

2025 NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW



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NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2025 SEASON PREVIEW

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Top row (left to right): Nate Wise of Danvers, Jayden Betts of Peabody, Jack Shrayner of St. John's Prep, Finn Bresnahan of Marblehead, Aiden Grove of Essex Tech.

Middle row (L to R): Jack Fabiano of Masconomet, Will Gromko of Ipswich, Will Bush of Swampscott, Danny Pierce of Beverly.

Bottom row (L to R): Caden Schrock of Hamilton-Wenham, Jesse Timson of Bishop Fenwick, Felix Wood of Manchester Essex, Jake Medeiros of Pingree, Thomas Cribbs of Gloucester.



DANVERS HIGH SCHOOL NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE DUNN DIVISION

Line play, depth could lead to strong season for Falcons

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

The last decade (2015-24) has produced the most successful period in Danvers High football history record-wise, with the Blue-and-White going 65-43 during that time frame.

Having a mobile, physical and powerful line on both sides of the ball has been a big reason why; the Falcons will once again turn to their guys in the trenches to prosper this fall.

"After piecing a line together last season," said veteran head coach Ryan Nolan, "we have eight or nine guys with varsity experience up front and 12 guys we believe can play varsity football on the offensive line."

Start with Mason Ellsworth, a 6-foot, 265-pounder center and defensive tackle who was chosen by his teammates as one of the squad's four captains. He's back as a starter along with fellow seniors Josh Gargiulo (6-2, 250 lbs.), a two-way tackle, and Logan Graham (6-foot, 245 lbs.), a tackle and defensive end. Senior Logan Travers is another high-end contributor on the line.

Another captain is junior offensive lineman Dylan Kinney, a guard and defensive end who is back starting for the second season. Nolan calls him one of those 'cornerstone guys' teams



Eager to show how far their team can go in 2025 are Danvers High football captains (from left) Caleb Hosler, junior Dylan Kinney, Mason Ellsworth and junior Jack Houston.

build programs around. Two other juniors, hulking defensive end Nick Xerras (a ferocious 6-2, 225-pounder who also started at tight end) and steady Hunter DeDominicus, also return defensively.

"These guys have really gotten after it," said Nolan. "We have guys who cut their teeth and gained valuable (varsity) experience up front a year ago, and other guys who showed promise but got hurt and who are also back. There are a lot of guys we can turn to. The line and our tight ends is a real strength."

Running a Double Wing offense for a second straight

season behind this depth-filled line should mean the Falcons will be able to run to the outside with more success, work their power and counter games, and get to the ball to their receivers with more efficiency.

Jack Houston, a junior captain, should be a dynamic playmaker this season after being moved from wide receiver into the backfield. He'll tote the leather, catch it out of the backfield, and constantly be in motion. Along with teammates such as speedy junior Zach Dunn, senior Kaio Borghardt and exciting sophomore back Zach Fultz, the Danvers backfield

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	at Concord-Carlisle	7 p.m.
Sept. 12	at Salem	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	Reading	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 26	Winthrop	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Beverly	6 p.m.
Oct. 10	Masconomet	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	Peabody	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 31	at Marblehead	7 p.m.
Nov. 27	Gloucester	10 a.m.

should have a lot of options for junior quarterback Nate Wise, the team's fourth captain, to turn to.

Other juniors who cut their teeth while starting at the varsity level a year ago are also back and hungry to show what they can really

do. They include fullback/linebacker Matt Nikiforov ("an absolute monster" said Nolan) and running back/defensive back Colby Medeiros, while sophomore Julian Capece also returns in the defensive backfield.

Speedy wideout Ethan Schweitzer, another 10th grader, should also work his way into regular work.

"It's the most depth we've had, and we have very strong junior and sophomore classes with over 40 kids," admitted Nolan.

Two senior multi-sport athletes who have come out for the football team and have already made a difference are basketball standout

Falcon Findings

- **Last year's record:** 5-6
- **Head coach:** Ryan Nolan (9th season, 49-37)
- **Team captains:** Mason Ellsworth, Sr. OL; Caleb Hosler, Sr. DB; Jack Houston, Jr., RB; Dylan Kinney, Jr., OL.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Kaio Borghardt (61 carries, 309 yards, TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Nate Wise (33-for-77, 415 yards, TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Jack Houston (6 rec., 61 yards)
- **Did you know:** Six victories this season will make Ryan Nolan the winningest head football coach in Danvers history. Already the program's record holder for best winning percentage (minimum 35 games coached), he'll become just the second Falcons' boss with 50 wins at some point this fall, joining Ernie Smith (54).

Bubba Martin, who'll play defensive back and may also carry the ball, and Jason Walters, an Assumption baseball commit who at 6-2 and 190 pounds should slot in nicely at defensive end and tight end.

"I think we're going to be a really tough out for other teams," said Nolan. "Toughness and execution will be keys for us. These guys are all well aware that all the details matter."



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Panthers ready to get back to their winning ways

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

They are so sick and tired of hearing about it.

Instead of having to answer for previous squads and come up with the answer to the repetitive 'Why haven't you guys had a winning season since 2018?', the Beverly High football team has resolved to flip the script.

"It would mean everything to us," said Sean Costa, one of four Panther captains and whose father, Steve, captained the Orange-and-Black's 10-0 Super Bowl team in 1988. "We've been building this thing from the ground up and progressing as a team each season. So to go from 9-1 on the freshmen team and bring Beverly back to its winning ways as seniors ... we have high hopes."

Those words are music to head coach Jeff Hutton's ears. Not having to coach "energy and enthusiasm" any more, he loves the work his players have put in during the offseason, they expectations they have for themselves and each other, and the mindset of success they're taking into the regular season.

"They're not just 'hoping' to win any more. They know we have enough talent, we're physical, guys are playing in



Senior captains (from left) Cal McCay at tight end, Alex Marquez at defensive back and running back Sean Costa, and quarterback/defensive back Danny Pierce look to lead Beverly to its first winning season since 2018.

the right spots, and for the seniors they realize that it's now or never," said Hutton. "So far, we're passing the eyeball test."

Cal McCay, another Beverly captain, said not only is the team chemistry different this season, but the players are connecting on both an emotional and playing level, too.

"We have pride in our colors, our team and our school," McCay, who'll move from wideout to tight end, said. "We've been part of losing teams in the past, and getting beat up on is not fun. We want to represent ourselves and our school the best that we can and give our school something to cheer for."

Quarterback Danny Pierce is back as a captain for his second season. Hutton said Pierce's improvement on pre-snap reads and throwing the ball on time should make a world of difference for both his confidence and his playmaking ability.

"There's an overall physical and mental maturity that's happened to this team since the end of last year," said Pierce, who threw for 1,406 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2024. "We're putting our heads down and doing the day-to-day work that we need to do to be successful without worrying what others think about us." Costa and junior Sean

Okhuozagbon have split time taking first team reps as fullbacks in the shotgun Wing-T offense that Beverly likes to run. Anthony Sullivan, who missed all of last year with an injury, is also in the RB mix. Juniors Charlie Frost and bruising Brody Lehmann will be the wingbacks.

Aside from McCay (who had 3 TD catches in last year's Thanksgiving win at Salem), Pierce will look to air it out to senior teammates Floyd White and Xavier Auk plus gifted 6-foot-2 sophomore Jordan Downey, among others.

The offensive line, an area of concern in recent seasons, appears to have suddenly

become a team strength. Senior center Ricky Torres, a 300-pounder, returns. So does another starter, junior quick guard Teddy Fisher, who put on 25-30 pounds of muscle and is primed for a breakout season. More juniors — guard Tyler Limongello, tackles Isaiah Zohn and Joao Reis, plus Mateo Ibanez and Jack Dodge — help solidify Beverly's big boys up front.

Hutton feels his team has a lot to prove defensively, yet is eager to see how they react to the challenges he and his coaches have presented to them in terms of stopping the run (particularly up the middle) while not giving up the big play through the air.

Jerome Sutton, a senior, moves from linebacker to the weak defensive end slot, giving Beverly athleticism off the edge.

"I think Jerome is really going to show what he can do there," captain Alex Marquez, who is shifting from DE to defensive tackle, noted.

Fisher will start at middle linebacker, with McCay and junior Will Johnson on the outside while senior Lucas Monfette and Lehmann will also rotate in. Frost and Costa will be the safeties; Auk and White join them in the defensive backfield as the two corners.

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	at Gloucester	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	Haverhill	11 a.m.#
Sept. 19	at Revere	6 p.m.
Sept. 26	Wakefield	6 p.m.%
Oct. 3	Danvers	6 p.m.%
Oct. 11	Marblehead	11 a.m.#
Oct. 17	at Masconomet	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Peabody	7 p.m.
Nov. 27	Salem	10 a.m.#

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Panther Pulse

- **Last year's record:** 4-7
- **Head coach:** Jeff Hutton (5th season, 13-30; 43-58 overall including 6 seasons at Manchester Essex)
- **Team captains:** Danny Pierce, Sr. QB; Cal McCay, Sr. TE/OLB; Sean Costa, Sr. RB/DB; Alex Marquez, Sr. OL/DL.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Sean Costa (53 carries, 198 yards, 5 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Danny Pierce (106-for-186, 1,406 yards, 11 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Cal McCay (23 rec., 431 yards, 3 TD)
- **Did you know:** Incredibly, the Orange-and-Black take the longest crossover winning streak of any North Shore football team (3 games) into the 2025 season.

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MASCONOMET REGIONAL NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE DUNN DIVISION

Pieces in place for special season at Masconomet

By Matt Williams
» Asst. Sports Editor

Let's be climbers.

The Masconomet football team is using that phrase at the end of every practice to remind itself that last season's success is a thing of the past. Every club in the state starts out at the bottom of the mountain each August and must rededicate itself to making another climb.

Just how high of a summit can the Chieftains reach? With five All-Conference players and a boatload of starters among the returnees from last fall's 8-3 outfit, a lot of folks around the North Shore believe the sky is the limit.

"Last year was a new chapter for Masco football, but the story is not over," said senior captain Lucas Magnifico, a monster two-way end. "There's a lot more to be said and a lot of unfinished business we'd like to try and complete."

Magnifico and two-year captain Nino Stefanelli are mainstays on an experienced line that includes senior Evan Velardo (who just committed to Colby College) as well as Athan King, Michael Kelly and Achilleas Koutoulas. That group's physicality helped establish the team's identity in head coach Pat Sheehan's first season, which saw Masconomet reach the Division 3 playoffs and finish second



Masconomet football captains, from left, Cal Weidman, Jack Fabiano, Lucas Magnifico and Nino Stefanelli.

in the NEC Dunn.

"We got a taste of what it was like and that made everyone attack the offseason," said Stefanelli. "We're a hungry group."

Bringing back the North Shore's leading rusher Jack Fabiano (1,258 yards, 18 TDs) as a senior captain gives Masconomet plenty of reasons to believe it can move the chains and score points. The Williams College committed battering ram is excited about the possibilities for his final high school season.

"We're coming in with a lot of confidence," said Fabiano. "With the experience we got last year, we feel ready to go and feel like we can spread the ball around to a lot of different guys."

The trigger man in that



REBA SALDANHA

Masconomet QB Drew Gustafson is back under center after helping the Chieftains win eight games last fall.

spread offense will be senior Drew Gustafson, who threw 1,345 yards and 15 touchdowns a year ago. Sheehan says the quarterback's confidence has improved in spades since last fall; he also has top pass catchers Cal Weidman (12 TDs), Liam

Ginley and Ryan Richardson all returning.

"We're definitely ahead of where we were this time a year ago in terms of scheme," said Sheehan. "We've got a good, senior heavy group with a lot of hard working kids."

Masconomet Mantra

- **Last year's record:** 8-3 (Lost in first round of playoffs)
- **Head coach:** Pat Sheehan (2nd season, 8-3)
- **Team captains:** Jack Fabiano, Sr. RB; Lucas Magnifico, Sr. TE/DE; Nino Stefanelli, Sr. OL/DL; Cal Weidman, Sr. WR/DB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Jack Fabiano (184 carries, 1,258 yards, 18 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Drew Gustafson (112-of-303, 1,345 yards, 15 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Cal Weidman (40 rec., 553 yards, 12 TD)
- **Did you know:** The new logo you see on Masconomet's shirts is not a bird, and the letters B-T-M are not a secret code. It's a drawn out map of the towns of Boxford, Topsfield and Middleton meant to represent the Tri-Town area that the school draws from.

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept 5	at Newburyport	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 12	at Billerica	7 p.m.
Sept 19	at No. Andover	6:30 p.m.
Sept 26	at Winchester	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	Peabody	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Danvers	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	Beverly	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	Marblehead	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 27	Northeast Tech	10 a.m.

Defensively, the Chieftains want to be known for their speed and their knack for getting after the opposing offense with energy. Connor Mitchell and Alex Cantalupo are emerging standouts on that side of the ball, and returners like Magnifico, Richardson and Stefanelli can all bring the lumber.

"Intensity and violence," said Stefanelli. "Masco's always been known for being a physical team and we don't want that to change."

The early portion of the schedule is challenging, opening with four straight road games against powerhouse programs Newburyport, Billerica, North Andover and Winchester. So, too, is the fact that some Division 2 Super Bowl contenders like King Philip and Barnstable have dropped to D3, making the road Gillette Stadium that much tougher for Masconomet.

The Chieftains are not thinking that far ahead, however. They know they won't sneak up any opponents this fall but remain committed to the idea that everyone starts at the bottom and each day is a new opportunity to climb.

"We know that with a senior heavy team, we'll have that target on our backs this year," said Weidman. "Our focus is to play our game and stay within ourselves."



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Can Magicians get same old results with lots of new faces?

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

Foolish is the football fan who ever counts Marblehead out of the Northeastern Conference title chase or a potentially fruitful playoff run.

True, the Magicians have just 52 players this year, down from seasons past. There are just 10 seniors (as opposed to the 27 that were rostered a year ago) and 14 juniors, meaning more than half of their squad will be varsity newcomers. A significant amount of sophomores will be starting on both sides of the ball.

Of its six senior captains, only three were starters a year ago ... and two saw scant little varsity playing time.

So why is long-time and highly successful head coach Jim Rudloff optimistic? Well, the program's track record of excellence over the last decade-and-a-half is a good place to start. So is the fact that the Magicians shined in the summer 7-on-7 passing leagues, winning 22 straight games and a pair of titles.

There's also this team's coachability factor.

"We're a very young, very small team numbers-wise. But the upside of that is they're so easy to coach. The entire staff has been saying that," said Rudloff, owner of



Marblehead's 2025 football captains are (left to right): Declan Gibson, John Schieffer, Finn Gallup, Owen Dulac, Breydan Callahan and Rylan Golden.

a sterling .782 winning percentage (136-38) during his first 16 seasons patrolling the MHS sidelines. "They've been incredibly crisp and getting a lot of work done. We really like what we've seen."

Marblehead's line should be strong. Captain Declan Gibson, a 6-foot-3, 230-pound offensive tackle and defensive end, is the lynchpin of this group. John Schieffer, another senior captain who played well at middle linebacker a year ago, should also see time at guard. Junior Pete

Rhodes, a center and defensive end, checks in at 5-11 and 225 pounds; he started on offense a year ago and will go both ways this fall. The rest of the line will be filled by some promising sophomores.

Finn Gallup has the quarterback position to himself after sharing the post as a junior. Another MHS captain, he threw for 953 yards and a dozen touchdowns (with only 3 INTs) and also ran for 369 yards and four scores in last year's 8-3 campaign.

The team's three other



STEPH TRAVERS/photo

Senior captain and quarterback Finn Gallup is dangerous for Marblehead both throwing and running with the football.

senior captains — Breydan Callahan, Owen Dulac and Rylan Golden — will also factor prominently in the offense. Callahan missed a good chunk of 2024 due to injury, but the big (6-2, 220 lbs.) back who can run over people is now healthy and rarin' to go. He'll also start at linebacker. Rudloff stated there are "a cavalcade" of sophomores behind him eager for varsity carries, too.

Golden, who also plays outside 'backer and corner, grabbed 27 passes for a team-best 451 yards and five touchdowns as a junior; he's made noticeable improvements in the offseason and

Magicians' Mystery Tour

► **Last year's record:** 8-3 (NEC Dunn champions; lost in Division 4 playoff quarterfinals)

► **Head coach:** Jim Rudloff (17th season, 136-38)

► **Team captains:** Owen Dulac, Sr. Rylan Golden, Sr. WR/OLB/CB; WR/DB; Finn Gallup, Sr. QB/DB; Declan Gibson, Sr. OT/DE; Breydan Callahan, Sr. RB/LB; John Schieffer, Sr. OG/DE.

► **Leading returning rusher:** Finn Gallup (49 carries, 369 yards, 4 TD)

► **Leading returning passer:** Finn Gallup (60-for-90, 953 yards, 12 TD)

► **Leading returning receiver:** Rylan Golden (27 rec., 451 yards, 5 TD)

► **Did you know:** A charter member of the Northeastern Conference since it first began in 1934, Marblehead has won more NEC football titles (26) than another school. The first 14 of those came when the NEC crowned just one (or co-) champions; the last dozen (from 2009-on) have come under the NEC North, NEC/GBL Tier 1, or NEC Dunn banners).

is a name you'll hear a lot this fall. Dulac will also be a reliable option on the outside, as will junior Owen Coyne.

Sophomores Matt Lyons and Trent Brown both have

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	at Lynn English	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 12	Bishop Fenwick	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Shepherd Hill	6 p.m.
Sept. 26	North Andover	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	at Beverly	11 a.m.
Oct. 17	Peabody	7 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Masconomet	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 31	Danvers	7 p.m.
Nov. 27	Swampscott	10 a.m.

the coaching staff excited with their pass catching (and pass coverage) capabilities. Tenth grader Landon Dosch will also "play a ton", according to his coach, most likely at safety. The same goes for outside linebacker Timmy Wales.

Rudloff also lavished praise on the team's kicker and punter, junior Finn Bresnahan. "He's money for us, as good of a punter as he is a kicker," said the coach. "Finn has a great mindset; he's a little dude who is very accurate and consistent."

Well aware of the buzz that Masconomet has coming into the season as well as squads like Beverly and Danvers who are ready to make upward moves, Rudloff realizes his team's reign atop the NEC standings is far from a sure thing.

"Being underdogs is different," he said, "but we really do like what we've seen from this group. It's going to be interesting to see how it all plays out."



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Big Blue aims for repeat performance

By Matt Williams

» Asst. Sports Editor

Graduating 15 seniors who were all key contributors is a challenge for any school without a large enrollment. The football tradition baked into the community in Swampscott, and the incredible work ethic of the Classes of 2026 and '27, have the Big Blue believing they can reload rather than rebuild.

"The preseason has been very competitive, and coming into the season we knew it would have to be," said senior Will Bush, a running back and linebacker who shares the captain's duties with classmate and ferocious two-way lineman Vaughn Hazell.

"Vaughn and I have been around since we played as freshmen, so we've seen what it's like to be on losing teams and winning teams. We know how to relate to those younger players and get them going."

Coming off an 8-4 season that yielded a Northeastern Conference Lynch title and a trip to the state semifinals, Swampscott will need to get its skill position players up to speed in a hurry. Returning junior quarterback John von Barta (21 TD passes) saw the players on the receiving end of 126 of his 139 completions graduate, leaving plenty of jobs open



STEPH TRAVERS/photo

Quarterback John von Barta returns under center for Swampscott after throwing for 1,680 yards and 21 touchdowns last season.



Swampscott High football captains Will Bush (left) and Vaughn Hazell.

Big Blue Banter

- **Last year's record:** 8-4 (NEC Lynch champions, lost in Division 6 state semifinals)
- **Head coach:** Peter Bush (3rd season, 14-9)
- **Team captains:** Will Bush, Sr. RB/LB; Vaughn Hazell, Sr. OL/DL
- **Leading returning rusher:** Will Bush (64 carries, 223 yards, 1 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** John von Barta (139-of-229, 1,680 yards, 21 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Noah Bascon (11 rec., 99 yards, 1 TD)
- **Did you know:** Will Bush is the second member of his family to captain a Big Blue football team coached by his father; current head coach Peter Bush captained the 1996 Super Bowl team coached by Will's grandfather, Bill.

in the Big Blue's spread passing attack.

Senior Chase Groothuis, a 6-foot-3 multi-sport athlete, is back on the gridiron after taking two years off and could immediately become one of von Barta's favorite targets. Junior Noah Bascon, the younger brother

of former stars Xaviah and Isaiah, is also primed for a much bigger role and brings elite speed to the table. Jack Duffy, Doyle Delano and Ollie Riddell are other juniors looking to make an impact at the skill positions.

Bush should get the lion's share of the backfield work,

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	at St. Mary's Lynn	5 p.m.
Sept. 12	Lynn English	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Peabody	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Melrose	7 p.m.
Oct. 10	Gloucester	7 p.m.
Oct. 17	Winthrop	7 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Saugus	7 p.m.
Oct. 30	Salem	7 p.m.
Nov. 27	at Marblehead	10 a.m.

with 1,200-yard rusher Henry Beuttler having graduated. Jameson O'Keefe is another reliable ballcarrier who can bring some balance.

Hazell, the lone returner of Swampscott's eight All-Conference selections from 2024, is the rock of a very experienced offensive line. Senior Rayyan Asad had a strong offseason while juniors Sam Morse, John DiLisio and Ben White have

some starting experience. John Cogliano is also in the mix up front.

"Things are looking good," said Hazell. "I enjoy being that role model and helping these guys develop. I think DeLis (John DiLisio) has looked like a beast on both sides of the ball."

The Big Blue will need to be ready right out the gates since each of their first six games come against teams that made the playoffs a season ago. Defensively, they'll look to replace Liam Keaney, who graduated with a single season record for tackles, with Will Bush among the run stuffers who will step up to fill that void.

"We have a tight group of kids who understand the standard that's been set here and how to meet it," said Peter Bush, the third-year

head coach who is Will's dad and was voted Coach of the Year by his NEC peers last fall.

"The development in the preseason has been good. We were better on Day 6 than we were on Day 1 and we'll keep that going up to game day."

Repeating as NEC Lynch champions is always a goal along with returning to the Division 5 playoffs. Anyone who plays football in Swampscott knows how important it is to compete with archrival Marblehead on Thanksgiving, but the Big Blue's four seniors refuse to say that any one game carries more or less weight than another.

"The effort and the goals are the same every week," Hazell said. "Just win: go out and compete 100 percent."

BREAKING NEWS LIVE



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Witch Way looking up for Salem

By Matt Williams
» Asst. Sports Editor

With so many new faces on the football field, Salem High doubled down on development last fall. Coming back with a load of experience this season means the Witches are primed to see that bet hit and pay off.

Of the 60 or so student-athletes out for the team this season, Salem boasts 13 returning letter-winners plus another five that saw time with the varsity. Last fall's 4-7 record is also a bit deceiving, since the Witches lost two of their last three games by a grand total of three points.

"These guys are hungry," said 12th year head coach Matt Bouchard. "When you finish a season the way we did, it sends you into the off-season pretty motivated."

Offensively, Salem returns eight starters and has a line that Bouchard said is the most experienced group he's ever had heading into a season opener. Returning Northeastern Conference all-star Aidan Collazo is steadfast at guard, while seniors Juju Martinez and Matt Rose bring versatility and snarl. Senior Chris Teixeira is a mainstay at tackle, and 305-pound sophomore Greg Njiseng is vying for time as well.

That group will be



JARED CHARNEY

Salem High football captains Jake Lister, Oscar Fernandez, and Elvis Espinal.

protecting junior Jake Lister, who takes over at quarterback after seeing some action last November. He was elected one of Salem's three captains and has the offense running at a pretty efficient clip early on.

"I go back to the game against Pentucket last year. Jake came in (to start the second half) and ran a 2-minute drill like a veteran. He managed the huddle, made smart throws and controlled the clock. He has top notch composure," said Bouchard. "We always say 85 percent of what you do comes from attitude, and Jake's is about as good as it gets."

Lister's co-captains will be two of his most important skill players in senior running back Elvis Espinal and senior wideout Oscar Fernandez. Espinal scored eight touchdowns a year ago and averaged 5.6 yards per

carry. He's worked diligently in the offseason to assume the carries voided by the graduation of Rocco Ryan, who touched the ball close to 180 times.

"Elvis has always impressed with his ability to break through contact," said Bouchard. "This year, he's really doubled down on the leadership front. He's made a huge transformation in his approach to the game, and that's going to be a big for us."

Fernandez, meanwhile, can stretch the field vertically and also move the sticks. He caught 23 passes for 365 yards a year ago and is certainly in line for a bigger role. He's also one of Salem's most reliable defenders.

"I call Oscar 'Mr. Consistent,'" said Bouchard. "The average football play is five seconds, so we always say 'Give us five.' We check it on



JAIME CAMPOS

Salem's Elvis Espinal returns for his senior season as one of the Witches' captains.

film and I don't think I've ever seen that kid give three or four."

Alvin Laurent, another senior, adds a dimension of speed and elusiveness to the Salem offense. He's a Swiss Army Knife-type who can do damage from the slot or the backfield and typically takes off like a rocket once he gets the pigskin.

Junior Fionn Coughlin, the team's kicker, is also primed for a huge season at the Mike linebacker spot. Kelvin Jean Louis, another junior, was one of Salem's leading tacklers in the Sam 'backer spot last season; the Witches are excited about what that duo can bring to the table.

"Cliff Exilhomme, who's

also our wrestling coach, does an amazing job with that linebacker group," Bouchard noted.

Potential nickel back Kendal Murga, a sophomore, is another one to watch. Juniors Markius Carrasquillo and Jayden Peterson and seniors Adam Tiburcio, Tyrek Jones, Kobe Sanchez Rojas and Cesar Mesa Castillo will also be key contributors.

Now a Division 5 football squad for playoff purposes, Salem got ready for the season with scrimmages against Chelsea and Lynn Tech before Saturday's season opener vs. KIPP Academy of Lynn.

"The pieces are coming together for our kids," said

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6	at KIPP	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 12	Danvers	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Greater Lawrence	6 p.m.
Sept. 26	Whittier	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	Gloucester	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	Saugus	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Winthrop	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Swampscott	7 p.m.

Cauldron Chatter

- **Last year's record:** 4-7
- **Head coach:** Matt Bouchard (12th season, 45-75)
- **Team captains:** Elvis Espinal, Sr. RB/LB; Oscar Fernandez, Sr. WR/DB; Jake Lister, Jr. QB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Elvis Espinal (73 carries, 416 yards, 5 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Jake Lister (24-of-44, 315 yards, 3 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Oscar Fernandez (23 rec., 365 yards, 1 TD)
- **Did you know:** Bouchard now trails only legends Bill Broderick and Ken Perrone in terms of wins and games coached as head man of Salem High's football program.

Bouchard. "With so few vacancies, we've been also to accelerate what we're putting in. We feel like we're leaps and bounds ahead of where we were a year ago in terms of understanding

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Tanners look for rebound with new faces up front

By Matt Williams
» Asst. Sports Editor

Peabody High quarter-back Luke Maglione is a glass half-full kind of guy. So when he surveys the Tanners' spread formation and sees that 75 percent of his completions from last season have graduated, he considers it an opportunity rather than an obstacle.

"I'm fired up," said Maglione, a senior captain who has won 15 of 22 career starts. "I see a lot of guys who are hungry to earn spots and who are ready to play. My mentality is doing whatever it takes to help everybody else, not just myself."

The Tanners are banking on experience at quarter-back helping compensate for a lack of it pretty much everywhere else. Junior captain Matt Dresser is the only returnee on the offensive line, and there's not a running back on the roster who handled as many as five varsity carries in 2024. The wide receiving corps will also feature four new starters.

Senior captain Cory Dooley returns at tight end and might also line up in the slot or an H-back type role. His versatility and toughness in tight spaces gives Peabody a bit of a security blanket as a reliable third down option.

"Luke's been throwing me



Peabody High football captains, from left, Matt Dresser, Cory Dooley and Luke Maglione are excited about the new season.

the ball since first grade, so it feels like he knows where I'm going to be at all times," said Dooley, who hauled in 27 balls last season. "If that first read isn't open or it's getting late in the play, he knows I'll get to open space and find me."

Dresser will hold down the right tackle spot and sophomore Mark Bettencourt Jr. is the leading candidate to take over at center. James Hooper and Shawn Costa have been solid on the line in the preseason, and head coach Mark Bettencourt believes his team's physical practice style will get the new faces up to speed quickly.

"A lot of these kids have been waiting for their chance. Now that it's here, they want to take it. I love the way they're jumping



STEPH TRAVERS/photo
Luke Maglione is back for the Peabody football team with 22 starts and 25 career touchdown passes under his belt.

up into all the drills," said Dresser. "The biggest thing when you're new is learning how to take a hit.

It can be rough in those trenches, so you have to stay mentally prepared to not get rattled and miss your assignments."

Peabody has a stable of running backs who could all see carries until someone grabs the rock and runs away with the job. Seniors Christ Jeune, Yadiel Villanueva, Andrew Anthony-Santos and Alex Vincent are among the lead candidates, with sophomore Andrew Senfuma pushing for ground work.

At receiver, senior Joaquim Chaves may emerge as the leader after flashing big-play potential late last season. Senior Max Silvia and junior Mark Mendonca both had great summers, with Jack Smith in the mix as well.

"There are so many

Longhorn Lowdown

► **Last year's record:** 5-6 (Lost in first round of playoffs)

► **Head coach:** Mark Bettencourt (13th season, 74-53)

► **Team captains:** Cory Dooley, Sr. TE/DE; Luke Maglione, Sr. QB; Matt Dresser, Jr. OL/DL.

► **Leading returning rusher:** Luke Maglione (37 carries, 124 yards, 6 TD)

► **Leading returning passer:** Luke Maglione (149-of-249, 1,358 yards, 13 TD)

► **Leading returning receiver:** Cory Dooley (27 rec., 241 yards, 2 TD)

► **Did you know:** The Tanners have 20 program alum from the graduating Classes of 2022, '23, '24 and '25 currently playing college football. That's among the most of any public school in the region.

seniors who haven't gotten the opportunity to play a lot because we've been so deep the last two years," said Maglione. "Now that these guys finally have that chance, they're excited about it and that's led to some really high energy practices."

The Tanners made the Division 2 playoffs last season, but their five wins were the program's fewest in a full campaign since 2019. This year's group is determined to tighten up some of

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	at Melrose	7 p.m.
Sept. 12	at Wincheter	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	Swampscott	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	Lynn English	7 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Masconomet	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	Marblehead	7 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Danvers	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	Beverly	7 p.m.
Nov. 27	Saugus	10 a.m.

the slippage in details that led to a 5-6 finish.

"Our captains are keeping the team focused and on task," said Bettencourt, beginning his 13th season as head coach. "We've had a lot of competition, and internal competition always makes you better."

One place Peabody can improve is on defense, since they conceded more than 30 points per game in those six losses. Having Dooley and Jayden Betts on the ends will create a good pass rush as the Tanners plan to bring more speed to their stack scheme. Junior Brian Collins Dixon and sophomore Brody Burke have flashed at linebacker, while Anthony Melo looks good at corner along with Mendonca on the boundary and Silvia at safety.

"Coach (Justin) Powers always says the linebackers are the most dangerous people on the field, and that's how we want to play," Dooley said. "We love to hit and we want to be aggressive."

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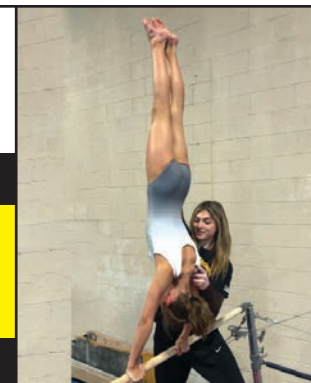
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Experience, familiarity have Fishermen aiming high

By Nick Giannino

» Staff Writer

Despite a disappointing finish to last season, including a first round playoff loss to eventual Division 5 state champion Shawsheen, the 2024 Gloucester High football campaign could be viewed as a successful one for head coach Dan O'Connor and Co.

The Fishermen wound up with a 5-5 record, marking the first time in seven years that they finished with a .500 record or better. This autumn, they return the bulk of their roster — including four senior captains — and appear poised to keep trending in the right direction.

“We only graduated two starters on either side of the ball,” said O'Connor, who had upwards of 50 student athletes come out for the team. “There’s kids out there who have been three-year, some four-year contributors for us. We feel really good about the pieces coming back.”

Not only does Gloucester have the luxury of deploying many players who are already familiar with its offensive and defensive schemes, but they boast leadership group as well.

Returning quarterback Camryn Rodolosi, along with running backs Thomas Cribbs, Joe Allen and Jaylen



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Gloucester quarterback Camryn Rodolosi is back as a senior captain for the 2025 campaign.

Severino, each served as reliable junior captains last season and will retain their roles in 2025. In addition, fellow seniors Jarred Johnson (OL/LB) and Gavin Bren (TE/DE) will join them with the ‘C’ on their chest.

Under O'Connor's Wing-T offense — which he implemented for the first time in his six-year tenure last fall — the Fishermen will rely on both talent and familiarity to move the chains. Allen (132 carries for 845 yards in 2024) and Cribbs (117 carries for 643 yards) both had their moments as featured

backs, while the speedy Severino — who missed significant time with an injury last year — is back healthy and ready to rip off plenty of his signature lengthy scampers.

Gloucester has other players who will certainly get their chances at toting the rock in the team's run-heavy attack, too.

“This group has put in a ton of work this offseason to prepare (and) we expect a lot of kids to be able to carry the ball for us,” said O'Connor.

If there's one area of concern for O'Connor and his



DAVID SOKOL/Staff photo

Gloucester's Jaylen Severino will serve as the team's punter this fall in addition to his offensive and defensive contributions.

thin overall and it remains to be seen who else will step up in that regard.

“It's a group that is going to be a huge factor in our success this season,” said O'Connor.

In an attempt to potentially boost their standing in the Division 5 power rankings, Gloucester has added a pair of non-conference foes to their regular season slate. The Fishermen snuck in as the 16th and final seed in last year's postseason tournament.

In order to be the best you have to play the best, and O'Connor is taking that to heart heading into the new campaign.

“We're playing a tougher

Fishermen's catch

► **Last year's record:** 5-5 (Lost in Division 5 first round of the playoffs)

► **Head coach:** Dan O'Connor (7th season; 20-41)

► **Team captains:** Camryn Rodolosi, Sr. QB/DE; Thomas Cribbs, Sr. FB/LB; Joe Allen, Sr. RB/S; Jaylen Severino, Sr. RB/S; Jarred Johnson, Sr. OL/LB; Gavin Bren, Sr. TE/DE.

► **Leading returning rusher:** Joe Allen (132 carries, 845 yards, 7 TD)

► **Leading returning passer:** Camryn Rodolosi (23-of-42, 273 yards, 4 TD)

► **Leading returning receiver:** Jaylen Severino (8 rec., 107 yards, 2 TD)

► **Did you know:** Last season was the first time since 2018 that the Fishermen finished with a .500 record or better.

schedule, having added St. Mary's (Lynn) and Bishop Fenwick,” said O'Connor. “The goal is to get into the playoffs and compete for a higher seed. Once you get in, anything can happen.”

Regardless of what happens come playoff time, Gloucester will always have their storied Turkey Day rivalry clash with Danvers to look forward too as well.

“As always, our seniors are hoping to take the Thanksgiving Day trophy back from Danvers,” added O'Connor.

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	Beverly	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	at Falmouth	1 p.m.
Sept. 19	St. Mary's Lynn	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	Bishop Fenwick	7 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Salem	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Swampscott	7 p.m.
Oct. 17	Saugus	7 p.m.
Oct. 31	at Winthrop	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 27	at Danvers	10 a.m.

staff, it's on the line. Senior Zach Hashley and junior Max Thomas are two players with size, strength and physicality up front, but the Fishermen are admittedly



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2025 NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL

FRIDAY, SEPT. 5

Swampscott at St. Mary's Lynn, 5
Springfield Central at St. John's Prep, 6
Chelsea at Ipswich, 6
Masconomet at Newburyport, 6:30
Triton at Hamilton-Wenham, 6:30
Amesbury at Essex Tech, 6:30
West Bridgewater at Manchester Essex, 6:30
Beverly at Gloucester, 7
Danvers at Concord-Carlisle, 7
Peabody at Melrose, 7
Marblehead at Lynn English, 7:30

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

Salem at KIPP Academy Lynn, 7:30

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12

Watertown at Ipswich, 6
Danvers at Salem, 6:30
Peabody at Winchester, 6:30
Hamilton-Wenham at Brighton, 6:30
Bishop Fenwick at Marblehead, 7
Masconomet at Billerica, 7
Lynn English at Swampscott, 7

Wilmington at Essex Tech, 7
St. John's Prep at Marshfield, 7

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13

Haverhill at Beverly, 11 a.m.
Gloucester at Falmouth, 1

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

Central Catholic at St. John's Prep, 6
Beverly at Revere, 6
Salem at Greater Lawrence, 6
Marblehead at Shepherd Hill, 6
Reading at Danvers, 6:30
Masconomet at North Andover, 6:30
Essex Tech at Newburyport, 6:30
Bishop Fenwick at Bishop Stang, 7
Swampscott at Peabody, 7
St. Mary's Lynn at Gloucester, 7
Manchester Essex at KIPP Academy Lynn, 7

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

Pingree at Hamden Hall, 2

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26

Wakefield at Beverly, 6

Ipswich at Lynnfield, 6
Whittier at Salem, 6:30
Winthrop at Danvers, 6:30
Masconomet at Winchester, 6:30
North Reading at Hamilton-Wenham, 6:30
Triton at Manchester Essex, 6:30
Lynn English at Peabody, 7
Bishop Fenwick at Gloucester, 6:30
North Andover at Marblehead, 7
Swampscott at Melrose, 7

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27

St. John's Prep at La Salle (R.I.) Academy, 1
Pingree at Worcester Academy, 3

FRIDAY, OCT. 3

New Hampton at Pingree, 5:30
Danvers at Beverly, 6
Gloucester at Salem, 6:30
Peabody at Masconomet, 6:30
Ipswich at Essex Tech, 6:30
Manchester Essex at Newburyport, 6:30
Hamilton-Wenham at Pentucket, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

Archbishop Williams at Bishop Fenwick, 1

FRIDAY, OCT. 10

Bishop Fenwick at Cardinal Spellman, 6
St. John's Prep at BC High, 6
Manchester Essex at Ipswich, 6
Essex Tech at North Reading, 6
Masconomet at Danvers, 6:30
Saugus at Salem, 6:30
Amesbury at Hamilton-Wenham, 6:30
Swampscott at Gloucester, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 11

Marblehead at Beverly, 11 a.m.
Portsmouth Abbey at Pingree, 5

Scheduled times and locations are subject to change



FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCT. 17
Essex Tech at Pentucket, 6
St. John's Shrewsbury at St. John's Prep, 6
Beverly at Masconomet, 6:30
Hamilton-Wenham at Manchester Essex, 6:30
Ipswich at Triton, 6:30
Marblehead at Peabody, 7
Winthrop at Swampscott, 7
Saugus at Gloucester, 7
Bishop Feehan at Bishop Fenwick, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 18
Austin Prep at Pingree, 5:30

FRIDAY, OCT. 24
Amesbury at Ipswich, 6
Manchester Essex at Lynnfield, 6
St. John's Prep at Malden Catholic, 6
Marblehead at Masconomet, 6:30

Peabody at Danvers, 6:30
Salem at Winthrop, 6:30
Hamilton-Wenham at Essex Tech, 6:30
Swampscott at Saugus, 7
Cathedral at Bishop Fenwick, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 25
Pingree at Proctor, 5:30

THURSDAY, OCT. 30
Pentucket at Ipswich, 6
Amesbury at Manchester Essex, 6
Triton at Essex Tech, 6:30
Beverly at Peabody, 7
Salem at Swampscott, 7

FRIDAY, OCT. 31
Lynnfield at Hamilton-Wenham, 6:30
Gloucester at Winthrop, 6:30
Danvers at Marblehead, 7

SATURDAY, NOV. 1
Catholic Memorial at St. John's Prep, 1
Bishop Fenwick at Arlington Catholic, 1
Greenwich County Day at Pingree, 4:30

FRIDAY, NOV. 7
MIAA playoffs first round

SATURDAY, NOV. 8
MIAA playoffs first round
Pingree at Brooks, 4:30

FRIDAY, NOV. 14
MIAA playoff state quarterfinals

SATURDAY, NOV. 15
MIAA playoff state quarterfinals

FRIDAY, NOV. 21
MIAA playoff state semifinals

SATURDAY, NOV. 22
MIAA playoff state semifinals

THURSDAY, NOV. 27
Salem at Beverly, 10 a.m.
Gloucester at Danvers, 10 a.m.
Swampscott at Marblehead, 10 a.m.
Saugus at Peabody, 10 a.m.
Northeast Tech at Masconomet, 10 a.m.
Ipswich at Hamilton-Wenham, 10 a.m.
Essex Tech at Manchester Essex, 10 a.m.
St. Mary's Lynn at Bishop Fenwick, 10 a.m.
St. John's Prep at Xaverian, 10 a.m.

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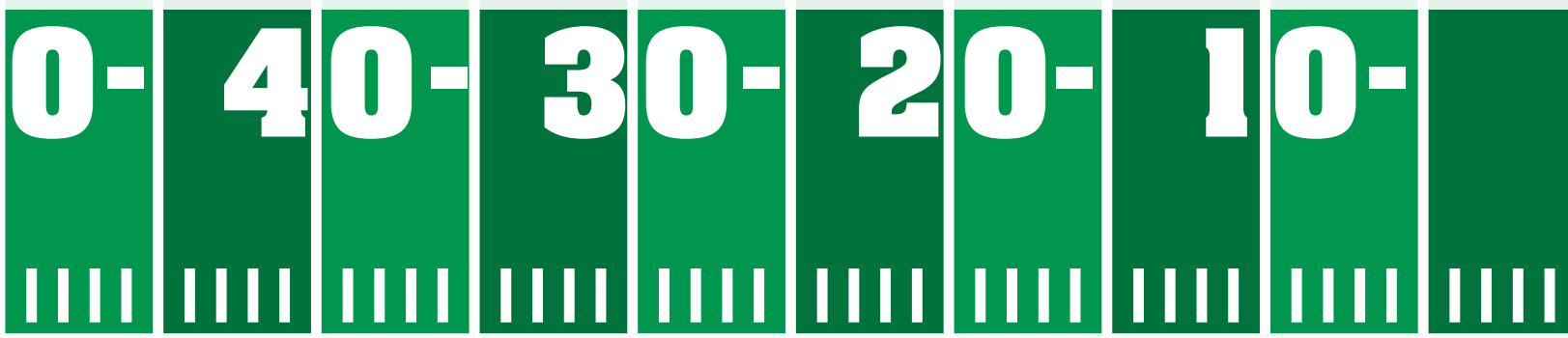

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HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL CAPE ANN LEAGUE BAKER DIVISION

Big changes as Generals aim for winning season

By Nick Giannino

» Staff Writer

Expect some big changes in Hamilton-Wenham this fall.

Not only are the Generals set to debut their brand new athletic turf field, but their football squad has brought in a new coach, Mike Flynn, to seize the reins.

A former Super Bowl champion and lineman with the Baltimore Ravens, Flynn boasts a wealth of experience and knowledge. It feels like he's the perfect fit to take over for Tim Freiermuth (now the head coach at Essex Tech), who admittedly struggled to find the win column while deploying young, thin rosters over the past three seasons.

With Flynn at the helm, expect a more heavy dosage of passing plays as he implements the spread offense that made him so successful at Pingree, where he previously coached for five seasons.

"We'll use multiple formations, three to four wide receivers, and we'll use tight ends," said Flynn, who went 37-8-2 at Pingree with four prep school Bowl game appearances. "We're going to try to spread people out, use a lot of different looks ... it will definitely be a learning curve for the guys after they ran a Single Wing last



DAN RYAN/Staff photo

Hamilton-Wenham's Caden Schrock hopes for many more celebrations like this as a senior captain and workhorse.

year."

Fortunately, Flynn feels he has the pieces to make the new offense hum — although it may take time to get everyone fully on board.

Leading returning rusher and do-it-all force Caden Schrock returns to the

backfield, last year's top receiver Luke Molitano is also back, and Griffin Hawkins is capable of doing some damage at tight end. Those three will serve as senior captains alongside physical lineman Robbie Bozarjian.

General Discussion

► **Last year's record:** 3-8

► **Head coach:** Mike Flynn (1st season; previously went 37-8-2 in five seasons at Pingree)

► **Team captains:** Caden Schrock, Sr. RB/LB; Robbie Bozarjian, Sr. OL/DL; Luke Molitano, Sr. WR/DB; Griffin Hawkins, Sr. TE/DE.

► **Leading returning rusher:** Caden Schrock (193 carries, 1,048 yards, 9 TD)

► **Leading returning passer:** Caden Schrock (8-for-18, 96, TD)

► **Leading returning receiver:** Luke Molitano (26 rec., 299 yards, 1 TD)

► **Did you know:** New Generals' head coach Mike Flynn played for the Baltimore Ravens in the NFL for 10 seasons from 1998-2007. Standing at 6-foot-3 and over 300 pounds at his peak, he was a force to be reckoned with on the line and helped the Ravens capture Super Bowl XXXV as the starting right guard.

Schrock in particular should once again be a focal point of the Generals' attack. Strong, athletic and deceptively quick on his feet, Schrock rushed for over 1,000 yards (at 5.4 YPC) and nine touchdowns last year.

At quarterback, junior Anthony Folger will take

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	Triton	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 12	at Brighton	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 26	North Reading	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Pentucket	7 p.m.
Oct. 10	Amesbury	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	at Manchester Essex	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Essex Tech	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 31	Lynnfield	6 p.m.
Nov. 27	Ipswich	10 a.m.

over under center after playing on the JV team last fall.

"He's got some big shoes to fill playing that position, especially with what we plan to do on offense," Flynn said of Folger. "But we have a couple of young guys, younger lineman in Sterling Stinson and Harrison Esker (alongside Bozarjian) who have the chance to be really good and help make his job easier."

Junior Jakob Collins is another guy who's looked strong at tight end and defensive end.

Flynn is currently rostering 39 players and hopes to get a few more to join in the early portions of the season. He has a large sophomore class with a ton of potential, one of which is his son, Joseph Flynn.

Flynn's familiarity with the program and many of his current players should only help the transition.

"Living in town (Wenham), I've know the kids

forever and I coached some of them," said Flynn. "The youth level is obviously much different than high school from an expectation and accountability standpoint, but these guys have impressed me so far. I've been pleasantly surprised."

Hamilton-Wenham's line appears to be a strength, while their secondary has plenty of question marks. Fortunately the Generals will have the luxury of opening the year against Triton and Brighton in their first two weeks, two run-heavy teams operating in Wing-type schemes.

"In the short term that will be good for us; it give us about four weeks to figure out our secondary," added Flynn.

As far as competing on a brand new home field, Flynn spoke for the entire team in saying they couldn't be more excited.

"It's been phenomenal, exceeds expectations," Flynn said of the turf. "Especially after what the kids went through last year, practicing on a different field every night and having no home games ... that makes it tough to have success."

"The new field is beautiful, as good as anything you'll see, and I think it's going to be great for the school and the program."



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Experience has Tigers aiming for postseason berth

By Nick Giannino

» Staff Writer

Is this the year that the Ipswich High football team breaks its playoff drought?

Tigers' head coach Zack Lamkin believes so.

Now in his fifth season on the IHS sidelines, Lamkin has never had a team qualify for the postseason. Although the program continues to lack in overall numbers, the returning core boasts talent, size and tenacity on both sides of the ball — an excellent sign as they embark on a hopeful campaign.

"I think I have the type of squad that could for sure be in the playoffs and potentially make a playoff run," said Lamkin, whose team competes in Division 7. "That's something I haven't felt in years, to be honest. We have a long way to go, but I haven't had a group that's worked this hard or that has looked this good this early in preseason."

A total of 31 student athletes came out for the program this year — a small number in comparison to some surrounding schools, but an improvement from last year's 24 nonetheless. The roster includes 12 hungry newcomers who have never previously played football, as well as a slew of returning pieces Lamkin is



DAN RYAN/Staff photo

Will Gromko of Ipswich reacts after powering through the Hamilton-Wenham defense for a score last Thanksgiving. He returns this fall as a senior captain

extremely excited about.

Seniors Luke Wile (LB/OL) and Will Gromko (LB/TE) will retain their duties as captains alongside fellow

classmates Vin Winter (QB) and Henry Latorella (DL/OL). With the exception of Winter, who will solely serve as the signal caller,

each captain should play a key role on both sides of the ball.

The 6-foot-2 Latorella in particular has greatly impressed in the early goings with his size, strength and technique on the line.

"Henry looks like an absolute monster," said Lamkin, who estimated that the lineman weighs somewhere around 250-275 pounds. "Last year he really did a good job filling into his body and did well at center for us. This year we're moving him out to tackle, and he's just a beast. He's going to have a huge year."

Junior Jake Stevens will slide in at center with classmates Kirby Domingo (guard), Brady Merry (tackle) helping to fill out the line. Both Wile and Gromko are more than capable blockers up front, too.

"I think it's going to be a very good offensive line; I'm excited to see them move some bodies this year," said Lamkin.

Out of the backfield, Lamkin will have the luxury of deploying five "very good" running backs, including returning leading rusher James Dick. After seeing some time on varsity last year, sophomore Ethan Boleski has looked impressive early on, while senior Pace Capone provides a

great change of pace at fullback.

"Pace is a little raw, but he's super invested and if he can reach his potential I think he can be one of the best running backs in the CAL," said Lamkin. "He's very fast, very powerful, and if he can find a way to unlock some of the other skills I think he can get 100 yards every game."

For the first time in five years, Lamkin won't be starting a freshman. In fact, Boleski is the lone underclassmen in line to see significant reps. That alone tells you just how much varsity experience Ipswich has to work with this fall.

"We might not have big numbers, but we've got tons of experience," said the coach.

Defensively, Ipswich's coaching staff have decided to change things up a bit. In swapping to the 3-4 formation, Lamkin feels it "suits us well." In addition the stellar linebacking core led by Wile and Gromko, the Tigers boast a talented secondary blanketed by Boleski at safety.

Ipswich, which won just two games last fall, opens the year with a pair of non-conference home dates against Chelsea and Watertown before delving into the CAL portion of their schedule.

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	Chelsea	6 p.m.
Sept. 12	Watertown	6 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Lynnfield	6 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Essex Tech	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	Manchester Essex	6 p.m.
Oct. 17	at Triton	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	Amesbury	6 p.m.
Oct. 30	Pentucket	6 p.m.
Nov. 27	at Hamilton-Wenham	10 a.m.

Tiger Tackles

- **Last year's record:** 3-8
- **Head coach:** Zack Lamkin (5th season, 8-35)
- **Team captains:** Luke Wile, Sr. LB/OL; Will Gromko, Sr. LB/TE; Vin Winter, Sr. QB; Henry Latorella, Sr. DL/OL.
- **Leading returning rusher:** James Dick (96 carries, 365 yards, 5 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Vin Winter (54-for-94, 858 yards, 8 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Will Gromko (11 rec., 195 yards, 1 TD)
- **Did you know:** Ipswich's last winning season came during the COVID-19 shortened "Fall 2" 2021 campaign in which it went a perfect 6-0 and won the Cape Ann League title.

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ESSEX TECH CAPE ANN LEAGUE KINNEY DIVISION

Freiermuth eager to get ball rolling in first season with Hawks

By Nick Giannino
» Staff Writer

After eight seasons as the head football coach at Essex Tech, Dan Connors has officially passed the torch to a hungry, up-and-coming leader in Tim Freiermuth.

Connors isn't going far, staying on as an associate head coach for the Hawks. In fact, it was his idea to bring in Freiermuth, the 29-year-old and former Hamilton-Wenham head coach, to "run the show" at Essex Tech.

"It's a real credit to Danny (Connors). I'm sure it was a really tough decision for him," Freiermuth said upon accepting the position back in January. "But the bottom line is he saw this as an opportunity to build up Essex Tech football. I'm really looking forward to it."

As a wellness teacher at Essex Tech Freiermuth had already established a relationship with Connors, making the transition seamless from the start. Thanks to his time coaching at Hamilton-Wenham, he has plenty of familiarity in the Cape Ann League, too, a conference in which the Hawks are now entering their third year as league members.

Now he inherits a program that won just two games a year ago after a positive 6-5 record in 2023. But



Essex Tech quarterback Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik is back for his senior season with the Hawks.

in working with Connors, he plans to swiftly turn things back around at the Hathorne-based school and is ecstatic about the personnel he has to work with.

Essex Tech had a grand total of 87 players come out this season, many of which are returning talents.

"Expectations are really high. We have a good mix of experienced seniors and promising juniors and sophomores," said Freiermuth.

"There is a lot of excitement here."

Despite their 2-9 record in 2024, the Hawks' offense had its moments. They scored at least 20 points in eight out of their 11 games and 19 points in another clash.

Returning senior quarterback and Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik served as a dual-threat talent (624 rushing yards, 847 passing yards last year) and will look

to make strides with his arm this fall. The Hawks have a number of options at the skill positions, too, although it remains to be seen which of those individuals will separate themselves from the pack as the season kicks off.

Fellow seniors Xavier Parsons (WR/DB), Jordan Minaya (LB/TE) and Ben Toerne (OL/DL) will join Casinelli-Tarasuik as team captains, with the latter hoping to help lead



Former Hamilton-Wenham coach Tim Freiermuth succeeds Dan Connors as Essex Tech head coach.

an admittedly inexperienced line, according to Freiermuth.

The coach also highlighted senior defensive back Aidan Grove, senior lineman Dylan Loughman, senior receiver/defensive back Hayden Ferguson, and junior linebacker/running back Charlie Lussier as players to watch.

It's a hard working group that's truly dedicated to bringing a winning mentality every time they step on the field, he noted.

"We have over 60 guys who were consistently in the weight room over the summer," said Freiermuth. "The senior group is setting high expectations for the program."

The Hawks will play nearly an all-CAL schedule this fall, with a home tilt against Wilmington in Week 2 the only out-of-conference foe on their slate.

Hawk Happenings

- **Last year's record:** 2-9
- **Head coach:** Tim Freiermuth (1st season; went 9-24 in three seasons with Hamilton-Wenham)
- **Team captains:** Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik, Sr. QB; Xavier Parsons, Sr. WR/DB; Jordan Minaya, Sr. LB/TE; Ben Toerne, Sr. OL/DL.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik (77 carries, 624 yards, 14 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik (53-for-112, 847 yards, 7 TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Makaio Bey (10 rec., 158 yards, 0 TD)
- **Did you know:** A starter since midway through his freshman season, senior captain and quarterback Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik has combined for 3,634 yards and 40 touchdowns with the Hawks (1,399 yards rushing and 22 TDs; 2,035 passing yards and 18 TDs).

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	Amesbury	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 12	Wilmington	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Newburyport	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	Ipswich	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	at North Reading	6 p.m.
Oct. 17	at Pentucket	6 p.m.
Oct. 24	Hamilton-Wenham	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	Triton	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 27	at Manchester Essex	10 a.m.

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Hurd, Hornets poised for another strong year in CAL

By Nick Giannino

» Staff Writer

The Manchester Essex football team made a successful return to the Cape Ann League last fall, and this season they're ready to make some real noise.

Led by star senior quarterback and co-captain Zach Hurd, the Hornets came within one point of upsetting unbeaten Gardner in the opening round of the 2024 Division 7 playoffs. Even with that disappointing setback, they finished with a 6-5 record.

With the versatile Hurd back under center for his senior campaign and a number of capable weapons returning alongside him, the sky's the limit.

"I think we have a great opportunity to compete in the CAL Baker with Lynnfield, Hamilton-Wenham, Ipswich and Amesbury," said head coach Joe Grimes, now in his fifth season. "We had some really good battles last year and expect a really tough league this year."

Despite battling some minor injuries late last season, Hurd piled up over 1,400 rushing yards and scored 17 times on the ground. His yardage totals were the most from any player in the North Shore and Cape Ann area, with no other quarterback coming close to those numbers.

Hurd proved his worth as a passer, too, finishing with a completion rate above 60 percent to go with 806 yards and six more TDs. Top receiver Felix Wood returns to the fold after catching 18 passes for 209 yards and a touchdown. Other options include fellow senior



DAVID SOKOL/Staff photo

Manchester Essex senior quarterback Zach Hurd is back and eager to lead the Hornets to another Division 7 playoff berth this fall.

Charlie Thurlow as well as talented junior back Noah Cohen. Senior Adam MacLeod also figures to get plenty of work out of the backfield.

As always, however, team defense

will be of the utmost importance for Grimes and his staff — and the coach is confident they can get the job done on that side of the ball.

"We've got good senior leadership

and a lot of varsity experience on both sides of the ball. I think we'll be able to play tough, physical defense that will hopefully pay dividends late into the colder months," said Grimes.

Standout lineman Walker Valeo will serve as the team's other captain. His work in the trenches was paramount to the Hornets' success on the ground last year, and he figures to be one of the squad's most impactful players on defense, too.

Fellow senior Nate Powers is another physical force up front to help bolster the team's depth in the middle.

If there's one area of concern for the Hornets, it's integrating some of their newer pieces into the lineup. Manchester Essex had around 40 players come out this season and, despite boasting a solid returning core, a number of new faces will still be called upon for key roles.

"(That's) always something we look to mitigate in camp," said Grimes. "But that can be a weakness as we try and fit all the jigsaw pieces together."

With a player as talented as Hurd back to lead the charge, Manchester Essex should regularly be in games. There's no question the Hornets are happy to be back in the CAL, and they're eager to get the ball rolling.

"It's a competitive league and we love being a part of it. We also get to host Essex Tech on Thanksgiving for the first time, which will be awesome," said Grimes. "We re-ignited that tradition last year and can't wait to send off our seniors at home this year."

"But we've got a lot of ground to cover ahead of that."

Quick Stingers

► **Last year's record:** 6-5 (Lost to Gardner in Division 7 first round)

► **Head coach:** Josiah Grimes (5th season, 27-17)

► **Team captains:** Zach Hurd, Sr. QB/DB; Walker Valeo, Sr. OL/DL.

► **Leading returning rusher:** Zach Hurd (138 carries, 1,389 yards, 17 TD)

► **Leading returning passer:** Zach Hurd (69-for-111, 806 yards, 6 TD)

► **Leading returning receiver:** Felix Wood (18 catches, 209 yards, TD)

► **Did you know:** This Thanksgiving, Manchester Essex will host Essex Tech for the first time in their new holiday rivalry. The Hornets won, 22-12, in last year's Turkey Day meeting on the road.

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	West Bridgewater	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	at KIPP Academy Lynn	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	Triton	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Newburyport	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Ipswich	6 p.m.
Oct. 17	Hamilton -Wenham	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Lynnfield	6 p.m.
Oct. 30	Amesbury	6 p.m.
Nov. 27	Essex Tech	10 a.m.

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ST. JOHN'S PREP CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Young superstars Vargas, Selvais big names for Eagles

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

The personnel, experience and talent levels may change, but The Standard when it comes to playing football at St. John's Prep does not.

With 18 new starters this fall on a team where the majority of players come from the junior and sophomore classes, understanding and abiding by The Standard is important for the Eagles to have the kind of success they've become accustomed to.

Veteran head coach Brian St. Pierre said that his youthful club will be "process driven" as they aim to be far better at the beginning of November than they are when the 2025 campaign kicks off Friday night at home against mighty Springfield Central.

"We talk all the time about The Standard, and with 130 kids from sophomores on up at practice every day, they're living that standard every week in the way that we prepare," said St. Pierre. "You might've been a scout team guy last year, now you're the second team tight end and it's a whole different meaning to what your preparation looks like — but you know what it looks like because you've been prepared. You know the structure and where to go and you've been thinking

about it in the offseason, 'I can't wait to make my push to be part of the travel group and be part of the guys that are getting prepared for that week's game.

"I feel very confident in that piece of it; I know our kids will play hard and that the structure is in place," he continued. "We're just going to be super young and inexperienced everywhere. We play the best schedule in the state; that's not even debatable. So that maturation process and growth piece throughout the season will be huge."

If you're talking St. John's Prep football in 2025, you can't *not* talk about Christopher Vargas. The 6-foot-4, 185-pound rocket armed quarterback, who threw for 1,311 yards and 17 touchdowns while taking the majority of snaps as a freshman, is ranked the No. 2 quarterback in the country for the Class of 2028 and already has a boatload of Division 1 offers.

"There's more expectations on him this season, certainly," said St. Pierre, "but Chris' preparation, attention to detail, work ethic ... none of that has changed. The guys are already looking to him in a leadership role, which he's in. He just happens to be a sophomore."

The same can also be said about another Prep sophomore, Riley Selvais.



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO

St. John's Prep sophomore Christopher Vargas is ranked second nationally among all quarterbacks in the Class of 2028.

The 5-foot-11, 175-pound wideout from Marblehead, who caught 30 passes for 357 yards and three scores a year ago, is ranked as the top receiver in New England in his age group.

"Like Chris, Riley really welcomes that leadership role," said St. Pierre.

Senior captain Alex Turrisi, an edge rusher/outside linebacker in the Eagles' 3-4 defense, returns for his second season as a starter. The same holds true for fellow

captain and University of Pennsylvania-bound Aaron Radke in the secondary.

Joe Irzyk (6-1, 255 lbs), who started four games at guard in 2024; Gio Correa, a 6-3, 230-pounder who made one start up front; and wide receiver Pierson Scala, who turned 14 catches into 242 yards and three TDs last season, are also senior captains.

Big things are expected of speedster Dayvian Sullivan, a junior cornerback

Eagles' Prey

► **Last year's record:** 10-2 (lost in Division 1 state semifinals)

► **Head coach:** Brian St. Pierre (12th season, 92-32)

► **Team captains:** Alex Turrisi, Sr. LB; Pierson Scala, Sr. WR; Aaron Radke, Sr. DB; Gio Correa, Sr. OL; Joe Irzyk, Sr. OL.

► **Leading returning rusher:** Jordan Toribio (96 carries, 630 yards, 9 TD)

► **Leading returning passer:** Christopher Vargas (87-for-155, 1,311 yards, 17 TD)

► **Leading returning receiver:** Riley Selvais (30 rec., 357 yards, 3 TD)

► **Did you know:** With eight victories this season, Brian St. Pierre would become the 14th man in Salem News area high school football annals to win 100 games with one school. Should he do so, he'd also make St. John's Prep the only area school with three coaches who have won 100 or more contests, joining Jim O'Leary (207) and Fred Glatz (105).

and receiver. The team's 1-2 backfield punch of juniors Jordan Toribio (630 yards, 9 TDs a year ago) and St. Mary's of Lynn transfer Maxwell Parent, who'll also suit up at cornerback, will also be counted on heavily.

Junior Will Seaha (6-1, 235 lbs.) figures to have a big role on both sides of the line. A 280-pound tackle,

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	Springfield Central	6 p.m.
Sept. 12	at Marshfield	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	Central Catholic	6 p.m.
Sept. 27	at La Salle Academy	1 p.m.
Oct. 10	at BC High	6 p.m.
Oct. 17	SJ Shrewsbury	6 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Malden Catholic	6 p.m.
Nov. 1	Catholic Memorial	1 p.m.
Nov. 27	at Xaverian	10 a.m.

sophomore Will Figulski, could slot in at one tackle; so could fellow sophomore Nick Yebba.

Ethan Stefanovich, who has committed to Middlebury, is a senior receiver with a lot of potential. Classmate Jack Shroyer played a bunch last year and will be the starting fullback. Senior tight ends Anthony Sanderson, Brody Gillingham and Andrew Budrow are all ready to shine.

Bo Minogue and Connor Quigley have stepped up in a wide open battle for the starting jobs at inside linebacker. Chibueze Anasiudu, a junior, will be the nose tackle, and sophomore Jay Arnett could be another edge guy on defense.

"How quickly these guys can assimilate to a heavy amount of snaps at the varsity level and playing the schedule we have will be key," said St. Pierre. "It's just inexperience at this point. But the work ethic and how they practice is cause for optimism."



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Crusaders eager to make the most of their talent, depth

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

There may be no high school football team in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that will be as ready to go for their 2025 season opener than Bishop Fenwick.

By the time the Crusaders hit the field to take on host Marblehead on September 12, they'll have had 25 practices. That's just fine with long-time head coach David Woods and his staff, who have used this extra time to teach each of their players the entire field.

"We've been able to teach to where everyone understands what the split end does on a certain play, what the slot does, what to do if we're lined up under center or in the shotgun, how we call motions, all of it," said Woods, who won his 200th game with Fenwick last fall. "The younger kids usually have to learn these things on the fly, but because our bye is the first official weekend of games, we've been able to use the extra time teaching — which has been great."

A mix of veterans with lots of experience and talent, both on the line and in the skill positions, plus an influx of newcomers who have their own athletic flair, have the Crusaders feeling a big season could be in the works.



Bishop Fenwick captains for the 2025 football season are (from left) Tyler Connolly, Jesse Timson, Dylan Patturelli, Ty Piraino, and Louis Levenisht.

Two of Fenwick's five senior captains, Tyler Connolly and Dylan Patturelli, are back as running backs and middle linebackers. Patturelli ran for 839 yards and 10 touchdowns last season (catching 2 more) while Connolly, who now stands 6-foot-1 and weighs 210 pounds, had six scores on the ground to go with his 590 yards rushing and hauled in three more TDs.

Two more captains join them on a sturdy offensive

front. Tye Piraino, a two-way tackle, goes 6-2 and 240 lbs.; Luis Levenisht returns after dealing with an injury last season and, at 6-2 and 300-plus pounds, will be a force at right tackle and defensive tackle; and converted running back C.J. Masone, who stands 6-1 and checks in at 185 pounds, brings back his athleticism and plus-blocking ability.

Woods raved about his team's junior center, Connor McPhail, whom he said has

been "phenomenal" thus far and will make a good offensive line even better.

Two-year starter Jesse Timson, a senior wideout and cornerback, is the team's fifth captain and can expect to see an uptick in his offensive numbers after grabbing a team-best 260 yards on 15 catches and three trips to the end zone. Tristan Giles, another senior, will also see a lot more time out wide and in the secondary, and

Captivating Crusaders

► **Last year's record:** 7-4

► **Head coach:** Dave Woods (28th season, 205-97)

► **Team captains:** Dylan Patturelli, Sr. RB/MLB; Tyler Connolly, Sr. RB/MLB; Tye Piraino, Sr. LT/DT; Luis Levenisht, Sr. RT/DT; Jesse Timson, Sr. WR/CB.

► **Leading returning rusher:** Dylan Patturelli (150 carries, 839 yards, 10 TD)

► **Leading returning passer:** Neal String (1-for-1, 7 yards)

► **Leading returning receiver:** Jesse Timson (15 rec., 260 yards, 3 TDs)

► **Did you know:** The Catholic Central League, of which Bishop Fenwick has long been a part of, is now two teams smaller in football this season after both Bishop Feehan and St. Mary's of Lynn decided to play independent schedules. That means Fenwick will compete for the CCL title alongside Archbishop Williams, Cardinal Spellman, Arlington Catholic, Bishop Stang and Cathedral.

On a team with as many as eight players who can play quarterback (including Connolly and Patturelli), 6-1 sophomore Andrew Kiricopoulos ultimately won the job, with junior Neal String serving as the backup.

"Andrew's got all the

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 12	at Marblehead	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Bishop Stang	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Gloucester	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 4	Archbishop Williams	1 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Cardinal Spellman	6 p.m.
Oct. 17	Bishop Feehan	7 p.m.
Oct. 24	Cathedral	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	at Arlington Catholic	1 p.m.
Nov. 27	St. Mary's Lynn	10 a.m.

tools," said Woods.

Two intriguing newcomers are Jamie Dube, who transferred to Fenwick late in the summer from Hamilton-Wenham, and sophomore Damon Mataragas. Dube, a junior, was a two-year starter for the Generals and figures to start for Fenwick at free safety; Mataragas, who played varsity basketball for the Crusaders last winter, is another strong athlete who'll likely be a strong safety. Both also figure to see time with the football in their hands offensively.

Junior Mikey Cinely, a running back/linebacker who transferred in from St. Mary's Lynn, and freshman running back/defensive back Ian Guarino, who already stands over 6-feet and is as fast as he is powerful, will also work their way into the lineup.

"We're a lot deeper than I thought we'd be, which is great," noted Woods.

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PINGREE SCHOOL EVERGREEN LEAGUE

Pingree building towards success, brick by brick

By Matt Williams

» Asst. Sports Editor

Walk into the Pingree football team's locker room and you'll immediately see two bricks, one painted navy blue and the other dark green. It's a not so subtle reminder that the Highlanders are building towards success this season one step at a time.

Looking at roster that returns several players with Division 1 collegiate interest, close to a half-dozen All-Evergreen League honorees and nine starters on offense, head coach Pat Downey and his staff have plenty of bricks to build with. The work the group puts in during practice is the cement that holds together the foundation of what they hope is a special 2025.

"We're beyond excited," said Downey, who begins his second season as head coach of the South Hamilton prep school. Last season, Pingree wound up 3-5 after dropping four of its last five games. That's a finish the Highlanders are eager to leave in the rearview mirror. "We started eight sophomores, we took some lumps and we learned from that. We did a lot of reflection in the offseason and are back with a growth mindset."

Another of Pingree's mantras is E.A.T., which stands for effort, attitude and



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO
Quarterback Jack Spear is aiming for another big year for the Pingree football team.

toughness. Those are the controllable factors Downey feels lead to success, and it doesn't hurt matters that his offensive and defensive lines are anchored by kids that, to be blunt, look like they know how to eat.

Captain Jon Panagou, a 6-foot-4, 305-pounder from Burlington, already has scholarship offers from Syracuse and UMass heading into his junior year. He's a powerhouse that offenses are built around and bring a commanding presence to both the huddle and the

weight room.

Jake Medeiros, a 290-pounder from Andover, also has monster potential up front with captain Matt McDonald holding the fort at center.

"We're going to lean on the offense line, there's no doubt about it," Downey said.

That's great news for returning quarterback Jack Spear, who tossed 13 touchdowns as a sophomore. He's back at a chiseled 195 pounds and should have plenty of time to throw to some dangerous targets,



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO
Pingree's Jonah Richardson can make catches over defenders look easy.

none more dynamic than senior captain Jonah Richardson.

After just committing to the University of Maine, Richardson does it all for Pingree. Whether it's stretching the field (he averaged 24 yards a grab last year), fooling a defender with his cuts for a first down or making either interceptions or big hits on defense, Richardson is the definition of an impact player.

"Jonah plays with passion

Highlander Happenings

► **Last year's record:** 3-5

► **Head coach:** Pat Downey (2nd season)

► **Team captains:** Matt McDonald, Sr. OL; Jon Panagou, Jr. OL/DL; Jonah Richardson, Sr. WR/CB.

► **Leading returning rusher:** Kyle Daniels (43 carries, 242 yards, 4 TD)

► **Leading returning passer:** Jack Spear (72-of-162, 1,026 yards, 13 TD)

► **Leading returning receiver:** Jonah Richardson (26 rec., 624 yards, 8 TD)

► **Did you know:** The Highlanders have picked up former Danvers High star and Hamilton College captain Andrew Chronis as an offensive line coach.

and leads from the front," Downey said. "He carries so much influence for us. The team feeds off him."

Of course, Spear wants to spread it around to the open man so that defenses can't triple team his top target. Junior Colton Downey is ready for a larger role while 6-foot-2 Rex Braillard is another major threat. Jayce Hernandez will also catch passes, while the backfield will be anchored by returning starter Kyle Daniels as well as Baron DiMeco, Jack Haynes and Jasper Johnson.

Defensively, Pingree is excited about an attack

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 20	at Hamden Hall	2 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Worcester Academy	3 p.m.
Oct. 3	New Hampton	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 11	Portsmouth Abbey	5 p.m.
Oct. 18	Austin Prep	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Proctor	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 1	Greenwich Country Day	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 8	at Brooks	4:30 p.m.

mentality led by defensive tackles (and twin brothers) Ray and Ryan Castillo. They'll keep linemen off powerful tackling 'backers like Haynes and Daniels as well as newcomers Finley McClintock and Owen Ferrant at the safety spot. Joe Trufino is another potential impact player new to the team and his dad, Jody, has joined the coaching staff as well.

The late start of the official prep school season affords Pingree plenty of time to prepare for a rigorous schedule that now includes several Independent School League teams. The ultimate goal, of course, is returning to a postseason bowl game. But in the short term, the Highlanders are focused on getting their pieces in place one brick at a time.

"It's been an unbelievable start to the preseason," Downey said. "The kids are bringing a ton of energy. They're flying around and excited to be here."

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CHAMPIONS CORNER

A Slice of North Shore Football History
A look at the yearly statistical champions from The Salem News coverage area in recent history.



NEWS FILE PHOTO

Swampscott's Alex Stone is second only to Dick Jauron in career rushing yardage in Big Blue history.



DAVID LE

Marblehead quarterback Spencer Craig led the region in passing yardage in 2014.



KEN YUSZKUS

Hamilton-Wenham's Cam Peach led the North Shore in receiving yardage as both a junior and a senior.



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO

Bishop Fenwick's David Cifuentes is one of only a handful of players to lead the Salem News area in scoring two straight seasons over the last 30 years.

RUSHING

Year	Player, Team	Yards
1999	Matt Horgan, Salem	1,526
2000	Simon Dunwell, North Shore Tech	1,219
2001	Scott Chakoutis, North Shore Tech	1,072
2002	Scott Chakoutis, North Shore Tech	1,768
2003	Alex Stone, Swampscott	1,365
2004	Ricardi Bloise, North Shore Tech	1,526
2005	Pat Bailey, Beverly	1,363
2006	Bobby Tarr, Bishop Fenwick	2,431
2007	Bobby Tarr, Bishop Fenwick	2,544
2008	Melikke Van Alstyne, Salem	1,624
2009	Evan Bunker, Masconomet	1,154
2010	Tyler Coppola, St. John's Prep	2,182
2011	Trevor Lyons, Hamilton-Wenham	1,408
2012	Johnny Thomas, St. John's Prep	1,812
2013	Brooks Tyrrell, Marblehead	1,932
2014	Doug Santos, Peabody	2,055
2015	Doug Santos, Peabody	2,041
2016	Matt Andreas, Danvers	1,207
2017	Vinnie Gaskins, Salem	1,682
2018	Matt McCarthy, Danvers	1,330
2019	Rich Canova, Danvers	1,325
2021 Fall 2	James Guy, St. John's Prep	909
2021	Xaviah Bascon, Swampscott	1,509
2022	Henry Wright, Ipswich	1,458
2023	Cam LaGrassa, St. John's Prep	1,242
2024	Jack Fabiano, Masconomet	1,258

PASSING

Year	Player, Team	Yards (TD)
1999	Brett Bellville, Bishop Fenwick	1,369 (15)
2000	Brian McCarthy, Bishop Fenwick	954 (10)
2001	Kyle Beatrice, Swampscott	2,753 (34)
2002	Kyle Beatrice, Swampscott	3,333 (39)
2003	Drew Carey, Masconomet	1,319 (18)
2004	Jason Losano, Swampscott	2,348 (19)
2005	John Squires, Bishop Fenwick	1,469 (16)
2006	John Cassidy, Swampscott	1,355 (15)
2007	Peter Kinchley, Swampscott	1,879 (19)
2008	Chris Cameron, Swampscott	2,296 (22)
2009	David St. Pierre, NS Tech	2,634 (28)
2010	Bret Kidik, Bishop Fenwick	2,711 (23)
2011	Mike Walsh, Swampscott	2,182 (25)
2012	Brian Santry, Swampscott	2,065 (14)
2013	Griffin Beal, Pingree	1,911 (20)
2014	Spencer Craig, Marblehead	1,828 (16)
2015	Griffin Beal, Pingree	2,348 (33)
2016	Declan Judge, Masconomet	1,980 (19)
2017	Colin Frary, Swampscott	2,430 (33)
2018	Graham Inzana, Swampscott	2,555 (28)
2019	Ian Coffey, Hamilton-Wenham	1,890 (18)
2021 Fall2	Josh Robertson, Marblehead	1,237 (17)
2021	Jack Perry, St. John's Prep	2,536 (35)
2022	Shea Lynch, Peabody	2,564 (36)
2023	Corey Grimes, Salem	2,082 (28)
2024	John von Barta, Swampscott	1,680 (21)

RECEIVING

2002 ..	Tim Kiely, Swamp	1,100 (67 rec 17 TD)
2003...	Jason Blydell, Swamp	1,153 (52 rec 17 TD)
2004 ..	Matt Pressman, Swamp	850 (56 rec, 7 TD)
2005 ..	Brendan Garner, Swamp	582 (40 rec 5 TD)
2006 ..	Brendan Garner, Swamp	833 (43 rec, 8 TD)
2007...	Cam White, NS Tech	808 (48 rec 10 TD)
2008 ..	Taarriq Allen, Marblehead	701 (44 rec, 6 TD)
2009 ..	Pat Wood, NS Tech	773 (47 rec, 8 TD)
2010 ..	Ryan Lipka, Fenwick	1,214 (114 rec, 7 TD)
2011 ..	Richard Sullivan, Swampscott	721 (40 rec, 7 TD)
2012 ...	Johnny Spears, Pingree	607 (24 rec, 7 TD)
2013 ...	Justin Assad Pingree	665 (30 rec, 8 TD)
2014 ...	Will Millett, Marblehead	1,097 (42 rec, 13 TD)
2015 ...	Justin Assad, Pingree	1,327 (64 rec, 22 TD)
2016 ...	Cam Peach, H-W	819 (55 rec, 10 TD)
2017....	Cam Peach, H-W	867 (64 rec, 10 TD)
2018 ...	Jonathan Oriakhi, Swamp	943 (54 rec, 11 TD)
2019 ...	Ryan Monahan, H-W	1,165 (55 rec, 12 TD)
2021 Fall2 Ryan Monahan, H-W	682 (42 rec., 6 TD)
2021 ...	Connor Cronin, Marblehead	1,049 (71 rec, 11 TD)
2022...	Eli Batista, Peabody	1,023 (55 rec., 14 TD)
2023...	Rocco Ryan, Salem	828 (37 rec., 11 TD)
2024	Merrick Barlow, St. John's Prep	767 (32 rec., 10 TD)

SCORING

Year	Player, School	Points (TDs)
1995	Frank Candela, Peabody	140 (22)
1996	Frank Candela, Peabody	172 (28)
1997.....	Brian Lentz, St. John's Prep	140 (22)
1998	Tim Gale, Masconomet	144 (23)
1999	Matt Horgan, Salem	156 (25)
2000	Simon Dunwell, NS Tech	116 (16)
2001	Brett Mullen, Danvers	108 (18)
2002	Scott Chakoutis, NS Tech	148 (22)
2003	Jason Blydell, Swampscott	116 (19)
2004	Kynan Mello, NS Tech	169 (23)
2005	Pat Bailey, Beverly	120 (20)
2006	Bobby Tarr, Fenwick	210 (35)
2007	Bobby Tarr, Fenwick	192 (31)
2008	Melikke Van Alstyne, Salem	114 (18)
(tied)	Rashad Sims, Beverly	114 (14)
2009	Evan Bunker, Masconomet	162 (21)
2010	Jesse Wilkins, NS Tech	166 (24)
2011	Will Quigley, Marblehead	124 (20)
2012	Brendan Flaherty, Beverly	160 (26)
2013	Brooks Tyrrell, Marblehead	164 (27)
2014	Doug Santos, Peabody	190 (31)
2015	Paul Lazzaro, Essex Tech	168 (26)
2016	Sean Lahrizy, Swampscott	92 (10)
(tied)	Jaason Lopez, Marblehead	92 (15)
2017.....	Vinnie Gaskins, Salem	154 (24)
2018	David Cifuentes, Bishop Fenwick	146 (19)
2019	David Cifuentes, Bishop Fenwick	159 (20)
2021 Fall2...	Connor Cronin, Marblehead	96 (16)
2021	Xaviah Bascon, Swampscott	144 (24)
2022	Henry Wright, Ipswich	130 (20)
2023	Devante Ozuna, Salem	118 (18)
2024	Jack Fabiano, Masconomet	126 (18)

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JAIME CAMPOS

A jubilant Alex Marquez (53) of Beverly High celebrates teammate Sean Costa's game-sealing interception in the final minute last Thanksgiving while Salem players Julius Martinez (77) and Matthew Rosa (65) look on.



STEPH TRAVERS/photo

Kaio Borghardt of Danvers celebrates a touchdown run last season.



CARL RUSSO PHOTO

St. John's Prep sophomore quarterback Chris Vargas



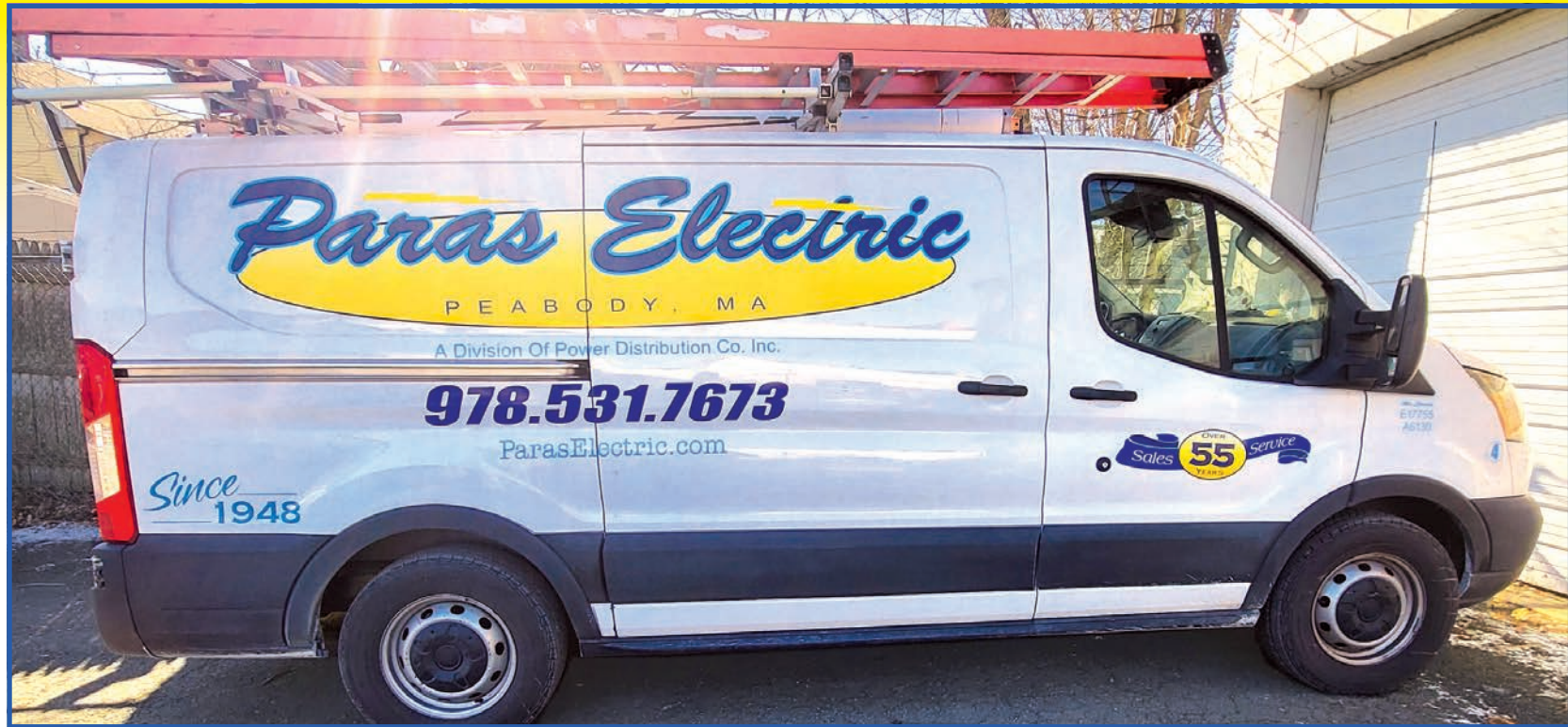
ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO

Tyler Connolly of Bishop Fenwick flips over a defender and into the end zone for a score.



JARED CHARNEY PHOTO

Peabody's Corey Dooley attempts to make a one-handed catch last season at Beverly.



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