

2026 NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

TEAM PREVIEWS • SCHEDULES • HISTORY • STATS



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION
BY DAN RYAN

ON THE BALL

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NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2026 SEASON PREVIEW

GUIDE TO TEAMS & GAMES

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lineman
Aidan Collazo



Beverly
captain
Charlie
Frost



St. John's Prep junior
superstars Riley Selvais
(WR) and Chris Vargas (QB).



Marblehead
kicker/
punter
Finbar
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Behind Vargas & Selvais, Eagles once again a real threat in Division 1. *Page 18*



BISHOP FENWICK CATHOLIC CENTRAL LEAGUE

Crusaders have all the pieces in place to make a run

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

Now in his 29th year heading up the Bishop Fenwick football program, Dave Woods can get a sense of how a particular season may shake out by what he sees during camp.

His eyes have him feeling extremely optimistic on the eve of the 2026 campaign.

"I think the sky's the limit with these guys," said Woods, whose Crusaders went 6-6 a year ago but won a pair of playoff contests and reached the Division 6 state semifinals.

"We have a lot of talented guys and have a good group up front, too. If we can stay healthy, I think we can be really good," he added. "We need to get into game shape, but everything else the coaches have seen so far, we've been very happy and impressed with."

Bishop Fenwick has taken on a team motto of 'Ubuntu' this season, an African Bantu term that translates into 'I am because we are'. The team captains brought the idea to Woods in the spring, and knowing that the phrase worked wonders for the 2008 World Champion Boston Celtics, the coach gave it his full blessing. It's now listed on the back shoulders of every player and coach's team T-shirt for this season.

"We're using Ubuntu has



Long-time Bishop Fenwick football coach David Woods poses with his captains for 2026: (from left) senior two-way lineman Ryan Zepaj, junior quarterback Andrew Kiricoples, and senior offensive lineman/linebacker Connor McPhail.

the basis of how we treat every down, every snap," said one of the Crusaders' three captains, two-way lineman Ryan Zepaj of Peabody. "We're trying build a brotherhood and a family bond here."

Always wanting to be defensively responsible is a Fenwick trait. So is using a wide variety of weapons out of its Spread offense; neither mindset shouldn't change this fall.

Junior Andrew Kiricoples returns for a second year as the team's starting quarterback. The 6-foot-2, 195-pounder (up 20 lbs.

from a year ago) is already drawing looks from colleges, including Boston College, after throwing for 2,311 yards and 26 touchdowns a year ago.

"I've spent a lot of time in the weight room, working on my reads and improving my footwork," Kiricoples said. "I feel a lot better about reading the defense this year. I'm ready to get going."

"The entire system isn't brand new to Andrew any more. He's definitely better at reading secondary coverages and how we can exploit the defense," added Woods. "He has a better

understanding of formations and motions and base concepts."

Ian Guarino, a sophomore, appears poised to take over the bellcow role out of the backfield. He ran for 104 yards on just 14 carries in limited action as a ninth grader.

"Ian and I have a close connection and talk a lot," said Kiricoples. "We're in sync."

Junior Damon Mataragas and senior Jamie Dube (back this season after a torn ACL) can bounce around offensively, doing everything from lining up in the slot

and catching passes, taking a handoff or throwing the ball themselves. Sophomore Nelson Ogheneruemu should also see some touches out of the backfield.

Dean Cocchiola, who was thrown into the fray as a freshman tight end last season, acquitted himself nicely and will take on a much larger role. Ogwaro 'OG' Pashoto provides a big target (6-foot-5, 225 pounds) for Kiricoples to throw to and Ethan Boleski will be a reliable option on the outside, too.

The Crusaders have some big bodies up front to serve as protectors. Start with captain Connor McPhail, a 6-foot-1, 210-pounder who returns to the trenches and loves leading by example.

"To me, that means pushing you past what you think your final limit was," McPhail said. "When you get younger guys on the team looking at you and wanting to do what you're doing, that's leading by example. A lot of guys come up to me and ask questions, and I love it. We always say around here that's it's better to ask than not know."

Jake Grenert, a 6-foot-3, 290-pounder, Jeff Moore (6-2, 275), Zepaj (5-9, 235), Jacob Morceau (6-foot, 185) join McPhail up front to give Fenwick plenty of beef to open holes and pass protect. Marc Downing (5-10, 240), a junior, will also see time.

Fenwick Follies

Last year's record: 6-6 (Lost in Division 6 state semifinals)

Head coach: Dave Woods (29th season, 211-103)

Team captains: Connor McPhail, Sr. OL/LB; Ryan Zepaj, Sr. OL/DL; Andrew Kiricoples, Jr. QB.

Leading returning rusher: Andrew Kiricoples (38 carries, 181 yards, 2 TD)

Leading returning passer: Andrew Kiricoples (166-of-286, 2,311 yards, 26 TD)

Leading returning receiver: Jamie Dube (41 rec., 507 yards, 4 TD)

Did you know: The Crusaders had as many players attempt a pass last season (7, believed to be a school record) as they did register a carry out of the backfield. While Kiricoples attempted all but 10 of Bishop Fenwick's passes, Dube was 1-for-2 for 75 yards and a touchdown.

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 12	at Northeast Regional	1 p.m.
Sept. 18	Putnam Tech	7 p.m.
Sept. 25	Bishop Stang	7 p.m.
Oct. 2	at Archbishop Williams	6 p.m.
Oct. 9	Cardinal Spellman	7 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Old Rochester	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 23	at Cathedral	6 p.m.
Oct. 30	Arlington Catholic	7 p.m.
Nov. 25	at St. Mary's Lynn	6:30 p.m.

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Panthers not concerned about outside noise, detractors

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

It's all about the 'B' this season.

That is the motto that the Beverly High football team has glommed onto for 2026. How outsiders may or may not perceive them doesn't matter to these Panthers; their focus is being the best version of themselves.

"We talked about it (recently) in a culture meeting with Coach (Jeff) Hutton, that we just want to focus on us," said senior captain Charlie Frost.

The coaching staff loved that 40-to-45 players regularly showed up for summer weightlifting sessions, showing their dedication.

"We only have to prove things to ourselves," added fellow captain Teddy Fisher, an offensive lineman and hard-hitting linebacker. "We don't care about outside noise. We're only worried about winning that first game (at Haverhill Sept. 11) and going from there."

Many key pieces graduated from the Orange-and-Black's 6-5 squad from a year ago, which gave the program its first winning season since 2018.

But with depth in the line, some new skill players ready to showcase their talents, and a commitment to building a team-wide culture of positivity, the Panthers are feeling good about



Ready to lead the Beverly High football team to a successful season in 2026 are senior captains (from left) Joao Reis, Tommy Collins, Charlie Frost, Teddy Fisher and Isaiah Zohn.

themselves.

"We're as big as we've been since 2010 (a Super Bowl winning campaign for BHS), lean and mean," said head coach Jeff Hutton. "We are a lunch pail, blue collar, punch-you-in-the-mouth type team. That's how you win football games at this level."

"If anything, we want to raise the bar," added 6-foot-3, 230-pound two-way lineman Isaiah Zohn, another of Beverly's five captains.

Zohn feels particularly good about he and his fellow linemen, which includes another captain, three-year starter Joao Reis (who has

lost 40 pounds and is now a lean 6 feet and 220 pounds); Fisher, fellow senior Tyler Limongello, and two players battling for the starting center's job: senior Mateo Ibanez and junior Jason Reyes.

"We bring a lot of physicality," said Reis, also an excellent wrestler for Beverly High who Hutton said "won't come off the field for us this season."

New quarterback Tommy Collins, the team's fifth senior captain, led Beverly's JV team to a 7-1-1 mark last season. Hutton said that he's adept with pre-and post-snap RPOs that protect the Panther run game, and got

more votes as captain from his teammates than anyone else.

Collins likes not only the weapons he has around him in Beverly's Wing-T attack, but also the classmates who'll be protecting him in the trenches.

"It boosts our confidence knowing we have those guys up front," said the 6-foot-1, 185-pound signal caller. "Those are the guys who do the dirty work and make us look good, and it means so much to us. We're all best friends."

Sean Okhuozagbon, another senior, was Beverly's top running back

last season with 616 yards on the ground and three touchdowns. Hutton said he's running with more confidence and squatted 400-plus pounds for five reps this summer; he should be able to run defenders over.

Wingback Charlie Frost and senior Brody Lehmann, plus junior Jayden Hernandez, will also get their opportunities to carry the rock.

Explosive junior Stephan Sullivan will get a lot of touches at wide receiver, while fellow explosive 11th grade receiver Jordan Downey will get the ball a lot. Will Johnson is the team's pass-catching tight end; George Frost (Charlie's twin brother) and junior Logan Fialho will also see passes come their way.

Fisher ("all I want to do is win"), a mobile 6-foot, 210-pounder, and Limongello are back as inside linebackers; Hunter Roccio (weak side) and Johnson (strong side) will be the OLB's along with Downey. Charlie Frost is the lone returner in the Panther secondary, with his twin brother George ascending to a starting role of his own. Sullivan, Okhuozagbon and junior Fialho are additionally in the mix to start.

"I am so amped to get going," said Frost. "This is my last ride with the boys, so I want to value every moment."

Panther Paw Prints

Last year's record: 6-5 (Lost in Division 2 playoffs first round)

Head coach: Jeff Hutton (6th season, 18-35)

Team captains: Tommy Collins, Sr. QB; Teddy Fisher, Sr. LB; Charlie Frost, Sr. RB/DB; Joao Reis, Sr. OL/DL; Isaiah Zohn, Sr. OL/DL.

Leading returning rusher: Sean Okhuozagbon (127 carries, 616 yards, 3 TD)

Leading returning passer: Tommy Collins (2-of-2, 26 yards, 1 TD)

Leading returning receiver: Jordan Downey (5 rec., 67 yards)

Did you know: After producing their first winning season since 2018 last fall, the Orange-and-Black will look to put together back-to-back winning campaigns for the first time since the 2015 (8-3) and 2016 (9-3) squads pulled off that feat.

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11	at Haverhill	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	Revere	11 a.m.
Sept. 25	at Lynn Classical	5 p.m.
Oct. 3	Peabody	11 a.m.
Oct. 9	at Danvers	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Marblehead	7 p.m.
Oct. 24	Masconomet	11 a.m.
Oct. 31	Gloucester	11 a.m.
Nov. 26	at Salem	10 a.m.

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MASCONOMET REGIONAL NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE DUNN DIVISION

New faces eager to fill big shoes at Masconomet

By Matt Williams
» Asst. Sports Editor

How do you go about replacing some 44 total rushing touchdowns lost to graduation and one of the deepest and most decorated senior classes in your program's history?

Masconomet head coach Pat Sheehan sees it as simple math.

"We're starting from zero," the Chieftains' third-year boss said after a recent football practice, "and by being competitive every day, the goal is to become one."

Defending a Northeastern Conference Dunn title for the first time ever will fall to a slew of new Chieftains. Senior captain Aithan King, a beastly offensive and defensive lineman, is the only full-time returning starter from last season's 9-2 outfit. He's confident that his 10 fellow seniors and the rest of the the squad can rise to the challenge.

"We've been working hard and since we put the full pads on, we've been working even harder," said King. "We want to be ready to face anything that anybody wants to throw at us."

The leading candidate to take over at quarterback is senior Cruz Zizza, who Sheehan says has "supreme arm talent." Sophomore Dom Susi also has great poise in the pocket and will be ready if called upon.



Masconomet captain Aithan King (left) is joined by fellow seniors Ben Richardson and Jack Engel after a recent practice.

Chieftain Chatter

Last year's record: 9-2 (NEC Dunn champions, lost in Division 3 second round)

Head coach: Pat Sheehan (3rd season, 17-5)

Team captain: Aithan King, OL/DL

Leading returning rusher: Trip Weidman (10 carries, 79 yards)

Leading returning passer: None

Leading returning receiver: Trip Weidman (9 rec, 226 yards, 2 TD).

Did you know: Masconomet's last road win against a Catholic Conference foe came in 2012 when it knocked off Catholic Memorial (20-13). The Chieftains will be looking to do that on Oct. 2 when they visit St. John's Shrewsbury for the first time ever.

No one running back could replace Jack Fabiano (now at Williams College after going off for 2,038 yards and 38 TDs in 2025), so Masconomet may rely on a stable of ballcarriers with unique skills. Senior Jack

Engel brings bullish power to the rushing attack while sophomore Jett Fabiano (Jack's younger brother) is elusive in space and can always change the pace.

"We lost some names, but we have to bring the same

energy," said Engel, also a solid run-stuffing line-backer. "We need to have intensity, be gritty and be willing to put ourselves on the line to make plays."

Junior Trip Weidman may be Masconomet's most dangerous player with the ball in his hands. He's capable of catching deep passes, making defenders miss on short routes or sweeps, and can also do damage in the return game. At wide receiver, he's surrounded by a capable group that made some noise in summer 7-on-7 tournaments and includes sophomore twins Drew and Van Bowler, Ayden Schmidt and Owen Hannigan.

Surrounding King on the offensive line are Gabe Bilodeau, Caden McCarthy,



JARED CHARNEY

Trip Weidman is a threat to do a little bit of everything for Masconomet, including catching plenty of passes.

Mike Kenny (also a stout defensive lineman) and Ryan Maczynski.

"We're a group that loves playing football," King said. "Every since fourth grade, it's been my favorite time of the year. I love getting the pads on and hitting."

Senior Ben Richardson is one of the leaders of the defensive group and excels at outside linebacker. He, too, is excited about the way his class is embracing the challenge of carrying on Masconomet's gridiron tradition.

"It's been a grind. We're all trying our best and working through it every day," said Richardson. "We're a group who will do whatever it

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11	Billerica	6:30 p.m.
Sept 18	No. Andover	6:30 p.m.
Sept 25	Winchester	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 2	at SJ Shrewsbury	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	at Peabody	7 p.m.
Oct. 16	Danvers	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Beverly	11 a.m.
Oct. 30	at Marblehead	7 p.m.
Nov. 26	at TBA	10 a.m.

takes, and we have a great bond.

"This is a really hard sport, but knowing that everyone else is going through what you are and is there for you makes it the best."

It's also something of a new-look schedule for the Chieftains, who will venture out to St. John's of Shrewsbury for an early October contest and plan to face a to-be-named opponent from New Hampshire on Thanksgiving Day, since Northeast Regional discontinued the schools' brief two-year holiday series.

Overall, Sheehan likes what he's seen from his hungry up-and-comers during the preseason.

"Our guys have a lot of belief and that's a good thing," Sheehan said. "The systems and standards are both in place, and for the most part these guys practice at a pretty high level. Now, we get to go see how that translates to the real thing."



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Experience on the line a big plus for Magicians

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

Build around the bigs up front.

That's been the frame of mind for the Marblehead High football team this season, which has a lot of experienced players back in the trenches for the 2026 season and, with a few exceptions, a number of question marks surrounding them.

But for a program that has won 13 Northeastern Conference titles since 2009 — and 27 NEC crowns all-time — there are no excuses being made. The players believe in each other and what they're capable of achieving.

"The culture here is all about being one big family with your teammates," said captain Owen Coyne, a 6-foot-4, 180-pound wide-out and safety who will play college ball at Williams College. "We break down on 'family' and really buy into that brotherhood of always having each other's backs."

"We've lost in the second round of the playoffs the last three years and want to get over that hump this season," added fellow captain and Union College-bound Tim Wales, who stands 6-foot-3 and weighs 200 pounds while playing tight end, wideout and outside linebacker. "And the (Northeastern) Conference is stacked this year, but we want to



Lanky wideout Owen Coyne, sturdy trenchman Pete Rhoades, and wide receiver/tight end/linebacker Tim Wales will serve as captains for Marblehead.

get back to the top of the standings.

"Our goal is to do what we've always done ... but better."

With just 50-odd players in the program and a mere four freshmen who came out for the team, the numbers are the lowest in Marblehead in quite some time. Veteran head coach Jim Rudloff said there are sophomore backups at virtually every position, young

players who show promise but must get up to speed quickly at the varsity level.

Which is why having so many returning linemen is key for this year's club.

"We all have a lot of experience and are ahead of where we'd normally be (during the preseason)," captain and three-year starter Pete Rhoades, a 5-10, 230-pounder who doubles as a center and nose guard for the Magicians, said. "I

may be a captain, but all the returning guys up front are leaders."

Fellow seniors Andrew DellaCamera, Jack Morin and Jake Parisi will also get down in a three-point stance for Marblehead, along with junior returnee Quinn McGuire.

"Our line is phenomenal," said Rudloff. "Any one of them could be a captain. They're great kids, great leaders, great players."

Junior Jack Machado

Magical Happenings

Last year's record: 8-3 (Lost in Division 4 state playoffs second round)

Head coach: Jim Rudloff (18th season, 144-41)

Team captains: Peter Rhoades, Sr. C/NG; Owen Coyne, Sr. WR/S; Tim Wales, Sr. WR/TE/LB.

Leading returning rusher: Owen Coyne (8 carries, 91 yards)

Leading returning passer: None

Leading returning receiver: Owen Coyne (26 rec., 470 yards, 3 TD)

Did you know: Head coach Jim Rudloff has the best winning percentage (.778) of any coach in North Shore football history who has coached in 50 or more contests. He ranks ahead of such luminaries as Swampscott's legendary Stan Bondevitch (.753), current St. John's Prep head coach Brian St. Pierre (.752), Reggie Wade (.750), who coached for four years in Salem from 1902-03 and again from 1907-08; Pingree/Hamilton-Wenham's Mike Flynn (.733), Salem's legendary Bill Broderick (.726), the great Charlie Walsh of Beverly (.724), St. John's Prep's Fred Glatz (.709) and Dan Kardaris of Hamilton-Wenham (.700).

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	Lynn English	7 p.m.
Sept. 18	Medway	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	at Scituate	7 p.m.
Oct. 2	at Danvers	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	at St. Mary's Lynn	5 p.m.
Oct. 16	Beverly	7 p.m.
Oct. 23	Peabody	7 p.m.
Oct. 30	Masconomet	7 p.m.
Nov. 26	at Swampscott	10 a.m.

returns to the MHS backfield ready to take over the lead role. Coyne (who led the team in receptions and yardage a year ago) and Wales, along with juniors Madden Lyons and Trent Brown, are some of the pass catching options that the team's new quarterback — either

Marcus Waitekus or fellow junior Sawyer Adams — can throw to.

Adams, who also plays middle linebacker, can also line up at tight end.

Armani Villa has worked his way into the inside linebacker mix, and strong-legged Finbar Bresnahan is back as Marblehead's punter and kicker. Tenth graders such as Ryan Rhoades, Charlie Annese and Bailey Finkle are eager to proven themselves at the varsity level, too.

"We have so many weapons and such a game-trained O- and D-line that if everyone buys in, I think we could go really far," said Pete Rhoades.



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Experience, desire have Big Blue ready to rock

By Matt Williams

» Asst. Sports Editor

Modern day football can be a complicated game. Checks at the line of scrimmage on both offense and defense, making the right reads and anticipating plays are just a few of the mental tasks players face at every snap.

The only way to get better is to do them at full speed. Which is one of the reasons the Swampscott High football team is very optimistic heading into the 2026 season.

The Big Blue return a large and experienced senior class, led by five senior captains who are all returning starters.

Third-year starting quarterback John von Barta is at the top of the list, since there's simply no substitute for having more than 20 varsity starts under a signal caller's belt.

"When you've seen it at game speed as often as John has, the game starts to slow down," said Big Blue head coach Peter Bush, who has led his team to back-to-back Northeastern Conference Lynch division titles. "He reads the play very well and understands the concepts."

Surrounding von Barta are capable pass catches, perhaps none more dangerous than senior captain Doyle Delano. He caught 22



JARED CHARNEY PHOTOS

Quarterback John von Barta is used to making passes under pressure as he returns for his third season as varsity starter.

passes last season and just recently committed to play Division 1 college football at Holy Cross.

A powerful 213-pounder, Delano is a versatile weapon who can play inside receiver, tight end, H-back and will impact the game on offense and defense with or without the ball under his arm.

"All Doyle want to do is win," said Bush. "He's a very intelligent football player and is going to do a lot of different things for us."

Delano's attitude personifies his entire senior class,

which includes fellow captains Luke Michigan (WR/LB), John DiLisio (OL/DL) and Jack Duffy (WR/DB).

The Big Blue have a lot of pride in their hometown and want to leave their stamp on the program's legacy that dates back to 1906.

"We've been flying around. The goal of the pre-season is to make sure we know what we're doing and get after it," said Delano.

The biggest question for Swampscott comes at running back, with lead dog Will Bush now playing at



Swampscott's John DiLisio is a three-year returning starter on both sides of the line.

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	St. Mary's Lynn	7 p.m.
Sept. 18	at Lynn English	7:30 p.m.
Sept 25	Melrose	7 p.m.
Oct. 2	at Salem	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	Greater Lawrence	7 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Gloucester	7 p.m.
Oct. 23	at Winthrop	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	Saugus	7 p.m.
Nov. 26	Marblehead	10 a.m.

Assumption. There are a few candidates like Jamison O'Keefe and Will Ficken who have varsity carries under their belts. Whoever emerges will have the benefit of running behind a veteran line led by DiLisio (a rock at guard) as well as senior John Coglian, Sam Morse and Dylan Lucas.

"In our league, and for anyone playing in New England, you have to be able

to run the football," Bush noted.

Swampscott was pretty stingy defensively last year, holding every opponent they faced under 30 points and allowing 15.6 ppg. on average. They'd love to continue that and have a ton of experience on that side of the ball led by Duffy ("He played every snap including special teams, in multiple games," Bush lauded), DiLisio, Michigan and Ollie Riddell.

"You can't coach the experience that these guys have," Bush said.

It's a relatively short training camp for the Big Blue, who open up with St. Mary's of Lynn on Thursday September 10, just six days after their only official scrimmage. Their seniors can't wait for it to arrive and know that even successful

Big Blue Banter

Last year's record: 7-4 (NEC Lynch champions, lost in Division 5 first round)

Head coach: Peter Bush (4th season, 21-13)

Team captains: Jon DiLisio, Sr. OL/DL; Jack Duffy, Sr. WR/DB; Doyle Delano, Sr. WR/TE/LB; Luke Michigan, Sr. WR/DB/LB; John von Barta, Sr. QB.

Leading returning rusher: Jon von Barta (49 carries, 63 yards)

Leading returning passer: John von Barta (137-of-211, 1,720 yards, 18 TD)

Leading returning receiver: Doyle Delano (22 rec., 220 yards, 2 TD)

Did you know: Swampscott is aiming to win its third straight Northeastern Conference Lynch title, a feat the program hasn't accomplished since 1971-73. The Lynch is named after legendary Swampscott assistant football coach and (Danvers) athletic director Dick Lynch, one of the league's founding fathers.

seasons tend to fly by.

"Cherish every moment is all I can say," Delano said. "Coach Bush tells us every day to play every moment like it could be your last. As seniors, we know it's our last time on a field all together and we want to make the most of it."

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Loaded with college commits, Pingree poised for strong '26

By Nick Giannino

» Staff Writer

With just 34 players in its football program, one would think that Pingree would lack depth.

But where they may lack in numbers, the Highlanders make up for twofold with skill, size and experience.

The Highlanders are stacked at key positions, and after being snubbed from a New England Prep School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) bowl game last year, they are raring to take the field and get back to a place they feel they belong.

"Last year we went 6-2 and the two games we lost were by a combined four points," said third-year head coach Pat Downey. "Our captains remember standing on that field against Brooks (in the season finale); it came down to the last play of the game and we fell short. So they've got some unfinished business."

Implementing the age-old mantra "chop wood, carry water", Downey, his staff and players have certainly found something to help motivate them.

Not that they need it. "We've got the wood in the locker room already, a bucket of water, a fake axe ... it's really all centered around focusing on the process and buying into the process," said Downey.



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTOS

After committing to Division 1 Central Connecticut State University, Pingree quarterback Jack Spear is poised for a big senior year at Pingree.

The motivation and buy-in is one thing. But just *how* talented are the Highlanders?

It all starts at the top, with each of their four returning captains bringing something different to the table.

That includes Central Connecticut State commit Jack Spear (6-foot-1 185 lbs.) of Swampscott, who's back for his senior year under center after throwing for nearly 1,600 yards and 16 TDs last fall. Fellow captains Colt Downey (6-1, 197 lbs.) of Marblehead and Rex Braillard (6-2, 195 lbs.) will serve as big, athletic targets

for the gifted passer, and 6-2, 302-pound lineman Jake Medeiros will help hold things down in the trenches before going off to play at Merrimack.

Downey is committed to UNH and Braillard to Tufts, meaning all four captains will be playing serious college ball a year from now.

"Those four guys are really the heart and soul of our team," said coach Downey. "Jack, Colt and Jake were all First Team All-New England and NEPSAC guys last year and Rex was an honorable mention."

Joyce Pimentel (6-1, 190



Pingree's Colt Downey will serve as a team captain and top receiver for the Highlanders this season before going off to play at the University of New Hampshire.

lbs.) is another skilled receiver at Spear's disposal.

In the backfield, the ever shifty Baron DiMeco returns after a strong sophomore campaign (team-high 493 rushing yards, 9 TDs). He'll get the bulk of the carries with Connor O'Neil — a Trinity College commit for lacrosse — providing a change of pace as a more bruising, red zone and goal line-type back.

A stout offensive line that starts with Medeiros also includes twin brothers Ray and Ryan Castillo, returning all-league seniors who both stand 5-11 and weigh

in around 270 pounds. Ipswich's Liam Roberts (6-1, 210 lbs.) will slide in at left guard, while sophomore Joe Trunfio (6-1, 255) will man the middle at center.

So, despite losing expected 6-4, 305-pound left tackle Jon Panagou — who earned enough credits to forego his final year of HS eligibility and join Division 1 Maryland earlier than expected — Pingree is still loaded with size and experience up front.

Defensively, Downey has the luxury of deploying a pair of physical linebackers in Jacob Haynes and Owen Ferrante. Colt Downey thrives at free safety and is capable of coming downhill to support Pingree in the run game, and Hamilton-Wenham transfer Billy Brown adds value at cornerback. Of course, Pingree's O-line will go the other way, too, and is equally impactful on that side of the ball.

"Most of our guys go both ways because we only have 34 kids. So what's crazy is we have those 34 kids and three are D1 commits," said coach Downey. "The Castillo brothers are getting recruited, too, and we'll likely have eight kids play college football from this senior class."

"This group we have, this is a special group," added the coach. "These guys just care. I'm excited to see what we can do."

Highlander Highlights

Last year's record: 6-2

Head coach: Pat Downey (3rd season; 9-7)

Team captains: Jack Spear, Sr. QB; Colt Downey, Sr. WR/S; Jake Medeiros, Sr. OL/DL; Rex Braillard, Sr. WR/DB.

Leading returning rusher: Baron DiMeco (88 carries, 493 yards, 9 TDs)

Leading returning passer: Jack Spear (99-for-163, 1,559 yards, 16 TDs)

Leading returning receiver: Colt Downey (25 rec., 288 yards, 2 TDs)

Did you know: Pingree hasn't qualified for a New England Prep School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Bowl Game since 2023 when they hosted one, yet lost to Rivers School in the Bob Souza Bowl.

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept 26	at Austin Prep	2 p.m.
Oct. 3	Capital Harbor Prep	3 p.m.
Oct. 10	at New Hampton	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	Worcester Academy	3 p.m.
Oct. 24	Hamden Hall Country Day	2 p.m.
Oct. 31	at Greenwich Country Day	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 7	at Portsmouth Abbey	3 p.m.
Nov. 14	Brooks	5 p.m.

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PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE DUNN DIVISION

Tanners aim to reload, put down year in rear view

By Matt Williams

» Asst. Sports Editor

What's one way to make sure you don't run out of gas? Build a bigger gas tank.

This year's Peabody High football team is taking that approach. A renewed focus on conditioning is one way the Tanners plan to put last fall's disappointing 2-win season behind them.

"A lot of those games got away from us in the fourth quarter ... so we've increased the aerobic work and the conditioning, noticeably," reasoned 14th year head coach Mark Bettencourt.

Increasing their offensive production is another prime goal, since Peabody's 144 points scored a year ago were their fewest in a full season under Bettencourt.

Fortunately, the Tanners have some intriguing ingredients for putting together a spicy offensive recipe.

It starts with senior quarterback Dominik Mercier, who transferred back to his hometown after playing seven games for Malden Catholic in 2025. Two of those were playoff victories, and he brings both an accurate arm (1,255 pass yards) and a slippery running element (500 yards, 9 rush TDs) that could add a new dimension to the Tanners' spread scheme.

"I played with Dom in youth football and I've blocked for him before," said



Captains Mark Bettencourt (left) and Matt Dresser after a recent Peabody practice.

senior captain Matt Dresser, a three-year starter on the offensive and defensive lines for Peabody. "He's fast, he's shifty and any time the pass is covered, you have to look back because he'll be at the first down or the end zone before you even know it."

Dresser leads a veteran offensive line that includes returning starters and captains Jake Marcotullio (guard) and junior Mark Bettencourt (at center). Sophomore Zaiden Nazaire started every game at tackle as a freshman and is a monster in the trenches, while seniors Shawn Costa and James Hooper round out a strong group.

"We saw the success the skills guys had over the summer," said the younger Bettencourt, referencing Peabody's first-ever championship in the Northeast 7v7 East Regional. "As linemen,

2025 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11	at Somerville	6 p.m.
Sept. 18	Malden	7 p.m.
Sept. 25	at Lynn English	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Beverly	11 a.m.
Oct. 9	Masconomet	7 p.m.
Oct. 16	Waltham	7 p.m.
Oct. 23	at Marblehead	7 p.m.
Oct. 30	Danvers	7 p.m.
Nov. 26	at Saugus	10 a.m.

it made us feel like we had to step up, too. They're showing what they can do; now, we have to perform."

Peabody also boasts its deepest receiving group in a few years with senior captain Mark Mendonca (42 grabs, 619 yards) as the headliner. Fellow captains Jack Smith and Brian Collins Dixon combined for 50 catches, giving the group close to 100 returning receptions.

Speedy senior Aniel



STEPH TRAVERS/photo

Peabody's Jack Smith returns on both sides of the ball as a senior captain for the Tanners.

Espinal, who missed last season with an injury, has game-breaking potential, while sophomores James Morgan, Ryan Levesque and Ryan Maguire are pushing for playing time.

The Tanners know they must improve on last year's rushing attack. Senior Gabe Casiano (2 carries) and junior Drake Dixon (8 carries) are the only returners with varsity work under their belts, while junior Joe Fagundes and senior Dominic Rigano are also competing for backfield work.

"We want to be really aggressive," said Dresser, "and that starts with being really competitive in camp."

Defensively, Peabody returns Mendonca and Smith in the secondary with Dresser anchoring the D-line. Junior Ty Lomasney has looked

good in the secondary, with juniors Nick Barbosa and Andrew Senfuma and senior Mason Palladino handling the linebacking duties. Kazier Lopez, an athletic senior, is another name to know.

It's a new-look schedule for Peabody, facing Somerville in Week 1 and Malden in its home opener on Sept. 18. Don't mistake these Greater Boston League squads for lambs: The Highlanders have two players committed to Bentley and the Golden Tornadoes return a 2,000-yard rusher.

"There's been a lot of energy and juice so far," said the younger Bettencourt. "We need to show that we're not who we were last year ... and that starts Week 1."

The pieces may be in place and the work has been put in. But until the ball is

Longhorn Lowdown

Last year's record: 2-9 (Did not qualify for playoffs)

Head coach: Mark Bettencourt (14th season, 76-62)

Team captains: Brian Collins Dixon, Sr. RB/WR/LB; Mark Bettencourt, Jr. OL/DL; Matt Dresser, Sr. OL/DL; Jake Marcotullio, Sr. OL/DL; Mark Mendonca, Sr. WR/DB; Jack Smith, Sr. WR/DB.

Leading returning rusher: Jack Smith (1 carry, 12 yards)

Leading returning passer: Dominik Mercier (while at Malden Catholic: 109-of-162, 1,255 yards, 8 TD)

Leading returning receiver: Mark Mendonca (42 rec., 692 yards, 6 TD)

Did you know: Head coach Mark Bettencourt enters his 14th season tied with Bill Seeglitz for third on Peabody's all-time wins list. Once the tie is broken, he'll trail only Ed Nizwantowski (who coached Bettencourt as a player) and Arthur Adamopoulos (who coached Nizwantowski as a player).

snapped, the Tanners know they can't prove anything.

"The bottom line is that we didn't win a conference game last year and that's not our standard," head coach Bettencourt said. "The time for talk is over. It's up to us to take what we've learned and go show it."

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Fishermen aim to keep winning ways alive under Anderson

By Nick Giannino

» Staff Writer

Veteran assistant coach Brian Anderson is now the head honcho for the Gloucester High football team. But he doesn't plan on changing much schematically.

The Fishermen have a system that works for them; their players are familiarized with it, they're bought in, and it's largely what led to their winningest season in nearly a decade last fall.

"We're right back in our traditional Wing-T offense," said Anderson, a 2009 GHS graduate who won a Super Bowl with the Fishermen during his playing career. He most recently served as the team's offensive coordinator before assuming head coaching duties ahead of the 2026 campaign.

While Anderson and his staff — which includes former head coach Dan O'Connor — plan to stick to their guns with the old school style rushing attack, they won't have the luxury of deploying any of their top trio of backs from a season ago in Jaylen Severino, Thomas Cribbs and Joe Allen. All three have graduated, meaning a new flock of eager athletes are licking their chops in anticipation of an increased role.

Senior captain Cole Mosley-Wynn will assume starting quarterback duties



DAVID SOKOL/Staff photos

First-year Gloucester High head coach Brian Anderson closely watches his players during preseason practice.

and is certainly capable of churning his feet to move the chains — "He's really taking command of the huddle and we expect big things out of him this year," said Anderson. But he'll also be handing the rock off to a handful of capable candidates looking for breakout seasons.

That includes speedster Nash Marshall, who is also a captain, as well as Elijah Brooks, a basketball standout who made an impact on the field last year as well.

Gloucester will benefit from having numerous athletes come back out for the football team after taking a year off, a reality that should provide a huge boost for the new-look roster.

"Within the backfield

we're still working out some of the newer returnees," said Anderson. "Nico Alves (the NEC baseball MVP), Connor Oliveira and Will Aaron have been taking a lot of fullback reps; Nash and Elijah are taking first team reps at running back; and wingback is Connor Mahoney and Carlos Velazquez splitting the majority of first team reps. We're excited about (Tyrone) Middleton fitting in, as well as some of the younger kids, too.

"It's nice getting back some of these baseball and basketball players and adding some real athleticism to the backfield," added Anderson.

As intriguing as the Fishermen's busy backfield is, their top strength may be on



Connor Mahoney holds onto the ball as he runs through a barrage of defenders using pads to knock the ball free during Gloucester High football practice.

the line.

Their entire strong side of the O-line is returning, with all-star senior captain Max Thomas leading the way alongside fellow senior captain and sack king Kaleb Allen. Junior Giuseppe Ferrara, who earned some starts towards the end of last season, also returns at strong guard.

"We have some good continuity with those guys that's carried over from last year," said Anderson.

Senior Connor Wagner and John Russo, as well as junior Jake Gucciardi, have garnered the majority of first team reps on the other side of the line, while Tanner Smith and Drew Rodolosi have been showing good

things at split end.

Many of Gloucester's offensive starters will also line up defensively. Anderson says there's been a lot of competition within the secondary, with freshman Fode Kaba and senior Nick Whitten competing alongside Rodolosi and Velazquez.

There's plenty of jostling for position and inner-competition amongst the defense, which certainly isn't a bad thing for a team that's looking to continue to trend in the right direction in the ever-competitive Northeastern Conference.

"The theme of our camp has been competition," said Anderson. "We're trying to get two deep at each position and have them work for it."

Fishermen Facts

Last year's record: 8-3 (Lost in Division 5 state quarterfinals)

Head coach: Brian Anderson (1st season, 0-0)

Team captains: Cole Mosley-Wynn, Sr. QB/LB; Nash Marshall, Sr. RB/LB; Kaleb Allen, Sr. OL/DL; Max Thomas, Sr. OL/DL

Leading returning rusher: Nash Marshall (17 carries, 108 yards, 1 TD)

Leading returning passer: None

Leading returning receiver: None

Did you know: Last season, the Fishermen tallied their most wins (8) since the 2018 campaign when they finished with nine victories and fell in the Division 4 state semifinal to Nashoba Regional.

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11	Stoneham	7 p.m.
Sept. 18	at St. Mary's Lynn	5 p.m.
Sept. 25	at Revere	6 p.m.
Oct. 2	Winthrop	7 p.m.
Oct. 9	Salem	7 p.m.
Oct. 16	Swampscott	7 p.m.
Oct. 23	at Saugus	6 p.m.
Oct. 31	at Beverly	11 a.m.
Nov. 26	Danvers	10 a.m.

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2026 NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

Concord-Carlisle at Danvers, 6:30
Lynn English at Marblehead, 7
St. Mary's Lynn at Swampscott, 7

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

Peabody at Somerville, 6
KIPP Academy at Salem, 6:30
Billerica at Masconomet, 6:30
Winthrop at Essex Tech, 6:30
Manchester Essex at
Newburyport, 6:30
Beverly at Haverhill, 7
Gloucester at Stoneham, 7
St. John's Prep at
Springfield Central, 7

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

Bishop Fenwick at Northeast
Regional, 1 p.m.
Brighton at Hamilton-
Wenham, 3

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18

Gloucester at St. Mary's Lynn, 5
Essex Tech at Wakefield, 6

Saugus at Hamilton-Wenham, 6
Greater Lawrence at Salem, 6:30
Medway at Marblehead, 6:30
North Andover at
Masconomet, 6:30
KIPP at Manchester Essex, 6:30
Danvers at Melrose, 7
Malden at Peabody, 7
St. John's Prep at
Central Catholic, 7
Putnam Tech at Bishop
Fenwick, 7
Swampscott at Lynn
English, 7:30

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

Revere at Beverly, 11 a.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

Beverly at Lynn Classical, 5
Salem at Whittier, 6
Gloucester at Revere, 6
Winchester at Masconomet, 6:30
St. John's Prep at Needham, 6:30
Northeast Regional at
Essex Tech, 6:30

Lynnfield at Manchester
Essex, 6:30
Danvers at Reading, 7
Marblehead at Scituate, 7
Melrose at Swampscott, 7
Bishop Stang at Bishop
Fenwick, 7
Peabody at Lynn English, 7:30

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

Hamilton-Wenham at Chelsea, 1
Pingree at Austin Prep, 2

FRIDAY, OCT. 2

Bishop Fenwick at
Archbishop Williams, 6
Marblehead at Danvers, 6:30
Swampscott at Salem, 6:30
Masconomet at St. John's
Shrewsbury, 6:30
Newburyport at Essex Tech, 6:30
Hamilton-Wenham
at Triton, 6:30
Amesbury at Manchester
Essex, 6:30
Winthrop at Gloucester, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

Peabody at Beverly, 11 a.m.
LaSalle, R.I. at St. John's Prep, 1
Capital Harbor at Pingree, 3
FRIDAY, OCT. 9
Marblehead at St. Mary's Lynn, 5
BC High at St. John's Prep, 6
Manchester Essex at
Hamilton-Wenham, 6
Essex Tech at Lynnfield, 6
Beverly at Danvers, 6:30
Salem at Gloucester, 7
Greater Lawrence at
Swampscott, 7
Masconomet at Peabody, 7
Cardinal Spellman at
Bishop Fenwick, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 10

Pingree at New Hampton, 4:30

FRIDAY, OCT. 16

Salem at Saugus, 6
St. John's Prep at St.
John's Shrewsbury, 6
Hamilton-Wenham at

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Lynnfield, 6
Essex Tech at
Pentucket, 6
Manchester Essex
at Triton, 6:30
Danvers at
Masconomet, 6:30
Bishop Fenwick at Old
Rochester, 6:30
Beverly at Marblehead, 7
Waltham at Peabody, 7
Swampscott at
Gloucester, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 17
Worcester Academy
at Pingree, 3

FRIDAY, OCT. 23
Malden Catholic at
St. John's Prep, 6
Bishop Fenwick at
Cathedral, 6
Essex Tech at Hamilton-
Wenham, 6
Gloucester at Saugus, 6

Malden at Manchester
Essex, 6:30
Salem at Danvers, 6:30
Swampscott at
Winthrop, 6:30
Peabody at
Marblehead, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 24
Masconomet at
Beverly, 11 a.m.
Hamden Hall at
Pingree, 2

FRIDAY, OCT. 30
St. John's Prep at
Catholic Memorial, 6
Amesbury at Hamilton-
Wenham, 6
Winthrop at Salem, 6:30
North Reading at
Essex Tech, 6:30
Masconomet at
Marblehead, 7
Danvers at Peabody, 7
Saugus at Swampscott, 7

Arlington Catholic at
Bishop Fenwick, 7
SATURDAY, OCT. 31
Gloucester at
Beverly, 11 a.m.
Pingree at
Greenwich, 3:30

FRIDAY, NOV. 6
MIAA playoffs Round
of 16 (TBA)

SATURDAY, NOV. 7
MIAA playoffs Round
of 16 (TBA)
Pingree at Portsmouth
Abbey, 3

FRIDAY, NOV. 13
MIAA playoff
quarterfinals (TBA)

SATURDAY, NOV. 14
MIAA playoff
quarterfinals (TBA)
Brooks at Pingree, 5

FRIDAY, NOV. 20
MIAA playoff
semifinals (TBA)

SATURDAY, NOV. 21
MIAA playoff
semifinals (TBA)

**WEDNESDAY,
NOV. 25**
Manchester Essex at
Essex Tech, 6:30 p.m.
Bishop Fenwick at St.
Mary's Lynn, 6:30 p.m.
St. John's Prep vs.
Xaverian at Fenway
Park, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 26
Beverly at Salem, 10 a.m.
Danvers at Gloucester,
10 a.m.
Peabody at Saugus,
10 a.m.
Marblehead at
Swampscott, 10 a.m.
Hamilton-Wenham
vs. TBA, 10 a.m.
Masconomet vs.
TBA, 10 a.m.

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HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL CAPE ANN LEAGUE BAKER DIVISION

Generals hoping system familiarity will lead to bounceback

By Nick Giannino
» Staff Writer

Year 1 under head coach Mike Flynn proved to be a learning experience for the Hamilton-Wenham football team. The young Generals took their lumps, struggling to find consistency on either side of the ball as they worked through the growing pains of a new system.

This fall, there has already been a noticeable difference in training camp. With less of a learning curve, the squad can focus more on perfecting the schemes rather than being introduced to them all together.

"The installing has certainly been a lot easier after changing the offense around last year. Everything looks pretty good," said Flynn. "We had a lot of sophomores that played last year that are juniors now and have matured physically. We've made some good progress already; I'm happy with where we're at."

A boon for the Generals will be the return of starting quarterback Anthony Folger, who found some success in the passing game last autumn with over 1,100 yards and 10 TDs through the air as a junior. He has some capable weapons at his disposal, too.

That includes sophomore Finn Crielson and juniors



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO

Hamilton-Wenham quarterback Anthony Folger is back for his second full year under center.

Zac Sachsel and Joe Flynn, the latter of whom missed last year with injuries but is healthy now and ready to make an impact. Senior Jake Collins is another wideout expected to be in the mix, while classmate Will Kirkman provides some physicality and good hands at tight end.

In the backfield, captain Andrew Wilbur and fellow senior Andrew Baum (who's also the kicker) will be aiming to fill some of the void lost from 1,000-yard rusher Caden Schrock, a recent

graduate. Wilbur and Baum combined for just 17 carries last season, but they're eager for elevated roles in the offense.

The team's third captain, senior Harrison Esker, will lead the way on the line.

"Where we may be a bit deficient in the running game, or at least inexperienced, I think we should be a little better in the passing game," said Flynn. "Having done it for a year already, departing from the spread offense was a big learning curve — but now they

seem to have a better grasp so hopefully can do some things there."

Then there's the Hamilton-Wenham defense.

In 2025, the Generals suffered a six-game losing streak after an early season triumph over Brighton, allowing a whopping 42.3 points per game during that span. So it goes without saying that improving on that side of the ball is at the forefront of H-W's focus.

"We obviously struggled a lot last year on defense, but I think we should definitely

be a little better this year," added Flynn.

With just under 40 players in the program, the majority of Hamilton-Wenham's starting lineup will go both ways. Collins and Flynn slide in at linebacker alongside Wilbur; Sachsel has been moved to safety; and junior Sterling Stinson, a lineman on offense, looks strong at D-end.

The Generals have certainly benefited from the new facilities on campus, which include the turf stadium (debuted last year), as well as a brand new weight room with state-of-the-art equipment. They have 11 seniors ready to set the tone on the varsity and nearly 70 kids in the youth program, which bodes well for the future.

"Building the program up, that's always the biggest thing," said Flynn. "Obviously those guys are a few years away, but it's nice to know we're building towards something."

Hamilton-Wenham, which won its final three games a year ago, opens this season with a trio of non-league clashes: at home against Brighton in Week 1 and Saugus in Week 2, and a road tilt at Chelsea in Week 3. With Ipswich joining a co-op in Triton, the Generals are currently still searching for a new Thanksgiving Day opponent.

General Discussion

Last year's record: 4-7

Head coach: Mike Flynn (2nd season, 4-7; 42-15-1 overall in his HS coaching career)

Team captains: Anthony Folger, Sr., QB/S; Harrison Esker, Sr. OL/DL; Andrew Wilbur, SR. RB/LB

Leading returning rusher: Anthony Folger (30 carries, 208 yards, 2 TDs)

Leading returning passer: Anthony Folger (93-for-181, 1,162 yards, 10 TDs)

Leading returning receiver: Finn Crielson (16 rec., 259 yards, 1 TD)

Did you know: Before seizing the reins in Hamilton-Wenham, head coach Mike Flynn enjoyed an impressive string of success with the Pingree football team, guiding the Highlanders to a 38-8-1 record in five seasons at the helm.

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 12	Brighton	3 p.m.
Sept. 18	Saugus	6 p.m.
Sept. 25	at Chelsea	6 p.m.
Oct. 2	at Triton	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	Manchester Essex	6 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Lynnfield	6 p.m.
Oct. 23	Essex Tech	6 p.m.
Oct. 30	Amesbury	6 p.m.
Nov. 26	TBA	10 a.m.



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New coach Broughton brings spread offense to Hornets

By Nick Giannino

» Staff Writer

A new era will commence in Manchester this fall as former Marblehead High assistant football coach Nick Broughton takes the helm for the Hornets.

A former lineman at Merimack College, Broughton plans to revamp the Manchester Essex offense — and so far, that alteration has been a work in progress for his young yet determined group.

“We’re definitely going to be spreading it out; I’m gonna put my own twist on this offense with a little bit more with the run game, too,” said Broughton. “But we’re definitely (going to run) more of a spread.”

“There’s definitely been some ups and downs,” he continued. “We started out with some of our basic installs, which went pretty well, but once you start bringing in wrinkles it’s an adjustment period.”

Fortunately for Broughton, he appears to have the right guy under center to potentially make a new offense hum.

After graduating one of the program’s all-time great quarterbacks in Zach Hurd — who both threw and passed for more than 3,000 yards in his high school career — former backup QB-turned-wideout Nick Glass will forfeit his pass



DAVID SOKOL/Staff photo

Manchester Essex’s Nick Glass will be the team’s starting quarterback in 2026.

catching duties to seize the signal calling reins.

A junior, Glass thrived as a tall, athletic receiver and regular red zone target for Hurd last fall. But he was always a capable passer, and now appears poised to slide back in under center to call the shots.

“He still looks athletic as ever,” Broughton said of the 6-foot-1 Glass. “We have the utmost confidence in him.”

Senior captain Noah

Cohen — who has handled a myriad of roles throughout his Hornets’ tenure — should get plenty of touches at wide receiver, as will his fellow captain, Connor St. Laurent. Both figure to be key pieces defensively, too, slotting in as outside linebackers in a hybrid-like role.

“Noah is a really solid receiver; we’ll be looking to get him the ball in a bunch of different ways,” said Broughton. “(Senior) Turner



STEPH TRAVERS/photo

Noah Cohen will serve as both a team captain and as a valuable offensive and defensive piece for the Hornets.

Valeo also looks really solid on the outside at receiver, and we have a good battle right now for tailback with (junior) Kevin Heim returning to the team and looking good.”

Conrad Garfield is back as the team’s leading rusher, but Broughton says they are “trying him out at a few different spots on offense where we can use his physicality.”

With about 35 kids in the

program this fall, there will be plenty of opportunities for others to make their mark offensively, too.

Junior cornerback Anton Gilson has impressed early and often, while both Cohen and Valeo have led defensively in the leadership and IQ department. Broughton and his staff plan on running a mix of 3-4 and 4-4 formations.

“We’re definitely still finding where our strength is (defensively), but we have the skill guys and are searching to see if we can get some big guys involved, too,” said Broughton. “Against teams like Amesbury, Triton and even Essex Tech, we’re going to have to have some big guys out there, so hopefully that falls into place (before the season opener).”

As Broughton alluded to, Manchester Essex’s offensive and defensive line has some question marks. But the Hornets will at least have the luxury of returning two key trenchmen in juniors Black Lashinsky and Billy Hotz.

Manchester has six Cape Ann League opponents on its regular season slate, including the addition of Pentucket for their season finale in late October. The Hornets will also once again compete against KIPP Academy (Lynn) while adding Greater Boston League’s Malden to the mix.

Hornets Happenings

Last year’s record: 7-3 (Lost in Division 7 first round)

Head coach: Nick Broughton (1st season, 0-0)

Team captains: Noah Cohen, Sr. WR/OLB; Connor St. Laurent, WR/OLB.

Leading returning rusher: Conrad Garfield (69 carries, 324 yards, 4 TDs)

Leading returning passer: Nick Glass (2-for-8, 26 yards, 1 TD)

Leading returning receiver: Nick Glass (32 rec., 566 yards, 4 TDs)

Did you know: The Hornets have now qualified for the postseason in five straight seasons. They earned a spot in the Division 8 field in 2021 and have made it in the Division 7 bracket in the four years since.

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11	at Newburyport	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	KIPP Academy Lynn	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	Lynnfield	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 2	Amesbury	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	at Hamilton -Wenham	6 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Triton	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 23	Malden	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Pentucket	6 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Essex Tech	6:30 p.m.

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Reloaded Hawks have eyes set on D4 playoff berth

By Nick Giannino
» Staff Writer

Tim Freiermuth is trying to build a culture at Essex Tech. Something that's sustainable and that sets the tone for the program for years to come.

The young head coach got off to a great start last season in guiding the Hawks to an 8-4 record, with six of those wins coming over their final seven games.

Now, he's back for his second campaign at the helm, and will look to ride some of that momentum with a new-look group.

"We have talent, but we'll be young," said Freiermuth, a former Pentucket Regional and Springfield College standout. "Our goal is to continue to get better each day, (but) our ultimate goal is to win the Cape Ann League and make the state playoffs."

Despite going 5-3 during the eight-game regular season last fall, Freiermuth's group narrowly missed out on one of the 16 available playoff berths in Division 4, finishing at No. 18 in the power rankings. The Hawks did pick up a Massachusetts vocational tournament victory, but it's clear they have bigger aspirations.

With dual-threat all-star quarterback Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik now graduated, things will certainly look different offensively. But Freiermuth and his staff do have the luxury of deploying some key returners.

That includes senior captains Charlie Lussier (RB/LB), Xavier Barrias (DL/TE) and Will Dresser (DB/WR), as well as junior captain



JAIME CAMPOS

Charlie Lussier (9) was chosen as Cape Ann League Kinney Defensive Player of the Year after helping the Hawks win eight games last season. He'll serve as a team captain this fall.

Deacon Parsons (RB/LB). Both Lussier and Parsons will be relied upon with regularity out of the backfield, while all four leaders will join the likes of sophomore defensive backs Chase Austin (DB) and Chris Dakos (DB), and junior Felix Hernandez (DL) for big roles defensively.

"Charlie Lussier was the CAL Large Defensive Player of the Year last year," said Freiermuth. "Both him and Deacon Parsons combined for 884 yards and nine touchdowns last year (and) will be key contributors on both sides of the ball."

Junior Chris Campagna will enter the year as the team's starting QB, while Casinelli-Tarasuik's younger brother, Jasper, a junior tight end, is poised for a breakout season.

Sophomore James Hope and junior linemen Joe Dresser and Logan Silva provide size and physicality in the trenches. Overall, Essex Tech appears to have a big team, with burly athletes across the board.

"Our size is definitely our strength, particularly on the offensive line, defensive line, running back and tight end," said Freiermuth.

Freiermuth is also excited about familiar face Ricky Williams, who returns to the fold after taking last year off. Transfers Dakos and Chris Dominguez will "contribute to the team immediately", said the coach, while a number of sophomores—linemen Jaysean Cejour and Nate Carey, and WR/DB combos Giano Marino, Tyler Quigley, Hope and Austin — have "been impressive so far."

The Hawks have added some challenging non-conference clashes to their slate, which should only help in their quest to claim a post-season berth. They'll host Winthrop in Week 1 (Friday, Sept. 11), travel to Wakefield in Week 2 and come back home to face Northeast Tech the following Friday before diving into their league schedule.

Hawk Headquarters

Last year's record: 8-4

Head coach: Tim Freiermuth (2nd season, 8-4; 17-28 overall including three seasons at Hamilton-Wenham)

Team captains: Charlie Lussier, Sr. RB/LB; Xavier Barrias, Sr. DL/TE; Will Dresser, Sr. DB/WR; Deacon Parsons, Jr. RB/LB.

Leading returning rusher: Charlie Lussier (102 carries, 655 yards, 6 TDs)

Leading returning passer: None

Leading returning receiver: James Hope (10 catches, 125 yards, 1 TD)

Did you know: The Hawks won back-to-back state vocational championships (small division) in 2014 and 2015, their first two years after the merger that combined North Shore Tech and Essex Aggie. The program has been unable to recapture a vocational title since.

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11	Winthrop	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	at Wakefield	6 p.m.
Sept 25	Northeast Metro Tech	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 2	Newburyport	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	at Lynnfield	6 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Pentucket	6 p.m.
Oct. 23	at Hamilton-Wenham	6 p.m.
Oct. 30	North Reading	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	Manchester Essex	6:30 p.m.

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The area's individual leaders for the 2025 season



Pingree quarterback Jack Spear was a top seven passer on the North Shore in 2025 and is poised for another stellar campaign under center.

PASSING

Player, School.....	Com.-Att.	Yards	TD INT
1. Andrew Kiricoples, Fenwick.....	166-286	2,311	26 12
2. Drew Gustafson, Masconomet.....	143-22	2,177	18 9
3. Chris Vargas, St. John's Prep.....	138-207	2,083	24 3
4. Finn Gallup, Marblehead.....	114-173	1,892	19 7
5. John von Barta, Swampscott.....	137-211	1,720	18 6
6. Luke Maglione, Peabody.....	168-296	1,664	13 12
7. Jack Spear, Pingree.....	99-163	1,559	16 3
8. Danny Pierce, Beverly.....	101-177	1,443	18 7
9. Zach Hurd, Manch. Essex.....	92-140	1,420	16 5
10. Anthony Folger, Ham-Wenham ..	93-181	1,162	10 6
11. Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik, Essex Tech.....	72-136	1,084	12 9
12. Jake Lister, Salem.....	65-138	695	4 7

SCORING

Player, School.....	TD	PAT	2-PT	FG	TOTAL
1. Jack Fabiano, Masconomet.....	39	0	5	0	244
2. Maxwell Parent, St. John's Prep.....	23	0	25	0	188
3. Jordan Toribio, St. John's Prep.....	16	0	9	0	114
T4. Brayden Callahan, Marblehead.....	18	0	1	0	110
T4. Zach Hurd, Manch. Essex.....	17	0	4	0	110
T6. Zach Fultz, Danvers.....	17	0	0	0	102
T6. Dylan Patturelli, Bishop Fenwick.....	17	0	0	0	102
T8. Jacoby C. Tarasuik, Essex Tech.....	12	0	11	0	94
T8. Jaylen Severino, Gloucester.....	12	16	3	0	94
10. Caden Schrock, Hamilton-Wenham .	14	3	2	0	91
T11. Jonah Richardson, Pingree.....	15	0	0	0	90
T11. Riley Selvais, St. John's Prep.....	15	0	0	0	90
T11. Floyd White, Beverly.....	15	0	0	0	90
14. Joe Allen, Gloucester.....	12	0	2	0	76
15. Will Bush, Swampscott.....	12	0	0	0	72
16. Baron Dimeco Pingree.....	11	0	1	0	68
17. Cal Weidman Masconomet.....	10	0	0	0	60
18. Nick Glass Manchester Essex.....	6	5	6	1	56
T19. Noah Bascon Swampscott.....	9	0	0	0	54
T19. Chase Groothuis Swampscott.....	9	0	0	0	54



DAVID SOKOL/Staff photo

Swampscott quarterback John von Barta was among the area's top passers in 2025, throwing for 1,720 yards and 18 scores as a junior.



St. John's Prep receiver Riley Selvais hauled in an area-best 71 catches for 1,231 yards and 15 TDs as a sophomore in 2025.

ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO

RUSHING

Player, School.....	Att.	Yards	TD
1. Jack Fabiano, Masconomet.....	251	2,038	38
2. Jordan Toribio, St. John's Prep.....	158	1,373	16
3. Maxwell Parent, St. John's Prep.....	173	1,311	21
4. Zach Hurd, Manch. Essex.....	156	1,234	18
5. Caden Schrock, Ham-Wenham.....	217	1,186	14
6. Dylan Patturelli, Fenwick.....	156	1,153	14
7. Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik, Essex Tech ..	137	1,122	10
8. Zach Fultz, Danvers.....	200	1,120	16
9. Breydan Callahan, Marblehead.....	171	1,061	16
10. Will Bush, Swampscott.....	172	1,035	11
11. Joe Allen, Gloucester.....	154	915	12
12. Jaylen Severino, Gloucester.....	81	914	11

RECEIVING

Player, School.....	Rec.	Yards	TD
1. Riley Selvais, St. John's Prep.....	71	1,231	15
2. Cal Weidman, Masco.....	66	1,019	10
3. Floyd White, Beverly.....	56	773	14
4. Jonah Richardson, Pingree.....	39	704	10
5. Chase Groothuis, Swampscott.....	40	644	9
6. Jesse Timson, Fenwick.....	38	638	7
7. Mark Mendonca, Peabody.....	42	619	6
8. Nick Glass, Manch. Essex.....	32	566	4



ROSE RAYMOND FOTOWERKS1@AOL.COM

Hamilton-Wenham will certainly miss the offensive production of recent graduate Caden Schrock this fall.

9. Liam Ginley, Masconomet.....	34	535	5
10. Ethan Stefanovich, St. John's Prep.....	29	529	6
11. Noah Bascon, Swampscott.....	39	511	4
12. Jamie Dube, Fenwick.....	41	507	4



ST. JOHN'S PREP CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Lots of talent, killer schedule once again for St. John's Prep

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

It's nothing that needs be said out loud by the coaching staff; the players already know it going in.

Those who choose to go for the football team at St. John's Prep do so with one ultimate goal, one that never changes season to season: be the last Division 1 team standing in the state come the first weekend of December.

While there naturally has been some turnover from last year's squad that reached the Super Bowl, there's still excellent talent returning for the Eagles this fall, along with a boatload of players ready either for an increased load or to show they belong on the field.

There's Chris Vargas, the 5-star recruit and junior quarterback who committed to Ohio State last month. There's fellow junior Riley Selvais, the glue-fingered wideout who'll pledge himself to a Division 1 college of his own soon. There's captain Maxwell Parent, a senior running back who galloped for 1,311 yards and 21 touchdowns a year ago while finishing with 188 total points. There's fellow captains Connor Quigley at linebacker and Will Seaha on both sides of the line.

"I really feel like this could be a beyond special year," said Parent, who hails from

Danvers. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime group."

Head coach Brian St. Pierre, whose teams have won 103 of the 137 games he's coached since taking over in 2014, likes what he's seen as far as effort, commitment and buy-in from the 120th team in Prep football history.

"The guys here know what the standard is and what we need to do to build to where we ultimate want to be. I say to them all the time, 'We always want to win every game we play, but you don't win championships in September. You have to build things throughout the season and let it grow,'" said St. Pierre.

The 6-foot-5, 190-pound Vargas, the top rated junior quarterback in the country, is coming off a season in which he threw for 2,083 yards and 21 touchdowns against just three interceptions. He also completed 66.7 percent of his passes (138-of-207). He enters his third year starting for St. John's Prep having thrown for 3,394 yards and 41 touchdowns against just six picks.

"His leadership has grown every season," said St. Pierre, who may look towards his classic drop-back passer to be more of a threat with his legs this season. "Chris is quiet by nature, but feels more comfortable speaking up now.



Captains for the 120th St. John's Prep football team are (from left) lineman Will Seaha, linebacker Connor Quigley, and running back Maxwell Parent.

He holds himself accountable, and you see that in his play."

Parent will be the top option out of the backfield, but the Eagles love to have a No. 2 back that shares the load. Candidates include physical Michael Salemi (5-11, 195 lbs.) and fellow sophomore John Scaly, junior Jonathan Muniz and senior Mark Gordon (coming off of a torn ACL).

Selvais, who had 71 catches for 1,231 yards and 15 TDs as a sophomore, is the No. 1 wideout option, but there are other gifted pass catchers on the roster, too. They include sophomore Will Codreanu; senior returnee Dayvian Sullivan, newcomer Michael Sherman (a transfer from St. Mary's

Lynn), Peabody native C.J. Olimpo, another senior, and 11th grader Sal DeMartinis. Senior George Patoku and junior Jack Ellison, both 6-3 and in the 220-pound range, are ready to step up at tight end.

The 6-1, 260-pound Seaha, a tackle, leads the charges up front. Will Figulski (6-2, 275 lbs.) is also a returning starter, and junior James Ridley is another St. Mary's transfer who has size and has looked good early on. Candidates to fill the other two spots include senior Matt Spidle (5-8, 220 lbs.), junior Nick Yebba (6-4, 320 lbs.) and junior Luca Sarni (5-10, 250 lbs.).

"We've really bonded together as linemen," said Seaha. "We'd go out to

Prep Prattle

Last year's record: 11-2 (Lost Division 1 Super Bowl)

Head coach: Brian St. Pierre (13th season, 103-34)

Team captains: Connor Quigley, Sr. MLB; Maxwell Parent, Sr. RB/LB; Will Seaha, Sr. OT/DT.

Leading returning rusher: Maxwell Parent (173 carries, 1,311 yards, 21 TD)

Leading returning passer: Chris Vargas (138-of-207, 2,083 yards, 24 TD)

Leading returning receiver: Riley Selvais (71 rec., 1,231 yards, 15 TD)

Did you know: St. John's Prep has more winning seasons since the start of the 21st century (21 out of 26) than any other North Shore football program. They are also the only school to compile 200 victories during the last quarter-century plus; their overall record since 2000 is 204-90, a .694 winning percentage.

breakfast after summer workouts and after dinner following captain's practices. We've build a lot of trust through lifts and spending so much time with each other."

Quigley ("he's as tough and physical as any Mike (linebacker) we've had here," said St. Pierre) is the de facto QB of the defense, a role he relishes in.

"My mindset is I have to

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11	at Springfield Central	7 p.m.
Sept. 18	at Central Catholic	7 p.m.
Sept. 25	at Needham	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	LaSalle, R.I.	1 p.m.
Oct. 9	BC High	6 p.m.
Oct. 16	at St. John's Shrewsbury	6 p.m.
Oct. 23	Malden Catholic	6 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Catholic Memorial	6 p.m.
Nov. 25	vs. Xaverian at Fenway Park	7 p.m.

make sure everyone on the field knows the play and that we're all connected," said Quigley, a Peabody resident, "but I also want to make plays. I want to beat the (offensive) guards and be the first kid to the ball; I want to lead by example. I want to be that guy that everyone looks to when everyone says we need a big play and 'This guy will get it done.'"

Seaha (DT) and junior Vinny Graziani (6-5, 230 lbs.) both pack a punch defensively, and St. Pierre likes the 3-4 guys he has as edge rushers. Parent will see some hybrid work at linebacker in certain packages; Sullivan and junior DJ Graham return as the two cornerbacks; and Sherman has looked good at safety, as have Scaly and Salemi.

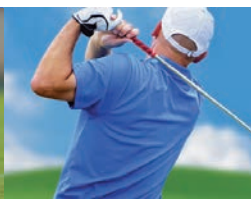
Liam Cullen, a junior, and senior Jack O'Keefe should both help the team kicking and punting, said St. Pierre.



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Experience, depth have Falcons in a good spot

By Phil Stacey
» Executive Sports Editor

Depth and experience everywhere you look. Eight seniors who are entering their third season as starters. Eight linemen who have started at least one varsity contest. Unselfishness built into the team's core.

There are lots of reasons for the Danvers High football team to be optimistic in 2026.

"I believe this is the most depth we've had in the program," said 10th year head coach Ryan Nolan, who has more victories (55) than any one else who has piloted the Falcon footballers. "Depth and experience are two things that we hope will be big factors in our success."

The players, who are looking to greatly improve on last year's 6-5 campaign and shoot for its first Northeastern Conference championship since 2019, have bought all in.

"We have a ton of guys who can play and make plays," said senior Colby Medeiros, a returning starter at safety who doubles as a running back. "It's us as a unit playing the games, no individuals."

"We had some games last year we felt we could've won but didn't," added hulking tight end/defensive end Nick Xerras, a 6-foot-3,



Senior three-year starters (from left) Jack Houston, Colby Medeiros, Hunter DeDominicis, Dylan Kinney, Nate Wise and Nick Xerras will all play huge roles for the Danvers High football team this season.

225-pound behemoth. "But we've come back much stronger this season."

Seniors Jack Houston (RB/OLB), Nate Wise (QB), Dylan Kinney (OG/DL), Matt Nikiforov (FB/LB), Logan Travers (OG/LB), Hunter DeDominicis (DE), Lucas McGloin (OT/DT), Cole Maylor (OL), Xerras and Medeiros are all veterans of varsity battle for Danvers.

So are a fair number of juniors who earned starting assignments in 2025, including Julian Capece (RB/DB), Zach Fultz (RB/DB), Ethan Schweitzer (RB/DB), Grayson Haskell (OT/DT), Dario Santo (LB) and Juan Martinez (FB/LB).

Other seniors like TJ Flewelling,

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	Concord-Carlisle	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	at Melrose	7 p.m.
Sept 25	at Reading	7 p.m.
Oct. 2	Marblehead	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	Beverly	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Masconomet	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 23	at Salem	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Peabody	7 p.m.
Nov. 26	at Gloucester	10 a.m.

Dimitri Spyropoulos, Aidan McClearn and Mason Agganis will also contribute for the Blue-and-White, with underclassmen such as Tim Nikiforov, Evan Kaciqi, Jaiden Weiner, Will Verhoosky, Alex Mimo, Tyler Moody, Tom Pinto, Ron Ramos, Kevin Gonzales, Wesley Medeiros and

transfer Jack Malyerck have all looked good, too.

"I trust every single guy in the backfield, every guy up front," said Houston, who ran for 528 yards and a pair of scores last year before being felled by an injury. "The coaches set us up for success every week; they give us the game plan and we follow it."

Wise knows the ins and outs of the Danvers' double wing offense. He'll likely take the air more this season, which is just fine by him.

Xerras, who runs a 4.7 and has terrific attention to detail, could become a favorite target.

"I want to make the most of my opportunities when I get the chance to throw the

Falcon Factoids

Last year's record: 6-5 (Lost in Division 4 playoffs first round)

Head coach: Ryan Nolan (10th season, 55-42)

Team captains: (To be named on Friday, Sept. 4)

Leading returning rusher: Zach Fultz (200 carries, 1,120 yards, 16 TD)

Leading returning passer: Nate Wise (20-of-38, 403 yards, 5 TD)

Leading returning receiver: Jack Houston (8 rec., 153 yards, 3 TD)

Did you know: The Falcons return players who ran for a combined 1,945 yards and 21 touchdowns a year ago. The players that return in the backfield made up 79.4 percent of last year's rushing total, the most returning for any North Shore club.

ball and stay consistent at all times," said Wise.

When it's time to run the ball, he'll have all kinds of options to turn to: Houston, Fultz (1,120 yards and 16 TDs as a sophomore), Colby Medeiros, Capece, and Schweitzer ("he's put on some weight and muscle; he's going to be great," said Medeiros), among others.

DeDominicis, who stands 6-1 and weighs 200 lbs., and Kinney (5-8, 240 lbs.) share the leadership role in the trenches, with the former playing right tackle and defensive end while the latter lines up next to him at right guard as well as at defensive end.

"Going out there with all my hometown guys, guys I've grown up with and played with since fifth grade ... we've all put in the work to be ready for this senior

year," said DeDominicis.

"We've got a ton of returning guys up front; it's low, exploding and pushing guys back," noted Kinney. "Especially our two pulling guards, me and Logan Travers. It's the greatest feeling ever blowing someone back."

With 64 players in the program — the most in Nolan's tenure — he and his fellow coaches aim to do right by their players by not only getting them ready to play, but putting them in the best position to succeed, he said.

"With the numbers we have, we want to keep people fresh and get guys on the field who can play ball," he said. "We'll be physical and have skill, but it'll come down to doing the small things well ... and doing them consistently."



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SALEM HIGH SCHOOL NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE LYNCH DIVISION

Get-after-it attitude in Salem under new coach Segala

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

Consider this: the last time the Salem Witches had a new head football coach, Tom Brady still had *nine* seasons to play — and four more Super Bowl rings to gather — before ending his NFL career.

Brett Segala, the 29-year-old now in charge of the program, is aware that stability in the coaching ranks has long been a Salem High staple. He's also cognizant that pushing his new players — many of them young and inexperienced — will help bring the best out of them.

"I love the way coach is holding us to high expectations. He's now slowing down for any of us; he's pushing us to reach our best limits," junior captain Gregory Njiseng, a 6-foot-1, 315-pound physically imposing two-way tackle, said after a recent practice at Bertram Field. "Coach isn't stopping for nobody; it's up to me and the other leaders to pull everyone else along so that we're ready for Week 1 and the rest of the season."

"I'm never going to say no to any of the coaches," added Njiseng. "I'm here to learn and be as coachable as possible."

Coming off of a successful run at Malden Catholic, where as the offensive coordinator he helped pilot the Lancers into the Division



DAVID SOKOL/Staff photos

New Salem High School football coach Brett Segala gives instructions to one of his players during a recent practice at Bertram Field.

3 state semifinals last November, Segala has hit the ground running in the Witch City. He's liked what he's seen from his squad, having told them early in the process that his standards and expectations for them are both high.

"I want to make them more than really good football players," he said. "Football teaches you a lot of life skills, and in the real world a boss isn't going to let you get away with showing up

late for something or going half-speed in something. So the kids have really bought into the standard that we want: 100 miles an hour all the time. Our leaders have elevated that standard, with Big Greg helping lead that way.

"We as coaches want them to be part of something special through their hard work."

There are 16 seniors in the program, a good mix of juniors, and a number of



Johnny Buckely gets set to wrap up a tackling dummy as he runs through drills.

2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11	KIPP Academy	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	Greater Lawrence	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	at Whittier	6 p.m.
Oct. 2	Swampscott	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	at Gloucester	7 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Saugus	6 p.m.
Oct. 23	at Danvers	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	Winthrop	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 26	Beverly	10 a.m.

sophomores and freshmen who Segala said will play right away. The head coach also wants a few more captains to be named prior to the Witches' season opener against KIPP Academy of Lynn on Sept. 11.

"Big Greg's the guy who earned it by his work in the offseason," said the coach. "He's a role model for the younger guys and handled himself extremely well. From what I've heard, the transformation from when he walked into Salem High

as a freshman for the first time and what he's now become as a person has been pretty remarkable."

Favoring a running back by committee approach, Segala likes having two talented runners in his backfield in returnees Kendal Murga and Kelvin Jean-Louis (256 yards, 4 TDs last year). Both players will start in the defensive backfield as well.

Junior Tyler Ouellette and sophomore George Reyes are pushing each other to be the team's starting quarterback. After a year off, Jeremiah Barahona is back and his physical style of play will work well at the X. Adam Pacheco-Tibercio has been asked to move from tight end to tackle and "has taken it on with a full head of steam", according to Segala, with Aidan Collazo also back playing as a two-way linemen.

Youngsters who have

Witches' Cauldron

Last year's record: 3-8 (Did not qualify for state playoffs)

Head coach: Brett Segala (1st season, 0-0)

Team captains: Gregory Njiseng, Sr. OL/DL.

Leading returning rusher: Kelvin Jean Louis (31 carries, 256 yards, 4 TD)

Leading returning passer: George Reyes (7-of-14, 85 yards)

Leading returning receiver: Kendal Murga (10 rec., 105 yards, 1 TD)

Did you know: Brett Segala becomes just the sixth head coach for the Witches in the last 54 years. He follows Matt Bouchard (2014-25), Scott Connolly (2004-13), Sean Gallagher (1997-2003), Warren Armes (1995-96) and Ken Perrone (1973-94).

drawn the coaching staff's attention early on and should see varsity minutes right away include freshmen two-way linemen Tim Jones and Amari Quintana, plus sophomore wide receiver/defensive back Samuel Ocampo.

"We need to be intrinsically motivated," said Segala. "We've made it clear that the best 11 players have to play, but we also say if you show up every day, work hard and listen, you'll get the chance to get on the field."

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GRID GREATS

A look at some of the North Shore’s all-time bests

— Compiled by Matt Williams



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo
 Gloucester’s Christian Sanfilippo holds his team’s single season rushing record, set in 2016.

ALL-TIME AREA PASSING LEADERS

Player, School	Years	TD passes
Shea Lynch, Peabody	2020-22	78
Kyle Beatrice, Swampscott	2000-02	75
Griffin Beal, Pingree	2012-15	71
Josh Robertson, Marblehead	2018-21	65
David St. Pierre, NS Tech	2007-09	63
Hudson Weidman, Pingree	2021-23	62
Colin Frary, Swampscott	2015-17	60
Corey Grimes, Salem	2021-23	54
Graham Inzana, Swampscott	2018-19	54
Pat Orlando, Manchester Essex	2006-08	54
Vinny Orlando, Manch. Essex	2001-03	53
Matt Crowley, St. John’s	2017-19	49
Mike Walsh, Swampscott	2009-10	46
Billy Whelan, Ham-Wen	2016-18	44

North Shore 5,000 Yard Passing Club

Player, School	Years	Passing yards
Kyle Beatrice, Swampscott	2000-02	6,283
Griffin Beal, Pingree	2012-15	5,905
Shea Lynch, Peabody	2019-22	5,869
David St. Pierre, NS Tech	2006-09	5,472
Josh Robertson, Marblehead	2018-21	5,390

Most TD passes in a single season

Player, School	Year	TDs
Kyle Beatrice, Swampscott	2002	39
Shea Lynch, Peabody	2022	36
Jack Perry, St. John’s Prep	2021	35
Kyle Beatrice, Swampscott	2001	34
Griffin Beal, Pingree	2015	33
Colin Frary, Swampscott	2017	33
Vinny Orlando, Man. Essex	2003	33
Josh Robertson, Marblehead	2021	32
Shea Lynch, Peabody	2021	32
Steven Woods, Fenwick	2021	30



Ken St. Pierre, Danvers High football legend, breaks free for a big game in a 1969 game against Salem.

AREA RUSHING LEADERS

North Shore 4,000 Yard Rushing Club

Player, School	Years	Rushing yards
Rufus Rushins, Fenwick	2011-14	5,693
Bobby Tarr, Fenwick	2005-07	5,598
Doug Santos, Peabody	2013-15	4,856
Bernie Adell, Ipswich	1974-77	4,827
Frank Candela, Peabody	1993-96	4,452
Brooks Tyrrell, Marblehead	2012-14	4,358
Tim Frager, Lynn Classical	1982-85	4,274
Tim Gale Masconomet	1995-98	4,020

Area School Single Season Rushing Records

School	Record Holder	Season	Yards
Beverly	Isaiah White	2013	1,782
Bishop Fenwick	Bobby Tarr	2007	2,545
Danvers	Ken St. Pierre	1969	1,450
Essex Tech	Jesse Wilkins	2010	2,062
Gloucester	Christian Sanfilippo	2016	2,004
Hamilton-Wenham	Trevor Lyons	2011	1,458
Ipswich	Steve Phaneuf	2006	1,634

Marblehead	Brooks Tyrrell	2013	1,914
Masconomet	Jack Fabiano	2025	2,141
Peabody	Doug Santos	2014	2,055
Salem	Matt Horgan	1999	1,701
St. John’s Prep	Tyler Coppola	2010	2,182
Swampscott	Xaviah Bascon	2021	1,509

ALL-TIME AREA 1,000-YARD RECEIVING SEASONS

Player, School	Year	Rec.	Yards
Justin Assad, Pingree	2015	64	1,327
Riley Selvais, St. John’s	2025	71	1,230
Mike Cusumano, Gloucester	1974	69	1,221
Ryan Lipka, Fenwick	2010	115	1,124
Ryan Monahan, H-W	2019	55	1,165
Jason Blydell, Swampscott	2003	52	1,153
Cal Weidman, Masconomet	2025	68	1,108
Tim Kiely, Swampscott	2002	67	1,100
Will Millett, Marblehead	2014	42	1,097
Connor Cronin, Marblehead	2021	71	1,049
Jeff Pratt, Swampscott	2022	41	1,032
Jason Romans, Fenwick	2021	66	1,029
Eli Batista, Peabody	2022	55	1,023



JIM DALY
 Bobby Tarr of Bishop Fenwick is a member of the elite 5,000-yard rushing club, having run for 2,000-plus yards in back-to-back seasons.

ALL-TIME SUPER BOWL RECORDS BY SCHOOL

School	Record	Most recent Super Bowl
Gloucester	6-3	2010
St. John’s Prep	6-6	2025
Ipswich	4-0	2006
Manchester Essex	4-1	2008
Swampscott	4-4	2021
Bishop Fenwick	3-4	2019
Beverly	2-1	2012
Peabody	2-3	1994
Essex Tech	1-1	2004
Salem	1-2	1999
Marblehead	1-3	2022
Hamilton-Wenham	0-1	2011
Masconomet	0-2	2010
Danvers	0-0	N/A

BACK FOR MORE

Action photos of players returning to the gridiron in 2026



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO
Junior Andrew Kiricoples will return for his second season as the starting quarterback for Bishop Fenwick.



DAN RYAN/Staff photo
Beverly High senior back Sean Okhuozagbon (7) runs hard and is capable of breaking multiple tackles.



DAVID SOKOL/Staff photo
Manchester Essex's Nick Glass made some incredible catches last season. This year, he'll slide in as the Hornets' starting QB.



JARED CHARNEY PHOTO
Danvers defenders Colby Medeiros (11) and Julian Capece celebrate a fumble recovery during a win over host Marblehead last year. Both are back as senior leaders for the Falcons this fall.



STEPH TRAVERS PHOTO
Salem's Kelvin Jean Louis is a key player on both sides of the ball for the Witches.



JARED CHARNEY PHOTO
Mark Mendonca of Peabody caught more than 40 passes last year and is back as a senior captain this fall.



St. John's Prep junior quarterback Chris Vargas is aiming to help his team capture its first Super Bowl title since 2022.

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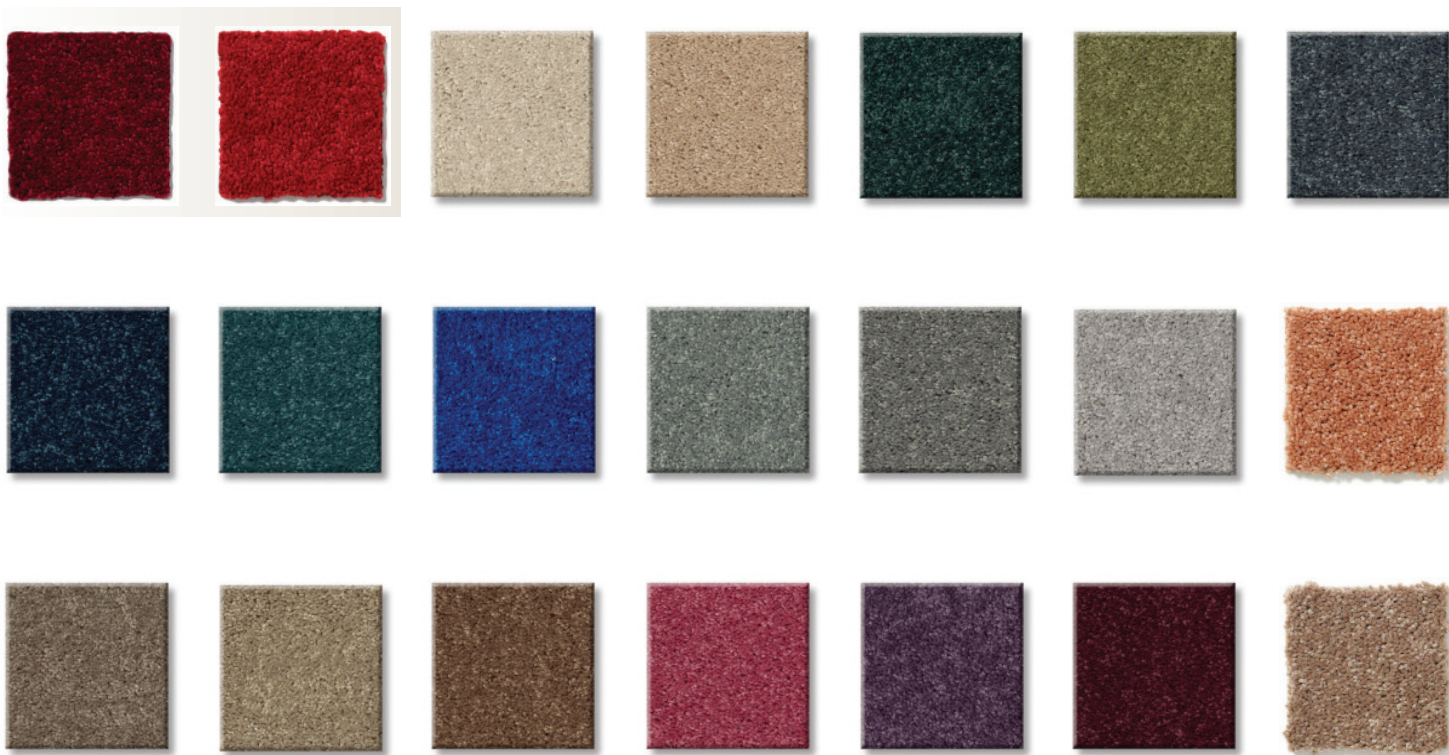
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