

2018 NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

# TRENCH CONNECTION

THE NORTH SHORE'S TOP LINEMEN DISCUSS THEIR BOND,  
TOUGHNESS AND A SHARED LOVE OF THE GAME

PAGE 4





Good luck, North Shore teams, in building a championship season.

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# NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2018 SEASON PREVIEW

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Photo by joebrownphotos.com

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Some of the North Shore's best linemen this fall will include (from left) Matt Noonan of Salem, Billy Shaw of Beverly, Mike Lock of Peabody, Aidan Michaud of Marblehead, Tommy MacDonald of Bishop Fenwick, James Taylor of St. John's Prep, Ron Remotigue of Danvers and Henry Smith of Hamilton-Wenham.

Paul bilodeau/Staff photo



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# THE NORTH SHORE'S TOP HOGS ARE READY TO LAY IT

# ON THE LINE

BY MATT WILLIAMS AND PHIL STACEY  
STAFF WRITERS

**T**hey are the unsung heroes of football — the guys who put their bodies on the line, both literally and figuratively, on every snap and almost never get to touch the ball or score a point.

What ignites their passion? What keeps them pushing the sled in practice, hour after hour and day after day?

We gathered senior offensive and defensive linemen of all different shapes and sizes from some of the North Shore's marquee programs — Matt Noonan of Salem (5-foot-9, 200 lbs.), Billy Shaw of Beverly (6-1, 260 lbs.), Michael Lock of Peabody (6-foot, 250 lbs.), Aidan Michaud of Marblehead (6-4, 305 lbs.), Tommy MacDonald of Bishop Fenwick (6-5, 270 lbs.), James Taylor of St. John's Prep (6-1, 315 lbs.), Ron Remontigue of Danvers (5-10, 210 lbs.) and Henry Smith of Hamilton-Wenham (5-10, 190 lbs.) — for a wide ranging conversation about the trials and tribulations of life in the trenches.

What follows are some of the highlights from that chat:

On the web at

[SALEMNEWS.COM](http://SALEMNEWS.COM)

A video look at the featured linemen  
and their outlook for the 2018 season

**Salem News:** What does it mean to be a lineman, knowing that you might never get to touch the ball?

**Matt Noonan:** No credit is needed. I mean, they need us to score, and that's enough right there.

**SN:** Do you feel appreciated by the skills players?

**Matt Noonan:** Absolutely. Vinnie (Gaskins, Salem's 2017 standout running back), any time he had a really good game or broke a record, he always said he'd never have done any of it without us linemen.

**Henry Smith:** I agree. The running backs know that without the line, they won't be able to do much. We're really what makes the team function well and be able to succeed. Everyone on the team knows that, and that matters more than what fans might know.

**SN:** Some of the teams run hurry-up offenses. As a lineman, is it taxing to sprint to the line, then block again?

**Aidan Michaud:** Of course I'm getting out of breath (in those circumstances), but we train hard all summer. We run every day. We're all used to it. Run blocking, especially in the hurry-up, especially when the other team is gassed, that's when you get your pancake blocks — so even though you're tired, that's the most fun part.

**SN:** Mike and Ron have gone against each other in a game (Danvers beat Peabody, 7-0, in 2017). How did you prepare for each other?

**Ron Remotique:** It was all film. We did our techniques in practice, studied their team. It was a great game, very respectable.

**Michael Lock:** It was a back-and-forth game. I learned a lot of little techniques, used the film to try to get prepared for the game.

**SN:** What's the bond of being linemen like? Is it a brotherhood?

**Tommy MacDonald:** It's part of being a lineman that you have to be on the same page.

**Matt Noonan:** We all do the



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photos

The Northeastern Conference will feature a slew of talented linemen this season, including (from left) Salem's Matt Noonan, Beverly's Billy Shaw, Marblehead's Aidan Michaud, Peabody's Mike Lock and Danvers' Ron Remotique.



Constantly making life miserable for the opponents that try to block them are defensive linemen Henry Smith of Hamilton-Wenham, Tommy MacDonald of Bishop Fenwick and James Taylor of St. John's Prep.

same thing; we don't get any credit, but we all love what we do.

**Aidan Michaud:** It's definitely a bond. We all know if four people are doing what

they're supposed to do and one person is not, the play is getting blown up. Everybody has to be on the same page to be successful; otherwise, you're just running in

circles out there.

**SN:** Some of the linemen are bigger and some are smaller. Is it tough for a big guy to handle a smaller guy who's a

little more athletic and fast?

**Tommy MacDonald:** It depends on the situation. If you're a player you can play, it doesn't matter if you're 5-foot-4 or 6-foot-7. You can't

*“We all know if four people are doing what they're supposed to do and one person is not, the play is getting blown up.”*

**Aidan Michaud,**  
Marblehead lineman

take a rep off.

**Aidan Michaud:** You can't measure hurt, either. It's really about wanting it more, comparing yourself in practice, film and weight room. It's mental and physical toughness more than size.

**Matt Noonan:** I'm probably the shortest guy on my line, maybe 5-foot-9. I wasn't supposed to be starting but I wanted it more. By my size, I'm not supposed to be there, but if you work hard you'll get it.

**SN:** On the opposite tact, what's the pressure like when you're a younger player trying to go against veterans in practice or in games? Is there a lot of pressure there?

**James Taylor:** I put pressure on myself (as a freshman) because I wanted to be the guy. I wanted to start, so I worked extra hard in one-on-ones. I'd lose because they had more technique than me, but I'd put up a good fight. I was nervous going in, but I went in and fought that much harder.

**SN:** What's your favorite one-on-one drill?

**Matt Noonan:** Board drill.

**James Taylor:** Circle drill.

**Michael Lock:** Oklahoma.

**Salem News:** Would you rather have a hard drill and hit and get hit, or do you ever take it easy with a “peace pact” in practice?

**Aidan Michaud:** You don't win taking it easy.

**Matt Noonan:** You have to hit each other. In Salem, it's hit-hit-hit.

**Ron Remotique:** There's nothing like when the whole team is standing around the drill cheering and making noise.

Please see **LINEMEN**, Page S22



# PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL [NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE DIVISION 1]

## Peabody hopes to end drought by spreading wealth

BY MATT WILLIAMS  
STAFF WRITER

PEABODY — Ask the five captains of the 2018 Peabody High football team what's one thing that would make their senior season a success and you'll get five different, increasingly ambitious answers.

"To make the playoffs," two-way lineman Abe Kaba said, followed by a chorus of answers that included, "To not lose a game," as well as "To make a Super Bowl," plus "To win the NEC," and finally just, "Be better than 6-5."

In order to make those goals a reality, head coach Mark Bettencourt knew his Tanners needed changes. Two years of struggles scoring points, and missing the playoffs in 2017, led the sixth-year boss to embrace the zone blocking and three- and four-receiver sets of the spread offense.

"I don't want to be one game over .500; I want to compete for championships," said Bettencourt, "And I didn't think that old smashmouth offense was going to get us there. That's not the personnel we have now."

Senior quarterback Matt Jandrisevits, a transfer from Malden Catholic, will be the trigger man. He's got an excellent feel for the deep ball and a stable of



Peabody High football captains (from left) Tyler Norman, Mike Lock, head coach Mark Bettencourt, Chris Glass, Abe Kaba and Jake Sousa are determined to improve on last season's 6-5 record.

### BULL'S HORNS

- **Last year's record:** 6-5 (did not make MIAA playoffs)
- **Head coach:** Mark Bettencourt (6th season, 28-27)
- **Team captains:** Chris Glass, Sr., OL/DL; Abe Kaba, Sr., OL/DL; Michael Lock, Sr., OL/DL; Jake Sousa, Sr., RB/LB; Tyler Norman, Sr., TE/DE.
- **Top returning rusher:** Angel Paulino (91 carries, 582 yards, 4 TDs).
- **Top returning passer:** Colby Therrien (18-of-36, 174 yards, 1 TD).
- **Top returning receiver:** Dylan Peluso (10 catches, 167 yards, 3 TDs).
- **Last league title:** 2000 (Greater Boston League)
- **Did you know?** Angel Paulino's 2017 season marked only the second time in the last 25 years that the Tanners were led in rushing yardage by a sophomore.

pass catchers that includes juniors Colby Therrien, Declan Russel, Dylan Peluso and Colten Cole as well as senior Jared Ridley.

Though they're going wide and employing the shotgun, the Tanners still

expect to be balanced offensively. With junior Angel Paulino looking faster and sturdier after leading the team in rushing as a 10th grader, there's no reason they shouldn't.

"It's an up tempo style



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photo

**Matt Jandrisevits will be the trigger man as Peabody High shifts to a spread offense this fall.**

and we're excited about it. The line is big and it's really good. I feel like its one of the better lines around," said co-captain Tyler Norman, a tight end and

### 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff dates)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 7	Somerville	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Danvers	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Marblehead	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	Revere	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Masconomet	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Malden	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	at Beverly	1 p.m.
Nov. 22	Saugus	10 a.m.

defensive end.

The Tanners return three starters on the interior of the line with captain Michael Lock at center and captains Kaba and Chris Glass at guard. Senior Aiden Kelleher is ready to step into a starting role at tackle, and junior Phil Makoci has been dynamite so far at the other tackle spot.

"We've got five guys that can protect, a back in (captain) Jake Sousa that can help us protect, a good quarterback and a stable of guys who can make plays with the ball in space," said Bettencourt. "The roster is suited to this offense, and it's our job as coaches to scheme it to put them in the best spots to succeed."

Though the Tanners have been solid on defense in recent years, they're revamping that scheme as well with less emphasis on

size in the middle and more on speed on the outside. As a consequence, this year's training camp has been hyper-focused on film work and playbook installation with the players trying to soak it all in.

"It feels like an AP class," said Sousa, who is taking over at middle linebacker as Glass shifts to defensive end. "But this kind of learning pays off a lot more."

In the defensive backfield, senior Carlos Hernandez has enjoyed a strong training camp, as have Jack Woods and Joey Mastromatteo. Joe Casey could contribute at linebacker, while Brandon Caniff should step in right away in a safety spot.

"We're throwing a lot at the players. To be honest, I've lost sleep over it. Is it too much? Are they getting it?," said Bettencourt. "So far in the scrimmages, they are."

Peabody lost four of its first five games last season, costing them a playoff berth even through they rebounded to finish over .500. They also haven't won a season opener since 2014, putting a big bull's-eye on September 7 against Somerville.

"There's no better time than now," said Norman, "Legit, that has to be our approach for the whole season."

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**GREAT SEASON**





# Beverly aims to get back on the winning track

By PHIL STACEY  
EXECUTIVE SPORTS EDITOR

There are many times when quality far outshines quantity.

Not necessarily in football — particularly at the high school level — where having a large roster can be to any squad's benefit, whether it's having plenty of depth or a plethora of talented players to plug into the lineup.

For the Beverly High Panthers, they're hoping that's exactly the case.

Welcoming more than 90 players out at the start of tryouts, the Orange-and-Black will be looking to get back to their winning ways this fall under third-year head coach Andrew Morency after suffering just their second losing campaign in the past 13 years.

"The huge turnout and strong preseason has our team enthusiastic and driven," said Morency, the BHS Hall of Famer whose program has two state Super Bowl triumphs (2010 and 2012) on its resume this decade. "I feel like we have a huge 1-2-3 punch on offense; the key for us will be if our defense can improve on our third down efficiency from a year ago."

That three-headed offensive monster Morency speaks of — seniors Ryan Barror at quarterback and captain Clayton McAlpine



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photos

Three of Beverly's high octane offensive players this season will undoubtedly be (from left) junior Duncan Moreland at wide receiver, senior Ryan Barror at quarterback and senior captain Clayton McAlpine at running back.

## PANTHER PROWLINGS

- **Last year's record:** 3-8
- **Head coach:** Andrew Morency (3rd season, 12-11; 70-59 total including a decade at Hamilton-Wenham)
- **Team captains:** Bobby Adams, Sr. DE/OLB/TE; Clayton McAlpine, Sr. DE/OLB/RB; Patrick Parsons, Sr. DB WR/SE
- **Top returning rusher:** Clayton McAlpine (80 carries, 448 yards, 6 TDs)
- **Top returning passer:** Ryan Barror (3-for-4, 94 yards, TD)
- **Top returning receiver:** Patrick Parsons (10 catches, 178 yards, TD)
- **Last league title:** 2013 (Northeastern Conference North tri-champions)
- **Did you know?:** Beverly hasn't lost back-to-back Thanksgiving Day games to Salem in almost 20 years. Since the last time that occurred (1999 and 2000), the Panthers have gone 13-4 against their arch rivals. They'll look to bounce back on the holiday this season at home after dropping the 2017 clash in Salem for the first time in seven seasons.

in the backfield, along with extremely athletic junior wideout Duncan Moreland — should mesh well in the Panthers' multi-look offense and have the team's fans

eager to see how many times they can reach payday.

The last time we saw Barror in a live game, he caught three touchdown passes and ran a kickoff back 79



Beverly High's 2018 captains are (from left) Bobby Adams, Patrick Parsons and Clayton McAlpine.

yards for a fourth score in his team's Thanksgiving Day loss at Salem (the most TDs ever scored by a player from the losing team in "The Game"). He saw limited time under center in 2017 (completing 3 of 4 passes for 94 yards and a TD), but is ready to make the transition to calling signals after serving primarily as a wideout.

McAlpine was Beverly's second-leading rusher a season ago, picking up 448 yards and a half-dozen touchdowns on 80 carries. He also caught nine passes for 78 yards. Moreland didn't get the rock often as a sophomore — but made the most of his chances when he did, scoring via the ground (4 carries for 44 yards) and once as a pass catcher (3 receptions for 77 yards). Touches won't be a problem for him this fall.

Another big weapon for the Panthers will be tight end Bobby Adams, another senior captain. A big (6-foot-4, 230 lbs.) target with soft

hands who runs smart routes and is excellent in pass protection, he'll rarely leave the field when the Garden City boys have the ball.

The team's third captain is Patrick Parsons, a shifty senior receiver who will likely operate on the opposite side of Moreland, giving Barror a pair of glue-fingered wideouts.

Defensively is where the Panthers must clamp down to improve their overall stock. They gave up 271 points last fall (their most in 15 years) and couldn't get off the field in those aforementioned key third down scenarios. But there is good news to report, with veterans back in starting roles or teammates with experience ready to step in and fill a need in the team's 3-3 stack.

Adams and McAlpine can alternate between defensive end and outside linebacker; with his nose for the ball and brute strength to bring down opponents, McAlpine could easily wind up being one of the top tacklers on the North Shore.

Billy Shaw, a senior, is back at nose guard while classmate Caeden Hale will line up next to him at defensive tackle. Sophomores Jonus Pavia and Billy Adams can also expect to see time on the D-line. Junior Braeden Pratt, another athletic specimen, and senior Paul Mulumba will serve

## 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff games)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 8	Lynn English	1 p.m.
Sept. 15	Gloucester	1 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Malden	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	Marblehead	1 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Somerville	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Danvers	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	Peabody	1 p.m.
Nov. 22	Salem	10 a.m.

as inside linebackers, with fellow 12th graders Foster Smallman and Andrew Avila on the outside. Sophomore Huriel Calice should also find himself in the ILB mix.

Parsons, Moreland, Barror, senior Mikey Andersen and sophomores Jaichaun Stanton-Jones and Danny Morency will patrol the defensive secondary. Morency is also a quarterback who could see time at the position should the Panthers choose to utilize Barror as a receiver in certain formations.

Getting out to a strong start could do wonders for Beverly, but that's easier said than done. Three of its first four games, however — Lynn English, Gloucester and Marblehead — are against clubs that won their respective NEC Tiers a year ago, although all three games will be played at grand old Hurd Stadium.

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# DANVERS HIGH SCHOOL [NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE DIVISION 1]

## Danvers hoping success breeds success in 2018

By PHIL STACEY  
EXECUTIVE SPORTS EDITOR

Statistically speaking, there has never been a better time to be a varsity football player for the Danvers High Falcons.

The Ontonowners come into the 2018 season riding the wave of five straight winning seasons, the first time in the program's 117-year history that has ever happened. They've won five playoff games and captured a divisional playoff crown in the last half-decade while winning 36 games and producing a .643 winning percentage, the school's best ever for a five-year span.

To that, this year's Falcons say that's great. Now we want to go out and do even better.

"We expect to be able to compete with everyone on the schedule and will be defined by the players' work ethic, toughness and character, which is the team's main strength," said second year head coach Ryan Nolan.

Do the Falcons have enough to dethrone the five-time Northeastern Conference Tier 1 champions from Marblehead? That will play out on the gridiron over the next seven weeks, but the title could be decided when the two clubs meet in Danvers on Friday, Oct. 19, the week before the playoffs begin.



HADLEY GREEN/Staff photo

From left, senior quarterback Brendan Treacy, senior running back Matthew McCarthy and junior linemen Tom Walfield will captain the Falcons' football team.

"We've got a tremendously hard working and committed core group of players," added Nolan, "with leaders in every grade."

Having lost few seniors from last year's club, the Falcons are experienced and athletic. Their linemen are also much larger, having committed to the weight room in the offseason.

Tom Walfield, a junior and one of the team captains, is among the leaders up front who starts on both sides of the ball. So does senior two-way starter Lance Ledesma, fellow senior Ron Remotigue (who can play the line or at tight end), senior tight end Almany Vargas and sophomore

Andrew Chronis. Senior Rob Murphy, junior Jacob Stone and sophomore Ben Wilichoski are others who figure to be matched up in plenty of 1-on-1 battles in the trenches.

"The O-line is very much improved and has experienced a lot of varsity game action," admitted Nolan. "The coaches feel very confident that eight-plus players can play up at the varsity level."

Matt McCarthy, a senior captain and excellent student, leads the skill position players. A shifty running back who ran for 457 yards and five scores a year ago while also catching 16 passes for an additional 381

yards and two touchdowns, he has the speed to beat defenders to the outside and is savvy enough to follow his blockers between the tackles for big gains.

Athletic juniors Ezra Lombardi, Richie Canova and J.P. Kelter join McCarthy in the backfield to give the Falcons balance and depth. Junior fullbacks John Strangie, Russ Canova and Mike Morrill have plenty of talent and physicality to move the chains as well via the ground.

Brendan Treacy, who saw some time at quarterback a year ago, will be the No. 1 signal caller this time around. Out of both the Falcons' I-formation and

### FALCONS CREST

- **Last year's record:** 6-5 (lost to Tewksbury in Division 3 North semifinals)
- **Head coach:** Ryan Nolan (2nd season, 6-5)
- **Team captains:** Matt McCarthy, Sr. RB/DB; Brendan Treacy, Sr. QB; Tom Walfield, Jr. OL/DL
- **Top returning rusher:** Matt McCarthy (79 carries, 457 yards, 5 TD)
- **Top returning passer:** Brendan Treacy (11-for-16, 129 yards)
- **Top returning receiver:** Matt McCarthy (16 receptions, 381 yards, 2 TD)
- **Last league title:** 2013 (Northeastern Conference South)
- **Did you know?:** The Falcons have a chance to do something they've never done before in their gridiron history dating back to 1902: produce six winning seasons in a single decade. Danvers has compiled five straight winning campaigns – which matches the number earned during the decade of the 2000s, tied for the most ever in DHS annals.

### 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff games)

Date	Team	Time
Sept. 7	Masconomet	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	Peabody	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Medford	6 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Malden	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Lynn Classical	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Beverly	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	Marblehead	7 p.m.
Nov. 22	Gloucester	10 a.m.

spread packages, he'll have the option of throwing it to a bevy of receivers, including seniors Justin DiTomaso and Kyle Little and junior Jeremy Hilton.

"Brendan has worked very hard, and we expect big things from him as an athletic QB," said Nolan. "Matt McCarthy leads our

group of skill position players, but Ezra, J.P. Kyle and Justin, among others, are all primed for breakout seasons offensively after seeing great success on defense last year."

Defensively, Danvers will run multiple seven-man fronts. A versatile and deep set of linebackers include Mike Shannon, Remotigue, Vargas, Russ Canova, Richie Canova, Strangie, Morrill and Wilichoski, with Walfield, Ledesma, Chronis, Murphy and Stone the main cogs in the defensive line. The secondary will be led by McCarthy, DiTomaso, Lombardi, Kelter, Hilton and Little.

In addition, state champion wrestler Max Leete, a sophomore, will assume the Falcons' kicking duties and, according to Nolan, shows great promise.



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# Marblehead looks to continue winning tradition

By NICK GIANNINO  
STAFF WRITER

Expectations surrounding the five-time defending Northeastern Conference champion Marblehead High football squad are lofty once again — and understandably so.

The Magicians went 10-1 a year ago, earning a spot in the Division 4 North title game for the third straight season. They reached the state Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough two seasons ago, and have more playoff wins (10) and games (15) over the last five years than any other North Shore team.

During that same time period Marblehead has been nearly unstoppable at home (the Magicians sport a ridiculous 29-2 mark at Piper Field during that time) and has proven itself as a dynamite defensive group that seems to find a way to grind out games even when the offense isn't clicking.

So the question is: can this year's roster continue Marblehead's recent run of gridiron excellence?

"Unfortunately for us, we're at a stage in our program where there will always be high expectations," said head coach Jim Rudloff. "This team will take that as a challenge and try to meet that."

"The kids are working



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photo

Marblehead head coach Jim Rudloff poses with his 2018 captains (from left): Jack McGrath, Aidan Michaud and Chris Gally.

## MAGICIAN MADNESS

- **Last year's record:** 10-1 (Northeastern Conference Tier 1 champs; lost to Melrose in Division 4 North final)
- **Head coach:** Jim Rudloff (10th season, 80-22)
- **Team captains:** Aidan Michaud, Sr., OT/NG; Chris Gally, Sr.; QB/FS; Jack McGrath, Sr., WR/CB.
- **Top returning rusher:** Tim Cronin (76 carries, 374 yards, 5 TDs)
- **Top returning passer:** Chris Gally (3-for-6, 18 yards)
- **Top returning receiver:** Tim Cronin (8 catches, 165 yards)
- **Last league title:** 2017 (Northeastern Conference Tier 1)
- **Did You Know?:** The last time Marblehead dropped a home game was during the 2015 season when it was upset by Danvers in the Division 3 North title game.

hard but we are taking baby steps. We don't have time to get better every week; we need to get better every day."

Senior captain Chris Gally will assume lead signal caller duties for the Magicians. The athletic

playmaker is more than capable of the job; he was slated to be the starter at quarterback a season ago before getting hurt and missing extensive time.

"He was out the first five games with an injury. By the time he was ready to



Photo by joebrownphotos.com

Junior running back Tim Cronin could see his stats significantly rise as his role in the offense expands.

come back, (since-graduated Andy) Clough had taken over as starting quarterback and we moved Chris to safety," said Rudloff.

While Gally and versatile running back Tim Cronin will likely garner much of the headlines, perhaps the Magicians' biggest key to success is how well they can perform up front.

Guys like captain Aidan Michaud, a 6-foot-4, 305 pound force, as well as Kyle Wheeler, Jack Herman (6-foot-3, 291 pounds), Cal Leveroni and Sam Worster

— all senior linemen on both sides of the ball — are poised for big curtain call seasons in the trenches. If the line can do its job for Marblehead, things will be much easier for the rest of the team.

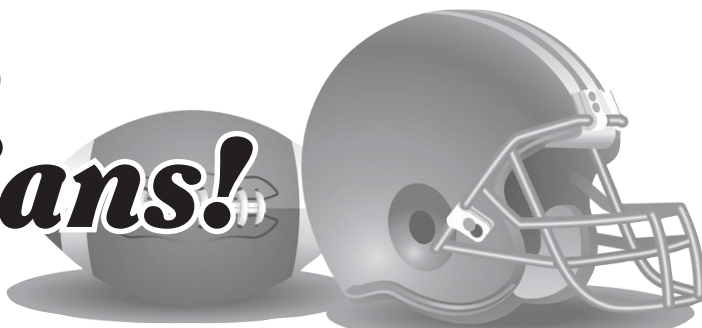
Cronin, Eric Faia, Derek Testa and Tamelle Platt all provide speedy options out of the backfield while Mason Poisson (slot receiver/linebacker) and 6-foot-4 Declan Rudloff (OT/DE) will be leaned on much more this year if the Magicians expect to reach their goals.

## 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff games)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 7	Triton	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Revere	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Peabody	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	Beverly	1 p.m.
Oct. 5	Malden	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Gloucester	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Danvers 7	p.m.
Nov. 22	at Swampscott	10 a.m.

**Go  
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# Witches eager to continue winning ways

BY NICK GIANNINO  
STAFF WRITER

Head coach Matt Bouchard and his Salem High football squad head into 2018 in a pleasantly unfamiliar position: they're coming off a winning campaign for the first time in nearly a decade.

With that comes added pressure and expectations — pressure to continue to head in the right direction and build off of a noteworthy 2017 season in which the Witches won seven games for the first time in 18 years while also clinching a spot in the Division 6 North playoffs.

Like any other high school football team grinding towards a plus-.500 record, Bouchard and Co. are certainly going to face their share of challenges. They've lost a number of key contributors to graduation and lack the high level experience that made last year's team so special.

With that being said, there's a lot of talented guys in the locker room eager to make their mark for Salem, as well as a pair of senior captains primed to continue last year's winning ways.

"One of the things that's been really good as we're getting started this season is that we have some very talented kids," said Bouchard, who's team is



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photos

Center and defensive tackle Matt Noonan (left) and tight end/defensive end Jayco Pena will serve as captains for Salem as the Witches aim for back-to-back winning seasons for the first time in almost two decades.



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

Quarterback Wayne Holloway, shown here getting pressured by teammate Noel Galioto in a scrimmage last month, will line up under center for the Witches in 2018.

build a strong culture and have the same type of chemistry we did last season."

Among those lost to graduation was star running back Vinnie Gaskins, who led the North Shore in rushing touchdowns (21), rushing yards (1,682) and total touchdowns (24) a season ago while also setting Salem's single-game individual rushing (305) and touchdown (5) marks. Production like that will certainly be difficult to replace, but Bouchard is confident his new offensive weapons will be up to the challenge.

There's junior receivers Devin Tolbert and Frederick Koffi, both of whom have, according to Bouchard, looked exceptional through the preseason. There's fellow junior Wayne Holloway,

who saw time at various offensive positions last year and looks to be a solid quarterback option this fall.

There's also a slew of big bodies up front such as center and team co-captain Matt Noonan as well as bruising guard Malcolm Batista, both of whom are poised to manhandle the trenches. Irvin Tineo is another guy who looks to be an integral piece to the offensive line after sitting out due to injury last year.

"Our offensive and defensive lines are probably one of our biggest strengths," said Bouchard. "I think we're building on things we worked on really hard last year. Some of the people who were maybe on the roster but kind of out of the limelight will have to

## 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff games)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 7	Austin Prep	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Essex North Shore	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Saugus	1 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Swampscott	noon
Oct. 5	Winthrop	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Lynn English	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	Lynn Classical	7 p.m.
Nov. 22	at Beverly	10 a.m.

step up this season — and they're more than capable of doing so. I think we have a lot of versatility and should be able to spread things out (offensively) a bit more."

Six-foot-1, 220-pound Chris Ngrambe returns at fullback as well, another critical component to the Witches' offense. He also serves as a physical linebacker on the other side of the ball.

Fellow co-captain Jayco Pena will provide added leadership and skill at the tight end and defensive line positions, while Bishop Fenwick transfer Nate Mania figures to provide quarterback competition for Holloway and could slide in elsewhere at an offensive skill spot as needed.

It would appear the Witches have more than enough pieces to get back in the win column with regularity.

## WITCHES' BREW

- **Last year's record:** 7-4 (Lost to Hamilton-Wenham in Division 6 quarterfinals)
- **Head coach:** Matt Bouchard (5th season, 12-32)
- **Team captains:** Jayco Pena, Sr., TE/DL; Matt Noonan, Sr., C/DT.
- **Top returning rusher:** Wayne Holloway (12 catches, 140 yards, 1 TD)
- **Top returning passer:** Wayne Holloway (3-for-4, 52 yards, 1 TD)
- **Top returning receiver:** Wayne Holloway (1 catch, 12 yards, 0 TDs)
- **Last league title:** 1999 (Northeastern Conference champions)
- **Did You Know?:** The Witches won at least seven games last season for the first time since 1999, when they went 10-1 and captured their own Super Bowl crown in school history. Last fall was also the first time Salem had posted a winning record since 2010.

looking to string together back-to-back winning seasons from the first time since their 1998 (6-4) and 1999 (10-1) campaigns.

"As a whole, as a program,

this is one of the more talented groups we've had. The challenge we face now is experience. We graduated a lot, so to kind of offset that inexperience we need to



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# Down in size, Big Blue look to reload in 2018

By **AUSTIN WOOLMAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Last fall, the Swampscott High football squad had one of the most potent offenses in the North Shore, averaging 31.7 points per game and eclipsing 40 points in four of their seven wins.

A year later, 14 players from that club have graduated. So while head coach Bob Serino admits this summer has required a bit more coaching, he still feels confident heading into September.

“There’s been a lot of teaching going on in the first couple of weeks,” said Serino. “But things have been going great so far. We started out a little slow in our first scrimmage, but are getting the concepts down and started to look a lot better after we got our feet.”

The veteran head coach cited the offensive line as a major point of emphasis for Swampscott during camp. Senior captain Jake Batram, who Serino said has had “an unbelievable offseason”, is the only returning starter on the O-line.

“The guys we’re looking at played really well at the JV level and also played a little D-line for us (on the varsity) last year,” said Serino. “The guys are definitely talented and are grasping the concepts; we’re just working on not



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photos

Looking to help ignite the Big Blue offensively this season will be juniors (from left) Anastasios Skalkos, Jonathan Oriakhi, Dylan January, Arturo Vasquez, and Caden Dubiel.

## BIG BLUE BROWSINGS

- **Last year’s record:** 7-4 (Lost to Watertown in Division 5 North quarterfinals)
- **Head coach:** Bob Serino (4th season, 15-18)
- **Team captains:** Jake Bartram, Sr., OL/DL; Connor Lynch, Sr., WR/LB; Andy Rosa, Sr., OL/DL; Jonathan Oriakhi, Jr., DB/WR; Dylan January, Jr., RB/LB.
- **Top returning rusher:** Dylan January (41 rushes, 203 yards, 4 TD)
- **Top returning passer:** Emmanuel Toshewa (1-for-2, 18 yards, 0 TD)
- **Top returning receiver:** Emmanuel Toshewa (30 catches, 382 yards, 4 TD)
- **Last league title:** 2008 (Northeastern Conference Small champions)
- **Did You Know?:** Swampscott is one of four Northeastern Conference football teams (along with Beverly, Marblehead and Gloucester) who have played at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, having defeated Medfield (22-6) for a 2007 Super Bowl title there.

hesitating.”

Seniors Anton Vasquez, Nick Flint, Andy Rosa and junior Tyler Marshall are all

expected to see significant time on the offensive line for the Big Blue.

Swampscott also needs to

## 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff games)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 8	at Greater Lawrence	noon
Sept. 14	at Triton	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Winthrop	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	Salem	noon
Oct. 6	at Lynn English	2 p.m.
Oct. 13	Revere	noon
Oct. 19	at Saugus	6 p.m.
Nov. 22	Marblehead	10 a.m.

fill the shoes of quarterback Colin Frary. Last year’s signal caller tossed 33 touchdowns, threw for nearly 2,500 yards and rushed for



Junior Graham Inzana will take over as Swampscott’s starting quarterback this fall.

an additional three scores.

Nevertheless, Serino still feels his offense can put up big numbers and doesn’t figure to see much of a dropoff from 2017.

“We should be right on queue with last year’s production,” said Serino. “We have a strong group of athletic receivers who saw the field a lot last year. (Juniors) Manny Teshowa, Jonathan Oriakhi and Arturo Vasquez have a lot of pure firepower speed and can make a lot of guys miss. Honestly, I think our team speed has improved from last year.”

“We are also going to have (junior) Graham Inzana under center,” continued Serino. “We aren’t concerned with him; he could’ve started for us (at QB) last year if we needed him to. He’s also got Jake (Bartram,

a 6-foot-1, 240-pound center) looking out for him on the O-line. He’s got a good arm and should have a big season for us.”

As for the Big Blue defense, Serino couldn’t contain his excitement when discussing his linebacking core. Juniors Oriakhi, Dylan January and Nick Reiser are all returning starters ready to the season started sooner rather than later.

“We have a great group of kids here who have the chance to do big things,” said Serino. “They all have great speed and can get to the ball quickly, but they’re also strong and extremely physical. They were all on the field together last year, so they understand how the defense operates and have been working extremely here at camp.”



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# 2018 NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

Austin Prep at Salem, 7  
Masconomet at Danvers, 7  
Hamilton-Wenham at Bishop Fenwick, 7  
Somerville at Peabody, 7  
Ipswich at Essex North Shore, 7  
Triton at Marblehead, 7  
Haverhill at St. John's Prep, 7  
Revere at Gloucester, 7

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

Greater Lawrence at Swampscott, noon  
Lynn English at Beverly, 1

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

Salem at Essex North Shore, 7  
Peabody at Danvers, 7  
Marblehead at Revere, 7  
Swampscott at Triton, 7  
Bishop Fenwick at Dedham, 7  
Newburyport at Ipswich, 7  
Masconomet at Malden Catholic, 7  
Central Catholic at St. John's Prep, 7

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

Gloucester at Beverly, 1  
North Reading at Hamilton-Wenham, 1

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

Danvers at Medford, 6  
Peabody at Marblehead, 7  
Beverly at Malden, 7  
Swampscott at Winthrop, 7  
Masconomet at Newburyport, 7  
Pentucket at Bishop Fenwick, 7  
Triton at Ipswich, 7  
Hamilton-Wenham at Greater Lawrence, 7  
Manchester Essex at Essex North Shore, 7  
Gloucester at Somerville, 7

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

Salem at Saugus, 1  
Portsmouth Abbey at Pingree, 1:30  
Everett at St. John's Prep, 2

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

Revere at Peabody, 7  
Danvers at Malden, 7  
Westford Academy at St. John's Prep, 7

Arlington Catholic at Bishop Fenwick, 7  
Ipswich at Manchester Essex, 7  
Essex North Shore at Greater Lawrence, 7  
Gloucester at Lynn Classical, 7

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

Salem at Swampscott, noon  
Marblehead at Beverly, 1  
Amesbury at Hamilton-Wenham, 1  
Masconomet at Pentucket, 2

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5**

Bishop Fenwick at Archbishop Williams, 6  
Beverly at Somerville, 7  
Peabody at Masconomet, 7  
Winthrop at Salem, 7  
Malden at Marblehead, 7  
Danvers at Lynn Classical, 7  
Portsmouth Abbey at Ipswich, 7  
Hamilton-Wenham at Norwell, 7  
Essex North Shore at Shawsheen, 7  
Saugus at Gloucester, 7  
Manchester Essex at Lynnfield, 7

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6**

Swampscott at Lynn English, 2  
St. John's Prep at Catholic Memorial, 3  
Cushing at Pingree, 6

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12**

Beverly at Danvers, 7  
Lynn English at Salem, 7  
Marblehead at Gloucester, 7  
Malden at Peabody, 7  
North Reading at Masconomet, 7  
Ipswich at Lynnfield, 7  
Hamilton-Wenham at Manchester Essex, 7  
Bishop Fenwick at Malden Catholic, 7  
Whittier at Essex North Shore, 7

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13**

BC High at St. John's Prep, 1:30  
Revere at Swampscott, 2:30  
Albany Academy at Pingree, 5

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19**

Swampscott at Saugus, 6  
Marblehead at Danvers, 7  
Lynn Classical at Salem, 7

Masconomet at Triton, 7  
Georgetown at Ipswich, 7  
Cardinal Spellman at Bishop Fenwick, 7  
St. John's Prep at Bridgewater-Raynham, 7  
Essex North Shore at Nashoba Tech, 7  
Gloucester at Medford, 7  
Manchester Essex at Amesbury, 7

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20**

Peabody at Beverly, 1  
Lynnfield at Hamilton-Wenham, 1  
Pingree at Kents Hill, 3

**FRIDAY, OCT. 26**

MIAA playoff and non-playoff games

**SATURDAY, OCT. 27**

MIAA playoff and non-playoff games  
Pingree at Kingswood Oxford, 3:30

**FRIDAY, NOV. 2**

MIAA playoff and non-playoff games

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

MIAA playoff and non-playoff games  
Hebron at Pingree, 6

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

MIAA playoff and non-playoff games  
Pingree at Dexter Southfield, 6

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

MIAA playoff and non-playoff games

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

St. John's Prep at Xaverian, 5

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

Salem at Beverly, 10 a.m.  
Gloucester at Danvers, 10 a.m.  
Marblehead at Swampscott, 10 a.m.  
Saugus at Peabody, 10 a.m.  
Ipswich at Hamilton-Wenham, 10 a.m.  
Everett at Masconomet, 10 a.m.  
St. Mary's Lynn at Bishop Fenwick, 10 a.m.  
Northeast Regional at Essex North Shore, 10 a.m.



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# FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Masconomet at Triton, 7  
Georgetown at Ipswich, 7  
Cardinal Spellman at Bishop Fenwick, 7  
St. John's Prep at Bridgewater-Raynham, 7  
Essex North Shore at Nashoba Tech, 7  
Gloucester at Medford, 7  
Manchester Essex at Amesbury, 7

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

Peabody at Beverly, 1  
Lynnfield at Hamilton-Wenham, 1  
Pingree at Kents Hill, 3

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# GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL [NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE DIVISION 2]

## Backfield, O-line lead powerful Gloucester

BY NICK CURCURI  
STAFF WRITER

The Gloucester High football team will have lots of familiar faces returning to the starting lineup in 2018, none more familiar than its four starters in the offensive backfield.

The Fishermen return their top three rushers from 2017 in seniors Jan Pena-Ortiz (997 yards), senior captain Ryan Argentino (444 yards) and senior captain Marc Smith (362 yards).

Last year, Pena-Ortiz established himself as a legitimate workhorse at running back, a player who has breakaway speed and the ability to pick up tough yards in between the tackles. Argentino, a fullback, is a bruising runner who has the tendency to grow stronger as the game goes on and wear down defenses. Smith, on the other hand, is one of the most versatile players in the Northeastern Conference with his ability to run and catch.

At the quarterback position, senior James Nelson will lead the offense after starting multiple games as a junior in 2017. He threw for 175 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

The Fishermen should be able to keep opposing defenses off balance this season with talented backs that can beat you in many



DESI SMITH PHOTO

Jan Pena-Ortiz is Gloucester's leading returning rusher. The senior finished just three yards shy of 1,000 on the ground a year ago.

ways.

"It really helps to return your entire backfield," Gloucester head coach Tony Zerilli said. "All three backs have proven that they're

productive varsity players. And Nelson may not have started at quarterback last season, but he got some valuable playing time due to injuries so he's experienced,

too."

Gloucester has had a knack for molding inexperienced offensive lines into strong units in recent years. This fall, however,

### FISHERMEN'S CATCH

- **Last year's record:** 7-4
- **Head coach:** Tony Zerilli (8th season, 42-35)
- **Team captains:** Ryan Argentino, Sr., FB/LB; Noah Benson, Sr., OT/DL; Joe Ciarametaro, Sr., OL/DL; Marc Smith, Sr., WB/DB;
- **Top returning rusher:** Jan Pena-Ortiz (120 carries, 997 yards, 8TD)
- **Top returning passer:** James Nelson (10-for-27, 175 yards, 2 TD)
- **Top returning receiver:** Marc Smith (6 receptions, 92 yards, 2 TD)
- **Last league title:** 2017 (Northeastern Conference Tier 2)
- **Did You Know?:** The Fishermen are going for at least a share of a Northeastern Conference title for a fourth season in a row. The team last won four NEC titles from 2007-10, when it reached four straight Super Bowls.

the Fishermen have some experience on the line, with three of five starters returning in senior captain Joe Ciarametaro, senior captain Noah Benson and Geoffrey Lattanzi. Gloucester had a good offensive line last fall and those three players were a big reason why.

"Those guys know what they're doing and have really helped us get through the early season transition stages," Zerilli said. "It's a luxury to have that kind of experience on the offensive line. The line has to come together as a unit, and those three have already established chemistry."

On paper, it looks like Gloucester and Lynn Classical are the two teams to beat in Tier 2 of the three-tiered Northeastern Conference. The Fishermen and Rams engaged in their yearly classic game that is decided on the last play, with the Rams

### 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff games)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 7	vs. Revere	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	at Beverly	1 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Somerville	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Lynn Classical	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	vs. Saugus	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	vs. Marblehead	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Medford	7 p.m.
Nov. 22	at Danvers	10 a.m.

leaving Newell Stadium with a 21-19 win, holding on after leading 21-0 at halftime.

This year, the two rivals meet on Friday, September 28 at Manning Field in Lynn (7 p.m.). This could be one of the best regular season games of the year and could decide the conference championship. Gloucester and Lynn Classical shared the title with Somerville in 2017.



# GO FISHERMEN!



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# Loaded schedule will test St. John's Prep's mettle

BY JEAN DEPLACIDO  
CORRESPONDENT

Brian St. Pierre is pleased with the attitude and hard work his players have put in during the offseason.

But the St. John's Prep head coach knows that because of the team's difficult schedule, both in and out of the Catholic Conference, it will take a total effort each game for the Eagles to succeed this fall.

Young and inexperienced a year ago, St. John's is hoping those growing pains will pay off this fall. The return of wide receiver and safety Wes Rockett, now a senior captain, from a season ending leg injury in 2017 will also help.

"Having Wes back is huge," said St. Pierre. "The attitude, energy and effort shown so far in practice has been great. This is a really good group of work with, and while we still have a lot of things to work on I'm confident we'll figure the rest out."

"Last season out of necessity, we had to play some people who weren't ready. We were in a lot of games, but we played like a young team."

Coming off a disappointing 5-6 year, the Eagles return with a lot of experience at the skill positions. Junior Matt Crowley is back at quarterback along with



Rose Raymond photo

**James Taylor and the St. John's Prep football team are looking for improved results in 2018.**

## EAGLES' EXTRA

- **Last year's record:** 5-6 (lost to Everett in Division 1 North quarterfinals)
- **Head coach:** Brian St. Pierre (5th season, 28-15)
- **Team captains:** James Taylor, Sr. DT; Wes Rockett, Sr. WR; Aise Pream, Sr. RB/CB; Kevin Dewing, Sr. G; Coltan Tangney, Sr. LB
- **Top returning rusher:** Aise Pream (171 carries, 1,201 yards, 10 TDs)
- **Top returning passer:** Matt Crowley (57-for 95, 953 yards, 9 TDs)
- **Top returning receiver:** Max Freedman (17 catches, 344 yards, 3 TD's)
- **Last league title:** 2012 (Catholic Conference)
- **Did you know?:** Catholic Memorial was supposed to play at Glatz Field on Friday night, October 5, but the game has been moved to CM the following day (3 p.m.) in order to give St. John's Prep a more balanced home/away schedule in 2019. Coach Brian St. Pierre requested the change because the Eagles would've had five home games and only two away this season ... which would result in five away in 2019. CM agreed to the change to balance things out.

senior Will Potdevin. Crowley threw for almost 1,000 and fired nine touchdown passes as a sophomore after taking over the job during the season.

Crowley and Potdevin will have a strong senior

receiving corps to throw to in Rockett, Max Freedman, Luke Brennan and Sean Majeski. Freedman was the squad's second-leading receiver last year with 17 catches for 344 yards and three TDs while Brennan



**St. John's Prep's Aise Pream (with ball) and lineman Kevin Dewing are both ready to contribute on the gridiron this fall.**

caught 18 passes for 302 yards and two scores.

Aise Pream, a senior captain, will be the primary running back for the third straight season. He gained 1,201 yards and scored 10 touchdowns as a junior. Senior Trent Tully (47 carries for 304 yards and 6 TDs a year ago) provides a different look in the backfield with power running; he's 5-foot-9 and 195 pounds as opposed to the shifty 5-6, 150-pound Pream.

"It's definitely a plus to have so much experience at skill positions," said St. Pierre. "The offensive line is my biggest concern because we're thin there and have a lot of new faces. That's the most important position because you're only as good as your O-line. We also have some concern at tight end, where (junior) Anthony Fagan is the starter, but we have to find guys behind him."

Senior captain Kevin Dewing and junior Cooper Smith (6-2, 300 lbs.) are returning starters at guard. Junior Mason Davis is at left tackle, and senior Will Moulton has been moved from defense to take over at center. Right tackle is up for grabs, with senior Jack Murphy in strong contention.

Defensively, the Eagles appear to be solid with cornerbacks Pream and junior Matt Duchemin returning. Rockett and returning starter Antael Rosa are the safeties.

Senior captain James Taylor, a 6-foot, 320-pounder who has been starting since late in his freshman year, anchors the defense once again at tackle with help from Dewing, Smith and Moulton. Senior Pat Keefe at the mike linebacker spot and captain Coltan Tangney and James Hanley on the outside are all experienced.

## 2018 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 7	Haverhill	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	Central Catholic	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Everett	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 28	Westford Academy	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	at Catholic Memorial	3 p.m.
Oct. 13	BC High	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Bridgewater-Raynham	7 p.m.
Oct. 21	at Xaverian	5 p.m.

Charlie Guinta (6-4, 205 lbs.) is at one defensive end, but expected starter Alex Lane will miss the season with an injury suffered in baseball.

"We've got eight starters back there and I expect the defense to be really strong. Taylor is always so difficult to block," said St. Pierre. "It's still very early, but the defense is shaping up."

The only change to the Prep's schedule is a non-league game with Westford Academy, which takes the place of Malden Catholic after the Lancers dropped all Catholic Conference football opponents this past June.

"You can't afford to look ahead because every single game on our schedule is going to be a challenge," said St. Pierre. "Our schedule is always tough, but it is what it is."

"A year ago we were a young team, but there are no excuses now."

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# HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL [CAPE ANN LEAGUE BAKER DIVISION]

## Generals believe they have the right stuff to reload

BY MATT WILLIAMS  
STAFF WRITER

HAMILTON — Size, whether in terms of the height and girth of the players or the sheer number of them on the roster, is not usually available in excess in the Cape Ann League's Baker division.

It would be easy to think Hamilton-Wenham, one of three defending Baker champs after sharing last year's crown with Ipswich and Lynnfield, is undersized. But it would be foolhardy to think for one second that the Generals are undermanned.

"There's definitely going to be one matchup or another in every game where we're outsized," said co-captain Thomas Monahan, an offensive guard and defensive end at 6-foot-2 and 185 pounds. "But it's not about how big a guy is; it's about his technique and how hard he can hit."

Small, medium or large in the T-shirt department, the Generals have plenty of talent to build on last year's 9-2 season.

Quarterback Billy Whelan has thrown for over 3,000 yards and 36 touchdowns combined over the last two seasons, and though his top four pass catchers from last year graduated, he sees plenty of skill to target in both the running and



Hamilton-Wenham's captains are (from left) lineman Henry Smith, middle linbacker Sam Webber, quarterback Billy Whelan, and lineman Thomas Monahan.



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photos

### PATTON'S PATTERN

- **Last year's record:** 9-2 (CAL Baker co-champs, Division 6 North finalist)
- **Head coach:** Jim Pugh (3rd season, 16-6 at H-W, 194-116 overall)
- **Team captains:** Tom Monahan, Sr., OL/DE; Henry Smith, Sr., OL/DL; Sam Webber, Sr., FB/LB; Billy Whelan, Sr., QB/DB.
- **Top returning rusher:** Ian Coffey (98 carries, 756 yards, 11 TDs).
- **Top returning passer:** Billy Whelan (97-of-170, 1,606 yards, 18 TDs).
- **Top returning receiver:** Ian Coffey (8 catches, 91 yards, 2 TDs).
- **Last league title:** 2017 (Cape Ann League Baker)
- **Did you know?** Billy Whelan's 36 career touchdown passes are already an H-W program record, and he could become one of a handful of North Shore passers with 50 career scoring strikes later this season.

passing games.

"I'm really excited for the season. We absolutely have the pieces to compete," said Whelan, another captain who has a 16-5 record as the starting QB.

What's the biggest benefit of all that experience under center?

"It leads to making good decisions, and even more it leads to making fast

decisions," said Whelan, who could also line up in the secondary on defense and rush the ball more than in years past, quipping, "I think the bubble wrap is coming off a little bit this year."

Veteran coach Jim Pugh, six wins shy of 200 in his career while entering his third season at Hamilton-Wenham, knows junior Ian

Coffey has the chops to be a bell cow running back. The speedster ran for 756 yards and 11 touchdowns as a tenth grader and with a rugged, veteran offensive line in front of him is primed for an explosive season.

Returning senior center Evan Bucci is flanked by Monahan, Mike Moynihan and Henry Smith, with junior Ethan Moynihan in the mix along with senior Drew Cirinna. Aidan Nistl and Finn Brophy are big, physical blockers capable of making impacts at a variety of positions, and Quinlan Kelly packs a punch at tight end.

"We have a lot of guys that have stepped up, that have been working hard and studying, and now that it's their turn they're ready to make an impact," said Monahan. "We're excited to prove we can be as good

**Speedy junior Ian Coffey will be the bell cow back out of the Hamilton-Wenham backfield.**

as last year, and we feel like one of our strengths is the offensive line."

Defense should be another strength since H-W held seven of its 11 opponents to two TDs or fewer last year. Captain Sam Webber is ready for an expanded role at middle linebacker, and with Monahan and Henry Schibli causing havoc up front, the Generals may have one of the most physical front sevens in Division 6 North.

"I can't wait to get out there in a game. There's nothing better than making a big hit on defense," said Webber. "Last year I got to play next to Phil Durgin and he was such a big leader, showed me so many things,

### 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff dates)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 7	at Bishop Fenwick	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	North Reading	1 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Gr. Lawrence	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	Amesbury	1 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Norwell	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Manchester Essex	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	Lynnfield	1 p.m.
Nov. 22	Ipswich	10 a.m.

that I want to pass that on to the other guys like he did for me."

Senior Giles Hubbard is poised to step into a big role on defense. Colby Cala and Cam Guyer have speed and could contribute on both sides of the ball.

It's a tough slate to open the season for Hamilton-Wenham with a road game at Bishop Fenwick on tap for Week 1 before its home opener against North Reading. The Gens also picked up a road bout against Norwell to fill the void left by football independent Georgetown.

"It's a good group with great leadership. I like our team chemistry," said Pugh, who had 40 players come out in Grades 9-12, up slightly from last year. "We have battle-tested players and we'll have them ready. They want it pretty bad."



# GO GENERALS!



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# Steady improvement once again the key for Tigers

By AUSTIN WOOLMAN  
STAFF WRITER

Ipswich's football program has trended upward as of late. The Tigers have finished with a 6-5 mark and secured a postseason berth every year since head coach Kevin Fessette took over in 2015. They even earned a share of the Cape Ann League Baker title last fall after upsetting arch rival Hamilton-Wenham on Thanksgiving.

So what's the plan for Fessette and his squad this upcoming season?

Stay the course.

"Our first goal is to always come out to practice, work hard and play the game right," said the fourth-year head coach. "Obviously we'd like to win some games ... but we've got to play our best game every time we step on the field. Once we accomplish that, we'll reevaluate."

If Fessette is solely focused on getting out to a good start, then his ensuing remarks should be taken as a good sign.

"Things have been going pretty great so far," said Fessette. "We're a smaller team, but the kids are flying around and having a great time. There's been great enthusiasm."

The positive energy pervading the Tigers' practices can be attributed to



JIM VAIKNORAS/Staff photo

**Ipswich senior quarterback Ben Yanakakis is an offensive threat with both his arm and his feet.**

their captains, senior Ben Yanakakis and junior Cam James. Yanakakis, who is slated to once again be the team's starting quarterback, has really turned heads with his mature demeanor early on.

"He's one of the hardest workers we have," said Fessette of his left-handed signal caller. "He leads by example and is probably one of the better captains we've



Jared Charney Photo

**A quarterback by nature, junior captain Cam James of Ipswich will be on the other side of that equation by catching passes for the Tigers this fall.**

had since I've been here. Ben may not be the biggest or strongest player, but you know what you are getting from him every day."

It's encouraging, said Fessette, to see Yanakakis exceed expectations considering how much his squad will be relying on the senior. The Tigers' offense lives or dies by the read option and will be their strongest asset ... along

with their biggest potential weakness.

"We're going to depend on Ben to read the option plays correctly and consistently," said Fessette. "We've seen him do it before, so we feel confident."

"The thing is that we're a young team, and the read option is your basic smash-mouth football," he continued. "Our underclassmen are going to need to adjust

## TIGER TIDBITS

- **Last year's record:** 6-5 (Lost to Stoneham in Division 6 quarterfinals)
- **Head coach:** Kevin Fessette (4th season, 19-18)
- **Team captains:** Ben Yanakakis, Sr., QB; Cam James, Jr., WR/OLB.
- **Top returning rusher:** Justin Moran (135 rushes, 569 yards, 6 TDs)
- **Top returning passer:** Ben Yanakakis (23-for-59, 402 yards, 3 TDs)
- **Top returning receiver:** Izzy Morrissey (10 catches, 124 yards)
- **Last league title:** 2017 (Cape Ann League Baker Division)
- **Did You Know?:** Ipswich has never posted the exact same record for four consecutive seasons, but has the chance to do so this fall after going 6-5 in each of the last three campaigns. The Tigers also went 2-9 for three straight years (2012-13-14). Interestingly, they did win but a single game for four seasons in a row between 1942 and 1945, war shortened years in which the team played five, three, eight and five games, respectively.

## 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff games)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 7	at Essex Tech	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	Newburyport	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Triton	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Manchester -Essex	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	Amesbury	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Lynnfield	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	Georgetown	7 p.m.
Nov. 22	at Hamilton -Wenham	10 a.m.

to the speed of varsity football really quickly."

James, who will line up at wide receiver and also see time at outside linebacker, has also impressed his coaches, specifically in regards to his willingness to help out the younger Tigers.

"He's been great so far considering we kind of threw him into the fire," said Fessette. "He's learning a lot from Ben, but he's also made a point to help out the underclassmen and steering them in the right direction."

Other Tigers have caught the attention of the coaching staff as well. Projected first year starters like seniors Isaiah Morrissey (WR) and Erik Anderson (G/DT) have had stellar camps, while younger players Alex Yanakakis and Alex Somers have been pleasant surprises.

"There's been a ton of encouraging action going on here for the last two weeks," said Fessette. "Of course we won't know for sure until we really get into the hitting, but there's a lot to be happy about."



# GO TIGERS!



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# Hungry seniors hope to bowl over competition

By MATT WILLIAMS  
STAFF WRITER

Masconomet's football opponents this fall beware: tackling the Chieftains' two captains at the end of the game in the fourth quarter will be much easier said than done.

That's because senior Jay Theriault and Bryce Wronski are thick linebackers bowling their way out of the backfield with the punishing, downhill style that the Chieftains hope will define their rushing attack this fall.

"They'll hit you when they're running that ball," fourth-year head coach Gavin Monagle said. "They're not just smashing through there, either. They'll find holes. They've had great offseasons and are both a step or two quicker than last year."

Coming off a 7-4 season that included a win in the Division 2 North quarterfinals, the Chieftains return a strong group on defense but have a lot of open jobs on the offensive side of the ball. Junior Marshall Lastes (who attempted seven passes in a backup role last year) and sophomore Alex Theriault (Jay's younger brother) are competing for the starting spot and both impressed the coaching staff early in training camp.

"To their credit, they'd both given us some positive



Masconomet football captains Bryce Wronski (left) and Jay Theriault will guide head coach Gavin Monagle's club.

JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photos

## CHIEFTAINS CHATTER

- **Last year's record:** 7-4 (Lost in Division 2 North semifinals)
- **Head coach:** Gavin Monagle (4th season, 17-16)
- **Team captains:** Jay Theriault, Sr., LB/RB; Bryce Wronski, Sr., LB/RB
- **Top returning rusher:** Jay Theriault (68 carries, 441 yards, 8 TDs)
- **Top returning passer:** Marshall Lastes (2-for-7, 31 yards)
- **Top returning receiver:** Nick Mangino (2 catches, 44 yards)
- **Last league title:** 2016 (CAL Kinney co-champs)
- **Did you know?** The Chieftains have three coaches on staff that have led programs to league championships: Head coach Gavin Monagle guided the Chieftains to the CAL Kinney crown in 2016, defensive coordinator Greg Haberland led Essex Tech to the CAC title as head coach in 2015, and new offensive coordinator Neil Weidman led Lynnfield to six straight league titles from 2012-17.

things," Monagle said. "Marshall is a year ahead, but Alex has definitely put himself in a good spot. They're both very talented."

Masconomet graduated

its top three pass catchers and will look to Nick Mangino and junior Jack Corcoran to pick up the slack. Jay Theriault ran for 441 yards and eight scores

last season, and this year's squad had great 7-on-7 success over the summer, reaching the New England championships of the Northeast 7v7 tournament.

On the line, wrestling all-star Joey Perkins has looked very good at guard and Orion Stark, a defensive starter in 2017, looked primed for a strong season.

The Chieftains will still employ multiple sets, but have handed the offensive reins to former Lynnfield head coach Neil Weidman, a spread guru.

"We don't want to overload the kids with new stuff, but Neil has been great," Monagle said. "He's a great teacher and we're very happy to have him here with everything he brings to the table."

With Jay Theriault and Wronski serving as the teeth in the middle of the defense, the Chieftains should be formidable on that side of the ball. Nolan Flood is a returning starter at outside backer while Max Latam is a full-time returning starter at corner and had five interceptions last year. Seniors Danny McNamara and Dylan Ursino are also playing well in the secondary.

"They're really active kids on defense with a good sense for the game. They play hard and they're coachable kids," said Monagle,

## 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff dates)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 7	at Danvers	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Malden Catholic	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Newburyport	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Pentucket	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	Peabody	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	North Reading	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	at Triton	1 p.m.
Nov. 22	Everett	10 a.m.

who welcomed 82 players in grades 9-12 for the start of practice. "We have a lot of seniors who don't necessarily have experience, but they've been sitting behind some really good players. They're hungry."

It figures to be a challenging start to the year for the Chieftains, since they don't play a home game until Oct. 5 against Peabody. They open at Danvers, a perennial playoff team in recent years, before heading to Malden Catholic, Pentucket and Newburyport.

"That's just how it happened and we'll have to battle through it," Monagle said. "We have a good sense that these kids will play hard and do what we ask. The biggest thing will be not making those inexperienced type mistakes because on the road, those will hurt you."



Masconomet's Max Latam could emerge as one of the top pass catchers for the Chieftains this fall.



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# Having more experience in the system should help Hawks

By AUSTIN WOOLMAN  
STAFF WRITER

Speaking with Essex North Shore head football coach Dan Connors, it's clear that stellar character plays a crucial role in his life.

As he enters his second season at the reins of the Hawks, that fundamental aspect won't be fading away anytime soon.

"We are putting a heavy emphasis on culture and creating a brotherhood," said Connors. "We have a group of parents dedicated to helping enhance our culture, with weekly guest speakers and team dinner trips. The kids are also starting to hang

out with each other off the field, which we are seeing for the first time.

"We always look for high enthusiasm, effort and intensity. The first week or so is crucial in that aspect ... and things have looked excellent so far."

As for their time on the gridiron, Connors is pleased with what he's seen so far — particularly from senior captains Nathan White and Chris LeVie, an offensive guard and defensive tackle.

"Chris and Nathan have taken on a huge leadership roles," said Connors. "They



Jared Charney photo  
**Senior fullback and captain Manny Alves.**

have this blunt style of leading that's sort of old school and refreshing — they're verbal and will get on guys to motivate them. They know how to get under people's skin and hold them accountable."

Of course, that's not to say the other senior Hawk captains — quarterback Vinny Brazo, fullback Manny Alves and wide receiver/

cornerback Ben Condon — haven't been as impressive. They may not be as authoritative as White and LeVie, but Connors understands where they fit in on the team.

"They've all been workhorses since I've gotten here," said Connors. "They've been after it all offseason and have gained respect from the younger guys in our program. They always know their assignments and are all the perfect examples of football players."

While the five captains will be roster cornerstones, Essex North Shore also has intriguing position battles at cornerback and offensive

line. Connors is still looking for a second starter to pair with Condon in the defensive secondary, as well as two additional offensive linemen to start alongside Jacob Heath, Henry Fitzgerald and Anderson Villa.

"At cornerback, it looks like its coming down to Joe LeBlanc and Jaiden Anja," revealed Connors. "They've had incredible summers, understand the defense and play it at 100 percent. I wouldn't be surprised if both of them ended up splitting time there.

"With the offensive line, we're looking at everybody and are getting a good idea of who to play with. The

## 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff games)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 7	Ipswich	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	Salem	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Manchester Essex	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Greater Lawrence	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Shawsheen	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Whittier	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Nashoba Valley	7 p.m.
Nov. 22	Northeast	10 a.m.

three guys we have now are first-year senior starters, and I think they're ready for the challenge. It's going to be a fun season."

 **MANCHESTER ESSEX** [CAPE ANN LEAGUE BAKER DIVISION]

# Low numbers mean Manchester Essex will only play 9-game schedule

By NICK CURCURU  
STAFF WRITER

Low participation numbers have already had an impact on the Manchester Essex football team for the 2018 season.

According to head coach Jeff Hutton, there are 20 players in the program this season, and the team will play a varsity schedule. That varsity schedule, however, will feature a nine-game slate and just

five regular season contests, meaning the Hornets can not qualify for the MIAA state playoffs, which requires teams to play a minimum of six regular season games.

The Hornets open up Friday, September 21 at Essex North Shore (7 p.m.). The program dropped the first two regular season games against Northeast in Week 1 and St. Mary's in Week 2.

"A group of coaches, administrators and parents

met recently to make sure we did all that we can to have a varsity team this season," Hutton said. "We will be playing our league schedule and hopefully we can play some of those schools closer to our size in the consolation round and be as healthy as possible for Thanksgiving."

The group's biggest concern was the wear and tear that takes place during the course of a football season, and St. Mary's and

Northeast are perennially strong programs with strong numbers and a reputation for playing a physical style.

"The worry was playing schools who were a lot bigger than us," Hutton said. "We're also the smallest school in the CAL for football, so we reached out to the rest of the league and they all know about our situation. It could be a tough season, but we're going out there looking to improve

every day."

The Hornets have six seniors, two juniors, three sophomores and nine freshmen.

When the Hornets take the field against Essex North Shore they will be led by senior captains Jake Athanas (who was second on the team in rushing last year and is a four-year starter) and Noah Rawson, an interior lineman that is also a four-year starter.

## 2017 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA non-playoff games)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 21	at Essex North Shore	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	vs. Ipswich	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Lynnfield	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	vs. Hamilton-Wenham	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Amesbury	7 p.m.
Nov. 22	vs. Georgetown	7 p.m.



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# Talent, experience has Fenwick primed for big season

BY JEAN DEPLACIDO  
CORRESPONDENT

On paper, this year's Bishop Fenwick football team looks great.

Veteran head coach Dave Woods realizes games are won on the field, not but what's listed on his team's roster. That said, it would be hard to find any weaknesses on this year's team.

Things are looking up for the Crusaders with senior quarterback Cory Bright healthy and ready to pick up where he left off last year before being sidelined by an early season injury. Back for his fourth season under center and in his second year as a team captain, Bright is a threat every time he drops back to pass, since he also causes havoc by taking off and running for first downs.

The Crusaders offense is ready to click on all cylinders with leading receiver George Fiskatoris and sophomore Stefano Fabiano top targets for Bright. David Cifuentes led all rushers a year ago as a sophomore, gaining 793 yards and scoring five touchdowns. He has good hands and hauled in eight catches for 210 yards and three scores in 2017.

"Bright looks great; the key to our season will be keeping him upright," said Woods, now in his 21st season patrolling the Fenwick sidelines. "We're really

excited about this season and the kids have put in a ton of work. We were so young a year ago ... and we're still rather young as a team ... but we have so much experience coming back.

"Cory is such a great athlete and a great leader. He understands defensive schemes and offensive series'. He's a very smart player and has three or four options. When the defense is on the field, he can go over things on the sideline with the coaches."

Bright has a wealth of strong running backs and receivers. With him under center, it brings a special dynamic to the offense.

"We're very deep at receiver, and Cory has six to eight kids that are very talented there," said Woods. "There are a lot of different ones to throw to."

Fiskatoris caught 39 passes for 458 yards with five touchdowns and was the Crusaders' leading receiver a year ago. Senior captain Derek DelVecchio (59 catches for 241 yards and 2 TDs) was right behind him. DelVecchio and fellow captain receiver Keegan O'Connor are both defensive backs as well.

Four of the five starters on the offensive line return, with 3-4 others fighting for that last starting spot. Sophomore Matt Juneau



Rose Raymond photo

**Healthy and ready to roll in his senior season, Cory Bright is the quarterback of a talented Fenwick offensive unit.**

started quite a few games at center last season, while senior left guard Ian Connor from Peabody and left tackle Tom MacDonald, a 6-foot-5, 245-pound captain, have been together a couple of years. Junior T. J. Hazard will return at right tackle or play right guard, depending on who is the best candidate to fill the one open spot.

"We've got a good returning group up front," said Woods. "No matter how talented you are, if the line can't protect it's going to be a long day. That's the key position, and fortunately we've got a lot of experience.

"If there's a weakness it's



JIM VAIKNORAS/Staff photo

**Senior wideout George Fiskatoris led Bishop Fenwick in catches (39), receiving yards (458) and touchdown catches (5) a year ago.**

## CRUSADER COUNTDOWN

- **Last year's record:** 4-7
- **Head coach:** Dave Woods (21st season, 149-77)
- **Team captains:** Cory Bright, Sr. QB; Derek DelVecchio, Sr., QB/DB; Keegan O'Connor, Sr., WR/DB; Tom MacDonald, Sr., OL/DL
- **Top returning rusher:** David Cifuentes (133 carries, 793 yards, 5 TDs)
- **Top returning passer:** Cory Bright (35-for-66, 575 yards, 7 TDs)
- **Top returning receiver:** George Fiskatoris (39 catches, 458 yards, 5 TDs)
- **Last league title:** 2015 (Catholic Central League Large)
- **Did you know?:** Joe Rivers, a junior transfer from Malden Catholic, is the fastest player on the Fenwick squad. He will add strength to the offense at running back and will play linebacker on defense, but can pitch in just about anywhere he is needed. Rivers and his Fenwick teammates travel to MC to face the Lancers in October.

always a worry about depth, especially on the line. The key is to stay healthy and avoid big injuries."

In addition to Cifuentes in the backfield, the Crusaders will count on sophomore

Angel Martinez and Joe Rivers, a junior transfer from Malden Catholic.

"I've known Joe since way back when he played youth football in Wakefield with my son," said Woods. "He's

## 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include MIAA playoff dates)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 7	Hamilton-Wenham	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Dedham	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Pentucket	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	Arlington Catholic	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Archbishop Williams	6 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Malden Catholic	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	Cardinal Spellman	7 p.m.
Nov. 22	St. Mary's Lynn	10 a.m.

a good student who is looking at schools like Stanford, Boston College and Holy Cross. He has filled a couple of key spots for us."

The cornerbacks are Fiskatoris, O'Connor, and sophomore Stefano Fabiano, with junior Jake Miano from Salem and DelVecchio at safety.

With three of the four other coaches in the Catholic Central League new and Austin Prep no longer in the CCL, Woods don't know what to expect from other teams.

"Cardinal Spellman will be strong again and St. Mary's is always good, but with new coaches at Arlington Catholic, Archbishop Williams, and St. Mary's things will be totally different," he said. "We know what they've done in the past, but have no idea what changes will be made."

# GO CRUSADERS

Wishing you a  
**GREAT SEASON**





# Pingree ready to mix things up in 2018

By **AUSTIN WOOLMAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Over the years, the spread formation has usually been the bread and butter of Pingree's football offense. It helped bring them back-to-back bowl championships in 2009 and 2010, when they averaged 32.8 and 39.2 points per game, respectively.

But something has to give when you hire a former NFL offensive lineman as your new head coach.

Fortunately, Highlanders first-year head coach Mike Flynn is a man of compromise.

"We have a great O-line this year, so we need to take advantage of it," said Flynn. "(Offensive line coach) Rob Van Tuyl has been doing a great job with the boys this summer.

"We're still going to spread it out, but we're also going to lean on them to get the tough yards when we need them."

Flynn, who spent 10 seasons in the NFL with the Baltimore Ravens as a right guard/center, noted the enthusiasm his linemen have had when practicing run-heavy formations — specifically senior captains Grant Latimer and Alex Suny as well as juniors Kevin Gillis & Paul Larrabee.

"They totally bought



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photo

Following an 11-year stint in the NFL, Mike Flynn is now the new head football coach at Pingree.

## PINGREE PROCEEDINGS

- **Last year's record:** 4-4
- **Head coach:** Mike Flynn (1st season)
- **Team captains:** Eric Adinkra, Sr., RB/LB; Vito Visconti, Sr., RB/LB; Grant Latimer, Sr., OL/LB; Alexander Suny, Sr., OL/DL
- **Top returning rusher:** Eric Adinkra (116 rushes, 856 yards, 9 TD)
- **Top returning passer:** Patrick Alymer (60-for-113, 931 yards, 7 TD)
- **Top returning receiver:** Alex Suny (17 catches, 261 yards)
- **Last league title:** 2010 (Evergreen League)
- **Did You Know?:** Mike Flynn is only the second head coach Pingree has ever had. Chris Powers, who helped create the football program, was at the helm for 12 seasons. He went 68-39 and guided the Highlanders to two NEPSAC Bowl championships.

into the adjustment and have had great camps," said Flynn. "I also heard that most of them needed to play when they were underclassmen ... and it

definitely shows. They have a good understanding of what we want to do, which helps me big time."

"The wide receivers and running backs needed a



Courtesy photo

Eric Adinkra returns to help lead the Pingree offense this fall after rushing for nine touchdowns and more than 850 yards as a junior in 2017.

little more time to adjust," he added with a slight chuckle. "But the important thing is that everyone needs to buy in, and they've done a great job ,too."

While the Super Bowl XXXV champion can't help but show his bias, a big reason Flynn wants to stick with the spread is a result of the impressive summer his skill players have had.

"We're going to be a fast team with a lot of speed on the outside," said Flynn. "A few guys have really been turning heads during camp, like (senior captain) Eric Adinkra at

running back and Harrison Greenslade at wide receiver. Eric's been great with his assignments and Greenslade has been doing great things for us."

Another pleasant surprise for the Highlanders has been Michael Pisanelli, who is slated to make the move from safety to middle linebacker. Pisanelli has made the most of his transition, and along with senior captain Vito Visconti is set to head Pingree's hard-hitting linebacker corps.

"We've been letting Mike go free during practice and he's been playing it really well," said Flynn. "He may

## 2018 SCHEDULE

(does not include potential ELL playoff games)

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 22	Portsmouth Abbey	1:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Hyde School (ME)	2 p.m.
Oct. 6	Cushing Academy	6 p.m.
Oct. 13	Albany Academy	5 p.m.
Oct. 20	at Kents Hill School	3 p.m.
Oct. 27	at Kingswood Oxford	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 3	Hebron Academy	6 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Dexter Southfield School	6 p.m.

be on the smaller side, but he's strong, fast and a hard hitter."

Flynn and the Highlanders have a lot to look forward to when their seven-game regular season starts September 22nd against Portsmouth Abbey. One area of concern for the coach is his squad's depth and age, but he won't let it define them.

"It's definitely an area where we could struggle," said Flynn. "We've all had a great camp, but all it takes is for a couple of guys to go down and all of the sudden we're figuring out where to plug guys in. We just need to work on staying healthy and limiting the small injuries as much as possible."

# GO HIGHLANDERS

Wishing you a  
**GREAT SEASON**



# LINEMEN

■ Continued from Page S5

**Matt Noonan:** And no matter what happens, it's all good. Even if I get pancaked, afterwards it's 'good job'. That's the respect of the line.

**SN:** Do you ever think about injuries or the way concussions are always in the news these days?

**Ron Remotigue:** If you think about it, you're not going to be 100 percent focused and you're going to be more likely to get hurt. You have to block it out and have no fear.

**Tommy MacDonald:** I tore my meniscus in the first game last year. I played the whole year on it, so I kind of always had it in my mind. My coaches caught on; if it was really bothering me, they had to pull me (out) because I wouldn't pull myself back. I felt like if I didn't have bone sticking through my skin, I wanted to go.

**SN:** What does it feel like on Saturday morning after a game? How sore are you?

**Matt Noonan:** After a win, it's like waking up in heaven.

**Tommy MacDonald:** When you win, your mind is high. Even if your body is dragging behind, it feels great.

**Aidan Michaud:** When you lose, the motivation is to get back in there and watch some film to make sure it doesn't happen again.

**SN:** What's it like in the playoffs? Is it different playing those games before Thanksgiving after you're out of the playoffs? Is it more of a drag than losing in, say, September?

**Matt Noonan:** A game is a game; I just love playing no matter what.

**James Taylor:** For us, those (non-playoff) games were hard to get up for. We lost to Everett in the first round and it was just killer. Everything after that was a let-down until Xaverian.

**SN:** What's the biggest rivalry for you guys? If you could only



Rose Raymond photo

**Hulking defensive lineman James Taylor of St. John's Prep feeds on using his technique and film study in on 1-on-1 matchups.**

**beat one team for your senior year, who would you want to beat?**

**Billy Shaw:** Salem.

**Matt Noonan:** Beverly.

**Tommy MacDonald:** St. Mary's.

**Ron Remotigue:** Gloucester.

**Henry Smith:** Ipswich.

**James Taylor:** Xaverian.

**Michael Lock:** Marblehead, just because that's one team that I've never beaten in my career.

**Aidan Michaud:** Swampscott. That's the game I look forward to the most.

**SN:** On the defensive line, when you're going up against a stud running back or a really good passer, how does that make your job more difficult?

**Billy Shaw:** I just like hitting. I think if you hit a kid early and multiple times, it can get in their head. Certain quarterbacks, you see if you can get bodies on them, they get flustered. When you get pressure and collapse that pocket, you can damper their success.

**James Taylor:** I watch film all week on the guy I'm up against. I worry more about the lineman I'm against and what technique is going to work against him than about the skill guys.

**SN:** Is it better to beat your man off the ball, win that line battle, or wrap up the ballcarrier? What's more satisfying?

**Tommy MacDonald:** Definitely beating your man off the ball. You don't know if the running back is coming to you or not.

**Aidan Michaud:** It's out of your control where the play's going, but the guy in front of you? That's something you can control every single play. It's all about doing your job. I played nose guard — if I can take up two guys every day (and) win my individual fight, that sets up the tackle for the linebackers.

**SN:** What's your favorite hit or a big block that got a big reaction in the film room?

**Michael Lock:** At the end of the (2017) Revere game, which was our first win, we were all going 100 percent because we were excited to get that victory. Elijah White got an interception, and the quarterback was trying to run him down and didn't see me coming. I lowered my shoulder and just laid him out. That was the best hit of the year.

**Matt Noonan:** I remember getting a cut block and the

guy flew way up in the air, and the coaches were going crazy on the sidelines.

**SN:** What about when you get called for a flag? A holding or a late flag, whether it's a good call or a bad call?

**Billy Shaw:** There's holding on every play ... almost every play ... so to be pointed out on one single play is a drive killer. You have to mentally reset (and) deal with everyone getting on you in the huddle.

**Henry Smith:** It's worse when it's a false start. It's all on you and everyone can see it.

**SN:** What's the competition like in the weight room?

**Matt Noonan:** It's definitely more of a competition in the summer. We have some guys who are mad strong, and sometimes my goal in the weight room is just to beat them in one lift before I leave or I won't feel like I got better that day.

**Michael Lock:** It's both trying to be the best on my team and be *my* best. I want to put up the most weight to make someone else want to beat me, so we're all getting stronger.

**Tommy MacDonald:** Our



JARED CHARNEY / Photo

**Peabody's Michael Lock loves playing both offensive line and on the defensive side of the ball, where he had a sack last Thanksgiving in a win over Saugus.**

whole football team is undersized. We had a guard that was maybe 155 pounds, plus a freshmen at center.

For us, it's not a competition of who can put up the most; it's working hard together. I don't care if you bench 300 pounds or 100 pounds: if you can play football, you can play football.

**SN:** What is more important: footwork on a play, or having your hands in the right place?

**Aidan Michaud:** Definitely setting my feet, but hands is a close second.

**Matt Noonan:** I feel like they go hand in hand ... not to be funny.

**SN:** Does it take a certain kind of guy to be a lineman, almost like being a goalie in hockey or lacrosse?

**Michael Lock:** It's a lot of hard work, and not everyone's willing to put it in.

**Henry Smith:** I feel like you really have to have that drive. You have to be hungry to the win, for the hit, for the play. Even if you lose one play, you know you're coming out with no fear to hit him harder and to show you're not giving up. Linemen never quit the entire game.

**SN:** Some of you might get to play in college and some of you might be getting ready for your last season of football. What's that feel like, and how do you make the most of senior year?

**Matt Noonan:** I think about it a lot. It hits me that this is

my last 'first day of camp.' I want to go in there and just ball out. It's my last year as a Witch so I better make it count.

**Aidan Michaud:** Every game you want to go home exhausted, knowing you did everything in your power to help your team.

**SN:** What are the perks of being a lineman?

**Matt Noonan:** You never get yelled at for eating too much.

**Aidan Michaud:** You get totally shamed if you're getting too skinny, like 'What are you, trying to be a skill position player instead?'

**Tommy MacDonald:** I got it for looking too much like a basketball player.

**Billy Shaw:** It's just busting chops. Lineman coaches understand where you are, and then know how to talk to you in a way no other coach knows how. It's a bond that I don't think I'll ever break — and I love that.

**Michael Lock:** That's the stuff that motivates you, because you don't want to mess up and you don't want to get yelled at again.

**James Taylor:** David McHenry is our line coach at the Prep and he has so much respect. I've learned so much from him.

**SN:** Would you ever, if you could, change your body type and trade and want to be a skills position player?

**(As a group):** No way (We'd want to get bigger).



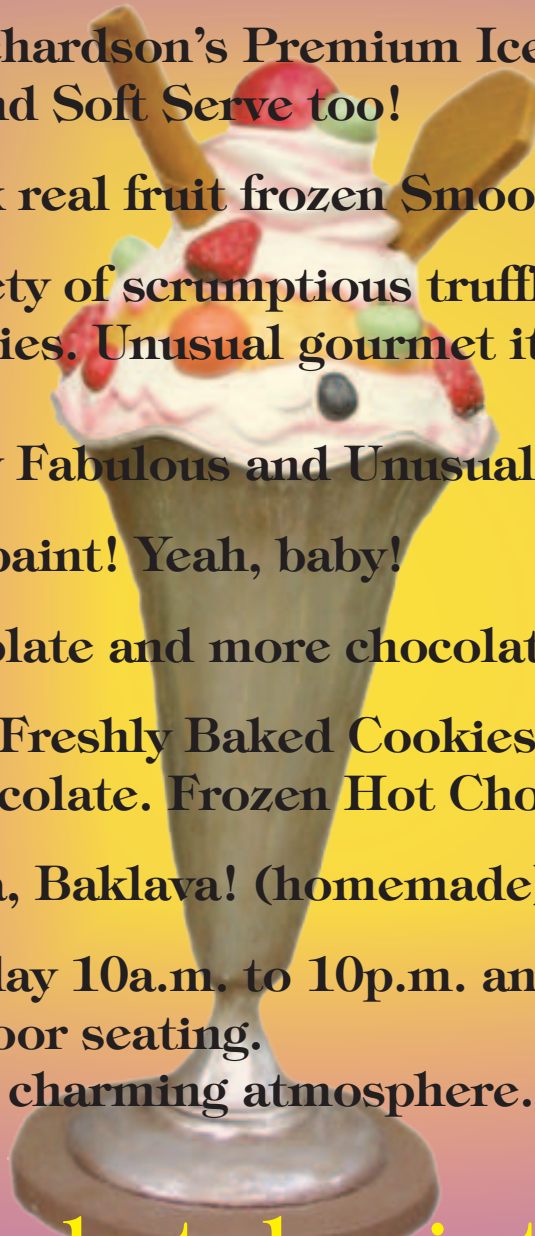
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