

2024 NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW



THEY'RE BACK

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT ALL 15 LOCAL SQUADS



THE SALEM NEWS



GLoucester Daily Times

Thursday, September 5, 2024

DANVERS: 182 North Street, 978-777-3000 • NEWBURY: 2 Morgan Ave., 978-463-3001

LET US CATER YOUR NEXT FAMILY OR COMPANY PARTY
Open 7 days a week: Sun.-Sat. 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

ADD SOME FLAVOR TO THE GAME!

FAMOUS MARINADES

Sirloin Tips | Boneless Chicken
Boneless Pork | Wings & Thighs



NEW SEASONED STEAKS

Seasoned with Montreal Seasoning
Available in All Cuts

BEER & WINE

A Great Selection of Beer & Wine
to Complement Our Food Items

PREPARED FOODS

Salads | Soups | Quiche
Dips | Desserts

MEATS

Full Line of Packaged &
Custom-Cut Meats

PRODUCE

Expanded Produce
Department

The
BUTCHERY
The Difference is Delicious

NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2024 SEASON PREVIEW

GUIDE TO TEAMS & GAMES



WEEK-BY-WEEK SCHEDULE, PAGES 12-13

DANVERS

New faces look to carry on tradition for Falcons.

Page 4

BEVERLY

Could bounceback season be in cards for Panthers?

Page 5

MASCONOMET

Chieftains excited to kick off Sheehan era. Page 6

MARBLEHEAD

Always tough Magicians aim to defend NEC crown.

Page 7

SWAMPSCOTT

New QB, same goals for spread heavy Big Blue attack. Page 8

SALEM

What's in store for an encore to Witches' best season in 25 years? Page 9

PEABODY

Tanners out to prove recent success is no fluke.

Page 10

GLoucester

Fishermen hope to build on last year's success. Page 11

ST. JOHN'S PREP

All eyes under center for talent-laden Eagles.

Page 18

BISHOP FENWICK

Back in playoff contention, Crusaders ready to rock. Page 19

PINGREE

Downey takes over Highlanders, aims to defend Farm. Page 20

CHAMPIONS CORNER

A look at the 21st century's Northeastern Conference, Cape Ann League football champions.

Page 21

THEY'RE BACK!

A photo page of some of the returning players to watch for in 2024. Page 22

ON THE COVER

Top from left: Essex Tech's Jacoby Casi-nelli-Tarasuik, Ipswich's Will Gromko, Hamilton-Wenham's Billy Brown, Marble-head's Colt Wales, Beverly's Greg White and St. John's Prep's Merrick Barlow

Middle from left: Pingree's Cole Pias-eczynski, Swampscott's Henry Beuttler, Manchester-Essex's Walker Valeo and Gloucester's Jayden Severino

Bottom from left: Peabody's Anthony Silva, Bishop Fenwick's Aidan Byrne and Jesse Timson, Danvers' Mike Albano, Masconomet's Arbri Halilaj and Salem's Rocco Ryan

News staff photo illustration



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO

Marblehead running back Brady Selvais



JAIME CAMPOS

Salem head coach Matt Bouchard



JARED CHARNEY PHOTO

Beverly's Jayden Santos

ESSEX TECH

Hawks hope to claw their way into CAL contention.

Page 16

MANCHESTER ESSEX

Hornets remain confident embarking on new season. Page 17



Plenty of new faces eager to step up for Falcons

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

If you're an underclassman wanting to play varsity football at Danvers High, the opportunity is certainly there for you.

The Falcons will be counting on its large sophomore class to help replenish a roster that reached the Division 5 state semifinals a year ago but subsequently lost 16 players to graduation, plus three others who would've played big roles this fall.

There's been a lot more teaching of the basics in Danvers camp, everything from tackling technique to having the proper mindset to compete in the Northeastern Conference.

"It's not a bad thing for us to go back and force ourselves to coach these things," said eighth year head coach Ryan Nolan, who is six wins shy of joining Ernie Smith (54) as the only men with 50 career wins on the Falcons' football sidelines.

"What we're doing is trying to identify the kids who are 100 percent bought in and will work their hardest every day, guys we can count on. It's like the old expression: talk is cheap. We want to see that sense of urgency."

The Falcons are switching to a Double Wing offense in order to best utilize the talent they have. That means



Danvers head coach Ryan Nolan poses with 2024 captains (from left) Owen Shanbar, Mike Albano and Aidan Perry.

linemen firing off the ball, using leverage to double team blockers, and the backs finding the holes to run through.

A welcome sight has been the return of Aidan Perry in the trenches. A two-way starter as a sophomore, he missed all of 2023 after getting injured on the first day of training camp last August. The 6-foot-1, 260-pounder, who plays tackle but can easily slide over to guard or center, is already serving as a mentor to his younger teammates up front.

"Aidan's an absolutely

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6	Salem	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 13	Tewksbury	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 20	at Reading	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Winthrop	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 4	Beverly	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 11	at Masconomet	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Peabody	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	Marblehead	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 28	at Gloucester	10 a.m.

great leader for us on the field and in the weight room," said Nolan. "He's been showing the younger guys that he's working with the right way to do things and is holding them to a

high standard."

Sophomore Nick Xerras has also made "a tremendous physical jump" from last season, said Nolan. The 6-1, 215-pound tight end is physically powerful (bench pressing 340 lbs. while both squatting and deadlifting 500 lbs.) and has been locked in since camp started. Seniors Brendan O'Brien and 6-foot-6 Michael Burke will play at the other tight end spot.

Dylan Kinney and Logan Travers, two more sophomores, have been getting after it in the guard slots. Kinney, said Nolan,

Falcon Facts

- **Last year's record:** 8-4 (Lost in Division 5 state semifinals)
- **Head coach:** Ryan Nolan (8th season, 44-31)
- **Team captains:** Mike Albano, Sr. WR/S; Aidan Perry, Sr. OT/DL; Owen Shanbar, Sr. WR/RB/S/Nickel
- **Leading returning rusher:** Owen Shanbar (36 carries, 100 yards, 0 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** None
- **Leading returning receiver:** Mike Albano (6 rec., 58 yards, 0 TDs)
- **Did you know:** There will be plenty of new names reaching the end zone for the Falcons this fall, who must find a way to replace all but one of their 32 offensive touchdowns a year ago. Nineteen of their 20 rushing scores and all 12 of their receiving TDs have either graduated or transferred out.

is "killing it" in the weight room, while the physically engaged Travers is a true throwback player.

Junior Mason Ellsworth should start at center for Danvers, with sophomore Cole Maylor able to play guard or center. Logan Graham, an 11th grader, and sophomores Logan Graham and Hunter DeDominicus are also battling for playing time.

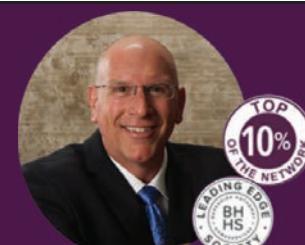
Senior captain Owen Shanbar, whom Nolan said has "all the measurables that (since graduated 4-year starter) Owen Gasinowski had last year," will line up tight in the backfield with fellow senior and shifty Marco Bettencourt. Upperclassman George Dabboul and sophomore Matt Christoforo will be worked in as fullbacks.

The team's third captain, Mike Albano, is a senior

wideout who'll be joined by two talented sophomores: Jack Houston and Evan Teixeira, the latter a Danvers native whose family recently returned to town from Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Strong armed sophomore Nate Wise takes over at quarterback.

Many of the Falcons' offensive starters will also do so defensively. Albano and Shanbar, for instance, will lead the secondary as safeties; Wise could play the same position in some nickel packages; Dabboul is locked in at linebacker; Xerras has shown what he's capable of on the defensive line alongside Perry; junior Caleb Hosler moved up from the back end to linebacker and has shown his wares; and Bettencourt will have a lot of responsibility as an outside linebacker.



Selling Your Northshore Home?

Ron Supino

Top Sales Agent in the BHHS
Commonwealth RE Office in Lynnfield...

Sales Volume
\$10,488,880M



Home issues in the way of your getting the best price? Let me simplify the process for you!

Call Ron Supino - 978-590-1628



Panthers ready to claw back into contention

By Phil Stacey

Executive Sports Editor

Danny Pierce was at his older brother Kenny's wedding earlier this summer when some of his sibling's Beverly High football teammates from the 2012 unbeaten Super Bowl champions approached him.

"My brother has told me about how hard working and all-in those guys were," said Danny Pierce, now a junior quarterback and team captain for the Panthers. "Those guys at the wedding asking about this coming season and saying that we had to have everyone buy in and work as hard as they possibly can to achieve the kind of success we want to have."

Dating back to its first football team in 1891, Beverly High had never lost 10 games in one season before it happened last fall. But based on the number of players in camp, the enthusiasm surrounding them, and both the talent and depth on display, it's clear that the 2024 Panthers are only focused only on the present and the future, not the recent past.

"We're miles ahead of where we were a year ago," fellow captain Jack Consedine, a senior tight end and nose tackle, admitted. "Everyone has been focused on rebuilding this team and



JAIME CAMPOS PHOTOS

Captains (from left) Jack Consedine, Danny Pierce and Roman Sullivan say that their Beverly High teammates are fully committed to turning things around this season.



Beverly High football head coach Jeff Hutton talks to his players during practice.

getting Beverly football back to what it's used to being."

Fifty-five players make up this year's roster — nearly double the number who suited up last Thanksgiving morning — and another

27 in the freshman class is a promising sign.

"The growth within the program has been terrific," said head coach Jeff Hutton. "For instance, we're at the point where we'll only have

to have three or four guys starting both ways this season; that's a testament to the depth we have and the guys who've put in the work to earn those (starting) spots."

Getting Roman Sullivan, the team's third captain, back will immediately be a shot in the arm for the Orange-and-Black. After having surgery on his torn ACL last August and missing his entire junior season, the powerfully built and speedy runner is eager to start lugging the leather out of the Panthers' shotgun Wing-T offense once again.

"I've got something to prove this season," said the 17-year-old Sullivan, a 5-foot-9, 180-pounder. "We all do. There's no more cutting corners."

Sullivan will line up next to Pierce (who started at QB over the second half of 2023) in the backfield, with senior Jayden Santos as the wingback. Juniors Sean Costa and Floyd White, plus senior Greg White, will also vie for carries.

Split receivers will also make up the base formation, with junior Callan McCay at the 'A' and seniors Liam Timpone and Ray Kwiatek at the X. Consedine, a starter since his sophomore year, is the tight end.

"Ray's bigger, stronger and has really improved his left-right lateral running skills," said Hutton.

Panther Prowlings

- **Last year's record:** 1-10 (did not make Division 2 playoffs)
- **Head coach:** Jeff Hutton (4th season, 9-23; 39-51 overall including 6 seasons at Manchester Essex)
- **Team captains:** Jack Consedine, Sr. TE/DT; Roman Sullivan, Sr. RB/S; Danny Pierce, Jr. QB/S.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Jayden Santos (75 carries, 259 yards, 3 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Danny Pierce (58-for-106, 723 yards, 6 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Jack Consedine (12 rec., 172 yards, 2 TD)
- **Did you know:** As of press time, Beverly was looking to put the finishing touches on Forti Field, the turf surface at the high school that now has lights. The Orange-and-Black are hoping to be able to schedule a few Friday night home games before the playoffs begin; as such, their team schedule is subject to change.

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 7	Gloucester	11 a.m.
Sept. 13	at Haverhill	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	North Andover	11 a.m.
Sept. 27	at Wakefield	6 p.m.
Oct. 4	at Danvers	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Marblehead	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	Masconomet	11 a.m.
Nov. 2	Peabody	11 a.m.
Nov. 28	at Salem	10 a.m.

"They'll be faster, stronger and tougher than last year," Pierce said of the O-line.

"Those guys have been the loudest group in practices."

The 3-3 Stack that the Panthers run defensively will have Consedine at the nose, flanked by junior Alex Marquez at one defensive tackle and either Torres or junior Colin Maloney at the other. The Mike linebacker is Greg White, with Monfette, McLane and junior Jerome Sutton all expected to see time in the other two slots. McCoy will occupy the 'Panther' (OLB) spot.

Floyd White and fellow junior Xavier Aux are the cornerbacks, with Timpone the free safety and Santos and Costa both standout strong safeties.

Super Sub
SHOP

324 Cabot Street • Beverly • 978-927-4788 • supersubbev.com

**BEST OF LUCK
FOR THE 2024
FOOTBALL SEASON!**





By Matt Williams

» Asst. Sports Editor

Change is in the air in Boxford.

With a new head coach, new systems on both offense and defense, and even a new Thanksgiving Day opponent, there's a very different look and feel to the Masconomet Regional football team this fall.

The Chieftains' 13 seniors and 65 total players are embracing that change.

Pat Sheehan, who coached against the Chieftains in his time at Triton and most recently ran the offense for a powerhouse Reading team, has brought the spread offense to the Tri-Town. He and the rest of his coaching staff have brought a fast-paced approach to practice.

"It's like they're drinking from a fire hose right now," Sheehan said, describing how much terminology and installation his Chieftains are absorbing in the early parts of the preseason.

"The heads are spinning a little bit, and that's OK. We expected that; the pace has been great, the vibe has been very exciting, and these kids are getting after it and getting better every day."

Junior Drew Gustafson, who had an all-star baseball season last spring, is the leading candidate at QB ... though Cruz Zizza is pushing him in training camp.



JAIME CAMPOS PHOTOS

Head coach Pat Sheehan and the Masconomet football team are excited to get going for the new season.

Both signal callers are capable of spreading the ball around to Masco's solid skills position players.

Jack Fabiano is one of Masco's most versatile players. While he's the top candidate to start at running back on early downs, he can also play receiver and could be the straw that stirs the drinks for the Chieftains' offense.

"Jack's a two-way Swiss Army knife," Sheehan said. "He can block, catch, carry the ball and maybe even throw it. He's just as versatile on defense, too, as a blitzer, run stuffer, tackler, in coverage ... you name it, he can do it."

On the perimeter, Cal Weidman and Ben Richardson are major threats that the Chieftains want to feed the ball to in open

space. Liam Ginley, who started last year on defense, is another big threat at wide receiver.

In terms of complimentary pieces, track star Arbri Halilaj can burn his way by any secondary, and basketball standout Devin O'Brien has the length and body control to win contested catches and bring down touchdown passes.

"These are kids that had great summers. They've transformed themselves from athletes into football players," said Sheehan, who noted strength coaches Steve Bunker and Tom Kerwin have been instrumental in that process. "Our off-season was as good as you could possibly expect for year one."

In terms of linemen, Nico Stefano, Jackson



Quarterback Drew Gustafson is primed to run Masconomet's new offense this fall.

Magee and Kaden Mason have experience, size and strength. Chaz Kelly ("He's strong as an ox," Sheehan says) will carve out a role at nose guard and possibly on offense, and 6-foot-6, 350-pounder Campbell Carey should be a big help in the trenches.

At defensive end, Masconomet boasts two tremendous building blocks in Cash Kornusky and Lucas Magnifico. Both are throw-back-type players with motors that never stop running that will make life much easier for linebackers like Davis Delutes.

Sheehan is joined by former championship head coaches Neil Weidman

(Lynnfield) and Mike Flynn (Pingree) with the staff filled out by veteran Brian Collins, alum Jay Theriault, his dad Mike Theriault and Marty Cooke.

While the learning process is ongoing (Masco wasn't planning to name captains until the first week of September), the buy-in has been through the roof and the Red-and-White plan to compete from Day 1.

"We had individual meetings with every player, and to a T every one of them said they either want to make the playoffs or win the league," Sheehan said. "Those two things go hand-in-hand. We have four tough league games (against Danvers,

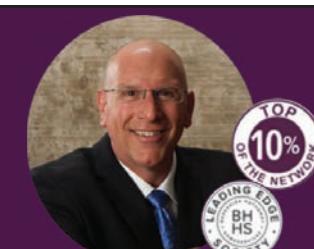
Chieftain Chatter

- **Last year's record:** 2-8 (Did not qualify for MIAA playoffs)
- **Head coach:** Pat Sheehan (1st season)
- **Team captains:** To be voted on after scrimmages
- **Leading returning rusher:** Jack Fabiano (26 carries, 92 yards, 2 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Drew Gustafson (19-of-27, 193 yards, 2 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Devin O'Brien (7 rec., 181 yards, 2 TD)
- **Did you know:** Chieftain assistant coach and alumnus Jay Theriault interned with the LA Rams in the summer of 2021, the season in which the team won the Super Bowl.

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept 6	Newburyport	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 13	Billerica	6:30 p.m.
Sept 20	at Revere	6:30 p.m.
Sept 27	Winchester	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 4	at Peabody	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	Danvers	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Beverly	11 a.m.
Oct. 25	at Marblehead	7 p.m.
Nov. 28	at Northeast Tech	10 a.m.

Marblehead, Peabody and Beverly), so if you want to make the playoffs you're going to have to be pretty competitive in those four games."



Selling Your Northshore Home?

Ron Supino

Top Sales Agent in the BHHS
Commonwealth RE Office in Lynnfield...

Sales Volume
\$10,488,880M



Home issues in the way of your getting the best price? Let me simplify the process for you!

Call Ron Supino - 978-590-1628



Magicians hunger to achieve nonpareil status again

By Phil Stacey

Executive Sports Editor

Painful as it might be to admit, the seniors on the Marblehead High football team know, in hindsight, why last year's subpar .500 mark — the first non-winning season in 13 years — happened.

"We had really high expectations for ourselves," said quarterback Colt Wales, "but honestly, we didn't put in enough work to be good enough."

That doesn't appear to be a problem this time around. They've essentially been getting after it since last year ended and ramped up the intensity over the summer with excellent participation at workouts, 7-on-7's, summer tournaments and the like.

Now, a team with a staggering 27 seniors is eager to make their final high school campaign a memorable one while putting last year (which still earned them an NEC Dunn title) in the rearview mirror.

"The major difference from a year ago is we know who we are, and we know what we are," said Bodie Smith, a senior captain along with Justin Gonzalez, Brady Selvais, Crew Monaco and Wales. "We know we're good and have such potential ... but we have to prove it."



Marblehead football captains (from left) Bodie Smith, Justin Gonzalez, Brady Selvais, Crew Monaco, and Colt Wales know what needs to be done for their team to have what they believe is a successful season.

"It's personal this year," added Monaco, a member of Marblehead's 2024 Division 3 state championship hockey squad. "We play all five teams we lost to last year, and we'll be coming for them and everyone else."

Jim Rudloff, whose teams have won 11 NEC crowns in his 15 seasons, says he plans on being creative with his large senior class. "I feel it's my responsibility to get each of those 27 seniors on the field this year," he said. "Finding ways to get them in will be important."

Wales, who will play ball at Union College next year, split time under center with

Finn Gallup (currently a junior) last season; together they threw for over 1,500 yards and 11 scores. The plan is to just have one starting signal caller this time around, and both boys have been locked in a neck-and-neck battle for that honor.

Selvais will a mainstay at running back; junior Greg Callahan and senior Yandel Garcia, a 6-foot-1, 210-pounder, are among those also vying for carries. Monaco will also line up behind the QB in two back sets, and look for Smith to roll out as a leader blocker as an H-back in certain formations.

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6	at Bishop Fenwick	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	at King Philip	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	Shepherd Hill	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	at North Andover	6 p.m.
Oct. 10	Beverly	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	Peabody	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	Masconomet	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	at Danvers	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 27	Swampscott	6:30 p.m. at Fenway Park

With Monaco lined up in the slot, Cam Quigley, the fastest Magician, will be on the outside looking to catch any passes that come his way. So will Ryan Golden, a junior who played Y (tight

Magic Gatherings

- **Last year's record:** 5-5 (NEC Dunn champions; lost in Division 4 playoffs Round of 8)
- **Head coach:** Jim Rudloff (16th season, 128-35)
- **Team captains:** Justin Gonzalez, Sr. OG/NG; Crew Monaco, Sr. SL/OLB; Brady Selvais, Sr. RB/LB; Bodie Smith, Sr. H-back/MLB; Colt Wales, Sr. QB/S.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Colt Wales (77 carries, 334 yards, 5 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Colt Wales (100-for-165, 938 yards, 6 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Crew Monaco (18 rec., 193 yards, TD)
- **Did you know:** Marblehead will serve as the 'home' team when it takes on arch rival Swampscott the night before Thanksgiving at Fenway Park. The Magicians, who haven't lost to the Big Blue since 2012, will also host at Piper Field in 2025 in the 120th meeting between the two programs.

end) a year ago but is moving to Z (wideout). Sam Thompson, a senior who has already gotten an offer from Bates College, is the team's big tight end.

"I trust all of those guys and know if I throw it up there, any one of them will come down with the ball," said Wales.

A pair of 6-foot, 210-pounders, senior Gunther Fehrenbach and junior Declan Gibson, will join the 260-pound Gonzalez up front along with 270-pound senior Jayvery Mengro. The right tackle spot is up for grabs in what's been a healthy competition, said Rudloff.

"It's a really good group of guys up front," said 'Gonzo', who'll likely be flanked on the D-line by Gibson and

senior Ian McCommish. "Everyone working together towards a common goal and trying to get better every single day."

Now entering his third season as a starter, Monaco has been moved from the secondary to outside linebacker. The country music loving Selvais and Smith ("an animal for us last year," said Selvais) are both inside 'backers, giving MHS three excellent leaders in the middle of the field. Wales will patrol the defensive backfield.

"We have guys who want it more than anything," said Selvais, referring to another league title, followed by a lengthy playoff run. "Everyone's putting in the effort, watching plays on Hudl every day and busting their



National Grand Bank



91 Pleasant Street | Marblehead, MA 01945 | (781) 631-BANK | ngbank.com




By Matt Williams

» Asst. Sports Editor

It's one thing to build an offense with a lot of receivers that have the same skill-set, valuable as pure speed and sticky hands may be. It's a lot easier to build one when those pass catching puzzle pieces fit together and compliment each other.

Swampscott High has the makings of that kind of do-it-all dangerous attack this fall. Senior captains Liam Keaney and Joe Marino lead a deep and talented receiver group that also includes freakish athletes like Gabe Tripp and Keylen Davis. With Jay Domelowicz in the mix and running backs Henry Beuttler and Will Bush capable of catching balls out of the backfield, the possibilities are endless for the Big Blue.

"We all compliment each other really well. We all do different things and in this scheme, that's what gets a lot of guys open," said Keaney.

Calling the signals for Swampscott will be one of two sophomores: John Von Barta and Tegh Sambhi. Both had great success in this summer's 7-on-7 competitions, including taking the Small School title at the Northeast 7v7 East Regional and making the New England playoffs. Though neither threw a varsity pass last season (incumbent starter Jack



JAIME CAMPOS

From left: 2024 Swampscott High football captains Jeremy Kaplan, Timmy Sheehan, Joseph Marino and Liam Keaney.

Spear transferred to Pingree), the Big Blue are confident they'll be in good hands under center.

"They both had great summers. Even last year in practice, they both put a lot of good film together," said second-year head coach Peter Bush. "Both kids are students of the game: smart players that work really hard at what they do."

Returning four of five starters on the offensive line is a happy thought for any new quarterback. Captains Jeremy Kaplan and Timmy Sheehan anchor

Swampscott's experienced group up front with Luke Siriani, junior Vaughn Hazell and Phil Thomas also vying for starting spots.

"We're bigger, faster, stronger and we have better technique. That's going to help us a lot," said Kaplan. "We've been working really hard on being explosive and playing together as a unit."

It'll be a balanced offense, too, since both Beuttler and Bush can carry tacklers on power runs up the middle. That should help Swampscott be a better second half team this fall as they look to improve on last year's 6-5

mark and make back-to-back playoff appearances.

"It's about doing the right thing," Marino said of Swampscott's depth on offense. "We're all explosive in our own way. At different times, we're all going to get the ball and we're all going to have chances to score. The biggest thing to have a good season as a unit, not individually or with the stats."

With 15 seniors, it's one of Swampscott's most veteran-laden teams in recent memory. Many of them helped spark the school's run to the Final Four in

Big Blue Banter

- **Last year's record:** 6-5 (Lost in first round of Division 5 playoffs)
- **Head coach:** Peter Bush (2nd season, 6-5)
- **Team captains:** Jeremy Kaplan, Sr. OL/DL; Liam Keaney, Sr. WR/LB; Joe Marino, Sr. WR/DB; Timmy Sheehan, Sr. OL/DL.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Henry Beuttler (59 carries, 357 yards, 4 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** None
- **Leading returning receiver:** Joe Marino (17 rec., 267 yards, 2 TD)
- **Did you know:** The Big Blue have shifted back to the NEC's Lynch Division this fall, meaning they'll renew their rivalry with Salem as they look to win their first official league title since 2008. It's also the first time they won't be facing Beverly since 2018.

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6	St. Mary's Lynn	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	at Lynn English	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	Peabody	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	Melrose	7 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Gloucester	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	at Winthrop	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 25	Saugus	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	at Salem	7 p.m.
Nov. 27	vs Marblehead	6:30 p.m. at Fenway Park

The 15 seniors also got a welcome surprise in late August: They'd be the first Swampscott football team to play at Fenway Park. It was announced that the rivalry with Marblehead was selected as one of four high school games to the showcased in Boston the night before Thanksgiving.

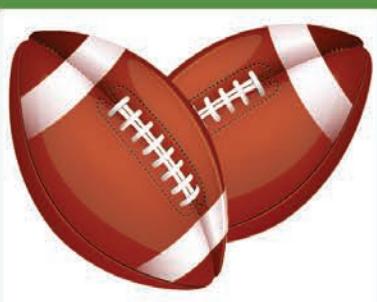
"Everyone's on the same page and everyone wants it this year," said Marino. "Usually we've been senior light; this year we're senior heavy. That's what's made our chemistry so good: we've all been playing together for more than 10 years."

"It's a group that wants to win," added coach Bush. "They're good leaders and they understand how important a lot of the hidden things that aren't in the box-score can be."

lacrosse last spring and also play basketball together, so the chemistry is sky high.

"Everybody wants to be here," said Sheehan. "We're focused on the task at hand, every day, and we're doing it with smiles on our faces."

Swampscott opens up the season against St. Mary's Lynn and then has Bly dell Cup rival Lynn English in the second week.



MARBLEHEAD BANK
Beverly/Marblehead/Salem
marblebank.com
781.631.5500

**GOOD LUCK IN THE
2024 SEASON!**

Member FDIC/Member DIF
Equal Housing Lender



Salem working hard to follow up on Super season

By Matt Williams

» Asst. Sports Editor

The culture has changed and the standard has been set. Now, all the Salem Witches have to do is go out and meet it.

Following up their program's most successful season in a quarter-century is the task for the 2024 Salem High football team, which returns a few starters and a lot of young, hungry and talented players from last year's 10-3 outfit that reached the Division 6 Super Bowl.

"These kids have the skill, the determination, and they know what good looks like," said veteran head coach Matt Bouchard. "There's an expectation now where they don't want to let themselves down. They want to keep the success going for the city, the alumni and the whole program."

Though the program's all-time leading passer Corey Grimes, has graduated and is now an assistant coach, and some of his top targets have moved on to college football, Salem returns one of the North Shore's premier players in three-year captain Rocco Ryan. The wide receiver/return man/wingback had well over 1,000 yards from scrimmage last season and 19 total touchdowns.

His most important



JAIME CAMPOS

Salem's Michael Curtin, shown here finding an opening against Beverly last Thanksgiving, figures prominently into the Witches' plans this fall.

Witches Brew

- **Last year's record:** 10-3 (Lost in Division 6 Super Bowl)
- **Head coach:** Matt Bouchard (11th season, 41-67)
- **Team captains:** Jayden Benson, Sr. OL/DL; Rocco Ryan, Sr. WR/DB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Rocco Ryan (30 carries, 276 yards, 3 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Andreas Bernal (0-for-2, 0 yards)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Rocco Ryan (37 rec., 828 yards, 11 TD)
- **Did you know:** Salem will be taking a 226-mile trip (one way) to Brewer, Maine for a battle of the Witches in Week 2. It's a return date from last season's "Ken Perrone Bowl" scrimmage at Bertram Field; and it will be Salem's first out-of-state venture since 2007, when they Witches traveled to Connecticut and defeated Fitch High, 24-21.

contributions, though, may come in the leadership department; Ryan is a high energy player whose force of will makes his teammates work harder by osmosis.

"Four years ago, no one was excited just to be out here the way we are now," said Ryan. "The vibes are way different, and that's because of what we've built.



Lineman Jayden Benson and high scoring offensive weapon Rocco Ryan are the Salem High captains for 2024.

The energy is very high and is contagious."

Senior Andreas Bernal is the leading candidate to take over at quarterback. Though he didn't complete a pass in 2023, he led Salem to the Final Four of the Northeast 7v7 tournament this summer and Bouchard says his practice film from his junior season looks great. Bernal has a big arm capable of challenging defenses vertically, something the coach notes is a big advantage with weapons like Ryan and senior speedster Mikey Curtin on the field.

"The summer was great for Andreas' confidence," said Bouchard. "He's developed very well over the last few years in practice and in jayvee games. Even though it's just 7-on-7, being in that

competitive atmosphere was huge for his confidence. He knows he can direct this offense at a high level."

Senior captain Jayden Benson returns to anchor an offensive line that may be learning on the job, but got a ton of experience facing the first teamers last season in practice. Juniors Julius Martinez and Matt Rosa had outstanding summers, while junior Tyrek Jones and sophomore Aidan Collazo are also mixing it up well in the trenches. Guard Markius Carrasquillo is another up-and-comer.

"We're trying to fill the shoes from last year and doing it by having fun and flying around," said Benson. "We're really excited to see what's in store for the season, to keep the ball rolling

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept 6	at Danvers	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Brewer, Maine	1 p.m.
Sept. 20	Greater Lawrence	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	at Gloucester	7 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Saugus	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 18	KIPP Academy	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 25	Winthrop	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 1	Swampscott	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 28	Beverly	10 a.m.

and try and have a successful year."

Replacing Devante Ozuna's production in the run game won't be easy, but the Witches are excited about what Angel Nolasco and Elvis Espinal have shown with the pigskin under their arms this preseason. Junior Alvin Laurent, big-time hitter Oscar Fernandez, and defensive dynamo Connor Buckley are other emerging Witches to keep an eye on.

"We've got a whole bunch of guys who love football," said Ryan, whose team opens up with Danvers on Sept. 6 and should be in the mix for the NEC Lynch title alongside Swampscott and Winthrop. A division title would be the team's first since 1999.

"It starts now. We have to lock in, make sure we get the basics down so we're not worrying about assignments and formations. When you know your stuff, we you keep your mind free and just play football."



Tanners will be carried by mass, experience on line

By Matt Williams

» Asst. Sports Editor

When you've won 20 of your last 22 games and 24 consecutive regular season contests, it'd be easy to think there's not much left to prove.

The Peabody High football team feels differently. The Tanners are determined to show the success of recent years can translate to both the Northeastern Conference's Dunn Division and to the playoffs — and feel they have the muscle up front to make it happen.

Though Peabody's championship dreams took a big blow when preseason All-State pick Alex Jackson (the state shot put and discus champion) decided not to play football to focus on conditioning for the track season, the Tanners still return six players with starting experience on the offensive line.

The unit averages close to 300 pounds. Two-year captain Jimmy Festa (6-foot-3, 295 pounds), captain Dylan Annese (6-foot-1, 250 pounds), monsters Jayden Cautillo (6-foot-4, 340 pounds) and Matt Mastrocola (6-foot-4, 310 pounds), plus up-and-comers Jackson O'Brien and Matt Dresser are ready to open holes and help the Blue-and-White control the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball.



Peabody football captains (from left) Gabe Santos, Jimmy Festa, Jayce Jean-Pierre and Dylan Annese.

Bull Bits

- **Last year's record:** 10-1 (NEC Lynch champs, lost in Division 2 Round of 8)
- **Head coach:** Mark Bettencourt (12th season, 69-47)
- **Team captains:** Dylan Annese, Sr. OL/DL; Jimmy Festa, Sr. OL/LB; Jayce Jean-Pierre, Sr. WR/LB; Gabe Santos, Sr. RB/LB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Gabe Santos (49 carries, 195 yards, 0 TD).
- **Leading returning passer:** Luke Maglione (102-of-156, 1,162 yards, 12 TD).
- **Leading returning receiver:** Jayce Jean-Pierre (16 rec., 177 yards, 3 TD).
- **Did you know:** Should Peabody manage to win a fourth consecutive NEC championship, it would be a first in over 100 years of varsity football at the school. The only conference three-peats were the 1993-94-95 Greater Boston League titles and the current 2021-22-23 NEC streak.

"We're ready for the challenge. It stinks not having Alex ... but we can go seven guys deep even without him," said Annese. "Mastro, Cautillo and Dresser are more than ready to step up."

Scoring points may be Peabody's biggest concern since graduated seniors Eli Batista, Alex Silva

and kicker Dom Scalese accounted for 233 of the team's 311 total points last fall. A cadre of powerful running backs led by captain Gabe Santos with Caio Santos, Anthony Santos and sophomore Gabe Casiano are excited to re-establish the Tanners' smash-mouth identity behind that



JARED CHARNEY PHOTO
Peabody's Luke Maglione is back to direct the offense after throwing for more than 1,000 yards as a sophomore.

powerful offensive line.

"I'm very excited. This role is a big step, but it's something I'm ready for," said Gabe Santos. "Our energy has been through the roof in practice. As an offense, our communication — calling out blitzes and things like that — has been excellent."

Junior Luke Maglione returns at quarterback after throwing for 1,162 yards and a dozen touchdowns last year. Captain Jayce Jean-Pierre is his top returning target, while burner Dorlyn Morel moves to the slot and looks primed for a breakout season. Other potential pass catchers include

senior Tyler Rappold, senior Anthony Silva, tight end Cory Dooley and supremely talented sophomore waterbug Aniel Espinal.

"We're still going to throw the ball a lot, but we're also looking to find more balance," said head coach Mark Bettencourt. "The past few years, we've worn teams down with our speed. This year we're looking to wear them down more with our size, and that means leaning on that running game."

Defensively, Peabody allowed only 15 touchdowns in 11 games last year and aims to maintain that stinginess against a tougher schedule that now includes

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6	Melrose	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	Winchester	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	at Swampscott	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Lynn Classical	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	Masconomet	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	at Marblehead	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	Danvers	7 p.m.
Nov. 2	at Beverly	11 a.m.
Nov. 28	at Saugus	10 a.m.

Melrose, Winchester, Masconomet and Danvers (in place of Revere, Gloucester, Winthrop and Salem).

A three-year starter at linebacker, Festa could see more action at defensive end as the Tanners look to control the pocket in their stack nickel sets. It certainly helps that players like Kyle Marmon and James Bettencourt are ready to fill the void at middle 'backer.

"We want to attack the quarterback, keep the pressure up and be versatile," said Festa. "There's a lot of weight on our shoulders, but we're all about that. There's always someone working hard behind the scenes to step up — we're going 100 percent all the time."

Anthony Silva is the leading candidate to take over at outside 'backer. Jean-Pierre can play either corner or safety, and Aneudy Medrano is another potential breakout star in the defensive backfield.

"The mindset really

THE TEAMS

(Competitive)

27 Newbury St., Peabody, MA 01960
978-774-7840

State Of The Art Facilities • Cutting Edge Programming • Expert Olympic Instruction

- Girls & Boys Gymnastics Classes
- Preschool Gymnastics
- Tumbling Classes

Yellow Jackets
Olympic Gymnastics & Cheerleading
DANVERS — PEABODY

YELLOWJACKETSGYM.COM • ONGOING ENROLLMENT

THE REC GYM

(Recreational Classes)

100 Newbury St., Danvers, MA 01923
978-304-1762





Depth has Fishermen eyeing another playoff berth

By Nick Giannino

» Staff Writer

Back in Division 5 with hopes of qualifying for the state playoffs for the second consecutive season, Gloucester will rely on strength in numbers this fall.

The Fishermen had 70 players come out for the 2024 squad, a great sign for a program that is eager to get back to its winning ways. With just six seniors on the roster, head coach Dan O'Connor, now in his fifth season, returns just a small core of varsity talent and has a number of competitive battles going on to fill starting positions.

"We're going to have a lot of the guys going both ways, but the one thing that we have this year that we haven't the last couple years is positional depth," said O'Connor. "We feel very confident in taking one of our guys going both ways out for a spell, getting a backup in and having that guy perform just as well.

"So depth, that's the biggest piece. We can take guys out and not worry about what's going to happen ... and we're excited about the young kids."

From an X's and O's standpoint, O'Connor has decided to make one major change to the offense: he's going back to the Wing-T scheme that



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Gloucester's Jaylen Severino will be relied upon for a big role on both sides of the ball.

garnered the Fishermen numerous Super Bowl titles and winning seasons earlier this century. He feels it suits his team personnel better than the Spread offense they ran a year ago.

There's currently a QB competition going on between senior Jackson Allen and junior Camryn Rodolosi, but O'Connor feels both will be able to handle the new offense.

"It's a new system for both (Allen and Rodolosi); Cameron ran it as a youth football player, and we're seeing him grasping the concept and understanding the decision making process," said O'Connor. "It's going

to come down to how the offense flows in scrimmages and who can take command of the huddle; that will dictate the direction we go (at QB)."

On the line, Evan Mione returns as a senior leader with plenty of experience, having started games since he was a freshman. Max Thomas, who started some games as a freshman last season and who is coming off a terrific wrestling campaign, will be at offensive tackle.

Occupying the skill positions are Thomas Cribbs and Jaylen Severino, the latter of whom boasts terrific speed and athleticism and

did a little bit of everything for the Fishermen last fall. Joe Allen, another wrestler, as well as Nico Alves and Nash Marshall, will all see time in the backfield.

"With the six of them we should be able to divvy up the carries a good amount," said O'Connor.

Defensively, O'Connor feels very good about his linebacker depth. The plan is to go with a 4-2-5 look and utilize their skill and depth in the middle of the field.

"As long as the defensive line does their job to keep our linebackers free and clear of offensive linemen, we'll be in good shape," said O'Connor.

"We think those four have some potential to be really good defensive players for us," added O'Connor.

Gloucester has mixed up

its schedule nicely, choosing

Fishermen's Catch

- **Last year's record:** 5-6 (Lost to Hanover in Division 5 First Round)
- **Head coach:** Dan O'Connor (6th season; 15-36)
- **Team captains:** TBA
- **Leading returning rusher:** Jaylen Severino (24 carries, 213 yards, 2 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Jaylen Severino (1-for-4, 7 yards)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Jaylen Severino (13 rec., 114 yards, 2 TD)
- **Did you know:** Gloucester started last season at 3-0 and ultimately qualified for the playoffs with a 5-3 record, but dropped its last three games of the year to fall below .500. The Fishermen are hoping to post a winning record for the first time since 2019 this autumn.

2024 SCHEDULE

9/7	at Beverly	11 a.m.
9/13	at Somerville	6 p.m.
9/27	at St. Bernard's	7 p.m.
10/4	Salem	7 p.m.
10/10	Swampscott	6:30 p.m.
10/18	at Saugus	6:30 p.m.
10/25	Falmouth	6:30 p.m.
11/1	Winthrop	7 p.m.
11/28	Danvers	10 a.m.

opponents they think will not only challenge them, but also benefit them in the power rankings. That includes St. Bernard's, a team the Fishermen narrowly beat, 7-6, a year ago, as well as Falmouth and Somerville. They'll open up the year at Beverly on a Saturday morning in a tasty rivalry matchup right out of the gate.

"The goal is to grow and get better and make it back to the playoffs," said O'Connor. "We feel like we have the crew to compete this year on our side of the conference, we're just looking to be more consistent throughout the season. Last year we won three at home but didn't play particularly well on the road, so we're just really trying to grow there and feel a level of maturity and consistency."



**building
center**
bc
GLOUCESTER • ESSEX



FOR OVER 120 YEARS
BUILDING CONFIDENTLY
BUILDING COMMUNITY

www.BCGloucester.com



2024 NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6

Marshfield at St. John's Prep, 6
 Salem at Danvers, 6:30
 Newburyport at Masconomet, 6:30
 Hamilton-Wenham at Triton, 6:30
 Essex Tech at Amesbury, 6:30
 Manchester Essex at West Bridgewater, 6:30
 Melrose at Peabody, 7
 Marblehead at Bishop Fenwick, 7
 St. Mary's Lynn at Swampscott, 7

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7

Gloucester at Beverly, 11 a.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 12

Ipswich at Whittier, 5:30

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13

Gloucester at Somerville, 6
 Tewksbury at Danvers, 6:30
 Billerica at Masconomet, 6:30
 Hamilton-Wenham at Greater Lawrence, 6:30
 Beverly at Haverhill, 7
 Winchester at Peabody, 7
 Marblehead at King Philip, 7

Swampscott at Lynn English, 7
 Londonderry, NH, at St. John's Prep, 7

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14
 Salem at Brewer, Maine, 1

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19

Whitter at Essex Tech, 7

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20

Greater Lawrence at Salem, 6:30
 Masconomet at Revere, 6:30
 Ipswich at Watertown, 6:30
 Rockland at Manchester Essex, 6:30
 Danvers at Reading, 7
 Peabody at Swampscott, 7
 St. John's Prep at Central Catholic, 7

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

North Andover at Beverly, 11 a.m.
 Bishop Stang at Bishop Fenwick, 1
 Proctor at Pingree, 5

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27

Beverly at Wakefield, 6

Marblehead at North Andover, 6
 Hamilton-Wenham at North Reading, 6
 Danvers at Winthrop, 6:30
 Winchester at Masconomet, 6:30
 Lynnfield at Ipswich, 6:30
 Newburyport at Essex Tech, 6:30
 Manchester Essex at Triton, 6:30
 Peabody at Lynn Classical, 7
 Melrose at Swampscott, 7
 Gloucester at St. Bernard's, 7
 Wilmington at Bishop Fenwick, 7

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

LaSalle (RI) Academy at St. John's Prep, noon
 Pingree at Kingswood-Oxford, 2

FRIDAY, OCT. 4

Bishop Fenwick at Archbishop Williams, 6
 Beverly at Danvers, 6:30
 Salem at Gloucester, 6:30
 Essex Tech at Ipswich, 6:30
 Hamilton-Wenham at Pentucket, 6:30
 Brighton at Manchester Essex, 6:30
 Masconomet at Peabody, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 5

Portsmouth Abbey at Pingree, 5

THURSDAY, OCT. 10

New Hampton at Pingree, 5:30
 Salem at Saugus, 6:30
 Swampscott at Gloucester, 6:30
 Hamilton-Wenham at Amesbury, 6:30
 Beverly at Marblehead, 7

FRIDAY, OCT. 11

Danvers at Masconomet, 6:30
 Ipswich at Manchester Essex, 6:30
 North Reading at Essex Tech, 6:30
 Cardinal Spellman at Bishop Fenwick, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 12

St. John's Prep at St. John's Shrewsbury, noon

THURSDAY, OCT. 17

Swampscott at Winthrop, 6:30

Scheduled times and locations are subject to change

5-0-40-30-20-10-

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCT. 18

KIPP Academy at Salem, 6
Bishop Fenwick at
Bishop Feehan, 6:30
Triton at Ipswich, 6:30
Pentucket at Essex
Tech, 6:30
Hamilton-Wenham at
Manchester Essex, 6:30
Gloucester at Saugus, 6:30
Peabody at Marblehead, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 19

Masconomet at
Beverly, 11 a.m.
Malden Catholic at
St. John's Prep, 1
Pingree at St. Paul's, 3

FRIDAY, OCT. 25

Falmouth at Gloucester, 6:30
Lynnfield at Manchester
Essex, 6:30
Ipswich at Amesbury, 6:30
Winthrop at Salem, 6:30
St. John's Prep at Catholic

Memorial, 6:30
Danvers at Peabody, 7
Masconomet at
Marblehead, 7
Saugus at Swampscott, 7
Cathedral at Bishop
Fenwick, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 26
Hamilton-Wenham vs. Essex
Tech at Manchester, 1
Pingree at Austin Prep, 4

FRIDAY, NOV. 1

BC High at St. John's Prep, 6
Marblehead at
Danvers, 6:30
Swampscott at Salem, 6:30
Hamilton-Wenham at
Lynnfield, 6:30
Ipswich at Pentucket, 6:30
Manchester Essex at
Amesbury, 6:30
Arlington Catholic at
Bishop Fenwick, 7
Essex Tech at Triton, 7
Winthrop at Gloucester, 7

SATURDAY, NOV. 2

Peabody at Beverly, 1
Hamden Hall at Pingree, 5

FRIDAY, NOV. 8
MIAA playoffs Round of 16

SATURDAY, NOV. 9
Pingree at Dexter
Southfield, 11 a.m.
MIAA playoffs Round of 16

FRIDAY, NOV. 15

MIAA playoff quarterfinals

SATURDAY, NOV. 16
MIAA playoff quarterfinals

FRIDAY, NOV. 22
MIAA playoff semifinals

SATURDAY, NOV. 23
MIAA playoff semifinals

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27

Bishop Fenwick at
St. Mary's Lynn, 6:30
Marblehead vs. Swampscott
at Fenway Park, 6:30

THURSDAY, NOV. 28

Beverly at Salem, 10 a.m.
Danvers at Gloucester,
10 a.m.
Peabody at Saugus, 10 a.m.
Hamilton-Wenham at
Ipswich, 10 a.m.
Masconomet at Northeast
Metro Tech, 10 a.m.
Manchester Essex at
Essex Tech, 10 a.m.
Xaverian at St. John's
Prep, 10:15 a.m.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, DEC. 5-7

State Super Bowls at
Gillette Stadium,
Foxborough

Get social with
Salem News Sports



@SalemNewsSportsDept

ON X/TWITTER

@PhilStacey_SN
@MattWilliams_SN
@NickGiannino_GT

**GET THE
PICTURE**

To order REPRINTS OF
PHOTOS you see
in The Salem News and
on salemnews.com,
visit

photos.salemnews.com

Scheduled times
and locations
are subject to
change

0- 40- 30- 20- 10-



Generals ready to make strides in year 3 under Freiermuth

Between injuries, illnesses and youth within the lineup, Hamilton-Wenham admittedly struggled to find the win column last season.

This fall, the Generals return not only a number of key contributors, but appear to be healthy, whole and determined to get back on track in the Cape Ann League. It helped the team's momentum that they won their final two games of 2023 after dropping their first nine, and they're eager to carry some of that winning mentality over into the new campaign.

"Other than Chris Collins and Cooper Soolman, a couple big guys from last year, we bring back pretty much everything else," said head coach Tim Freiermuth, who has added former Essex Tech coach Juan Juan to his coaching staff at defensive coordinator. "Especially up front; we had freshmen up front that are now sophomores, so all spring and all summer the guys really leaned into it, building off the momentum of those last two games. We've had a really good camp."

Now in Year 3 as the head coach, Freiermuth feels his group finally has some cohesion.

"You can really see the culture being built. The guys are bought in defensively and culture-wise, so if we stay healthy we have a shot to definitely improve



DAN RYAN PHOTOS

Linebacker Caden McCollum returns for Hamilton-Wenham and will serve as a team captain and quarterback of the Generals.

record-wise," added Freiermuth.

The Generals will be led by four captains: senior QB/LB Caden McCollom, who got some great reps in under center last year and has looked good early on; senior Jack Cooke, a shifty wide receiver and defensive back; senior lineman Martin Baum, who boasts size and physicality in the trenches; and junior Caden Schrock, a supreme athlete and three-sport star who will serve as the team's lead back and linebacker.

Robbie Bozarjian is

another big body on the line; he was injured halfway through last season but is back healthy for his junior year and should form a great combo alongside Baum up front.

Luke Molitano is another skilled junior who will likely serve as the Generals' top receiver and defensive back.

Freiermuth says the offense will have a bit of a different look, a change he felt necessary to cater to his current personnel.

"We're (going with) a lot of pistol stuff," he said. "We're going to rely on McCollom



Hamilton-Wenham's Caden Schrock (44) is back as a key two-way player for the Generals.

and Schrock to run the ball a lot, but we'll also throw some. The idea is to be efficient in the passing game. (McCollom) has a cannon, but we plan to run the ball and do a lot of play action, things like that."

Sophomore WR/DB Jamie Dube and classmate Billy Brown (RB/LB) should "help us a lot, too", according to the head coach.

Junior Griffin Hawkins will serve as the team's strong safety and tight end after winning Most Improved Player on the team last year. "He's looked really good in camp so far,

especially at strong safety," said Freiermuth.

The Generals open the season on the road at Triton, a theme that will carry out throughout the fall as their new turf stadium is being constructed on campus. They're currently practicing on the field at the nearby elementary school, but Freiermuth says playing all road games "shouldn't effect what we're trying to do: adapt to overcome."

They'll also have one non-league game on their slate when they head to Greater Lawrence in Week 2 after falling to them last season.

Generals' Discussion

- **Last year's record:** 2-10
- **Head coach:** Tim Freiermuth (3rd season, 6-16)
- **Team captains:** Caden McCollom, Sr. QB/LB; Jack Cooke, Sr. WR/DB; Martin Baum, Sr. OL/DL; Caden Schrock, Jr. RB/LB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Caden Schrock (53 carries, 328 yards, 1 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Caden McCollom (28-for-53, 259 yards, 2 TDs)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Caden Schrock (12 rec., 76 yards, 1 TD)
- **Did you know:** The Generals will play all away games this season while their home field is having turf and lights installed. But they will have one "home" game on Saturday, Oct. 26 vs. Essex Tech at Hyland Field in Manchester.

2024 SCHEDULE

9/6	at Triton	6:30 p.m.
9/13	at Greater Lawrence	6:30 p.m.
9/27	at North Reading	6 p.m.
10/4	at Pentucket	6:30 p.m.
10/10	at Amesbury	6:30 p.m.
10/18	at Manchester Essex	6:30 p.m.
10/26	Essex Tech (at Manchester)	1 p.m.
11/1	at Lynnfield	6:30 p.m.
11/8	at Ipswich	10 a.m.

ADD SOME FLAVOR TO THE GAME!
LET US CATER YOUR NEXT FAMILY OR COMPANY PARTY

FAMOUS MARINADES
NEW SEASONED STEAKS
BEER & WINE

PREPARED FOODS
MEATS
PRODUCE

The
BUTCHERY

The Difference is Delicious

DANVERS: 182 North St., 978-777-3000

NEWBURY: 2 Morgan Ave., 978-463-3001

www.danversbutchery.com



Tigers will rely on experience at multiple positions to compete

By Nick Giannino

Staff writer

The 2024 Ipswich High football squad may not have the depth or overall numbers that some local programs do. But the Tigers hope to make up for it with a strong starting core.

Led by senior captain Massi Pinsky and junior captains Luke Wile and Will Gromko, Ipswich will rely on experience and familiarity with a 'set in stone' system to yield positive results. They're coming off a 1-win campaign, but return key players at key spots and are extremely hungry to turn their fortunes around in the Cape Ann League.

"We are very, very small (numbers-wise) and paper thin," said fourth-year IHS head coach Zack Lamkin. "But if we can stay healthy, we can definitely compete."

"Our first 12-13 guys I feel very, very comfortable with, and the kids are treating everything as professional as possible and want to go to battle with each other. So at the very least there's not going to be any quitting from this group."

Pinsky, for one, showed flashes of brilliance last season as a reliable skill player and has the potential for a breakout year.

"He's an absolute freak athlete. He's a little on the smaller side, but the kid is



Junior quarterback Vin Winter (15) will be back under center for the Tigers once again.

quick; probably the fastest kid we've had since I've been with Ipswich," said Lamkin.

Wile will serve as an integral piece on the offensive line while playing linebacker defensively, while the burly Gromko returns at tight end (and linebacker) after catching a team-high eight passes and four touchdowns last year.

Lamkin's offense is primarily Wing based with plenty of run options, but he does feel confident in returning junior quarterback Vin Winter's ability to air it out. He stated the Tigers could mix some more passing action into the playbook this fall. Winter

started under center a year ago after seeing action in a couple of games his freshman year, too.

According to Lamkin, "Vin's really coming along and knows the offense inside and out. We've been installing some new packages and he's really taking well to those, too; he's the glue that holds everything together."

Joining Wile on the O-line are a slew of returnees that boast good size and strength. That includes juniors Hank Latorella (center) and Jack Machaiek ("he's just a massive human being," says Lamkin), plus seniors Jacob Puter and Johnny Stevens.



Ipswich's Will Gromko (33) will be relied upon for a big offensive role as a team captain this season.

"We don't have that explosive gamebreaker like a Henry Wright a couple years ago, so it's definitely going to be a team effort on offense — with the running backs working off what the offensive line gives them," said the coach.

Those backs looking to make an impact are James Dick and sophomore Cullen Courville. Lamkin spoke highly of both, adding that the latter is "really, really

talented and going to be a pretty special player."

With limited depth options due to the lack of numbers in the program, almost all of Lamkin's offensive starters will play both ways.

The Tigers have a bye week to open the season before heading to Whittier for a non-conference bout on Thursday, Sept. 12. Another non-leaguer with Watertown follows

Tiger Claws

- **Last year's record:** 1-10
- **Head coach:** Zack Lamkin (4th season, 5-27)
- **Team captains:** Massi Pinsky, Sr. WR/RB/S; Luke Wile, Jr. OL/LB; Will Gromko, Jr. TE/LB
- **Leading returning rusher:** Massi Pinsky (24 carries, 108 yards)
- **Leading returning passer:** Vin Winter (24-for-63, 318 yards, 6 TDs)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Will Gromko (8 rec., 151 yards, 4 TDs)
- **Did you know:** Ipswich is looking for its first winning season since it went unbeaten at 6-0 in the Fall 2 2021 campaign.

2024 SCHEDULE

9/12	at Whittier	5:30 p.m.
9/20	at Watertown	6:30 p.m.
9/27	Lynnfield	6:30 p.m.
10/4	Essex Tech	6:30 p.m.
10/11	at Manchester Essex	6:30 p.m.
10/18	Triton	6:30 p.m.
10/25	at Amesbury	6:30 p.m.
11/1	at Pentucket	6:30 p.m.
11/28	Hamilton-Wenham	10 a.m.

before IHS enters league competition.

"I think it's going to be good for us," said Lamkin. "A nice way to start the season off with those guys before the beefy CAL teams."

CLAM BOX
of Ipswich

CLAM BOX of Ipswich

Since 1935

Indoor Dining, Outdoor Dining
and Take Out

246 HIGH STREET, IPSWICH | 978-356-9707





Hawks ready to make noise in Year 2 in CAL

By Nick Giannino

» Staff Writer

There will be no more surprises for the Essex Tech football team this fall. No more adjusting to an altered schedule or getting acclimated to different competition.

A year removed from their first season of competition in the Cape Ann League, the Hawks are both eager and excited to put that transition behind them and focus on winning games.

"I think last year was an excellent experience for not only our team, but the whole school," Hawks' head coach Dan Connors said about making the move to the CAL. "It gave us a clear vision of where we need to be and what we want to do.

"The CAL newness has kind of worn off, and now it's time to compete," he added. "We've experienced it, we've made our adjustments, now let's go."

It's one thing to say it, but another to make it a reality. and the Hawks appear ready to execute the latter.

Essex Tech went 2-9 last season — with wins over CAL foes Hamilton-Wenham and Ipswich — but returns a number of experienced starters who are well positioned to make a leap on the field.

Perhaps most importantly,



COURTESY PHOTO

Essex Tech senior captains (from left) Jake Gilbert, Jake D'Eon, David Hashley and Victor Ortiz sport the squad's new uniforms for the 2024 campaign.

the program welcomes back versatile starting quarterback Jacoby Casinelli Tarasuk. Only a junior, he now has two years of starting varsity experience and did a lot of nice things for the offense last fall.

"Offensively it's going to be about Jacoby," said Connors. "He's been great so far. He's had a wonderful offseason (and) looks awesome. He's worked on his own privately with his footwork and throwing arm mechanics, and it's definitely showing."

Casinelli Tarasuk piled

up 800 yards passing with six TDs to go with a team-high 681 yards rushing and five more scores last season. He'll be buoyed another returning starter in Jake Gilbert, a senior who added 617 rushing yards and averaged nearly five yards per carry in 2023.

"Jake's the heart and soul of our team, so a lot of our stuff goes through him; he's extremely important," added Connors. "He had a great offseason, too, lost some weight but gained speed and maintained his

strength."

Gilbert will serve as one of the team's four captains while lining up at linebacker defensively. The other three leaders are fellow seniors Jake D'Eon (OL/DL), David Hashley (RB/LB) and Victor Ortiz (OL/DE).

Yet another returner, Nick Branaforte, comes back into the fold after leading the team in receptions (22) and receiving yards (285) a season ago.

"We have a lot of returners, which is very fortunate," said Connors, who

Hawk Headquarters

- **Last year's record:** 2-9
- **Head coach:** Dan Connors (8th season, 22-50)
- **Team captains:** Jake Gilbert, Sr. RB/LB; Jake D'Eon, Sr. OL/DL; David Hashley, Sr. RB/LB; Victor Ortiz, Sr. OL/DE.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Jacoby Casinelli Tarasuk (146 carries, 681 yards, 5 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Jacoby Casinelli Tarasuk (64-for-136, 801 yards, 6 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Nick Branaforte (22 rec., 285 yards, 2 TD)
- **Did you know:** This is Year 2 in the Cape Ann League for Essex Tech; the Hawks had two wins over CAL opponents last season, with those coming against Hamilton-Wenham (20-12) and Ipswich (38-30).

2024 SCHEDULE

9/6	at Amesbury	6:30 p.m.
9/19	Whittier	7 p.m.
9/27	Newburyport	6:30 p.m.
10/4	at Ipswich	6:30 p.m.
10/11	North Reading	6:30 p.m.
10/18	Pentucket	6:30 p.m.
10/26	at Hamilton-Wenham (at Manchester)	1 p.m.
11/1	at Triton	6:30 p.m.
11/28	Manchester Essex	10 a.m.

said.

Defensively, the Hawks boast an experienced linebacking corps, with many players having started since their freshman or sophomore campaigns. That includes the senior Hashley, as well as junior middle linebacker Jordan Minaya and sophomore Charlie Lucier, the latter of whom Connors is very excited about.

"He started as a freshman against Northeast Regional last year and is just one of those players that you build a program around. Charlie looks amazing," said the coach.

Donning brand new uniforms with an upgraded look, Essex Tech will open its season with a tough road test at Amesbury this Friday. The Hawks schedule consists of all CAL opponents with the exception of Whittier Tech in Week 2.

had over 100 kids come out for the program this year.

Connors and his staff will be going back to their roots with the flexbone triple option offensive scheme. He says they're shooting for "simplicity and mastery of our scheme, rather than trendiness."

"We want to do the opposite of what others are doing, and we think simple is going to win games," he

THE TEAMS

(Competitive)

27 Newbury St., Peabody, MA 01960
978-774-7840

State Of The Art Facilities • Cutting Edge Programming • Expert Olympic Instruction

- Girls & Boys Gymnastics Classes
- Preschool Gymnastics
- Tumbling Classes
- YJ Ninja Classes
- Competitive Teams
- Camps & Clinics
- Ages 18 months to Adult
- USAG Certified Coaches

YELLOWJACKETSGYM.COM • ONGOING ENROLLMENT



THE REC GYM

(Recreational Classes)

100 Newbury St, Danvers, MA 01923
978-304-1762





Hornets return to CAL eager to make some noise

By Nick Giannino

» Staff Writer

In their return to the Cape Ann League this fall, head coach Joe Grimes and his Manchester Essex football squad feel they are right at home.

Not only will the move be great for limiting travel and allowing more fans to attend more games, but it has the potential to reignite some old rivalries in what has the makings of some evenly matched competition.

"It's going to be great," said Grimes, now in his fourth year guiding the Hornets. "We certainly have a ton of familiarity with the CAL, and we played Ipswich and Triton the past couple of years — but there will just be a lot of good local matchups, which is great. I loved playing Shawsheen and Nashoba and all those teams (in the Commonwealth Athletic Conference), but it'll be fun to go to Hamilton and places like that for quick little road trips. It's going to be fun to play some really nice local rivalries and get that back going again."

After opening the season at West Bridgewater and hosting Rockland following a bye week, the re-tooled Hornets will endure a stretch of five CAL matchups in six weeks, four of which will on their home turf, Hyland Field. They'll



KIRK WILLIAMSON

Hornets quarterback Zach Hurd is back under center for his junior campaign this fall. He'll also serve as a co-captain.

once again co-op with nearby Rockport, and had a turnout of nearly 45 players come out for the team, great numbers for a small Division 7 program.

"Anything over 40 is tremendous for us," said Grimes. "My second or third year with the team as an assistant we were around 20 players total; this year we have almost that many freshmen registered. and we

can put together a JV group that can get some good reps."

It helps that some of the Hornets key starters will be returning to the fold as well. Among them is talented junior quarterback and co-captain Zach Hurd (1,370 passing yards, 570 rushing yards in 2023), whom has emerged as a fearless leader for the squad, according to Grimes.

"Zach really stepped up and had a great year (in 2023); he won the room and won the leadership role, earning that captain's job," Grimes said.

Joining Hurd as captain is starting lineman Cian Brennock. The senior standout has also served as the team's reliable kicker throughout his four-year career.

Jarrett Croft is another key returning senior lining up at

Quick Stingers

- **Last year's record:** 5-6 (Lost to Cohasset in Division 7 first round)
- **Head coach:** Joe Grimes (4th season, 21-12)
- **Team captains:** Cian Brennock, Sr. OL/DL; Zach Hurd, Jr. QB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Zach Hurd (116 carries, 570 yards, 7 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Zach Hurd (100-for-180, 1,370 yards, 6 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Noah Cohen (4 rec., 48 yards)
- **Did you know:** The Hornets attempted just one field goal in 2023, but kicker Cian Brennock drilled it to help his team to one of their five wins.

tight end and defensive end.

2024 SCHEDULE

9/6	at West Bridgewater
6:30 p.m.	
9/20	Rockland
6:30 p.m.	
9/27	at Triton
6:30 p.m.	
10/4	Brighton
6:30 p.m.	
10/11	Ipswich
6:30 p.m.	
10/18	Hamilton-Wenham
6:30 p.m.	
10/25	Lynnfield
6:30 p.m.	
11/1	at Amesbury
6:30 p.m.	
11/8	at Essex Tech
10 a.m.	

standpoint, Grimes doesn't plan to change too much.

"It's going to be the same type of thing we've been doing since I started four years ago," he said. "We like running a kind of modified Wing-T type offense, which fits well with our type of personnel. We'll try to incorporate some more passing with Hurd, but usually stay grounded in the ground game."



HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

Eat Healthy ... Eat Fish

Now Celebrating 41 Years!

CHERRY STREET FISH MARKET

26 Hobart St., Danvers • 978-777-3449

www.cherrystfishmarket.com





Quarterback competition for perennial powerhouse Eagles

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

It's the question everyone who follows high school football in Massachusetts wants to know: *Who's going to be the starting quarterback for St. John's Prep this fall?*

There's senior captain Deacon Robillard, who is 18-2 as a starter for the Eagles and already has a Super Bowl title on his resume. With an offer to continue his career at Kenyon College on the table, the 6-foot, 180-pounder threw for 1,433 yards and 17 touchdowns last fall (with just 3 INTs) while completing better than 62 percent of his passes.

Then there's freshman sensation Christopher Vargas, who is approaching 6-foot-5 in height, weighs 180 pounds and throws 60-yard passes with a flick of his wrist. It's not blasphemy to say he could walk onto any major college campus in the country right now and, with his skill set and potential, be offered a full scholarship on the spot.

Eagles head coach Brian St. Pierre, the greatest QB in Prep history, knows a thing or two about the position. He's given both players equal reps during the pre-season thus far.

For a program that's been to the Division 1 Super Bowl in four of the last five playoff seasons dating back to 2018, it's a mindset the entire team



Captains for the 118th varsity football team in St. John's Prep history are (from left) Merrick Barlow, Graham Roberts, Deacon Robillard and Jackson Tucker.

believes in.

"Coach Saint (Brian St. Pierre) tells us, 'We're playing football in December'. Gillette is the end goal for us," said captain Graham Roberts.

"It's a standard here," added Robillard. "We know what the expectations are."

Winning their first 11 games a year ago but dropping the last two to Xaverian, including the Division 1 Super Bowl, has provided the Eagles plenty of off-season incentive.

"The mentality has definitely been different," said captain Merrick Barlow, a 6-foot-5, 215-pound wideout who'll play college ball at the Naval Academy while studying to becoming a ship-builder. "Losing the Bowl made for a lot of frustration, but also made us more motivated than ever to see it all

the way through this year."

St. Pierre said he's liked Team 118's progression thus far, and while there are certainly holes to fill and depth to build, it's more about his players staying focused on the day-to-day process of what they're trying to accomplish and getting better each day. That, and staying healthy.

"The guys here know they're part of something bigger than themselves, and that playing football at St. John's Prep comes with expectations that are through the roof," he said. "But it's not a burden to them; it energizes them, and that's a credit to the players."

As for the quarterback position, the former Boston College Eagle and NFL'er remarked, "We feel great about the fact we have two guys we can win with, two guys with very different skill

sets. With Deacon, all he's done is win, and Chris is going to be a natural recruit with elite talent."

Roberts, a 6-3, 290-pound Harvard-bound behemoth, anchors the line at right tackle. Joining him are Jack DiFilippo, a 6-3, 265-pound senior returnee at left tackle; Angel Heredia, a 260-pound senior center; senior right guard Alex Bajoras (6-2, 285), and junior Joe Irzyk, a 225-pound left guard. Both senior tight ends, Josh Haarmann (220 lbs.) and Will Kent (250 lbs.) are also back.

In a backfield by committee, senior returnee Jeff Quigley will likely start, with junior scatback Andrew McManmon and sophomore transfer Jordan Toribio also slated for carries. Senior Gael Garcia, one of the top fullbacks in the state, is also back.

Eagles' Eminence

Last year's record: x-x (Lost in Division 1 Super Bowl)

Head coach: Brian St. Pierre (11th season, 82-30)

Team captains: Merrick Barlow, Sr. WR; Graham Roberts, Sr. OL; Deacon Robillard, Sr. QB; Jackson Tucker, Sr. LB.

Leading returning rusher: Jeff Quigley (60 carries, 328 yards, 6 TDs)

Leading returning passer: Deacon Robillard (89-for-143, 1,433 yards, 17 TDs)

Leading returning receiver: Merrick Barlow (12 rec., 263 yards, 4 TDs)

Did you know: Over the past six seasons, the Eagles have won more games (51) than at any stretch in program history. Their .750 winning percentage during that same stretch is third-best in Prep football history behind 1919-24 (43-10-2, an .800 winning pct.) and 1965-70 (40-11-3, a .769 win pct.)

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6	Marshfield	6 p.m.
Sept. 13	Londonderry, NH	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	at Central Catholic	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	LaSalle (RI) Academy	noon
Oct. 12	at St. John's Shrewsbury	noon
Oct. 19	Malden Catholic	1 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Catholic Memorial	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 1	BC High	6 p.m.
Nov. 28	Xaverian	10:15 a.m.

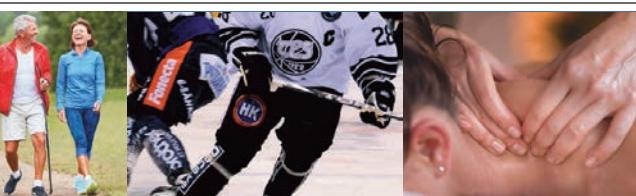
Bajoras and DeFilippo will man the trenches on both sides of the ball, spelled by senior Tom Lafferty, Kent and Haarmann.

The Eagles' fourth captain, Mike linebacker Jackson Tucker, is back after missing the second half of last season with an injury. Fellow senior Drew Bossi figures to line up next to him, with 12th grader Nick Schibli and 11th grader Alex Turrisi ("we're really excited about him," said St. Pierre) on the outside.

The secondary, which St. Pierre hopes can take a leap performance-wise, has seniors Owen White and Evan Castro, plus sophomore Davyvian Sullivan, ticketed for the corners, with senior Lucas Pelletier and junior Aaron Radke the safeties.

Barlow, who could take over the role vacated by Jimmy Nardone as a 2-point specialist near the goal line, lines up wide at the Y, with junior Pierson Scala back at the Z. Freshman Riley Selvais of Marblehead, a 5-foot-11, 170-pounder, will likely play the slot.

Developing depth on the D-line means Roberts,



Sports Rehabilitation Unlimited

info@sportsrehabu.com
sportsrehabu.com
@sportsrehabu



Essex Sports Center
15 Manning Avenue
Middleton, MA 01949
978-624-7966





SPORTS REHAB UNLIMITED
PUTTING YOU FIRST

Physical Therapy
Sports Rehabilitation
AlterG Anti-Gravity Treadmill
Pre and Post Surgery Rehabilitation
Injury Prevention
Running Analysis
Spine Rehabilitation
Blood Flow Restriction Training
Manual Therapy
Therapeutic Taping
Therapeutic Exercise
Orthotics
Instrument Assisted Soft Tissue Mobilization
Modalities

Offering the
**AlterG
ANTI-GRAVITY
TREADMILL**
for Rehab and Training





Crusaders have the depth, talent to make a title run

By Phil Stacey

Executive Sports Editor

There's a lot going on over at Bishop Fenwick on the cusp of the 2024 high school football season ... and at this juncture, it's all positive.

The Crusaders return seven starters on both sides of the football, some of whom will be starting for the third straight season. In addition to their physical skills they're also intelligent and coachable, able to digest new plays easily within the framework of Fenwick's system.

Their head coach, Dave Woods, is two wins shy of his 200th career victory (all at Fenwick). The Crusaders should once more be among the top teams in the Catholic Central League and competing to be top dog. and after a one-year schoolwide postseason ban, they're once again eligible for the MIAA playoffs — with their sights set on a Division 5 Super Bowl crown.

So yeah, you could say it's been a good preseason over at 99 Margin Street.

"It's been a whole new mindset this year," said senior captain Brayden Clifford, back for his second season at quarterback after throwing for 1,457 yards and 14 touchdowns as a junior. "We've all got something to work for and want this season to be special."



JAIME CAMPOS PHOTOS

Bishop Fenwick football captains (from left) are running back Dylan Paturelli, slot receiver Lincoln Dugan, quarterback Brayden Clifford, and center Aidan Byrne.

Fellow captain Aidan Byrne, a three-year starter under center who doubles as a defensive lineman, echoed those thoughts.

"It's been a lot of little things that're different," said the 17-year-old. "We've been pushing ourselves every day in the offseason to get ready for this season, and the younger guys are pushing as much as we're pushing them."

Woods and his coaching staff are taking advantage of the team's familiarity with the playbook and on-field intelligence to delve deeper into the playbook than they normally would at this point of the season.

"We've been able to throw



Veteran Bishop Fenwick head coach Dave Woods is two wins shy of his 200th career victory (all with the Crusaders) heading into the 2024 campaign.

all kinds of stuff at these guys that they're picking up immediately," he said. "There's a lot of strong football IQ's."

That's certainly true on the offensive line, with the 6-foot-1, 195-pound Byrne

in the middle of it. They're excited to have Luis Levenshti back on the left side; the 6-1, 270-pound junior is bigger, stronger and faster than a year ago. "He's a beast," said Byrne.

Fellow junior Ty Piriano also returns on the left side, with seniors Reid Smith (guard) and Tyler Santos (tackle) back as second-year starters on the right side. Junior Odin Garron, who played a lot on both sides of the ball in 2023, will be the tight end.

Clifford will be handing the ball off to junior captain Dylan Paturelli, a 5-9, 180-pound running back who packs both power and speed into his toolbox. Another

Crusaders' Credo

- **Last year's record:** 6-5 (Was not eligible for playoffs)
- **Head coach:** David Woods (27th season, 198-93)
- **Team captains:** Aidan Byrne, Sr. OL/DL; Brayden Clifford, Sr. QB; Lincoln Dugan, Sr. WR/DB; Dylan Paturelli, Jr. RB/LB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Dylan Paturelli (16 carries, 74 yards, TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Brayden Clifford (94-for-173, 1,457 yards, 14 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Mike Zaimi (16 rec., 231 yards, TD)
- **Did you know:** When Woods picks up his 200th career victory at some point this season, he'll become only the third North Shore head coach to reach that mark at one school. Jack Welch won 224 games at Ipswich High from 1964-2000, while ex-St. John's Prep head man Jim O'Leary captured 207 wins from 1984 to 2013.

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6	Marblehead	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Bishop Stang	noon
Sept. 27	Wilmington	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	at Archbishop Williams	6 p.m.
Oct. 11	Cardinal Spellman	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Bishop Feehan	1 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Cathedral	6 p.m.
Nov. 1	Arlington Catholic	7 p.m.
Nov. 27	at St. Mary's Lynn	6:30 p.m.

"This entire team is like a family. We have a true bond."

Levenshti is the nose and Piriano and Garron the defensive ends in Fenwick's 3-4 base defense, with Connolly and Paturelli the inside 'backers, with senior Shane Conroy and junior CJ Masone on the outside. Timson and Allder will man the corners, with Dugan and Silva the safeties.

Dugan, who has been the Fenwick football program his entire life — his father, Dave, is Woods' right hand man and defensive coordinator — was asked to describe what successful Fenwick football entails.

"Play good D, have fun, fly around, make plays, bring a lot of energy ... and win football games," he smiled.

ADD SOME FLAVOR TO THE GAME!
LET US CATER YOUR NEXT FAMILY OR COMPANY PARTY

FAMOUS MARINADES
NEW SEASONED STEAKS
BEER & WINE

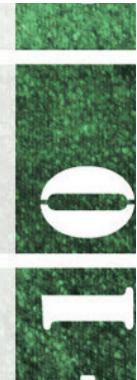
PREPARED FOODS
MEATS
PRODUCE

The
BUTCHERY
The Difference is Delicious

DANVERS: 182 North St., 978-777-3000

NEWBURY: 2 Morgan Ave., 978-463-3001

www.danversbutchery.com





New coaching staff, same drive and desire at Pingree

By Matt Williams

Asst. Sports Editor

Things have been pretty good for Pingree's football program in recent years. So new head coach Pat Downey and his staff won't be tinkering much as they guide the Highlanders into the next era. Continuity is the name of the game.

Coming off their third New England Prep School Athletic Council bowl game appearance since 2019, Pingree has close to 40 players in the program, a number of experienced starters returning and some exciting incoming transfers.

Add that skill to the genuine and contagious passion that Downey and coaches with championship winning pedigree like Andrew Morency (associate head coach/offense), Scott Shairs (defensive coordinator) and Pat Henebury (line) bring and it's easy to see why the mood is so optimistic in South Hamilton.

"We've got a great buzz and really high buy-in," said Downey, who had a Hall of Fame career at Bishop Fenwick and went on to start at UNH before playing in the NFL and NFL Europe. "We had an awesome summer in terms of creating an identity and building on the great culture that was left here by coach (Mike) Flynn."

Captains Cole Piaseczynski (receiver, running



JAIME CAMPOS PHOTOS
Quarterback Jack Spear (middle) will be protected by Pingree linemen (from left) Jake Medeiros, Ryan Castillo, Pat McDonald, Ray Castillo, and Jon Panagou.

back and defensive back), Brady Daniels (running back/linebacker) and Joey Lussier (tight end/lineman) have done an outstanding job setting the tone. They all figure to be major components of an offense directed by sophomore quarterback Jack Spear, who arrives after guiding Swampscott to the playoffs in his one season with the Big Blue a year ago.

"The biggest thing is building synergy and trust with our skill guys," said Downey. "I look at Paz (Piaseczynski) as one of the twitchiest and most explosive players around. He was dominant in the 7-on-7's and he can play all over the place."

Jonah Richardson, an All-Evergreen League

honorable mention at defensive back last year, will have a much bigger role on offense this season. Rex Braillard is another big target for Spear along with Colt Downey and Jessie Susko.

In the run game, Downey expects a 4-5 back rotation to keep everyone's legs fresh. Daniels ("A classic north-south runner," the coach says) will share carries with his younger brother, Kyle, as well as power runner Jasper Johnson.

Protecting all those skill players will be a rough-and-tumble offensive line. Jake Medeiros (6-foot-2, 275 lbs.) is an anchor at tackle along with Jon Panagou (6-foot-4, 275). Twin guards Ryan and Raylen Castillo each play with plenty of snarl, and



Captains Joey Lussier, Brady Daniels, and Cole Piaseczynski are ready to lead Pingree.

Matt McDonald's progress at center will allow Pingree to play Lussier (All-Evergreen at the position in '23) to play tight end and fullback.

"We want that offensive line to be the tip of the Spear, so to speak," said Downey. "We've got some big, nasty physical kids, and that's the tone we want to play with. We want them to be maulers."

Defensively, Pingree plans to employ a 3-4 scheme, and the strength is certainly in the linebacking corps. Daniels and Sam Brodsky are very physical at the outside spots while Lussier and Marco Mottola are excellent against the run on the inside. Ipswich native Liam Roberts and Johnson

should also carve out roles in the front seven, with Cam Ascenzo vying to do the same on the edge.

Prep schools have a relatively long preseason compared to MIAA teams, so Pingree will have scrimmages against Groton (Sept. 7) and Brooks (Sept. 14) before officially opening up on Sept. 21 at home against Proctor. That's plenty of time to learn the new playbook and prepare for another season of 'Defending the Farm' for the Blue-and-Green.

"One quote we use is 'The strength of the pack is its wolves and the strength of a wolf is its pack.' We want all 22 guys, and more, to have a role, be contributing and be bought in," Downey said.

Highlander Happenings

► **Last year's record:** 6-3 (Lost NEPSAC Bowl game)

► **Head coach:** Pat Downey (1st season, 0-0)

► **Team captains:** Brady Daniels, Sr. RB/LB; Joey Lussier, Sr. OL/DL; Cole Piaseczynski, Sr. WR/LB.

► **Leading returning rusher:** Brady Daniels (36 carries, 190 yards)

► **Leading returning passer:** Jack Spear (117-of-218, 1,216 yards, 12 TD at Swampscott High)

► **Leading returning receiver:** Cole Piaseczynski (20 rec., 264 yards, 2 TD)

► **Did you know:** Pingree is one of the only schools in the history of the state to have consecutive head coaches with National Football League playing experience. New head man Pat Downey played for the Chargers, Patriots, Falcons and Redskins; he takes over for Mike Flynn, a veteran of 10 NFL seasons.

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept 21	Proctor	5 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Kingswood Oxford	2 p.m.
Oct. 5	Portsmouth Abbey	5 p.m.
Oct. 10	New Hampton	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	at St. Paul's	3 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Austin Prep	3 p.m.
Nov. 2	Hamden Hall	5 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Dexter Southfield	11 a.m.

ADD SOME FLAVOR TO THE GAME!
LET US CATER YOUR NEXT FAMILY OR COMPANY PARTY

FAMOUS MARINADES
NEW SEASONED STEAKS
BEER & WINE

PREPARED FOODS
MEATS
PRODUCE

The
BUTCHERY

The Difference is Delicious

DANVERS: 182 North St., 978-777-3000

NEWBURY: 2 Morgan Ave., 978-463-3001

www.danversbutchery.com

CHAMPIONS CORNER

A look back at some North Shore football history

RECENT NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

The Northeastern Conference has undergone many changes over the last 25 years, including short-lived mergers with both the Cape Ann League and Greater Boston League. Here's a look at the league's football champions since 1990.

1990-2003: One league

1990: Lynn English
1991: Gloucester
1992: Winthrop
1993: Winthrop
1994: Salem
1995: Gloucester
1996: Gloucester, Swampscott (co-champs)
1997: Gloucester, Swampscott (co-champs)
1998: Gloucester
1999: Salem
2000: Gloucester
2001: Gloucester
2002: Swampscott
2003: Swampscott



JAIME CAMPOS
Marblehead head coach Jim Rudloff (center) has 11 NEC titles under his belt.



MICHAEL SPERLING
Beverly High Hall of Famer Pat Bailey helped the Panthers win an Northeastern Conference title in 2006.

2004-2010: North & South

Year	North champ	South champ
2004	Gloucester	Danvers
2005	Winthrop	Danvers
2006	Winthrop	Beverly
2007	Gloucester	Swampscott
2008	Gloucester	Swampscott
2009	Gloucester	Marblehead
2010	Gloucester	Beverly

2011-12: NEC/CAL merger

Year	Tier 1 champ	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
2011	Lynn English	Marblehead	Newburyport	Hamilton-Wenham
2012	Masconomet	Beverly	Amesbury	Lynnfield

2013-15: Large & Small

Year	Large champ	Small champ
2013	Gloucester, Marblehead, Beverly (tri-champs)	Danvers
2014	Marblehead	Winthrop
2015	Marblehead	Gloucester
2016	Marblehead	Gloucester

2017-18: GBL Merger

Year	Tier 1 champ	Tier 2	Tier 3
2017	Marblehead	Gloucester, Lynn Classical, Somerville (tri-champs)	Lynn English
2017	Marblehead	Gloucester	Lynn English

2019-Present: Dunn & Lynch

Year	Dunn champ	Lynch champ
2019	Danvers	Revere
2020	Fall 2 season, no champions recognized	
2021	Marblehead	Peabody
2022	Marblehead	Peabody
2023	Marblehead	Peabody

RECENT CAPE ANN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

The Cape Ann League has had fewer changes but has still evolved, with several teams leaving or joining over the last quarter century. There are the CAL champions since 1990 (excluding the NEC/CAL merger of 2011-12 listed above).

1990-2005: One league

Year	CAL champion
1990	Hamilton-Wenham
1991	Ipswich
1992	Ipswich
1993	Newburyport
1994	North Andover
1995	Newburyport
1996	North Andover
1997	Newburyport
1998	Newburyport
1999	Pentucket
2000	Pentucket
2001	Pentucket
2002	Pentucket
2003	Masconomet
2004	Wilmington
2005	North Andover



Hamilton-Wenham's Billy Whelan shared the Cape Ann League Baker title in 2018 after a big clash on Thanksgiving went to the archrival Ipswich Tigers.

2006-Present (excluding 2011-12): Baker & Kinney

Year	CAL Kinney champ	CAL Baker champ
2006	Masconomet	Ipswich
2007	Masconomet	Amesbury
2008	Masconomet	Amesbury
2009	Masconomet	Lynnfield
2010	North Andover	Hamilton-Wenham
2013	Pentucket	Lynnfield
2014	Masconomet	Lynnfield
2015	Pentucket	Lynnfield
2016	Masconomet, North Reading	Lynnfield
2017	North Reading	Lynnfield, Ham-Wenham
2018	North Reading, Pentucket	Amesbury, Ipswich, Ham-Wenham
2019	Masconomet, North Reading, Pentucket	Lynnfield
2020	North Reading	Ipswich
2021	North Reading	Amesbury
2022	North Reading, Triton	Amesbury
2023	Newburyport	Lynnfield



FILE PHOTO
Evan Bunker and the Masconomet football program won three straight Cape Ann League titles from 2007-09.

BACK FOR MORE

Returning players ready for another season of action



JAIME CAMPOS

Liam Timpone should have an increased role in the Beverly offense as a senior pass catcher.



JAIME CAMPOS

Danvers fullback Marco Bettencourt will be counted on to pick up power yards on the ground for the Falcons.



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO

Kicker Aidan Silva and holder Brayden Clifford — who is also the team's quarterback — both return for Bishop Fenwick this fall.



JAMIE CAMPOS STAFF PHOTO

Look for Angel Nolasco to once again be a ballhawk in the defensive backfield for Salem High this fall.

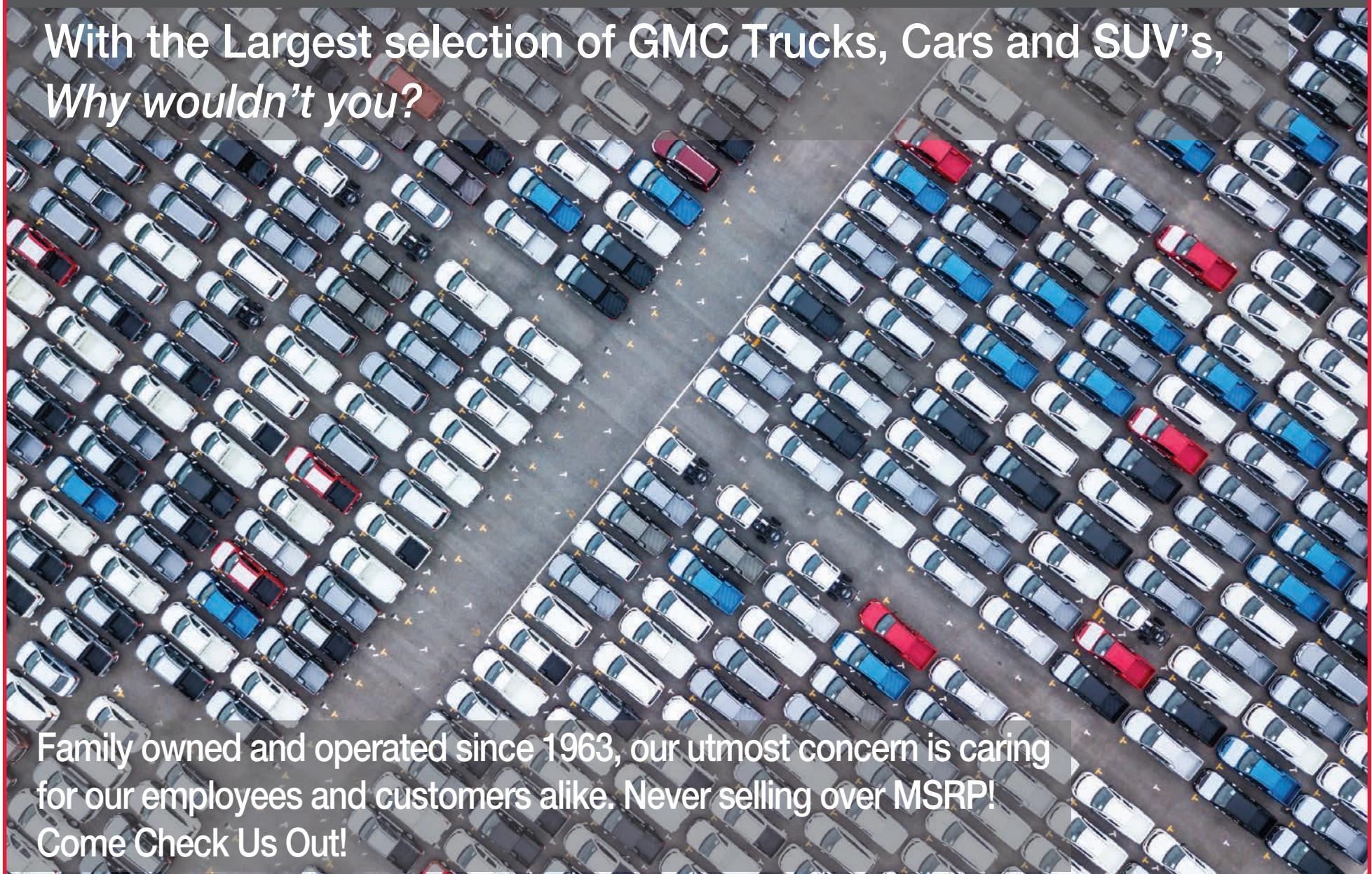


ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO

Powerful two-way lineman Graham Roberts will be one of the St. John's Prep senior captains this season.

Why Shop at GMC Danvers?

With the Largest selection of GMC Trucks, Cars and SUV's,
Why wouldn't you?



Family owned and operated since 1963, our utmost concern is caring
for our employees and customers alike. Never selling over MSRP!
Come Check Us Out!

80 High St, Danvers, MA
GMCDanvers.com • 855-200-5790



BEVERLY | NORTH READING | PLAISTOW, N.H.

MOYNIHANLUMBER.COM

PROUD SPONSOR OF



North Shore
Student-Athlete Program