

WARRIOR FOOTBALL



KEEPERS OF THE FLAME



Warrior Football NATION

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Dear Warrior Nation:

As the season winds down I would like to thank all of you who have supported the members of the football team and the football staff.

I would also like to invite everyone to attend the Thanksgiving game versus Dover/Sherborn.

Thanksgiving is a special game. It is a competition unlike no other in high school. The players have been reminded throughout the season how fleeting senior year can be.

Thanksgiving Day is the last football game for a number of our seniors. We want to celebrate their commitment to Warrior Football.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the parents in the program for their continued, unconditional support of the team. I have learned a lot of lessons in my first year as head coach, none more notable than what goes on behind the scenes.



Volunteers from the team at Medfield Day.

I would also like to thank the coaching staff. This year they embraced new technology in using our HUDL program and they prepared and planned a unique strategy for every game. They adjusted to a number of uncontrollable personnel changes and they kept the kids motivated in every single game. This is no small task and I applaud their efforts.

As the head coach I am excited about our prospects for the Thanksgiving game and for the future of Warrior Football.

Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Coach Ormberg

Special points of interest:

- **THANKSGIVING DAY DS @ MHS 10AM**
- **BANQUET SLATED FOR 1/22/12**
- **PERKINS TOURNAMENT 11/26/11**
- **PHOTOS BY MR. OPIELA & MRS. VALENTE & COACH BRIAN GAVAGHAN**
- **DESORGER'S HISTORY LESSON**

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2011 TVL ALL-STARS

Congratulations to the following members of the program who were voted on as Tri-Valley League All-Stars by the coaches of the TVL Large (Westwood, Holliston, Medway, Hopkinton):

Ife Adebayo
Alex Opiela
Greg Rose
TJ Valente



PERKINS TOURNAMENT Scheduled for 11/26

The seventh annual tournament will take place again the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Teams will have a flat fee of \$150 to compete and unlimited substitutes for their teams.

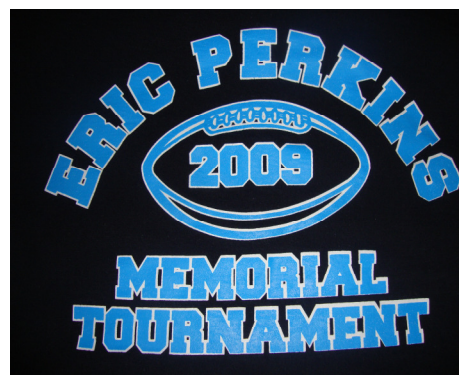
Our goal is to raise \$3,000 this fall by having 20 teams register.

We hope to see the Class of 2006 in droves as they celebrate their five year reunion that week.

Please come out and help support a great cause.

Proceeds for the tournament help fund the Eric M. Perkins Memorial Football Scholarship and help support the program's wish list.

As of 11/22/11 there are still 7 spots open for teams to join.



Forever 40

BLACK SATURDAY A SUCCESS

Our last Saturday practice entailed a multi-layered competitive marathon for all players ninth through twelfth grade.

The entire roster was broken into 12 teams of 4 with representation from all levels on each team.

Players competed in throwing, relays, obstacle courses and other events.

Points were earned for each activity and the GREEN team won the first annual

Black Saturday trophy.

Their names are "immortalized" on the Black Saturday plaque, designed by Coach Brian Gavaghan. A nice tradition at the end of the season was capped off by lunch provided by some of our parents. Thank you to Mrs. Adebayo, Mrs. Opiela, Mrs. Landy, Mrs. Blanco, and Mrs. Gerson. The GREEN TEAM (right):

Jack Kiley, Joe Shebertes, Conor Davis and Will Giggi.



College Warriors

Warrior Nation sends sincere congratulations to all of the MHS grads playing college football. Peter Gumas, Drew Donnelly, Kevin Soule, Korey Kuzmich, Mike Lane and Kevin Lynch all competed at the college level this past year.

Kevin Lynch, MHS '06, will be addressing the entire football pro-

gram in our Thanksgiving pre-game meeting. Kevin had a fantastic career here at MHS, went on to New Hampton prep school for a year and just finished his career at Southern Connecticut State.

We hope that connecting the generations of Warriors is something we can build on in the years to

come.



GOALS FOR 2012

*The golf tournament is slated for June 15th, 2012. Our goal as a program is to raise \$4500 from this event. We want to exceed last year's \$4400. Last year's money raised helped purchase spirit packs for the team, a QB-Tee for practice and a third Pop-Up dummie for practice which helped reduce the risk of concussions.

*We want to have ALL ninth graders on the same practice field. This year we had a JV1 and JV2 team that was a

mix of freshmen, sophomores and juniors. We believe that a strong foundation for the program will be built by having all high school students playing high school football.

*We want to reintroduce a study hall for all football players 9-12 two times a week next fall.

*We want to compete in the Under Armour Passing Competition in July of 2012.

Other goals will be communicated once captains for 2012 are named.



THANK YOU BASIL!

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO TOM MCGUE OF BASIL'S, 43 FRAIRY STREET, MEDFIELD FOR CATERING OUR PRE-THANKSGIVING DINNER

SPECIAL THANKS TO COACH O'BRIEN (pt. II)

Patriots offensive coordinator, Bill O'Brien attended our pregame meeting on October 21st.

The Patriots had a bye week and Coach was generous enough to rearrange his busy schedule to talk to our players about "playing complementary football."

Coach also talked about his own high school playing days and how his five closest friends from high school all played

football.

This is the second time Coach O'Brien has reached out to the Medfield Football Program and we thank him for his support.

The kids took the visit to heart and then took it to Norton for our second win of the season.



2011 Statistics

Congratulations to Alex Opiela. Alex was the Boston Herald DIII player of the week after his 10/21/11 performance against Norton. Alex was 23/37 for 301 yards with 4 passing TDs and 1 rushing TD. He added 46 yards on the ground as well.

Other statistical highlights include:

Rushing Leaders: Alex Opiela: 103 carries 384 yards

Sam Tawa: 73 carries 436 yards

Receiving leaders:

TJ Valente: 21 receptions 273 yards

Tim Bernard: 34 receptions 510 yards

Jake Mintz: 10 receptions 222 yards

Passing:

Alex Opiela :86 completions 188 attempts for 1129 yard

Defense:

Leading Tackler: Ife Adebayo: 64

Leader in Tackles for Loss: Arthur D'Angelo: 10

Leader in Interceptions: Matt Casieri : 3



#81 TJ Valente, #9 Alex Opiela #85 Tim Bernard

KEEPERS OF THE FLAME

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Warrior Pride

KOTF

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....One Last Thought....

Thanksgiving week is a time of reflection, family and football. Hopefully, you will be able to enjoy all three in the coming days.

Thanksgiving marks the end of a three month football season. For many players it marks the end of a four year journey through high school football.

Thanksgiving week is the unofficial "alumni" week. Seniors have been told that they become "football alumni" shortly after noon on Thanksgiving day. We hope that the knowledge of the season ending will act as an emotional catalyst as they take the field for the last time together as friends, teammates and Medfield High School football players.

A rite of passage will take place this week as our senior players take part in the traditional "Burning of the Shoe." Seniors will reflect on what Warrior Football has meant to them. Each year I am amazed at how much these seventeen year old males say in front of their peers and coaches. The depth of their observations is noteworthy, authentic and from the heart.

Our football banquet will take place on January 22nd, 2012. If you are interested in attending please contact me about tickets.

Lastly, please be safe this week as many of you take part in reunions, family celebrations and get-togethers.

ME, WE!

Bill Callahan went out for football in 1959. He was just one of three freshmen to go out for football that year; Chris Stagg and Mike Rogers were the other two. This was not happy times for the football Warriors, as they were in the midst of a long drought of winless games. The string of defeats, in fact, would last some 32 games. Bill Callahan tells the story of what was to become the most celebrated high school football game ever played in Medfield High history. With his memory and the account of the game written in the high school newspaper, we were able to relive the game that no one ever forgot. " In 1959 the coaches were Jack McGrath and Jim Morris. Coach McGrath played for Natick High when he was in high school and was an outstanding linemen. He would often put on a helmet during practice to demonstrate a block and knock you 5 yards backwards. My most memorable game was in 1961 when I was a junior. MHS had lost 32 straight games. Coaches McGrath and Morris were replaced by coaches Ed Keys and Stuart Langton to start the 1961 season. We played East Bridgewater on Veterans' Day, November 11, 1961. While the students had moved into the new high school on 24 Pound Street (today's Blake Middle School), the football games were still being played on the Dale Street School field on Adams Street. "

An Unforgettable Piece of Medfield High School Football History

"With a flip of the coin at mid-field to start the game, Medfield won the toss and chose to receive. The kickoff sailed to Bruce Allen who ran it up to the Medfield 30 yard line. Quarterback Mike Rogers faked a pass and instead handed it off to running back Doug Vliet, who broke loose and went coast to coast for a 70-yard Medfield touchdown. "

In the third quarter, the East Bridgewater Vikings scored quickly on a 65-yard run but the extra point conversion failed; Medfield now holding on to a 14-12 lead. Going into the forth quarter, the Warriors mounted a drive into Bridgewater territory, bringing the ball down to the Bridgewater 30 before being held on downs. With two minutes left in the game the Vikings took over on their own 30. After a series of drives they brought the ball down to the Warrior two-yard line. First and goal with just seconds left on the clock. Medfield held them on their first attempt and time ran out, giving the Warriors a 14-12 victory and ending 32 consecutive Medfield defeats."

The 500 fans watching the game swarmed onto the field picking the players up, with the players throwing their helmets into the air. The band assembled and began playing the music to the Medfield High School theme song "Our Director" and a spontaneous parade formed. The band, cheerleaders and majorettes then marched the players through the town streets, from the Dale Street School down North Street, through the center of town, where now hundreds of cheering people had gathered, down South Street onto Pound Street and into the high school. There over 600 additional screaming fans waited for the team. The town then rang the fire whistles 14 times then 12 times, signaling the score of the game. The players and the fans poured into the locker room, throwing the two ecstatic coaches into the showers. The celebration continued well into the night. The entire town of Medfield was caught up in the celebration.

The Warriors were back winning again. Less than three years later, in 1964, they would go on to be undefeated and untied and win the then South Central League Championship; the only undefeated and untied season to date in Warrior football history.

-Richard DeSorgher
September 18, 2011