had a lot of players that played their tails off, and that kept us fresh late in the game. We played with a lot of composure, and I think we were frustrating them. The kids brought it and did a great job. Our defense played great, and our offense kicked in, in the second half.”



Salem running back AJ Shikrallah runs for a gain against Pinkerton. He led the Blue Devils to a big win.



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