

WARRIOR FOOTBALL



KEEPERS OF THE FLAME



Warrior Football NATION

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Dear Warrior Nation:

Last month we closed out the 2011 football season with our annual football brunch.

Awards were given out, captains for 2012 were announced and seniors were recognized for their commitment to Warrior Football.

Most players walked away with a certificate, a trophy or a plaque, but we hope ALL players walked away with a true sense of community, competition and brotherhood.

I want to thank all the parents who helped organize the brunch along with the staff of Raffael's in Walpole. This was the first year we had the brunch in Walpole and, by all accounts, the staff was accommodating and the space was ideal for the end of the year gathering.

Now the next chapter begins.

The weightroom has been an active environment since the season ended. The volume of players looking to better themselves has been a true inspiration. The seniors set a bar for off-season commitment and the underclassmen



Warriors Connor Quinn, Aaron Cohen and Joe Marie catch up with Pats TE Rob Gronkowski

have dutifully picked up the torch.

The staff is already working on strategies for next fall.

As coaches we are entering the clinic-season. During the next two months coaches will be attending the following clinics:

-Massachusetts High School Football Clinic @ Gillette.

-Glazier Clinic in Boston.

-National Football Foundation Clinic @ Boston College.

We hope to see many of you at the annual athletic golf tournament on June 15th.

All the best,

Coach Ormberg

Special points of interest:

- Gavaghan Baby
- The MUDBOWL
- 2012 Captains
- Banquet Awards
- Vin Joseph retirement
- GOLF TOURNAMENT: June 15th, 2012

*Good luck to '06 MHS graduate, Kevin Lynch who will be playing football in Poland this spring.

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2012 CAPTAINS

Aaron Cohen
Arthur D'Angelo
Caleb Minsky

Congratulations to our newly minted captains. We look forward to the team building momentum in the offseason under the leadership of our elected captains.



BANQUET AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to all our players for their commitment to Warrior Football. Here is the list of award winners for the 2011 football season:

Hardnosed Player: Ife Adebayo

Hit of the Year: Conor Davis

Lions' SPIRIT of a WARRIOR: TJ Valente

Pop Warner Alumni Award: Joe Shebertes

JV2 Sportsmanship: Dominic Rizzitano

JV2 Most Improved: Nick Fragola

JV1 Sportsmanship: Caleb Minsky

JV1 Most Improved: John Pendergast

Scout Team Awards:

Brian Gerson

Joe Marie

Caleb Minsky

Lineman of the Year: Greg Rose

Unsung Hero: Doug Nelson

Varsity Sportsmanship: Warren Lent

Rookie of the Year: Cam Donnelly

Most Improved Player: Jake Mintz

Outstanding Defensive Player:

Arthur D'Angelo

Outstanding Offensive Player:

Tim Bernard

Mr. Versatility Award:

TJ Valente

Team MVP: Alex Opiela

Coaches' Award: David Landy

Fans of the Year:

Dave Valente

The Ludwig Family



Coach O with TJ Valente, Joey Shebertes & Andrew Ludwig



#75 David Landy

Special thanks to Linda D'Amore and Deb Valente for contributing the photos for this newsletter.

Baby Gav

John Thomas (Jack) Gavaghan was born on December 8th, 2011.

The Warrior Family extends a warm welcome to our newest member.

Congratulations to Meg and Brian Gavaghan.

Look for Baby Jack on the sidelines next fall!



2012 GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our annual athletic fundraiser will be held on Friday, June 15th, 2012. Last year with your help we raised \$4500. Our goal this year is to exceed that number. If you would like to golf, make a donation or sponsor a hole, please contact our athletic director, Mr. Jon Kirby at 508-359-4809 or jonkirby@medfield.mec.edu.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CLASS OF '11



Coach Joseph

During the pregame speech on Thanksgiving I asked Coach Vin Joseph to say a few words to the kids before we took the field. In sixty seconds Vinnie reminisced on forty plus years of coaching high school and college football.

Vinnie's impact on Medfield football dates back almost a quarter of a century. He now ventures on in the next chapter of his life...being a grandfather.

Warrior Nation wishes Vinnie and Betsy both health and happiness as they begin the next phase of their life.

Vinnie did a lot more than just coach the freshmen this year. He helped me navigate my first year as a head football coach.

Vinnie was our "eye in the sky" during varsity games and his insight and connections within the realm of high school football paid huge dividends for our program.

Vinnie has continued to roll up his sleeves and work with the Executive Football Committee to try and establish a way to crown a true state championship for high school football. Even in retirement Vinnie continues to "keep the flame."



KEEPERS OF THE FLAME

**88R South Street
Medfield, MA 02052**

**Phone: 508-904-7900
Fax: 508-242-8516
eormberg@medfield.mec.edu**



Warrior Pride

KOTF

66 Productions

....One Last Thought....

February marks the halfway point of the school year. Many of our seniors are hearing both good and bad news from colleges and universities. As seniors start to sort out their future plans we encourage all of them to continue to make good decisions.

We tell the seniors during the second half of the school year that football presents, "the first of many lasts." Your last game, your last Thanksgiving, your last winter break, your last round of mid-year exams.

Senior year is fleeting. There are a lot of ups and downs and rites of passage. As coaches and educators we are committed to being concerned with "staying the course" through the end of senior year.

There is something very symbolic about crossing the stage and receiving your diploma. As quickly as it happens, it is a moment that defines all the hard work and perseverance necessary in graduating from Medfield High School.

High school is a trying time for many students. Through the four years your identity changes constantly. You are a student, an athlete, a musician, an artist, a college applicant and any myriad of other roles. You are sons, brothers, friends, mentors and role models as well.

Remember that the morning you stroll out of MHS after the All Night Graduation Party you ALL become one thing... Alumni. That is the sacred bond you carry with you in the next phase of your life. That morning you will all transcend the groups and cliques as you all enter life as an alum.

We challenged all of you to maintain a connection to the football program upon your graduation. Remember to Keep the Flame of Medfield Football burning brightly.

It was one of those football games that is etched in the memory of all who witnessed it. It was the type of game that comes along once in a generation. It was the perfect storm of a game in more ways than one. In the annals of Medfield High School football, it ranks with the 1953 Thanksgiving 7-6 win over Westwood and the 1961 win over East Bridgewater after 32 consecutive losses. It was nicknamed the Mud Bowl and it saw a waterlogged and underdog group of Medfield kids beat a favorite Westwood football team for the first time in a long 23 year drought.

The date was October 26, 2002 and the skies had opened up in one of the worst downpour rain storms in many a year. Many high school football games were postponed but Medfield and Westwood officials both agreed to go ahead and play the game. The place was Medfield's Calvin Fisher Memorial Field, which at the time was still a natural grass covered field. So much rain had fallen that the field more resembled the Hinkley Swim Pond than a football field. Medfield had not defeated a Westwood High football team in 23 years. The statisticians had to go to 1979 when Medfield had defeated Westwood 12-7, thanks in large part to the outstanding play of Warriors Steve Colburn and Tom Gorman. Since Warrior football coach Vin Joseph had taken over the Medfield program 12 years before there was one thing he had yet to accomplish—beating Westwood. But the skies did not let up and even ducks were taking cover when the two teams came out of the locker rooms to face one another.

The Waters Came Down and Sort of Floated Them Away: Medfield 6, Westwood-0

For three quarters neither team could move the water soaked ball. Pass plays were all but ruled out and the running game concentrated simply on holding onto the ball, so as to not fumble. The once green Calvin Fisher Field quickly became nothing but mud and muck. Uniforms were all mud-caked; mud oozed out from the ear holes of the helmets. Both teams knew it was going to be a loose ball or a weather mistake that was going to turn the game. Medfield needed such a break to end the long Westwood drought.

Stephen Schaub helped see to that, as he set up the games lone score when he blocked a punt and recovered it at the Westwood 7 midway through the final quarter. The Warriors sloshed through the mud, bringing the ball down to the Westwood 1 yard line. Then on forth and goal, quarterback Mark O'Sullivan punched it in, Tom Brady style. That was all the Medfield defense needed as the weather and the Warriors never allowed Westwood to get closer than the Medfield 19.

Warrior cornerback Neil Kingsbury followed with an interception to further stymie Westwood and a nice pass-breakup by Chris Angell on forth down turned the ball over for a final time with 1:01 to go. With the clock running out, the Medfield players and fans went berserk. It would be the crowning top to an outstanding 8-3-0 season.

Earlier in the season, the Warriors had been forced to overcome the loss of senior captain Mike Oppel to mono and then a hip dislocation. One the field the Warriors were led by co-captains Dave Meaney and Kevin Gavaghan. Junior fullback Kevin Hall would go on to top 1,100 yards rushing with sophomore halfback Brian Lee close behind with over 500 yards. The defense was led by linebackers Erik Abazorius and Nate Mintz but nothing that season could compare to the emotional high of what the players experienced on that water soaked field, beating Westwood for the first time in 23 years. Said Coach Joseph: "None of these kids were even born the last time Medfield beat Westwood. And there was no one star out there today, but that's what you strive for. You can't be more perfect than that."

After the final whistle, the muck-covered players slid through the mud and frolicked in the water; fans poured out of the stands to join them. They posed for history in front of the 6-0 victorious scoreboard. They had never been so wet in all their lives but they also had never been happier. The drought had been doused, Westwood had been defeated and all was well again in their little hometown of Medfield. A new and happy chapter in Medfield High football had been written.

—RICHARD DESORGER
January, 2012