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NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2022 SEASON PREVIEW

TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE



JAIME CAMPOS

From left, Hamilton-Wenham captains Tim Seaward, James Day, John Ertel, and Russell Caswell.

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JAIME CAMPOS



RYAN MCBRIDE/For the Salem News

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Photo illustration: Dan Ryan

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DANVERS HIGH SCHOOL [NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE DUNN DIVISION]

Falcons ready to spread the ball around

BY MATT WILLIAMS
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

DANVERS — For the second time in as many seasons, the Danvers High football team is switching up its offense. Though the formation may change from a Wing-T to a spread look, many of the concepts are the same and, with the balance the team showed last season, the Falcons expect it to be a smooth transition.

“Ever since Travis (Voisine) has been our quarterback there’s been spread elements. We’ve been about 50/50, not a run-the-rock heavy team,” senior captain Aris Xerras said of Voisine, the squad’s junior signal caller who was pressed into action as a freshman in the 2021 Fall 2 season and will begin his third season as quarterback this fall with more than 200 passes under his belt.

“The vibe has been very good in practices. Things are starting to click and we’re all excited.”

Head coach Ryan Nolan, entering his sixth season, brought in veteran assistant Bryan Ibbiston (last seen in Andover) and Neil Weidman (who won a bevy of Cape Ann League crowns at Lynnfield) to work with the offense. So far, the results are outstanding.

“There’s no substitute for that 1-on-1 time. It’s been so valuable for Travis, and



JAIME CAMPOS PHOTOS

Danvers is excited about the return of senior captain Steve Reardon (7) to both the backfield and its linebacking crew.

all our QB’s, to have someone like Neil going through film with them, working on sprint outs, delivery, all that stuff,” Nolan said.

Dynamic Owen Gasinowski had more than 700 yards from scrimmage last year with nine touchdowns and projects as an uber-dangerous slot receiver for Voisine, who threw for 1,147 yards and 9 TDs in last year’s 5-6 campaign. Mike Kasprzak projects as another solid receiver and Xerras, the 6-foot-2, 235-pound tight end, will be a versatile weapon both run blocking

and catching passes.

“This is a really fun offense for a tight end,” Xerras said. “Where else can you pancake a guy on one play and catch a touchdown pass on the next one?”

In the backfield Joey Baker and Reagan Little will vie for carries, with senior captain Steve Reardon expected to miss the first few weeks with an injury. Once he returns, he’ll add a punishing running style to the Falcons’ attack that will no doubt keep opposing defenses on their toes.

“I’m feeling good so far. Hoping for good news



Danvers junior quarterback Travis Voisine has plenty of options at his disposal this fall.

once we see the doctors,” said Reardon, a three-year starter on defense who loves carrying the football. “I think we have some great players for running the spread, so it should be good for us.”

Senior Colin Mugaga (“he’s had an outstanding summer,” Nolan said) heads up the offense line with juniors Kevin Burke, Noah Wade and Adam Guzowski looking good alongside sophomore Aidan Perry.

Defensively, Danvers is always one of the stingier teams in the Northeastern Conference. There’s a lot to like about the second and third levels of that unit with Gasinowski, Reardon and Little leading the way.

“Reagan’s honestly one of the smartest players we’ve

ever had,” Nolan said. “He’s come a long way, and we have a lot of confidence that he’s going to have a great year at safety.”

Tewksbury, Reading and Haverhill will give the Falcons tough tests before they open Northeastern Conference play, and the DHS 57-man crew had scrimmages against Woburn, Bishop Feehan and Bishop Fenwick to prepare. Their goal is a ninth straight MIAA playoff berth — and of course to challenge for the conference crown.

“It was such a great vibe when we won the NEC as freshmen. We’d love to have the chance to capture that again,” Xerras said. “We’ve got to get better every week to get to that point.”

FALCON FACTS

- **Last year’s record:** 5-6 (Lost in Division 4 Round of 8)
- **Head coach:** Ryan Nolan (6th season, 31-21)
- **Team captains:** Steve Reardon, Sr. RB/LB; Aris Xerras, Sr. TE/DE
- **Leading returning rusher:** Owen Gasinowski (78 carries, 467 yards, 5 TDs)
- **Leading returning passer:** Travis Voisine (68-for-155, 1,147 yards, 9 TDs)
- **Leading returning receivers:** Owen Gasinowski (18 catches, 337 yards, 4 TDs)
- **Did you know:** The Falcons are one of only two programs on the North Shore to qualify for the state playoffs every year since the tournament format began in 2013, with Marblehead being the other. Their six consecutive seasons with at least one playoff win is also the best mark among all North Shore teams.

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/9	Tewksbury	6:30 p.m.
9/15	Haverhill	6:30 p.m.
9/23	at Reading	7 p.m.
9/30	at Winthrop	6:30 p.m.
10/7	Beverly	6:30 p.m.
10/14	Swampscott	6:30 p.m.
10/21	at Masconomet	6:30 p.m.
10/28	Marblehead	6:30 p.m.
11/24	at Gloucester	10 a.m.



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Panthers eager to return to their winning ways

By PHIL STACEY
EXECUTIVE SPORTS EDITOR

BEVERLY — This isn't an athlete, or a team, that can't benefit from some added motivation.

So as they get set to embark on the 2022 high school football season, there's this bit of incentive for the Beverly Panthers: to break the program's streak of three consecutive losing seasons and get back on the right side of the win-loss ledger.

"Devon (Smalls) and I were talking about this just the other day," senior wide-out and linebacker Matt Sopp said after a recent BHS practice. "We've never had a winning season since we've been in high school and want to change that this year."

"I remember being at the last playoff football game at Hurd Stadium that Beverly played in (beating Somerville in 2016) when I was younger," Sopp added. "We'd love to be the team that brings a playoff game back home."

Sopp and Smalls, a wingback/cornerback, are the team's two senior captains and make up half of the Panthers' returning starters for second-year head coach Jeff Hutton, joining linemen Paul Belmonte and Jackson Champlain.

As a team Beverly was



JARED CHARNEY PHOTOS

Fifteen players make up the Panthers' senior football class this fall.

a game under .500 last fall (5-6) despite scoring 50 or more points three times. They were also one game away from a winning season in both the truncated 2020 season (3-4) and the 2019 campaign before that (5-6). The Orange-and-Black haven't had four consecutive losing seasons since experiencing five straight 7-loss seasons from 2000-04.

"These guys know they have something to prove," said Hutton, a Panther assistant coach on the team's Super Bowl championship squads of 2010 and 2012. "The benefit is that they've been together all winter, all spring and the entire summer working to get ready for this season."

Running primarily a Pistol offense last year, Beverly will run more offset this time around out of the I-formation. Senior Marcelo Pinto will be the fullback



Wide receiver and outside linebacker Matt Sopp (left) and wingback/cornerback Devon Smalls will serve as Beverly High's football captains in 2022.

who gets the bulk of the carries and will be asked to churn out tough yards between the tackles. Smalls figures to be the potential home run hitter in running reverses, jet sweeps, and being vital to the Panthers' sprint passing attack, where he can intermediate, flood and short routes and turn them into big gainers.

"I like to be relied on," said Smalls, a 5-foot-10, 170-pound speedster who also stars for the BHS track and field program. "That's a good thing for me, knowing the team is counting on me to produce big plays. Whatever I can do to help, I'll do it."

Sopp, a 6-foot-1, 200 pounder, will line up wide

on one side with junior Danny Conant on the other. Another junior, athletic Brendan McCarron, will be the tight end.

There are two players battling for the quarterback job who may ultimately end up rotating at the position, bringing different skill sets to it. Senior Logan Petrosino has a strong arm and a gunslinger's mentality to make big plays, with junior Brian Kessel bringing more of tactical approach.

They'll be protected by an all-senior line that includes 6-foot-4, 265-pound Anthony Dixon at strong tackle ("we need him to be a steamroller" assistant coach John McMillan said), Drew Sadoski at strong guard, Belmonte at center, Lucas Tremblay at quick guard, and Connor Day at quick tackle.

Junior Colin Burns and seniors Rowan Morneau and Champlain make up the defensive line in Beverly's 3-4 alignment. Sopp and junior Kevin Hubbard will be the outside backers who can also serve as edge rushers, with Tremblay and Sadoski on the inside. Smalls and Petrosino will be the corners, with Pinto and McCarron the safeties.

"Like coach says, the little things add up," said Sopp. "We keep going those little things right and put a bunch good practices together, that will lead to a great season."

PANTHER PRINTS

- **Last year's record:** 5-6
- **Head coach:** Jeff Hutton (2nd season, 5-6; 31-32 overall including six seasons at Manchester Essex)
- **Team captains:** Devon Smalls, Sr. WB/CB; Matt Sopp, Sr. WR/OLB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Marcelo Pinto (10 carries, 45 yards, 1 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** None
- **Leading returning receiver:** Devon Smalls (7 rec., 126 yards, 2 TDs)
- **Did you know:** Beverly lost its top five running backs of a year ago: four to graduation and another to prep school. Together, they accounted for a combined 313 carries, 2,341 yards and 27 touchdowns. Conversely, the current RBs have rushed for a combined 57 yards and two TDs in their BHS varsity careers.

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/9	Haverhill	7 p.m.
9/17	North Andover	1 p.m.
9/24	Peabody	1 p.m.
10/1	Masconomet	2 p.m.
10/7	at Danvers	6 p.m.
10/14	at Marblehead	6:30 p.m.
10/21	at Swampscott	7 p.m.
11/24	at Salem	10 a.m.

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MASCONOMET HIGH SCHOOL [NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE DUNN DIVISION]

Versatility the formula for Chieftains

By MATT WILLIAMS
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

BOXFORD — Few things are harder to prepare for than football players who do a lot of different things — and do them all very well.

With that in mind, opponents are going to have a tough time preparing for Masconomet Regional this fall.

Start with senior tight end and defensive end Tyler McMahon, one of six captains. He's a consensus All-State pick who goes 6-foot-3 and 220 pounds ... big and strong enough to stay in and block, but athletic enough to make life miserable for opposing secondaries.

Look at three-season starting quarterback Matt Richardson, another captain: deadly accurate with his arm (especially downfield) but also capable of doing damage carrying the ball as a runner. Captains Will Shannon and Will Mitchell? More versatility, since both can play linebacker against run heavy teams or a safety/rover coverage style against spread offenses.

The same goes for captain Owen Barrett, one of the North Shore's best deep threats at receiver who can also play linebacker or corner. Two-way lineman Dan Bandar rounds out the leadership group that has



Masconomet football's 2022 captains (left to right) are Matt Richardson, Owen Barrett, Dan Bandar, Will Shannon, Will Mitchell and Tyler McMahon.

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/9	Newburyport	6:30 p.m.
9/16	at Grafton	6 p.m.
9/23	Winchester	6:30 p.m.
10/1	at Beverly	2 p.m.
10/7	at Marblehead	6:30 p.m.
10/13	at Salem	6:30 p.m.
10/21	Danvers	6:30 p.m.
10/28	Swampscott	6:30 p.m.
11/24	Bishop Fenwick	10 a.m.

the Chieftains' excited for what's to come in '22.

"We have a good core group of guys and now we're all seniors," Mitchell noted. "Now it's just about getting the intensity up at practice and getting ready."

Coming off a Division 3

Elite Eight appearance and a 7-3 season, Masconomet has been among the Northeastern Conference's toughest outs the last two seasons. Sure, they've lost to Marblehead four times, but they're 9-3 against everybody else the last 18 months as head coach Gavin Monagle begins his sixth season looking for yet another playoff berth for his squad.

Though lead rusher Mat Nadworny graduated, his younger brother Sam looks poised to share the backfield load with Shannon; that duo and Richardson combined for 12 TDs a year ago. Passing wise, all nine of Richardson's TD tosses return to the fold this fall, with favorite targets Barrett

(2 TDs), McMahon (5) and Sam Nadworny (2).

"We've worked on our routes a lot this summer and I think we'll be in more of an attack mode offensively," said Richardson. "A lot of our skills players were juniors last year, and we hope we can take advantage of that experience."

"We're having a blast," Barrett added. "We want to go out there and do what we do best."

Up front Masconomet did lose the majority of its offensive line, but has plenty of candidates ready to step in. Senior Robert Becker has been playing well at center, while senior Ben Trolander's had a great summer. Junior Jacob Miller is vying for a spot, as is



JAIME CAMPOS

Masconomet's Sam Nadworny (5) will be looking to add more pride stickers to his helmet after enjoying a breakout sophomore season.

junior Chase Caron.

"Getting a new line ready takes a lot of hitting, a lot of training and a lot of reps, both mental and physical," said Bandar. "Once we start scrimmaging we'll see who shines, who wants to hit and who wants to play."

Senior defensive end Luke Maczynski's another strong, physical player who had a great summer. Split end Max Connolly and versatile back Chris McCarty could also make an impact for a program with 78 total players, including the freshmen.

"The anticipation of the season, getting to hit other teams and getting back out on the field, is only making us work harder," Shannon noted.

The Chieftains open up with former Cape Ann

CHIEFTAIN CHATTER

■ **Last year's record:** 7-3 (Lost in Division 3 quarterfinals)

■ **Head coach:** Gavin Monagle (7th season, 36-35)

■ **Team captains:** Dan Bandar, Sr. OL/DL; Owen Barrett, Sr. WR/LB/DB; Tyler McMahon, Sr. TE/DE; Will Mitchell, Sr. LB/CB; Matt Richardson, Sr. QB; Will Shannon, Sr. RB/LB/CB.

■ **Leading returning rusher:** Sam Nadworny (90 carries, 496 yards, 7 TDs)

■ **Leading returning passer:** Matt Richardson (73-for-142, 977 yards, 9 TDs)

■ **Leading returning receivers:** Owen Barrett (24 catches, 405 yards, 2 TDs)

■ **Did you know:** The Chieftains return to Thanksgiving play for the first time since 2019 with a new rival: Bishop Fenwick. Masconomet's last Turkey Day win was in 2015 (against Pingree). The Crusaders will be their fourth holiday opponent in nine years — more than most North Shore teams have had in well over 100 seasons.

League rival Newburyport, face a new foe in Grafton and then get into the rigors of NEC Dunn play.

"It's a physical league. Everyone's pretty tough and we'll have to be ready for that," noted Monagle. "We've got a good group of hard working kids and a solid, pretty skilled senior class."

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Defending state champion would love to run it back again

By PHIL STACEY
EXECUTIVE SPORTS EDITOR

Two years ago, Nick Whitaker never could have seen himself as a captain for the Marblehead football team.

But he was determined to make something of himself as a player, so he made it his mission to change his physical appearance in the weight room, getting after it both in the gym and on the field, and trying to be a leader for the undefeated defending Division 3 Super Bowl champions whenever he could.

When his teammates selected this year's captains, the 5-foot-10, 195-pound lineman and linebacker was chosen along with fellow seniors Sam Annese, Zander Danforth and Connor Cronin, as well as junior lineman Christian Pacheco.

"It's constantly working towards what you want to get," said Whitaker. "I was able to earn more playing time in 7-on-7's this summer, understanding the coverages and my assignments and reading plays at the line. The hard work paid off."

Being winners of a state-best 20 consecutive games, eight of the last nine Northeastern Conference North (now Dunn) titles and the aforementioned Super Bowl crown a year ago are all nice feathers in Marblehead's cap — but certainly not



JAIME CAMPOS

Marblehead's 2022 football captains are (from left) Zander Danforth, Connor Cronin, Nick Whitaker, Sam Annese, and Christian Pacheco.

laurels they want to rest on. "Yeah, we won the Bowl last year, but right now who cares?," asked Annese. "It's a new season, new guys and that's what our focus has to be. But the goals are the same."

Cronin, who is still weighing his Division 1 and Ivy League college options, is one of the unquestioned best players in the Commonwealth coming into his senior season. He averaged nearly 6.8 yards per carry a year ago while rushing for 591 yards and a half-dozen scores, and was a beast catching passes out of the backfield with 71 grabs, 1,049 receiving yards and 11 more trips to the end zone. Expect to see Cronin in a lot of two-back sets

as Marblehead looks to keep defenses constantly guessing.

Extremely fast and physically powerful, the 6-foot-2, 190-pound Cronin can hit like a train both carrying the football and bringing down opponents in the defensive backfield at safety.

"We've got a great group of guys on this team, guys who know they need to step up to fill in for all those great players we lost from last season," he said. "But I think we have the right guys to do it."

Seniors Eddie Johns and Aidan Tardie will also see work out of the Magicians' backfield, as will juniors Andy Palmer and Pluss in a by-committee approach.

Danforth, who caught 11

balls for 122 yards and two scores in the 2021 championship season despite missing nearly half the season with an injury, will play a much bigger role in the passing game split out wide on one side. He'll be joined by classmate Aven Dembow (who was injured in Week 2 last year and missed the rest of the season), juniors Chris Dewitt and Brooks Keefe, and senior tight end Shane Keough (11 catches, 82 yards, 2 TDs as a junior).

Taking over under center is junior Miles O'Neill. A strong-armed 6-foot-5, 215-pound signal caller with with fleet feet and smarts, he perfected his craft as the Magicians' understudy to defending Northeastern Conference MVP and Salem

News Player of the Year Josh Robertson last fall.

"I've grown up playing with Miles; he's a good friend and a great player," said Pacheco. "He's always had a big arm. I think he'll do a great job; I'm expecting big things from him."

"He's a talented kid with a really good feel for the pocket," added Annese. "I know he's got untapped potential."

Annese and Pacheco were starters up front a year ago while Whitaker saw plenty of time in the trenches. They'll serve as leaders of a group that will include seniors Jack Aneshansley and Finn Maniaci, as well as junior Scott Campbell.

Aneshansley, Campbell and Maniaci also figure to work on the defensive line in front of a rotating crop of linebackers that include Annese, Pacheco, Whitaker, Keough, Pluss, Dewitt, Tardie and O'Neill. The secondary is very athletic, too, with Cronin, Danforth, Palmer, Keefe, Denbow, and Palmer all capable of making key stops or picking off passes to give their team possession.

Marblehead has added a pair of ex-Magician greats, Aidan Gillis and Jaason Lopez, to its coaching staff this season as well.

Contact Phil Stacey
@PhilStacey_SN

MAKING MAGIC

- **Last year's record:** 12-0 (NEC Dunn champions; Division 3 Super Bowl champions)
- **Head coach:** Jim Rudloff (14th season, 115-28)
- **Team captains:** Sam Annese, Sr. OL/LB; Connor Cronin, Sr. TB/WR/DB; Zander Danforth, Sr. WR/DB; Nick Whitaker, Sr. OL/LB; Christian Pacheco, Jr. OL/LB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Connor Cronin (87 carries, 591 yards, 6 TDs)
- **Leading returning passer:** Miles O'Neil (4-for-5, 21 yards, TD)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Connor Cronin (71 rec., 1,049 yards, 11 TDs)
- **Did you know:** The Magicians have an extremely favorable slate this fall, with six of their eight scheduled contests (i.e., non-playoff games) set to played on their home turf at Piper Field. Only a Week 3 matchup at North Andover and a Week 7 tilt at Danvers will take them out of the 01945.

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/9	Concord-Carlisle	6:30 p.m.
9/16	Lynnfield	6:30 p.m.
9/23	at North Andover	6 p.m.
9/30	Peabody	6:30 p.m.
10/7	Masconomet	6:30 p.m.
10/14	Beverly	6:30 p.m.
10/21	at Danvers	6 p.m.
11/24	Swampscott	10 a.m.



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SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL [NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE DUNN DIVISION]

Big Blue reload as they look to be a force

By NICK GIANNINO
STAFF WRITER

During their playing days at Swampscott High, recent graduates Cam O'Brien and Dylan January consistently made an impact on both sides of the ball. A quarterback and bruising line-backer, O'Brien helped lead the Big Blue to a Division 5 Super Bowl title last fall; January did the same back in 2019, pounding his way to 1,239 yards and 11 touchdowns on the ground.

While Swampscott head coach Bob Serino won't have the luxury of trotting out either player to the field this fall, his two-time defending Division 5 Super Bowl champions will rely on their experience and knowledge from the sidelines. Both former standouts will serve as assistant coaches in 2022.

"Cam will be coaching the QBs and Dylan will be helping out with (defensive) coach (Peter) Bush," said Serino. "Both of them have been unbelievable; absolutely incredible. I couldn't be happier to have them. Dylan loves it, and really both of them have done anything and everything we ask immediately. Just great additions to our coaching staff."

If Swampscott is going to make a realistic push for a third Super Bowl crown in the last four years (minus

the non-playoff COVID year of 2020), it'll need all the cohesiveness and football knowledge possible. Having both O'Brien and January in the fold certainly doesn't hurt.

Between the lines, the Big Blue will look to seniors Jason Codispoti (a returning two-way starter who will shift from wide receiver to running back this fall) and Chris Ferragamo. The latter showed great promise early last season before suffering a broken leg and subsequently missing the remainder of the year. Having him back should make things easier for whomever lines up under center.

As it stands, Serino has a serious quarterback battle going on between senior Zack Ryan and freshman Jack Spear, the latter of whom has impressed in his first reps with the varsity squad.

Left guard Ethan Gee, a senior who played a big role in Swampscott's Super Bowl run last season, provides experience and strength in the trenches.

"It's funny because there's sort of a role reversal for our group this year; we have more lineman than we have skill," said Serino. "A lot of our skill players are back, but we'll have a new quarterback and new running back. A lot of our offensive lineman return, so that will



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Swampscott football players work through drills during a preseason practice. The Big Blue won Division 5 Super Bowl titles in both 2019 and 2021.

be a strength."

Gifted senior wideout Elijah Burns, another returning starter, should also see plenty of balls thrown his way.

On the defensive end, Codispoti will once again serve as a lockdown corner alongside Ferragamo. Serino also expects big things from Gee at middle linebacker, as well as senior Nick Paradise. The speedy Paradise will play safety and special teams while serving as another option in the passing game on the other end.

"Nick's a fast kid,

super skilled, and really led our specials last year, which in our eyes we dominate specials every game and he was a big part of that," Serino noted. "We're excited to have him playing receiver and safety this year, too."

Outside linebacker Jack Hazell, a junior who will also see time at slot receiver, is another name to keep an eye on.

In total, the Big Blue are rostering 42 players after graduating 15 seniors and have a "very light" junior class, as Serino put it.

Early scrimmages have been encouraging, particularly against an experienced and physical Bedford team. "They had a kid that was 370 (pounds) on the line; just a huge line in general," said Serino. "They had a great linebacker and a coach (Tom Tone) that coached with us previously, and he's done a fantastic job with that program. It's exactly what we needed; we got a slap in the mouth and have had some great practices since."

Swampscott will look to continue to iron some things out before its season opener against Auburn Friday.

BIG BLUE BRASS

■ Last year's record: 12-1 (Division 5 Super Bowl champs)

■ Head coach: Bob Serino (8th season, 49-26)

■ Team captains: Ethan Gee, Sr. OL/DL; Zack Ryan, Sr. QB; Chris Ferragamo, Sr. WR/DB; Jason Codispoti, Sr. RB/DB; Braedon Bozarjian, Sr. OL/DL.

■ Leading returning rusher: Zack Ryan (3 carries, 11 yards, 0 TDs)

■ Leading returning passer: Zack Ryan (18-for-24, 157 yards, 2 TDs)

■ Leading returning receiver: Elijah Burns (33 rec., 659 yards, 8 TDs)

■ Did you know: Returning senior Jason Codispoti, who served as one of the team's top wide receivers during their Super Bowl run last fall, will transition to running back this season. The Big Blue lost superstar back Xaviah Bascon to graduation and will look for Codispoti to fill the void.

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/9	Auburn	7 p.m.
9/16	at Lynn English	5 p.m.
9/23	at Bishop Fenwick	7 p.m.
9/29	Saugus	7 p.m.
10/7	Northeast Metro	7 p.m.
10/14	at Danvers	6:30 p.m.
10/21	Beverly	7 p.m.
10/28	at Masconomet	6:30 p.m.
11/24	at Marblehead	10 a.m.



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Witches eager to continue winning ways

BY NICK GIANNINO
STAFF WRITER

It's no secret that the Salem High football squad made significant strides last fall.

The Witches flipped the script after going winless during the truncated 2020 'Fall 2' campaign, finishing with a 6-5 mark last fall. With much of their core returning for another season, all signs point to head coach Matt Bouchard and Co. continuing that upward trajectory.

"We lost four critical players from last year's team but have a lot of returning guys. The commitment I've seen in the offseason is similar to what I saw last year, and we have a great group of leaders pointing us in the right direction," said Bouchard. "Typically most coaches can get a vibe early on of the culture of the team, and right now that culture is really good."

If Salem is going to continue its winning ways, junior quarterback Corey Grimes will be a huge reason why. Standing an athletic and sturdy 6-foot-3 and 235 pounds, Grimes has the ability to impact the game whether he's heaving a deep ball down the sidelines, zipping a screen pass for a chunk gain, or finding the open field with his legs.

"I've known Corey's



JAIME CAMPOS

Junior Corey Grimes, who can hurt opponents with both his arm and his legs, will serve as Salem's starting quarterback this season.

family basically since he was born, and the second he was able to get up and move around it was clear he was naturally gifted," Bouchard said of Grimes, who also kicks and punts for the Witches. "He's just such a versatile kid and extremely easy to coach. The sky's the limit for that young man."

Grimes is coming off a season where he threw for 832 yards, rushed for 158 and caught 12 passes for 313 yards. He'll serve as a captain this fall alongside seniors Ramsey Pacheco (DT/G) and William Cuevas (OL), as well as sophomore Quinn Rocco Ryan.

Pacheco will start the season on the injured list after hurting his knee during the baseball season, but

Bouchard says he's been the perfect captain and leader from the sidelines thus far.

"It's like having another coach for us out there. You can tell he's honored by being captain and he wants to fulfill that duty," said Bouchard.

Cuevas has also impressed as a leader and on field contributor, while Rocco Ryan, who began playing in 2020 as an eighth grader, has earned his captainship as well. He hauled in 26 catches for 301 yards and a TD last fall, and Bouchard referred to him as a "dynamic player in space but somebody that does a lot of the off-ball stuff that a lot of high school players don't take as seriously."

In the run game, returning

junior Devante Ozuna will get a bulk of the carries. Senior Louis Chinn is another candidate to make plays out of the backfield as he possesses great hands, quick feet and has made significant strides over the past 12 months.

Jesse Round, a junior who was forced out of action for much of last season with an injury, will play a lot in the slot while also getting involved in the run game. Fellow junior Patrick Connatser is another candidate to have a breakout season; the track standout is Salem's fastest player and has displayed an innate ability to run routes without sacrificing speed.

Juniors Julian Ortiz and Logan Abboud are currently competing for the top tight

WITCHES BREW

- **Last year's record:** 6-5
- **Head coach:** Matt Bouchard (9th season, 24-60)
- **Team captains:** Corey Grimes, Jr., QB/LB; Ramsey Pacheco, Sr., DT/G; William Cuevas, Sr., OL/DL; Quinn Rocco Ryan, Soph., WR/DB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Corey Grimes (59 carries, 573 yards, 1 TD)
- **Leading returning passer:** Corey Grimes (62-for-94, 832 yards, 6 TDs)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Corey Grimes (12 rec., 313 yards, 3 TDs)
- **Did you know:** Salem hasn't finished with a winning record in consecutive seasons since 1998 (6-4) and 1999 (10-1), the latter of which saw the Witches win their only Super Bowl in program history (25-12 over Attleboro). After going 6-5 last fall, they have a chance to break that streak with another winning season in 2022.

end spot, but both will see significant time on the field regardless.

Salem is blessed with some solid size on the line as well. T.J. McCarthy will slide over from tackle to center; Alex Rodriguez will likely play guard, and Alfred Ferrioli will also return to the trenches as either a guard or tackle. Senior Daniel Githinji is another name to look out for up front.

"Daniel has had one of the

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/9	at Chelsea	7 p.m.
9/17	Martha's Vineyard	1 p.m.
9/23	Greater Lawrence	7 p.m.
9/30	at Gloucester	6:30 p.m.
10/7	at Saugus	6:30 p.m.
10/13	Masconomet	6:30 p.m.
10/21	Winthrop	6:30 p.m.
10/28	at Peabody	7 p.m.
11/4	Beverly	10 a.m.

biggest transformations I've ever seen in all my years of coaching," Bouchard said of his 6-1, 300-pound lineman. "He's really focused on his mobility and is now pulling serious weight off the floor."

In addition, junior Albert Pujols is a talented player who started as a rover last year; sophomore Mikey Curtin, who will also be the backup QB, has impressed in pass coverage; and sophomore Angel Nolasco (tail back) will compete for a D-back position.

Last year's Witches flashed moments of brilliance on defense, but Bouchard feels they can take it to another level this fall.

"Everybody's on the same page, the culture is good, the identity is getting there, and the overall the locker room has just been really great. So I'm excited," said Bouchard. "We're excited to get going."

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PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL [NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE LYNCH DIVISION]

High powered offense the Lynch pin of Tanner hopes

BY MATT WILLIAMS
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

PEABODY — Expectations are high for the Peabody High football team this fall — when the third highest scoring team in the program's 120-plus year history brings back senior quarterback Shea Lynch and three of his top four receivers, that comes with the territory.

So how do the Tanners avoid the pitfalls that kept last year's 7-4 squad out of the Division 2 state playoffs?

"When we come to practice, it's best on best. On both sides of the ball," said Lynch, who threw for a school record 2,311 yards and 32 TDs last season. "If you're not in a drill and you're the best player on the sideline, you're playing scout. That's the key to getting everyone engaged and getting everyone better."

Few teams in the state threw as often as Peabody did in 2021. So while head coach Mark Bettencourt wants more balance, the Tanners have so many weapons they may put the ball in the air even *more* often.

Senior captain Danny Barrett returns after catching 41 passes for 639 yards, and junior burner Eli Batista (one of the NEC's most complete players) matched him with 10 scores, 44 grabs and



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photo

Peabody's Eli Batista set a new school record with 10 touchdown receptions last year — a mark he shared with fellow returnee Danny Barrett in one of the most dangerous receiving duos around.

649 yards.

Add senior speedster Colin Ridley to mix along with Essex Tech transfer Jayce Dooley (70 catches, 17 TDs in two seasons with the Hawks) and Lynch will have all sorts of options in four and five receiver sets.

"There's probably nine kids I feel comfortable that I can get them the ball, from the receivers to the running backs," Lynch said. "We've got great chemistry across the board."

Junior captain Alex Silva, seniors Alan Paulino, Will Pinto, and Jose Lendor, and junior Nick Dresser are in

the mix at running back.

The offensive line will be young and untested — with senior captain Mikey Mastrocola shelved by a battle with leukemia, junior Reyami Andino is the lone returning starter at tackle.

Sophomore Alex Jackson will join him at the other tackle, sophomores Dylan Annesse and Jimmy Festa have looked good at guard, and junior Mark Clanton is vying for the center spot.

"They're big kids and they're strong," said Silva. "It's not like they're coming out of nowhere, though. They've all been playing



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Junior captain Alex Silva will be counted on on both sides of the ball this fall for Peabody.

football their whole lives."

Though Peabody won its last six games of the '21 season, it struggled a bit defensively during a 1-4 start. With a host of returnees in the front seven and one of the NEC's most athletic secondaries, the Blue-and-White plan to be much stinger this time around.

"Practices have been much better," said senior captain Giovanni Guglielmo, who has 6 1/2 sacks last year at defensive end. "We're zoned in and everyone has a mission to stay disciplined and do the right things."

Senior Fernando Lima and sophomore Matt Mastrocola join Guglielmo on the D-line

BULL BITES

- **Last year's record:** 7-4
- **Head coach:** Mark Bettencourt (10th season, 49-45)
- **Team captains:** Danny Barrett, Sr. WR; Giovanni Guglielmo, Sr. TE/DE; Shea Lynch, Sr. QB; Mikey Mastrocola, Sr. OL/DL; Alex Silva, Jr. RB/LB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Alex Silva (41 carries, 241 yards, 0 TDs)
- **Leading returning passer:** Shea Lynch (172-for-275, 2,311 yards, 32 TDs)
- **Leading returning receivers:** Eli Batista (44 catches, 649 yards, 10 TDs)
- **Did you know:** Last year's Tanner team was the school's first to go unbeaten on the road since 2004. Peabody's last road loss? At Marblehead's Piper Field in the '21 Fall 2 opener — the same field they visit on Sept 30 when theoretically the teams could riding a combined 32-game winning streak (23 for Marblehead and 9 for Peabody if both start the 2022 campaign at 3-0).

when the Tanners go with four linebackers: Festa and senior Sam Merrill in the middle with Silva and junior Don Cavanaugh outside.

Batista (5 interceptions in 2021) leads the defensive backs at safety, with Abou Kaba, Dooley, Paulino and Vinny O'Hara in the mix at corner.

"It's a deep group across the board," said

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/9	Revere	7 p.m.
9/16	at Lynn Classical	7:30 p.m.
9/24	at Beverly	2 p.m.
9/30	Marblehead	7 p.m.
10/7	Leominster	7 p.m.
10/14	Winthrop	7 p.m.
10/21	at Gloucester	7 p.m.
10/28	Salem	7 p.m.
11/24	at Saugus	10 a.m.

Bettencourt, who picked up non-leagues games against Lynn Classical (Week 2) and Leominster (Week 5) to try to accumulate more power points as his team seeks its first playoff win since 2015.

"We tried to put ourselves in the best position in terms of the (postseason) points. They say you're better off playing teams in higher divisions, although now I hear that's not the case. The bottom line is we have to take care of our own business — if we win enough games, the points shouldn't matter."

Special teams should also be a strength: Dom Scalse (44-of-46 on extra points) will handle the kicking and punting duties while both Batista and Ridley had kick return TDs for last year's NEC Lynch champs.

"It's been very smooth so far," said Barrett. "The goal's to win try to win them all, but we can't do that if we don't take it one at a time."



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Experienced Fishermen looking for turnaround

By NICK CURCURI
STAFF WRITER

Gloucester head football coach Dan O'Connor and his team enter the 2022 season with a bit of a different feel.

For starters, O'Connor has the most experienced team in his four-year tenure. On top of that, the Fishermen entered the campaign on the heels of a strong off-season. Participation was high at the team's offseason strength and conditioning workouts, meaning the team was ready to jump right into football related activities when practices began in late August.

"The kids had a great summer in terms of participation in the offseason workouts. We're just looking to build off of that momentum," O'Connor said. "The senior leadership on this team is strong; that's key this time of year."

Gloucester's starting lineup is crawling with returning starters and experienced players with eight regulars returning on both sides of the ball. With that kind of experience, Gloucester is looking for big improvements from last year's 2-9 season while hoping to reach the postseason for the first time since 2018.

In the offensive backfield the Fishermen return their leading passer, rusher and receiver from a year ago in its



JARED CHARNEY

Gloucester's Caleb Decoste returns after leading the team in rushing a year ago.

three senior captains. Nick Carey returns as the starting signal caller after throwing for over 600 yards and four touchdowns in 2021. His top target is senior running back/receiver Frank DeSisto, who led the Fishermen with 241 yards receiving and was second on the team with 397 rushing yards. Caleb DeCoste returns to the backfield after leading the team with 605 yards on the ground a season ago.

Junior receiver Cam Widtfeldt also returns to the starting lineup.

Gloucester also returns four starting linemen, with senior captain Bryan Swain leading the way at tackle.

Jayden Toppan, Mike Toppan and Chris Howell also return to the offensive line, while sophomore Evan Mione enters the starting lineup after seeing a lot of action last fall.

"They're a veteran group and the chemistry is there," O'Connor said of his O-line.

All five starting offensive linemen will also see time on defense. Swain again anchors this unit along with the Toppans and junior Anthony Russo.

DeSisto and DeCoste return at linebacker to anchor a solid unit.

If Gloucester was hit hard by graduation anywhere, it was the defensive secondary



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Frank DeSisto returns to the backfield after leading the team in receiving and total offense a year ago.

as the team is looking to break in a new unit of starters.

The Fishermen also have a different looking schedule this year, with only one Northeastern Conference crossover game: a Thanksgiving morning meeting against Danvers at Newell Stadium. Gloucester will be welcoming Chelsea to Newell in Week 2 and will hit the road against Hamilton-Wenham in Week 1, Weston in Week 3 and Northeast Tech

in Week 8 to round out its non-conference schedule. In the NEC Lynch Division, Gloucester will be competing with Peabody, the defending conference champ, as well as Salem, Saugus and Winthrop.

While the 2022 schedule is much more manageable in terms of degree of difficulty, it also gives Gloucester less margin for error when it comes to earning a play-off spot in the statewide rankings.

FISHERMEN'S CATCH

- **Last year's record:** 2-9
- **Head coach:** Dan O'Connor (4th season, 6-23)
- **Team captains:** Nick Carey, Sr. QB/DB; Caleb DeCoste, Sr. FB/LB; Frank DeSisto, Sr. RB/LB; Bryan Swain, Sr. OT/DL.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Caleb DeCoste (110 carries, 605 yards, 2 TDs)
- **Leading returning passer:** Nick Carey (70-for-135, 617 yards, 4 TDs)
- **Leading returning receivers:** Frank DeSisto (29 catches, 241 yards, 0 TDs)
- **Did you know?:** Gloucester is playing three opponents (Chelsea, Weston, Northeast Tech) for the first time ever this season and not playing long time rival Beverly for the first time since 1957, when the scheduled contest was cancelled due to rain. The last time Gloucester did not have Beverly on its schedule was 1920.

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/10	at Hamilton-Wenham	1 p.m.
9/16	vs. Chelsea	7 p.m.
9/23	at Weston	7 p.m.
9/30	vs. Salem	7 p.m.
10/7	vs. Winthrop	7 p.m.
10/13	at Saugus	6:30 p.m.
10/21	vs. Peabody	7 p.m.
10/29	at Northeast	10:30 a.m.
11/24	vs. Danvers	10 a.m.



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2022 NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL

THURSDAY, SEPT. 8

Ipswich at Manchester Essex, 6:30

FRIDAY, SEPT. 9

Salem at Chelsea, 6
Marshfield at St. John's Prep, 6
Tewksbury at Danvers, 6:30
Concord-Carlisle at Marblehead, 6:30
Masconomet at Newburyport, 6:30
Beverly at Haverhill, 7
Revere at Peabody, 7
Auburn at Swampscott, 7
Essex Tech at Lynn Tech, 7

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10

Gloucester at Hamilton-Wenham, 1
Norton at Bishop Fenwick, 1

THURSDAY, SEPT. 15

Manchester Essex at Whittier, 6
Haverhill at Danvers, 6:30

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16

Swampscott at Lynn English, 5
Masconomet at Grafton, 6
Lowell Catholic at Ipswich, 6:30

Hamilton-Wenham at Watertown, 6:30
Lynnfield at Marblehead, 6:30
Chelsea at Gloucester, 7
St. John's Prep at Central Catholic, 7
Arlington Catholic at Bishop Fenwick, 7
Blue Hills at Essex Tech, 7
Peabody at Lynn Classical, 7:30

SATURDAY, SEPT. 17

North Andover at Beverly, 1
Martha's Vineyard at Salem, 1

FRIDAY, SEPT. 23

Marblehead at North Andover, 6
Manchester Essex at Greater Lowell, 6
Greater Lawrence at Salem, 6:30
Winchester at Masconomet, 6:30
Hamilton-Wenham at Amesbury, 6:30
Lynnfield at Ipswich, 6:30
Danvers at Reading, 7
Swampscott at Bishop Fenwick, 7
St. John's Prep at Haverhill, 7
Shawsheen at Essex Tech, 7
Gloucester at Weston, 7

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

Peabody at Beverly, 1
Portsmouth Abbey at Pingree, 2:30

THURSDAY, SEPT. 29

Saugus at Swampscott, 7

FRIDAY, SEPT. 30

La Salle Academy at St. John's Prep, 6
Ipswich at North Reading, 6
Salem at Gloucester, 6:30
Danvers at Winthrop, 6:30
Peabody at Marblehead, 6:30
Essex Tech at Manchester Essex, 6:30
Bishop Fenwick at St. Mary's Lynn, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 1

Pentucket at Hamilton-Wenham, 1
Masconomet at Beverly, 2
Proctor at Pingree, 5

THURSDAY, OCT. 6

Cardinal Spellman at Bishop Fenwick, 7

FRIDAY, OCT. 7

Malden Catholic at St. John's Prep, 6

Beverly at Danvers, 6:30
Salem at Saugus, 6:30
Ipswich at Amesbury, 6:30
Hamilton-Wenham at Lynnfield, 6:30
Masconomet at Marblehead, 6:30
Winthrop at Gloucester, 7
Leominster at Peabody, 7
Northeast Regional at Swampscott, 7
Greater Lawrence at Essex Tech, 7
KIPP Academy at Manchester Essex, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 8

Pingree at Canterbury, 5:30

THURSDAY, OCT. 13

Masconomet at Salem, 6:30
Gloucester at Saugus, 6:30

FRIDAY, OCT. 14

Manchester Essex at Shawsheen, 6
Swampscott at Danvers, 6:30
Triton at Ipswich, 6:30
Beverly at Marblehead, 6:30
Winthrop at Peabody, 7
Bishop Fenwick at Archbishop Williams, 7
Greater Lowell at Essex Tech, 7

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCT. 15

St. John's Prep at Catholic Memorial, 1
Newburyport at Hamilton-Wenham, 1:30
Berkshire at Pingree, 5

FRIDAY, OCT. 21

Danvers at Masconomet, 6:30
Winthrop at Salem, 6:30
Pentucket at Ipswich, 6:30
Beverly at Swampscott, 7
Peabody at Gloucester, 7
Hamilton-Wenham at Triton, 7
Bishop Fenwick at Bishop Feehan, 7
Essex Tech at Arlington Catholic, 7
Manchester Essex at Lowell Catholic, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 22

BC High at St. John's Prep, noon
Pingree at Wilbraham & Monson, 3:30

FRIDAY, OCT. 28

Marblehead at Danvers, 6:30

Swampscott at Masconomet, 6:30
Ipswich at Newburyport, 6:30
Salem at Peabody, 7
Bishop Stang at Bishop Fenwick, 7
St. John's Prep at St. John's Shrewsbury, 7
Essex Tech at Georgetown, 7
Lynn Tech at Manchester Essex, 7

SATURDAY, OCT. 29

Gloucester at Northeast Metro, 10:30 a.m.
North Reading at Hamilton-Wenham, 1
Hamden Hall at Pingree, 5

FRIDAY, NOV. 4

MIAA playoffs first round

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

MIAA playoffs first round
Pingree at St. Paul's, 4

FRIDAY, NOV. 11

MIAA playoff quarterfinals

SATURDAY, NOV. 12

MIAA playoff quarterfinals
Pingree at Dexter Southfield, 1:30

FRIDAY, NOV. 18

MIAA playoff semifinals

SATURDAY, NOV. 19

MIAA playoff semifinals
NEPSAC Bowl Games

THURSDAY, NOV. 24

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

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

Freiermuth eager to get started as new coach

BY NICK GIANNINO
STAFF WRITER

New coach, new personnel, same Generals football mentality.

A hard nosed, physical player during his playing career at both Pentucket High School and Springfield College, first-year head coach Tim Freiermuth does plan to implement some new offensive and defensive schemes this season. But the former offensive lineman still wants to continue to build a strong, winning culture at Hamilton-Wenham, which had previously been established by recently retired legend Jim Pugh.

"We kept one of our coaches from the previous staff, Dan Lawrence, and he'll be running our offense a little this year. We'll be more of a spread, not as much under center stuff that they ran towards the end of last year, but a heavy run-first team," Freiermuth explained.

"It's kind of a new system, especially defensively and offensively, with a new staff trying to build a culture. But the guys have been really responsive so far.

"Our numbers are down," he continued, "which is pretty normal across the (Cape Ann) League. But I think we have the right guys, and to me it's about quality over quantity — and we definitely have that."



ROSE RAYMOND

Hamilton-Wenham quarterback John Ertel is spry on his feet and will look to make a consistent impact on the ground this fall.

Quarterback John Ertel will return for his senior year under center after throwing for nearly 800 yards and five touchdowns a season ago. He'll also serve as a team captain and defensive back on the other side of the ball, and Freiermuth expects him to play a huge role in what they do.

"We expect John to have a big year," he said. "John's pretty mobile, so we'll rely on his legs and the guys up front. We have the effort, attitude and trust. That's what we believe in, and the guys up front have really found a value in that."

Fellow senior captain James Day, as well as fellow

fourth-year player Chris Collins, will look to fill some of the void at running back after the Generals graduated standout rusher Chris Domaracki. Cooper Soolman figures to be the team's top wide receiver and strong outside backer on defense; the junior missed significant time last year with a broken

GENERALS' ARMY

- **Last year's record:** 8-3
- **Head coach:** Tim Freiermuth (1st season, 0-0)
- **Team captains:** John Ertel, Sr., QB/DB; James Day, Sr., RB/DB; Russell Caswell, Sr., OL/DL; Tim Seaward, Sr., OL/DL.
- **Leading returning rusher:** John Ertel (36 carries, 378 yards, 2 TDs)
- **Leading returning passer:** John Ertel (52-for-89, 796 yards, 5 TDs)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Thomas Ring (6 rec., 44 yards, 0 TDs)
- **Did you know:** First-year Generals head coach Tim Freiermuth is the older brother of current Pittsburgh Steelers tight end Pat Freiermuth. Tim played college football for Springfield College before spending two years as an assistant coach at his alma mater Pentucket under Steve Hayden. The Generals will face Freiermuth's former team in Week 4 this fall.

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/10	Gloucester	1 p.m.
9/16	at Watertown	6:30 p.m.
9/23	at Amesbury	6:30 p.m.
10/1	Pentucket	1 p.m.
10/7	at Lynnfield	6:30 p.m.
10/15	Newburyport	1:30 p.m.
10/21	at Triton	7 p.m.
10/29	North Reading	1 p.m.
11/2	at Ipswich	10 a.m.

(DB/WR) and Charlie Burns (OL/DL) are other names to look out for.

"Defensively the biggest thing is going to be pursuit and tackling," said Freiermuth. "We're pretty upper-classmen heavy, which is good; the sophomore and freshmen classes are small."

Although he has no intention of looking too far ahead, Freiermuth is undoubtedly eager for a Week 4 matchup against Pentucket. Not only did he play his high school ball there, but he also spent the previous two seasons as an assistant coach for the Panthers, soaking in as much knowledge as possible from veteran leader Steve Hayden.

"Having played there and coached there, I've really gotten to know that staff," he said. "Getting to know Hayden on the other side of things as a fellow coach ... it will be fun and I'm definitely looking forward to that matchup."

hand, but has had a great offseason and appears eager to make an impact. Returning senior Thomas Ring is another name to watch out for in the receiving corps.

Defensively, the Generals bring back senior linebacker/lineman Brendan Dalton, junior linebacker Brady Daniels and junior defensive back Adam Green, all of whom are expected to play significant roles on that side of the ball. AJ Cote



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Tigers increase depth, have the Wright stuff

By JEAN DePLACIDO
CORRESPONDENT

A year ago, the Ipswich High football team won just one game. It was a small squad that was in several close games, but lacked the depth needed to close them out.

This season it's a different story for the Tigers, though, with a strong group returning with bigger numbers.

"Our strength is leadership, good chemistry, and an offensive line with a lot of returnees," said second-year coach Zach Lamkin. "Our main concern is staying healthy, but we're a lot deeper. We only had 22 men last year, but there are 45 this time with a big freshman class.

"We didn't feel like a 1-10 team because of the camaraderie we built a year ago, and it was easy to recruit new kids," he added. "It may seem weird to say I'm extremely proud of what the 2021 team did. Even though we won only once, they were gritty, determined, and worked so hard to be competitive. Everything was there except numbers. This time around it's like night and day with the environment I'm trying to build."

Senior captains are center/defensive end Adam Coletti, and running back/linebackers Matt McGowan and Henry Wright. As a



JAIME CAMPOS

Senior captains for this year's Ipswich High football team are (from left) two-way lineman Adam Coletti, and running back/linebackers Henry Wright and Matt McGowan.

junior, Wright —the Cape Ann League Defensive Player of the Year — carried the ball 141 times for 931 yards and 6 touchdowns. He also caught 10 passes for 257 yards and 4 more TDs.

"Henry plays like a 250-pound guy, but he's 5-foot-11, 185 pounds," said Lamkin. "He's an animal who had 130 solo tackles a year ago. We moved him up from corner, and he's got a motor that doesn't quit. He's an example of the rare kid that started as a freshman and was really good even then."

A big concern for the

Tigers is finding a quarterback to replace Aiden Arnold, who passed for 916 yards and 10 touchdowns. McGowan and Eliot Donovan are ready to step in.

"We don't have anybody on the roster that ever played quarterback but Donovan, who started at safety as a junior, looks comfortable running the team. He's settled into the role," Lamkin noted. "I have Matt in baseball and he's got a great arm. Both of them got reps in practice last season because we knew we needed to get somebody ready."

Coletti anchors the

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/8	at Manchester Essex	6:30 p.m.
9/16	Lowell Catholic	6:30 p.m.
9/23	Lynnfield	6:30 p.m.
9/30	at North Reading	6 p.m.
10/7	at Amesbury	6:30 p.m.
10/14	Triton Regional	6:30 p.m.
10/21	Pentucket	6:30 p.m.
10/28	at Newburyport	7 p.m.
11/24	Hamilton-Wenham	10 a.m.

offensive line with guards senior Griffin O'Brien and junior returning starter Behnji Dessources, along

TIGER TACKLES

- **Last year's record:** 1-10
- **Head coach:** Zach Lamkin (2nd season)
- **Team captains:** Adam Coletti, Sr. C/DE; Matt McGowan, Sr. RB/LB; Henry Wright, Sr. RB/LB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Henry Wright (141 carries, 931 yards, 6 TDs)
- **Leading returning passer:** None
- **Leading returning receivers:** Henry Wright (10 catches, 257 yards, 4 TDs)
- **Did you know:** Zach Lamkin, an Ipswich assistant coach for seven years before taking the head job last fall, believes with this year's coachable group and his good assistants, the Tigers are headed in the right direction. One player to watch is freshman Louie Harrington at WR.

with tackles senior Tyler Duchesne and Connor Lavoie. Waiting in the wings while learning the offense are six underclassmen; Lamkin said he plans to rotate more this fall and give his starters a much needed break.

Defensively, the team's strength is at linebacker and a stout defensive line. Wright and McGowan are solid in the middle with Coletti setting the edge. O'Brien and Dessources are at tackle, with others rotating in. Senior Peter Bauman, a lacrosse player who is out for football for the first time, has shown a lot of promise.

"I wish I had him for a couple more years because Peter has picked things up so quickly and will definitely help us," said Lamkin. "Last year the secondary

was our weakness; we didn't have the flare you want to see. We couldn't get off the field," he added. "But now we're much stronger with Donovan as general back there at safety along with two freshmen battling in out in Finn Wright (Henry's younger brother) and Will Gromko in the mix."

Sophomores Massimo Pinsky and Noah Marcos are at the corners, while freshman Louie Harrington continues to impress and can also play wide receiver.

"I know it's unrealistic to expect a 1-10 team to go 11-0 the following year, but we've set the bar fairly high," said Lamkin. "It's a smart, coachable group, and our freshmen are catching on quickly. I'm liking what I'm seeing. The program is going in the right direction."



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ST. JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL [CATHOLIC CONFERENCE]

Strength in numbers for St. John's Prep

BY JEAN DEPLACIDO
CORRESPONDENT

There are what head coach Brian St. Pierre calls “unprecedented numbers” out for the St. John's Prep football team this season, with a staggering 235 boys from grades 9-12 out for the team. Many of those are big time players committed to schools such as defensive back Joenel Aguero (Georgia), wide receiver/cornerback Jesse Ofurie (Rutgers) and defensive lineman Mikey Nabbout (Columbia).

Running back Christian Browne of Peabody (857 yards and 7 TDs on 120 carries a year ago) and left guard Christhian Difo join Ofurie and Nabbout as senior captains, and there are many other skilled, athletic players on the roster. But St. Pierre cautioned that there are areas the team needs to work on leading up to the Eagles' season opener Friday at Glatz Field against Marshfield (7 p.m.).

“We're inexperienced at quarterback, have brand new linebackers, and new faces on the line. Those are the areas we are focusing on,” said the ninth-year head coach.

The biggest question mark is quarterback, where graduation claimed both Jack Perry (2,596 yards passing, 35 TDs) and backup Victor Harrington (370 yards, 4



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTOS

Division 1 Rutgers-bound wide receiver Jesse Ofurie is among the explosive offensive weapons deployed by St. John's Prep.

TDs). There are four signal callers battling for the starting job: Aidan Driscoll, a junior transfer from Austin Prep; fellow junior Jim Nardone, and sophomores Deacon Robillard and Carl Michael Monks.

“Driscoll was on the varsity at Austin Prep, but the others have no varsity experience,” said St. Pierre.

“The thing that's impressed me not only about those four but this team in general is great work ethic and attitude. They've been taking things seriously and putting the time all summer. Taking

part in our strength and conditioning program has been a huge help.”

Browne leads a strong group of running backs for St. John's. Junior Dylan Aliberti, a speedster coming off a terrific spring track season, will be used both at running back and defensive back, and classmate Cam LaGrassa is also slated see action in the backfield.

The receiving core is among the best around led by Ofurie (44 catches for 828 yards, 14 TDs a year ago), junior Stephon Patrick (51 rec., 915 yards, 10 TDs), senior Santi Quiceno,



Two-way end Mason McSweeney can block, catch passes and rip through opposing linemen to reach the ballcarrier while on defense.

Aguero, and Marquese Avery, a junior transfer from Lynn Classical. Junior Mason McSweeney is the starting tight end backed up by sophomores Josh Harmon and Matt Boucher.

“We're excited about our receivers,” said St. Pierre. “We've got a lot of talent and depth there. Harmon and Boucher have looked good in camp, too.”

The offensive line is shaping up with Difo at left guard and senior Sam McCormack on the right side. Another senior, Pius Ejindu, is experienced at right tackle, with sophomore Graham Roberts at the other tackle. In the mix

are junior Alex Canciaruso and sophomore Anthony Ragosa.

The strength on defense is the secondary with Ofurie, Aliberti and Quiceno at the corners while Aguero and senior Lucas Verrier are at safety. Nabbout will play defensive tackle or end with McSweeney at the other end.. Senior Charlie Smith and sophomore Alex Bajoras will help out at defensive tackle, while seniors Noah Brown and Max Rizza and junior Matt Callahan are in the mix at DE. Rizza and Verrier will also help in the kicking game.

The only returning

PREP PITTER PATTER

■ **Last year's record:** 8-4, lost to Central Catholic in Division 1 semifinal

■ **Head coach:** Brian St. Pierre, (9th season, 60-26)

■ **Team captains:** Carson Browne, Sr. RB; Christian Difo, Sr. OL; Mikey Nabbout, Sr. DT/DE; Jesse Ofurie, Sr. WR/CB.

■ **Leading returning rusher:** Carson Browne (120 carries, 857 yards, 7 TDs)

■ **Leading returning passer:** None

■ **Leading returning receivers:** Stephon Patrick (51 rec., 915 yards, 10 TDs), Jesse Ofurie (44 rec., 828 yards, 14 TDs)

■ **Did you know:** This is 'Team 116', the number reflecting the years that football has been played at St. John's Prep.

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/9	Marshfield	7 p.m.
9/16	at Central Catholic	7 p.m.
9/23	at Haverhill	7 p.m.
9/30	LaSalle Academy	6 p.m.
10/7	Malden Catholic	6 p.m.
10/15	at Catholic Memorial	1 p.m.
10/22	Boston College	1 p.m.
10/28	at St. John's Shrewsbury	7 p.m.
11/24	Xaverian	10:15 a.m.

linebacker is senior Jack Fillion so that important position will be filled by inexperienced players.

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Cardinals reloaded to make another run

By PHIL STACEY
EXECUTIVE SPORTS EDITOR

PEABODY — Pressure comes with the territory when you strap on a Bishop Fenwick football helmet; the players are well aware of what the program's expectations are year after year. Yet they embrace it, ready to put in the work and follow that progressions that, if everything works out according to plan, ends with the Crusaders playing their final game of the season at Gillette Stadium in December.

"We welcome it," senior offensive tackle and defensive end Mike DiFelice said after a recent practice. "The coaches do a great job preparing us for anything we might come up against, and we put our heads down every day at practice and get after it. Having that right mindset goes a long way towards having success."

Coming off of a 9-3 season that saw them reach the Division 5 state semifinals, Fenwick figures to be in the hunt for a Super Bowl once again. Entering his 25th season as the head football coach on Margin Street, David Woods has a team with its usual array of talented players in the skill positions and playmaking ability at linebacker, plus others chomping at the



Among the Bishop Fenwick leaders for 2022 are (from left) captains Luke Connolly and Aidan Breen, senior quarterback Bryce Leaman, and senior captains Troy Irizarry, Mike DiFelice and Costa Beechin.

bit to get their chance to make their mark as varsity players.

"We've got some guys who are ready to step up," said another captain, senior wideout and defensive back Costa Beechin. "You'll see guys like (junior WR/LB) Kurtis Bruch and (senior TE) Mike Zaimi really show what they can do this season. Plus we've got a transfer, (junior) Anthony Nichols, who's going to help us, too. Things are looking really good."

Senior Troy Irizarry, another captain (which also includes senior Aidan Breen and junior Luke Connolly),

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/10	Norton	1 p.m.
9/16	Arlington Cath.	7 p.m.
9/23	Swampscott	7 p.m.
9/30	at St. Mary's Lynn	7 p.m.
10/6	Cardinal Spellman	7 p.m.
10/14	at Abp. Williams	7 p.m.
10/21	at Bishop Feehan	7 p.m.
10/28	Bishop Stang	7 p.m.
11/24	at Masconomet	10 a.m.

was Fenwick's leading rusher a year ago, running for 571 yards and seven touchdowns. He'll likely absorb more touches out of the backfield this season

while Connolly and Nichols also see their number called.

"I like being a decoy, too," admitted Irizarry. "Getting a handoff faked to me where I get tackled and we get a 20-yard gainer through the air. There are no individuals here; anyone can be the guy to step up offensively."

Another 12th grader, Bryce Leaman, steps in under center as the starter. He had one start a year ago and finished the year with 29 completions for 393 yards and four scores.

"I feel like I've improved my footwork, timing and reads from a year ago," said

the Gloucester native. "That and getting to know our wide receivers better and their routes."

Beechin, the team's vocal leader, leads those wide-outs; he's poised for a big season after grabbing 37 passes for 449 yards and a pair of trips to the end zone in 2021. Connolly, Bruch, junior Jacob Behn and senior Thomas Swanton are others who'll catch their fair share of passes, as will tight ends Breen and Zaimi (11 catches for 159 yards and 3 TDs a year ago). Promising sophomore Lincoln Dugan with good size and hands, should also be a threat at wideout.

Luke Coleman, another senior, joins DiFelice up front at tackle, with classmate Chris DaSilva and junior John Kennedy the guards. The center's job will likely fall to junior Nick Kenny-Krutchkenwick.

Defensively, Irizarry and DiFelice will serve as ends with Kennedy at tackle. A young linebacking corps of a year ago is now full of experience, with Breen, DaSilva, Bruch, and Nichols among the team's anchors.

"You can see guys already stepping up and playing that much better than we did a year ago," Breen said of he and his fellow linebackers.

The defensive backfield will also be full of athletic playmakers in Beechin,

Connolly, Swanton, Behn, and Dugan, among others.

"I'll do whatever the coaches need me to do: return kickoffs and punts, step up at safety, in the backfield, anything for the team," said Connolly.

FENWICK FOOTNOTES

- **Last year's record:** 9-3
- **Head coach:** David Woods (25th season, 183-85)
- **Team captains:** Aidan Breen, Sr. TE/LB; Troy Irizarry, Sr. RB/DE; Mike DiFelice, Sr. OT/DE; Costa Beechin, Sr. WR/RB/DB; Luke Connolly, Jr. SL/S.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Troy Irizarry (110 carries, 571 yards, 7 TDs)
- **Leading returning passer:** Bryce Leaman (29-for-47, 393 yards, 4 TDs)
- **Leading returning receiver:** Costa Beechin (37 rec., 449 yards, 2 TDs)
- **Did you know:** With the retirement of Hamilton-Wenham's Jim Pugh during the offseason, Fenwick head coach David Woods is now the active wins leader among North Shore football coaches with 183. Should he reach 200 wins in his career in 2023 (or after), he'd become just the fifth man locally to do so, joining Ipswich's Jack Welch (224 wins), Pugh (216 at Masconomet and Hamilton-Wenham), Stan Bondevitch (214 at Swampscott and Bishop Fenwick), and St. John's Prep's Jim O'Leary (207).



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ESSEX TECH [COMMONWEALTH ATHLETIC CONFERENCE]

Captains' leadership should spell positive results

By NICK CURCURI
STAFF WRITER

There is plenty of reason for optimism around the Essex Tech football team this fall. Coming off a 5-6 season a year ago, the Hawks have a bevy of senior leaders returning to the lineup and a program-high six captains.

All six of those captains have at least two previous seasons of varsity experience as Essex Tech enters 2022 as one of the most battle tested teams in the Commonwealth Athletic Conference.

"Leadership is definitely a big strength of ours," veteran Hawks head coach Dan Connors said. "Our captain group is the biggest we've had in school history, and these guys have all been starting since their sophomore year. They all bring great leadership to the table."

"It was so hard to pick just three or four," admitted Connors, "so we took all six of them and they all deserve it."

Essex Tech looks to have a high powered offense led by senior quarterback and captain Devin Lebron, who is back for his third season as the team's starting signal caller. Lebron is a two-way threat that can beat teams with his arm and his legs as he led the Hawks in rushing (687 yards, 9 TDs)



JAIME CAMPO PHOTOS

Essex Tech's Devin Lebron returns for a third season as the Hawks' multi-talented starting quarterback.

and passing (1,074 yards, 12 TDs) a season ago.

Lebron expertly runs the zone read and has the arm to make throws down the field. In the passing game, Lebron's top receiving target from 2021, Jayce Dooley, has transferred to Peabody High, but he still has some talented receivers to get the ball to.

Senior captain P.J. Norton returns after a big junior season where he had 39 catches for 620 yards and seven touchdowns as one of the team's most potent downfield threats. Senior captain Harry Lynch is also expected to play an

increased role in the Hawk's passing game.

"Even with Dooley going back home, we still have a very good and experienced receiver group," Connors said. "Our offensive skill is another strength for us."

Senior captains Will O'Neil and Josh Heath will anchor a veteran offensive line that is strong both in the run game and the passing game.

Defensively, senior captain Luke Joyce will anchor the defensive line while Lebron, Lynch and Norton all return to a strong secondary. Heath is a strong returning linebacker.



Senior captain Luke Joyce (right) figures to be leaders for the Hawks defensively this fall.

The Hawks are looking to contend in the Commonwealth Conference Large. The CAC re-aligned this fall but that does not affect Essex Tech as the Large division remains the same five teams. The Hawks will be competing with Greater Lowell, Greater Lawrence, Northeast Tech and Shawsheen Tech in the conference.

In 2021, the CAC was evenly matched from top to bottom with all five teams hovering around the .500 mark. The CAC Large may have to wait until Thanksgiving to crown a conference champ as the Hawks play rival Northeast Tech on the holiday morning.

"It's still the same five teams and we're expecting it to be competitive every week like it always is," Connors said. "It's kind of a mish-mash of evenly matched teams that can all beat each other. Shawsheen is a big rival for us in the regular season, and we're looking to snap a losing streak against Northeast. We have Thanksgiving circled on the calendar, but have a long way to go until then."

All in all, the Hawks believe they have the talent and experience to reach the postseason and contend in the conference.

"We're excited to get going," Connors aid. "This

HAWKS NEST

Last year's record: 5-6

■ **Head coach:** Dan Connors (6th season, 14-36)

■ **Team captains:** Josh Heath, Sr., G/MLB; Luke Joyce, Sr., DE; Devin Lebron, Sr., QB; Harry Lynch, Sr., WR/CB; P.J. Norton, Sr., WR/DB; Trevor O'Neil, Sr., OT.

■ **Leading returning rusher:** Devin Lebron (138 carries, 687 yards, 9 TDs)

■ **Leading returning passer:** Devin Lebron (63-for-111, 1,074 yards, 12 TDs)

■ **Leading returning receivers:** P.J. Norton (39 catches, 620 yards, 7 TDs)

■ **Did you know?:** Essex Tech's six senior captains are the most in program history.

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/10	at Lynn Tech	7 p.m.
9/16	vs. Blue Hills	7 p.m.
9/23	vs. Shawsheen	7 p.m.
9/30	at Manchester Essex	6:30 p.m.
10/7	vs. Greater Lawrence	7 p.m.
10/14	vs. Greater Lowell	7 p.m.
10/22	at Arlington Catholic	6 p.m.
10/28	at Georgetown	7 p.m.
11/24	vs. Northeast	10 a.m.

is a very experienced senior group and it's their year. Hopefully if we're consistent and we keep working hard throughout the season we will be able to pick up a bunch of wins."

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Hornets looking to build off of strong campaign

By NICK CURCURI
STAFF WRITER

After two seasons where the season — and circumstances leading up to the season — were abnormal, Manchester Essex football coach Joe Grimes says the start of the 2022 campaign feels like a return to normalcy from a gridiron standpoint.

The fall 2020 high school football season was moved to the spring of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and teams were back at it again four months later for the start of fall 2021 preseason workouts. Heading into the 2022 slate, teams have had a full offseason off-season, plus two other high school sports seasons, to prepare for it.

“The feeling around this team is normal and focused on football for the first time in two years,” Grimes said. “This summer finally felt like a pre-pandemic football summer, and it was one of the best summers I’ve seen from this team in the six years I’ve been with the program.”

On the field, Grimes has a lot of veterans on a Hornets’ squad that won the Commonwealth Conference Small a year ago and finished with an impressive 8-2 mark.

On offense, the team is returning CAC all-star



Senior captain Henry Otterbein heads up the Hornets’ backfield.

quarterback Brennan Twombly. The senior threw for over 1,300 yards to go along with 20 passing touchdowns last year. Twombly is also the team’s leading returning rusher.

Senior captain Henry Otterbein, Jesse Oliver and Camren Hubbard also return to the backfield after seeing significant action a year ago. Grimes likes to employ a running back by committee approach, sharing the load between

multiple backs.

Manchester Essex also returns some talented linemen including senior captain Ben Hurd and Troy Flood.

“Returning kids help, especially with their knowledge in the first few weeks,” Grimes said. “They also set the tone with their energy. They’ve been through the process and know what the expectations are, and the guys coming into new roles pick up on that energy quickly.”



Quarterback Brennan Twombly threw for over 1,300 yards and 20 touchdowns last year and is also Manchester Essex’s leading returning rusher.

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/8	vs. Ipswich	6:30 p.m.
9/15	at Whittier Tech	6 p.m.
9/23	at Greater Lowell	6 p.m.
9/30	vs. Essex Tech	6:30 p.m.
10/7	vs. KIPP	7 p.m.
10/14	at Shawsheen	6 p.m.
10/21	at Lowell Catholic	7 p.m.
10/28	vs. Lynn Tech	7 p.m.
11/24	at Georgetown	10 a.m.

The Commonwealth Conference has re-aligned this fall and Manchester Essex sits in the middle of the now three-tiered alignment. The Hornets will be in Division 2 of the conference with KIPP Academy of Lynn, Lowell Catholic, and Thanksgiving

Day rival Georgetown. The Hornets returned to the CAC in 2021 after a near-decade long stint in the Cape Ann League.

Manchester Essex and KIPP Academy were the top two teams in the CAC Small a year ago. The Hornets won the conference title thanks to a head-to-head victory, but KIPP returned the favor by triumphing over M-E in the opening round of the Division 8 State Tournament.

The Hornets’ non-conference schedule features a heavy dose of CAC cross-over games. The Hornets will be taking on Shawsheen Tech, Greater Lowell Tech and Whittier Tech from the Commonwealth Large along

HORNETS’ NEST

- **Last year’s record:** 8-2
- **Head coach:** Joe Grimes (2nd season, 8-2)
- **Team captains:** Ben Hurd, Sr. OG/DE; Henry Otterbein, Sr. RB/DB; Brennan Twombly, Sr. QB/DB; Daniel Wood, Sr. TE/LB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Brennan Twombly (48 carries, 278 yards, 2 TDs)
- **Leading returning passer:** Brennan Twombly (94-for-166, 1,375 yards, 20 TDs)
- **Leading returning receivers:** Jesse Oliver (14 catches, 175 yards, 2 TDs)
- **Did you know?:** The Hornets are looking for their first Super Bowl appearance in 14 years. That year, Manchester Essex blasted Tri-Valley, 36-6, for its fourth Super Bowl state championship in five tries.

with Lynn Tech from the Small Division. Manchester Essex’s only game outside of the CAC is the season opener against Ipswich on September 8 (6:30 p.m.) at Hyland Field.

“The Commonwealth is a really good fit for us football-wise,” Grimes said. “This is a good conference, and we’re competitive with everyone. We’ve formed a nice rivalry with KIPP Academy and are looking forward to another good game with them again this year.”

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PINGREE SCHOOL [EVERGREEN LEAGUE]

Highlanders are ready to run it back

By JEAN DePLACODO
CORRESPONDENT

The Highlanders' goal this year is the same as last season ... and a difficult one to achieve.

For the last three years, the Pingree School football team has gone to a New England Prep School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC) bowl game, winning twice.

"It's a tight window, and if you lose two regular season games you're probably not going to be picked to go," said head coach Mike Flynn. "Two years ago we lost our second game of the year and knew we had very little room for error to get there again."

Pingree will again rely on versatile junior quarterback Hudson Weidman to lead the way. He completed 73 passes for 1,001 yards and 20 touchdowns a year ago with only one interception. He also was the team's leading rusher, gaining 565 yards and scoring seven times. Flynn said Weidman will stay in the pocket to throw more, increasing the number of times he'll take to the air from 15 to 25 per game because of his continued development and poise.

"We're very fortunate he's such a strong passer and runner," said Flynn, who has a 27-2-1 overall record at Pingree. "He gives us an extra weapon because



JARED CHARNEY PHOTOS

With talented linemen such as Quinn Glencross, right, blocking for him, junior quarterback Hudson Weidman should be able to take to the air frequently this season for the Highlanders.

2022 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
9/24	Portsmouth Abbey	2:30 p.m.
10/1	Proctor Academy	5:30 p.m.
10/8	at Canterbury School	5:30 p.m.
10/15	Berkshire School	5 p.m.
10/22	at Wilbraham Monson Academy	3:30 p.m.
10/29	Hamden Hall Country Day	5 p.m.
11/5	at St. Paul's School	4 p.m.
11/12	at Dexter Southfield	1:30 p.m.

he's so dynamic. Hudson is very efficient so we can

still spread teams out and run the ball. He's matured and runs our offense so well (that) we can do different things.

"My first year I was a little more stubborn about sticking to my system, but I've learned to adjust depending on what kind of team it is. A year ago our strength was receiving and tight ends, but this time it's more running backs. We're also smaller, and when you don't have those 300-pound guys up front, you have to make changes."

Francisco Morales had 38



Junior Chris Colby is not only a top flight receiver for the Highlanders, but also one of the most gifted defensive backs on the North Shore.

carries for 417 yards and a pair of touchdowns a year ago while Boxford's Matt Theriault gained 248 yards. Bodie Cannata is a threat to run or catch the ball, while captain Jaylon Richardson (7 receptions for 125 yards and 2 TDs) and 6-foot-4, 215 pound junior tight end/defensive end Jayden DeTorchio (7 TDs) both return as well.

Another junior, Chris Colby, caught 32 passes for a team-leading 661 yards and 9 TDs. He also stars at cornerback alongside Richardson and Mekhi Taylor.

Senior captain Theo Batchelder anchors the offensive line. The 6-foot-6, 310-pound two-way tackle has received several offers from colleges.

"We're a work in progress with three juniors and a sophomore on the O-line, but we're also pretty athletic," said Flynn. "Joey Lussier (a sophomore) and Chris Jiminez (junior) will step in at guard, while senior captain Quinn Glencross is the center.

"We'll rotate on the defensive line, and we're looking for linebackers," he added. "We'll be young there, but the numbers in the program are good with 38; roughly a third of the boys in the school are playing football, which means there's a lot of interest. Like most smaller prep schools, we build up front."

The only team that has beaten the Highlanders under Flynn is St. Paul's,

HIGHLANDER HAPPENINGS

- **Last year's record:** 9-0 (Evergreen League champions; Mark Conroy Bowl champions)
- **Head coach:** Mike Flynn (5th year, 27-2-1)
- **Team captains:** Theo Batchelder, Sr. OL/DL; Quinn Glencross, Sr. OL/DL; Jaylon Richardson, Jr. WR/DB; Hudson Weidman, Jr. QB/DB.
- **Leading returning rusher:** Hudson Weidman (72 carries, 565 yards, 7 TDs)
- **Leading returning passer:** Hudson Weidman (73-for-1,001 yards, 20 TDs)
- **Leading returning receivers:** Chris Colby, Jr. (32 catches, 661 yards, 9 TDs), Jayden DeTorchio, Jr. (17 catches, 194 yards, 7 TDs)
- **Did you know:** Since former NFL player Mike Flynn took over as head coach, the Highlanders have won two New England Prep School Athletic Conference bowl games and have only suffered two losses in his 5 years. Flynn credits that to the assistant coaches on the staff, who stayed on board to help him.

but in 2021 Pingree got its revenge with a huge win over the Pelicans.

"It's always hard to know who will be the strongest teams in our (Evergreen) League because of transfers and post graduates. All you can do is work hard to be as prepared as you can," noted Flynn.

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CHAMPIONS CORNER A SLICE OF NORTH SHORE FOOTBALL HISTORY

A look at the yearly statistical champions from The Salem News coverage area in recent history.



STAFF FILE PHOTO

No one could tackle Bobby Tarr in 2007-08.

RUSHING

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

PASSING

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



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Masconomet QB Drew Carey led the area in passing in 2003.

SCORING

Year	Player, Team	Total Points (TDs)
1995	Frank Candela, Peabody	140 (22)
1996	Frank Candela, Peabody	172 (28)
1997	Brian Lentz, St. John's Prep	140 (22)
1998	Tim Gale, Masconomet	144 (23)
1999	Matt Horgan, Salem	156 (25)
2000	Simon Dunwell, North Shore Tech	116 (16)
2001	Brett Mullen, Danvers	108 (18)
2002	Scott Chakoutis, North Shore Tech	148 (22)
2003	Jason Blydell, Swampscott	116 (19)
2004	Kynan Mello, North Shore Tech	169 (23)
2005	Pat Bailey, Beverly	120 (20)
2006	Bobby Tarr, Bishop Fenwick	210 (35)
2007	Bobby Tarr, Bishop Fenwick	192 (31)
2008	Melikke Van Alstyne, Salem	
	Rashad Sims, Beverly	114
2009	Evan Bunker, Masconomet	162 (21)
2010	Jesse Wilkins, North Shore Tech	166 (24)
2011	Will Quigley, Marblehead	124 (20)
2012	Brendan Flaherty, Beverly	160 (26)
2013	Brooks Tyrrell, Marblehead	164 (27)
2014	Doug Santos, Peabody	190 (31)
2015	Paul Lazzaro, Essex Tech	168 (26)
2016	Sean Lahrizi, Swampscott	
	Jaason Lopez, Marblehead	92
2017	Vinnie Gaskins, Salem	154 (24)
2018	David Cifuentes, Bishop Fenwick	146 (19)
2019	David Cifuentes, Bishop Fenwick	159 (20)
2021 Fall 2	Connor Cronin, Marblehead	96 (16)
2021	Xaviah Bascon, Swampscott	144 (24)



JARED CHARNEY PHOTO

Salem's Vinnie Gaskins won the area rushing and scoring title in 2017.

SALEM NEWS STAFF FOOTBALL PICKS CHAMPIONS

Year	Picks Winner
1999	Bill Kipouras
2000	Phil Stacey
2001	Matt Jenkins
2002	Bob Albright
2003	Phil Stacey
2004	Matt Jenkins
2005	Phil Stacey
2006	Matt Jenkins
2007	Phil Stacey
2008	Matt Jenkins
2009	Matt Jenkins
2010	Phil Stacey
2011	Dan Harrison
2012	Phil Stacey
2013	Phil Stacey
2014	Jean DePlacido
2015	Matt Williams
2016	Phil Stacey
2017	Jean DePlacido
2018	Phil Stacey
2019	Nick Curcuru
2021 Fall 2	Matt Williams
2021	Matt Williams

ALL-TIME 100 WIN CLUB

Coach, Team(s)	Wins
Jack Welch, Ipswich	224
Jim Pugh, Masconomet & Hamilton-Wenham	216
¹ Stan Bondevitch, Swampscott & Bishop Fenwick	214
Jim O'Leary, St. John's Prep	207
* Dave Woods, Bishop Fenwick	183
Ed Nizwantowski, Peabody	174
Terry Silva, Gloucester	154
² Bill Broderick, Salem	151
Ken Perrone, Salem	151
Arthur Adamopoulos, Peabody	129
* Jim Rudloff, Marblehead	115
³ Steve Dembowski, Swampscott	114
Paul Worth, North Shore Tech	103
Fred Glatz, St. John's Prep	101

* Active coach

¹ Bondevitch won 225 total games including time at Hudson and Maynard

² Broderick won 305 games including time at Rindge Tech and Haverhill

³ Dembowski remains active at Milton with 170 career wins

Returning players

BACK FOR ANOTHER SEASON



Gloucester quarterback Nick Carey



Beverly teammates Devon Smalls (27) and Matt Sopp team up to take down Salem's Rocco Ryan last Thanksgiving.



Standout Bishop Fenwick back Troy Irizarry



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO
Carson Browne will be the top tailback for St. John's Prep this fall.



Danvers running back Owen Gasinowski



Peabody's talented receiver, Danny Barrett

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