



# 63<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GEORGE WAH SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025 • 2 P.M. • PRINCETON MARRIOTT @ FORRESTAL

[www.delvalfootballfoundation.com](http://www.delvalfootballfoundation.com)

## Honoring Robert F. Casciola "Coach Cas"

21 Schools representing Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties

\$5,000 Jack Stephan Scholarship • \$4,000 Steven Gazdek Scholarship

\$3,000 Ron Rick Sr. Scholarship • \$2,000 Ed Cook Scholarship • \$1,500 Ed "Windy" Morris Scholarship

**ROY VAN NESS TROPHY PRESENTED BY PSE&G**

## 2024 CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

### HEISMAN

PSE&G • Kelly Myers

### ALL-AMERICAN

New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Group • South Jersey Industries  
GridIron Social Group "Honoring TSC Coach Robert E. Salois • Joe Herzstein,  
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Bordentown Military Institute Coach Robert G. "Doc" Hoehn • Polakowski Family  
Gunnell Family • Bellotti Family • Merkle Cherry

## 2024 CHAPTER AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Delaware Valley Chapter

#### Gold Medal Award

Robert F. Casciola

#### George O'Gorman

##### Contribution

#### to Amateur Football

Joseph Camillone

### Hank Johns Coaches Award

David Caldwell

Hopewell Valley HS

*and*

Todd Smith

The Hun School

### John McKenna

#### Assistant Coaches Award

Rich McGlynn

Bordentown HS

#### Jack Millard

#### Officials Award

Don Ellison

### Delaware Valley Chapter

#### Little Scholar

Chase Gallagher

Hopewell & Lawrence WJYFL

### Eunice Kennedy Shriver

#### Champion Award

Zachary Mack

### Nick Gusz

#### "Good Guy" Award

Blair Thompson,

The Pennington School

#### Tony Persichilli

#### Meritorious Service Award

Greg Johnson, Trentonian

#### Judge Arthur Lane/

#### Princeton University

#### Scholar-Leader-Athlete

Tommy Matheson

#### Earl H. Dean/

#### The College of New Jersey

#### Scholar-Leader-Athlete

Jack Centrelli

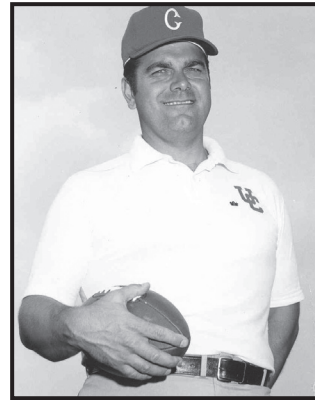
### SILENT SPORTS MEMORABILIA AUCTION DURING SOCIAL HOUR

**Commemorative Dinner Journal:** Nassau Communications

**Awards:** Main Street Awards • **AV & Videography:** Ocean Video Productions

**Formal Wear:** Giovanni Fine Mens Clothing

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER GOLD MEDAL  
**ROBERT F. CASCIOLA**



Each year the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame presents the Robert F. Casciola Distinguished American Award.

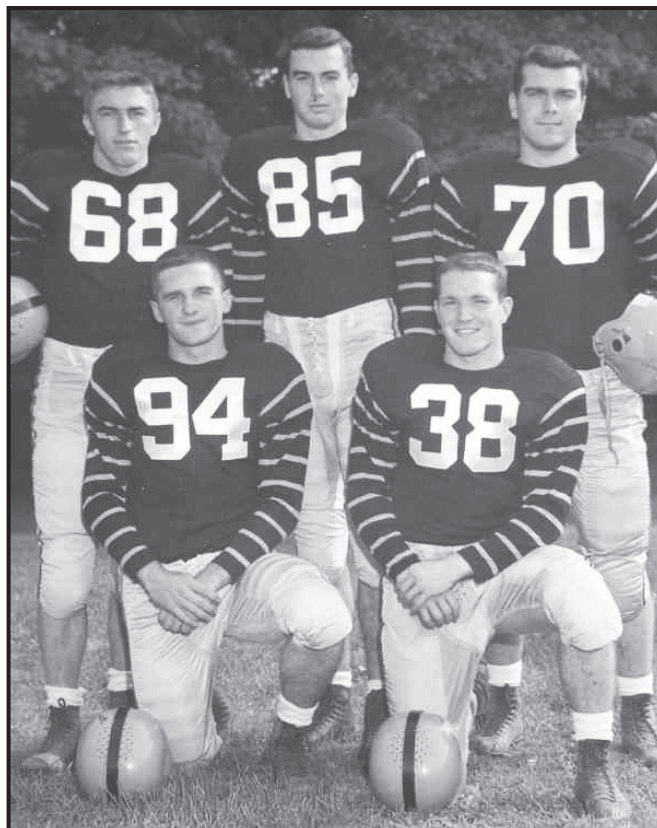
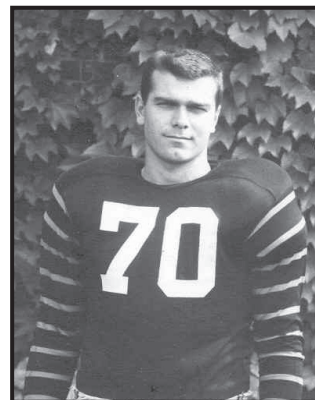
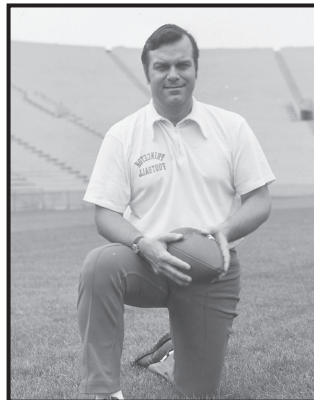
But with the passing of Casciola at age 89 on April 25, 2024, the chapter felt it this year should be his turn to be honored and is presenting the legend with its Gold Medal Award.

The Brooklyn native's contributions to football went well beyond the local chapter. He served as national president of the NFFCHOF from 1995-2005 and executive director of the organization from 1991-95. He received the NFF's Distinguished American award in 2004.

When the former Princeton University player/head coach and University of Connecticut head coach took over the NFF, his main goal was to strengthen the Chapter Network, which he felt was the heart and soul of the organization. He and NFF Chairman Bill Pearce and Vice Chairman Jon Hanson relocated the College Football Hall of Fame from Kings Island, Ohio to South Bend, Indiana, in the shadows of iconic Notre Dame University.

Thanks to the hard work of Robert, a new state-of-the-art \$17 million facility opened in 1995 and served as an important focal point for the NFF efforts before moving to Atlanta in 2014.

Casciola and Hanson launched numerous successful initiatives together. Their Play It Smart program raised over \$25 million to train academic coaches to work with football teams in disadvantaged areas. They began the NFL-NFF Coaching Academy, which annually reached more than 10,000 coaches at 40 sites, where a range of topics would include playing techniques and strategies in life skills development and player health and safety.



The duo also helped raise over \$3.5 million to permanently endow several of the NFF National Scholarship awards, and the expansion of Hall of Fame consideration to divisional ranks and the NFF Center for Youth Development.

After an All-Ivy League playing career at Princeton, Casciola embarked on a 20-year coaching career as an assistant at Princeton, Dartmouth and Connecticut, and a head coach at UConn and his alma mater.

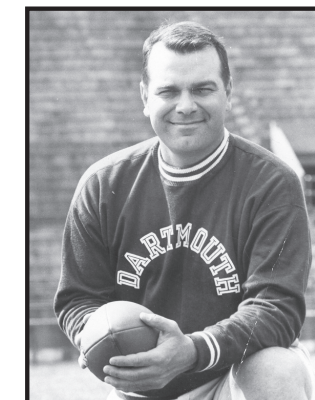
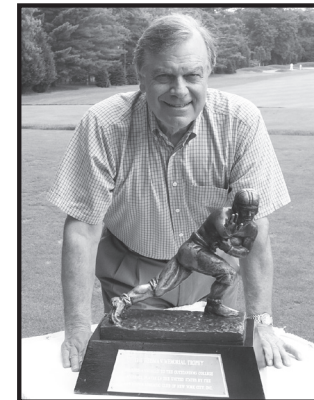
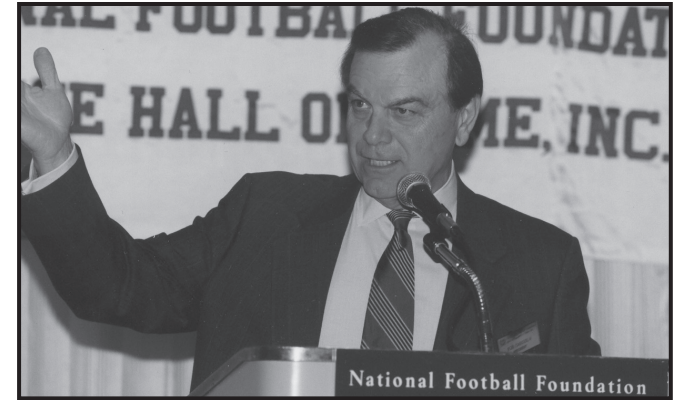
Robert rose to the position of senior vice president at First Fidelity Bank before taking over as executive vice president and chief operating officer for the New Jersey Nets. He dabbled in broadcasting as a color commentator for Princeton, Rutgers, Great American Independent Football and the USFL's New Jersey Generals.

Casciola was also part of two New Jersey football traditions, serving on the selection committee of the Garden State Bowl, and sitting on the executive committee of the Kickoff Classic held each year at the Meadowlands to start the college season.

In his private life Casciola was a loving and supportive father, grandfather, husband and friend. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Janet, children Jeanne, Donald, Julie and Lynn, seven grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

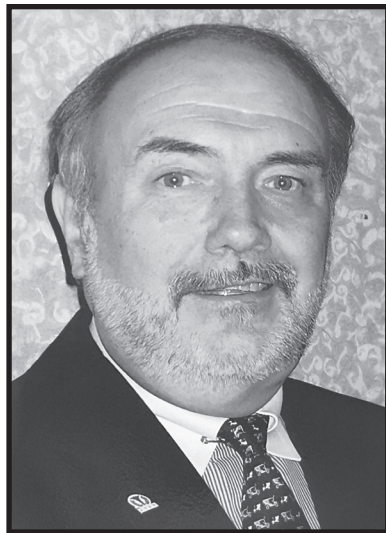
It was only fitting that the Delaware Valley Chapter named its most prestigious award after Casciola. The Robert Casciola Distinguished American Award will return next year but, in his memory, the DelVal Chapter wanted to acknowledge everything that the man meant to this chapter and so many others.

It's about everything he did for us," DelVal President Eric Hamilton said. "Everything falls under that this year."



GEORGE O’GORMAN CONTRIBUTION TO AMATEUR FOOTBALL AWARD

**JOSEPH CAMILLONE**



Oftentimes, a football team is only as good as the people who keep it healthy.

And for 35 years they had one of the best healthcare providers at Trenton State College/ The College of New Jersey.

As head trainer for a school that was a Division III powerhouse in numerous programs, Joe Camillone kept the Lions going with his skill, dedication and sheer love for what he was doing. His name was as synonymous with TCNJ sports as any athlete, coach or athletic director.

That was obvious by some of the Facebook comments lauding Joe when the news of his award was announced.

Former pupil Maura Van de Meent: “I can’t think of a more fitting honor ... As one of your student-athletic trainers at TCNJ, I learned so much from you, not just in terms of technical skills, but also the value of compassion, dedication, and leadership as well as your kindness, sense of humor and overall goodness!”

Former soccer goalie Michael Rentner: “You even took care of us when our playing days were over, like when the women’s hoops team stomped on my ankle in a “friendly” scrimmage.”

And from Greg Grant, who got some of the top care in the world as an NBA player: “That’s awesome! ... Mr. Joseph Camillone is the best. Took great care of us while I was in college.”

Despite being spread thin, Joe provided stellar athletic care for a lot of outstanding Lion football teams. The sport is near and dear to him as he played for Holy Family School and Blessed Sacrament High School, where he earned All-Conference honors and was named the team’s Most Improved Player. He also played one year at the University of Findlay.

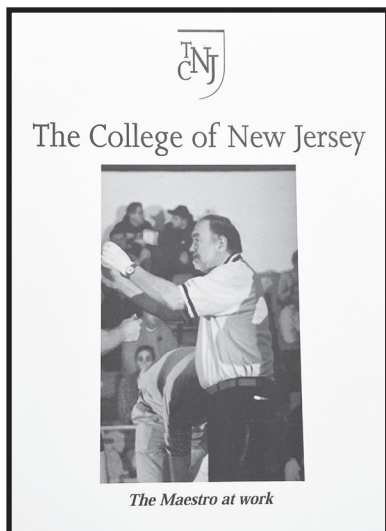
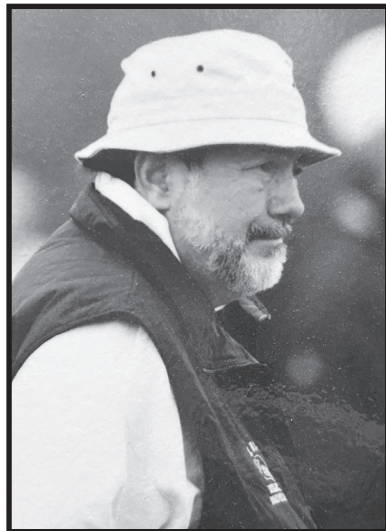
After earning Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Health and Physical Education from Findlay and Eastern Michigan, respectively, Camillone became head trainer at Cedar Ridge (now Old Bridge) High School from 1969-73. In the fall of 1973, he arrived at then-Trenton State as head athletic trainer and became a 35-year fixture.

“I’m not sure where we would have ever been without Joe,” said former Lions coach Eric Hamilton.

A member of the National Athletic Trainers Association since 1968, Camillone was named its Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer in 1995. He served on the Honors and Awards Committee for 22 years. He has been a member of the Eastern Athletic Trainers Association since 1969, served as president from 1983-85 and was the Honors and Awards Committee Chairman from 1988-2015. Camillone won the Cramer Award in 1986, Presidential Award in 2007 and was inducted into the EATA Hall of Fame’s ‘49 Club in 2018.

He was a founding member of the Athletic Trainers Society of New Jersey in 1977, and its first elected president. Joe was a governor-appointed member of the Athletic Training Advisory Board to NJ and won a Distinguished Service Award.

When it comes to the Camillones, athletic training is in the blood as Joe’s wife, Lisa, was the long-time trainer at Mercer County College Community College and a member of the school’s Hall of Fame.



**HISTORY OF THE SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE AWARDS DINNER**

The first Scholar/Athlete dinner hosted by the Delaware Valley chapter was a lot like a small family get-together as a group of prominent area business leaders and sportsmen, brought together by local sportswriter Jimmie McDowell gathered at The Carteret Club in Trenton to honor a high school senior football player who had been even more successful in the classroom. In 50 years, that small gathering to honor Notre Dame senior Pat Ryan has grown to become the most prestigious football dinner in the Delaware Valley, possibly in the entire Garden State.

No longer is it just one player being saluted and receiving a certificate. Now the Delaware Valley chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame honors graduating senior football players from 30 schools in six Central Jersey counties, each of them receiving at least a \$1,000 scholarship with money raised from various businessmen and women throughout the area.

Just as the great game of football has grown over the last 50 years, so has the Delaware Valley chapter dinner, which awards a scholarship pot of \$50,000—largest in the nation. The chapter is also the oldest in the U.S. with an honor roll of Distinguished American and Contribution to Amateur Football award winners that is a ‘Who’s Who’ of the football world.

Co-sponsored by the Trenton Times and later the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce, the Scholar/Athlete program grew from the cozy surroundings of the Carteret Club to venues like Barrett’s El Condado Restaurant in Ewing, the Colonial Firehouse Ballroom in Hamilton and the West Trenton Ballroom Ewing to the Princeton University campus and eventually to the grand ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Princeton.

The tradition of bestowing the Distinguished American Award on prominent area business leaders like Don Ehret, Times publisher James Kerney Jr. and Fred Schluter eventually saw political leaders Sen. Franny McManimon, Mercer County executive Bob Prunetti—a scholar/athlete at Trenton High in 1972—Sen. Pete Inverso, former Hamilton mayor Maurice Perilli and New Jersey banking legends Bill Faherty, Tom Bracken and Tim Losch headline the top dias. Educational leaders Dr. Crosby Copeland of the Trenton Public Schools and Al DeMartin of Hamilton, athletic leaders Ken Fairman, Royce Flippin, Jake McCandless and Bob Casciola of Princeton University, Coca Cola president Bill Pearce of Princeton, NJSIAA executives Roy Schleicher and Steve Timko and lifelong football men and prominent coaches Win Headley, Len Rivers and Cosmo Iacavazzi were among the honorees named Distinguished Americans for having taken the lessons learned on the gridiron to become prominent area leaders.

Baseball Hall of Fame sportswriter Harold ‘Bus’ Saidt of the Times, former NFL stars Troy Vincent (Eagles) and Scott Brunner (Giants), popular area radio sports broadcasters Vince Reed and Roger Hendler, the father-son tandem of Ron Rick and Ron Jr., and local coaching legends Dr. Ken Keuffel (Lawrenceville), Eric Hamilton (College of NJ), Steve Muench (Ewing), Sam Jefferis (South Hunterdon), John Curtis (Princeton) and Jim Griffin (Hightstown) helped add to the DelVal chapter’s reputation for saluting the best of the best and continue the reputation the Delaware Valley chapter has always held for being the first—and the most successful—of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame chapters.

**THE SELECTION PROCESS**

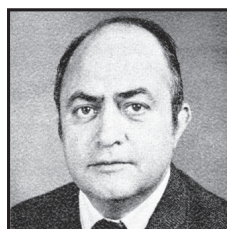
The name of the young individual selected as the top Scholar-Leader-Athlete was not pulled out of a hat. They have gone through a rigorous screening process. Their credentials on the field, in the classroom and in the community have been scrutinized and discussed many times over by the members of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame’s Scholarship Committee. The scholarship committee is made up of several members of the Delaware Valley Chapter who have a deep and abiding respect and love for scholastic football. What the scholarship committee is looking for is someone with:

1. **Outstanding academic application and performance – a Scholar**  
They don't necessarily have to be the smartest student in their school but they should be a good, solid student. They don't have to be a “book worm” or even a straight-A student, but they should be studious, persevering, dedicated and have a proper knowledge of what study means to the value of education. They should be a better than average student who is generally interested in their studies without a serious subject weakness.
2. **Outstanding school leadership and citizenship – a Leader**  
They don't necessarily have to be involved in every club or program at their school, but they should have a well-rounded approach to their extracurricular activities. They don't have to be the president of their class, but they should be a leader, someone who is looked up to. They doesn’t have to be the most popular student in their school, but they should be well-respected by their classmates, teammates and opponents.
3. **Outstanding football ability and performance – an Athlete**  
They doesn’t necessarily have to be the best football player in the area, be they should be a good one with a proven record of performance. Ideally, they should be a player who is more concerned with team accomplishments than their personal statistics. They should display courage, persistence and sportsmanship and an overall feeling for the game of football as well as have respect for their coaches, teammates and opponents.

*It’s the combination of all of these attributes that make the winner, and all the young individuals honored, a true Scholar-Leader-Athlete.*

## TOP SCHOLARSHIPS

The Chapter is proud to offer the following top scholarships this evening and will present over over \$31,000 in total.



### **\$5000 Jack Stephan Scholarship**

The late Jack Stephan was an American hero after serving as flight engineer in the Pacific during World War II, and also a local hero to youth football players and athletes in general. A former grid standout for Bordentown Military Institute, Stephan was founder of the West End Babe Ruth League, and was an assistant football coach during the early days of the Blue & White League. Jack was head football coach at Notre Dame High School where he coached his sons John and Mark. John played for the University of Notre Dame's 1973 national championship team and Mark was on Widener College's Division III national champ in 1977.

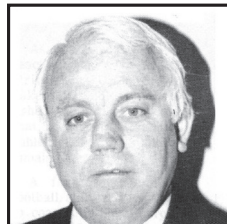
Stephan served as vice-president of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame, and was a long-time member of the New Jersey Football Officials Association.



### **Steve Gazdek, \$4000 Scholarship**

Known simply as "Gaz", Steve Gazdek put his heart and soul into the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame until his passing in 2023. A former standout at Piscataway High and Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey), Steve was a long-time contributor to everything the DelVal Chapter did; whether it was the 12th Man TD Club, Sunshine Classic or the George Wah dinner. He was on hand for it all.

Gaz was a respected defensive coordinator for Hamilton West and head coach for McCorristin and went on to become athletic director at West and Steinert. Recognizing what cheerleaders bring to football, he started the Mercer County Cheerleading competition. Gaz won the 2004 Contribution to Amateur Football award and will always be remembered as a nice guy and good friend.



### **Ron Rick, Sr., \$3000 Scholarship**

A 1954 Hamilton High graduate, Ron was director of the Rick Bus Line that has long transported local high school teams to and from their road games. In the 1970s Ron put in tireless work to turn the Delaware Valley chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame into one of the top chapters in the nation. Rick's financial backing helped fuel the growth of amateur football and baseball along with other area youth sports.

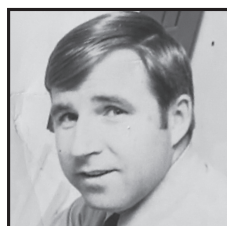
Ron was a member of the Hamilton Elks and New Jersey National Guard, was a driving force in the Invest-A-Cop program in Trenton, Ewing and Hamilton and was active in the Hamilton and Trenton PBA programs. He was active in the Boy Scouts in Mercer County and a member of the YMCA Century Club.



### **Ed Cook, \$2000 Scholarship**

Ed Cook was born and raised in Pottsville, Pa., where he gained football notoriety as a player, but it was in Mercer County where he impacted the game as an adult. Cook was a two-way lineman at Pottsville High and was a first-team All-Keystone Conference performer. Despite being recruited, Ed was unable to play in college as he went to trade school close to home to aid his widowed mom.

That unselfish attitude never left. Ed opened a successful service station in Ewing and as his business grew, he donated ample amounts of money to area athletic programs. One of the early members of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame, Cook served as vice-president during the early days.



### **Ed "Windy" Morris, \$1500 Scholarship**

Ed Morris, known most famously as "Windy", had a lifelong love affair with sports until his passing in 2023. Ed played football and baseball for Hamilton High, and went on to star at Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey). He was eventually elected to the TCNJ Athletic Hall of Fame.

Windy was a guidance counselor and Industrial Arts teacher at Hopewell Valley Central High School, and also found time to help coach football at Trenton State. The DelVal chapter established a scholarship in Ed's name due to his commitment to TCNJ and Mercer County football.

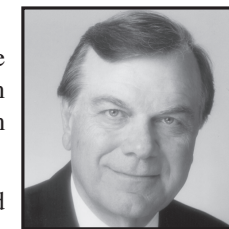
## CHAPTER LEGACIES

The Chapter is proud to present awards in the memory of the following individuals:

### **Robert Casciola, Distinguished American Award**

Robert Casciola's name is as synonymous with the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame as any man who worked with the Delaware Valley Chapter. A former player and head coach at Princeton University, Casciola passed away last April and in lieu of the Distinguished American Award given in his name, he will be honored posthumously with a Gold Medal Award this year.

Casciola initially made his name as a player and head coach for Princeton University and also coached the University of Connecticut. He was the National Director of the NFFCHF and served as a color commentator for Princeton, Rutgers, Great American Independent Football and the USFL's New Jersey Generals. Robert served on the selection committee of the Garden State Bowl and was on the executive committee of the Kickoff Classic held each year at the Meadowlands to start the college season.



### **George O'Gorman, Contribution to Amateur Football Award**

A legendary sportswriter at The Trentonian until his passing in 2018, George O'Gorman did as much to promote the Scholar-Leader-Athlete Dinner as anyone. Despite also covering girls soccer and the New York Giants in the fall, "Oge" found time to write volumes about area high school football through his game coverage and columns. When the George Wah dinner was in its early years, Oge's constant flow of stories about the honorees and the dinner itself got the word out and allowed the event to gain momentum. He also served on the DelVal Chapter executive board and helped select the honorees.

A lifelong Mercer County resident, Oge won the award that is now named after him in 1980. It was one of the countless honors he received in his lifetime, all a tribute to the impact he had on high school football and the George Wah dinner.



### **Hank Johns, Sr., Coaches Award**

A driving force in Bucks County, Pa., football, Hank Johns starred at Woodrow Wilson High (now Harry S Truman) before becoming a coach. He was an assistant at the now-defunct Delhaas High and eventually sent numerous players to Division I colleges during his years as Truman head coach from 1984-91. Johns was head coach for the South squad for the Bucks County Lions Club All-Star Football Classic in 1986 and 1991 and was an assistant in that game several times.

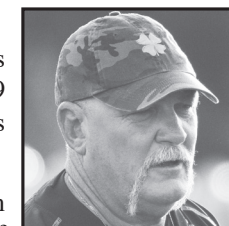
A football "lifer" until his passing in 1999, Hank was a board member on the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. In the late 20th century, his efforts allowed the Lower Bucks County high schools to be reinstated into the chapter and make them eligible for the scholar-leader-athlete awards.



### **John McKenna, Assistant Coaches Award**

Since his passing in 2021, John McKenna's name is still spoken with reverence among area football players and coaches. After a successful coaching career in Bucks County, McKenna went to Notre Dame in 1999 and became one of the state's top strength and conditioning coaches. He opted to work the night shift as a Falls Township police officer in order to coach.

As the director of Notre Dame's Catholic Athletes for Christ organization, John always focused on making better people as well as better athletes. He was a member of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame and helped organize and coordinate events with member schools. John was deeply involved in the 12th Man TD Club dinners, Sunshine Classic and George Wah dinner.





**Jack Millard, Officials Award**

A lifetime Delaware Valley resident, the late Jack Millard was the Chapter’s Referee of the Year, as it was known then, in 1980. A former player at Trenton High and Temple University, Jack was a member of both the New Jersey Football Officials Association and Eastern Association of Intercollegiate Football Officials. He officiated such hallowed games as Army-Navy and Harvard-Yale and also worked at the Peach Bowl. One of the first members of the Delaware Valley Chapter, Jack also belonged to the Central Jersey Chapter of the New Jersey Football Officials Association and worked countless area high school games.

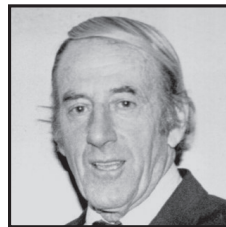
Off the field, Millard taught handicapped students in the Trenton and Princeton school districts and worked for the New Jersey Department of Education as coordinator of funds for handicapped children.



**Tony Persichilli, Meritorious Service Award**

As a proud offensive lineman on the last team to go undefeated at Trenton High in 1970, the late Tony Persichilli spent his life giving back to area football. “Perch” won the DeVal Chapter’s 1996 Contribution to Amateur Football Award, not only for the countless stories he wrote on Mercer County football for the Trenton Times, but for serving on the executive board and helping to choose the honorees. Tony was a member of the Trenton PAL Board of Directors and Trenton Select Committee, and a founder of the Trenton Sports Hall of Fame.

He promoted the Little Tornadoes football program that taught fundamentals of the game. Perch ended his career as a copy editor for The Trentonian but still managed to find time to promote local football whenever possible.



**Nick Gusz, Good Guy Award**

There could not be a more apt namesake for an award than the Nick Gusz Good Guy award. The late Nick Gusz was a good guy to everyone he met along the course of a life that contributed greatly to Delaware Valley Chapter football. Nick’s personality shone through when he was master of ceremonies at numerous athletic banquets, including the George Wah dinner. His sense of humor, quick wit and laid-back manner made him a friend to all.

A former Robert Casciola Distinguished American winner, Nick played football at Trenton High and Trenton State College, was the long-time athletic director at Lawrenceville School (and previously held the same role at Pemberton), helped found the Trenton Select Committee and served on the NJSIAA executive board. A member of the Army Air Force in World War II, Nick retired with a rank of major.



**Judge Arthur Lane, Princeton University Student-Leader-Athlete**

The fact there is a Scholar-Leader-Athlete Dinner can be partly attributed to the late Judge Arthur Lane, a founding member of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame. Judge Lane captained the 1933 Princeton University football team, which went 9-0 and was retroactively named national co-champion by Parke H. Davis – a noted historian and PU alum – after Michigan was named by 10 other selectors. Playing as an independent that year, Princeton outscored foes 214-8 and was the nation’s lone unbeaten team.

The judge served as DeVal chapter president from 1977-82 and was also on the executive board. During his distinguished career, Lane was a Mercer County federal judge and assistant prosecutor and earned a seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.



**Earl H. Dean, The College of New Jersey Student-Leader-Athlete**

Considered the Father of Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) athletics, the late Earl H. Dean coached the Lions football program for 16 years and basketball for 17. He became the school’s first athletic director in 1926, as prior to that the department was run by students in the form of an athletic council. Earl established the Lions track & field program in 1928, shortly after leading the University of Illinois freshman track team to an unbeaten record. In addition to all his athletic endeavors, Earl taught classes at TSC.

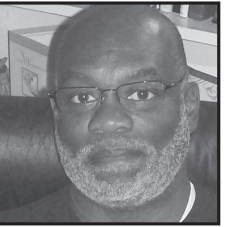
Dean’s contributions to Lions athletics were so great that they named the old grass football stadium after him. He was given the Robert Casciola Distinguished American Award by the Delaware Valley Chapter in 1982.

**GRIDIRON SOCIAL GROUP SCHOLARSHIPS**

**R. Stanley Harris**

A standout athlete at Hamilton High West and Trenton State College, Stanley Harris enjoyed a brief stint in professional football. He competed in football, gymnastics and track & field at TSC and was inducted into the school’s athletic hall of fame in 1983.

Harris joined the Army National Guard and, after an honorable discharge, was accepted into the FBI. Over a distinguished 30-year career he went from a Special Agent to a Section Chief. After retirement he served as Security Director for the New Brunswick school district.



**Joe Herzstein**

Joe Herzstein was Trenton State College’s first recipient of the distinguished Senior Men’s Varsity T after earning 11 varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball. Joe is a member of the TCNJ Athletic Hall of Fame and, during his 40-year career as a TCNJ professor, he was also an assistant football and gymnastics coach, and assistant athletic director.

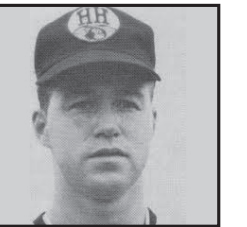
Joe was born and raised in Camden and relocated to Ewing, where he lived the final 42 years of his life. He earned a doctorate at Temple University and retired from TCNJ as a professor emeritus.



**Bill McEvoy**

Football players are known for their aggression, but Bill McEvoy earned praise for a certain sense of mellowness. A Trenton State College star receiver and defensive back from 1961-64, McEvoy was considered a stabilizing presence on and off the field thanks to his calming demeanor among teammates. Bill was a key force in the 1963 team’s seven-game winning streak, which was a school record at the time. McEvoy was one of six players from that team to be inducted in the TCNJ Hall of Fame.

Bill remained in the area and became a successful Hamilton West coach, guiding the Hornets to a 75-54-4 record. Hamilton won county titles in 1969 and 1972 with the latter team being the lone unbeaten squad in school history. McEvoy was a driving force behind the Mercer County 12th Man TD Club, and TCNJ’s football program awards the William J. McEvoy Award to the player who demonstrates leadership, dedication and care for his teammates.



**Jim Puhalski**

A natural athlete, Jim Puhalski was named Athlete of the Year at St. Anthony’s High School in Hamilton and played on the school’s 1975 state championship team. As a tight end for Trenton State, Jim was the team’s leading pass receiver during its 1980 conference championship season. He earned an invitation to the Cleveland Browns camp and played in the 1983 NFL Hall of Fame Game. He served on Eric Hamilton’s staff as an assistant coach.

Puhalski, whose twin brother Joe played basketball for the Lions, went into law enforcement work after college was with the New Jersey State Police in Sea Girt. He was a member of the NJSP detail that responded to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



**Robert Salois**

Robert Salois became the fifth head football coach at Trenton State College in 1957 and ushered in a new era of gridiron success at Hillwood Lakes. The Lions finished 5-2 for their best record in six years. They nearly quadrupled their scoring output from the previous season. During Salois’ 16-year career he was named Eastern Football Conference Coach of the Year after guiding TSC to a 5-2-1 record. He led the Lions to 7-1 campaigns in 1959 and 1963 and in 1978 the football program honored Robert with the first Honorary Alumni Football Award in appreciation for his service.

A 1953 University of New Hampshire graduate, Salois served as TSC’s head’s golf coach and baseball coach, and his 1968 golf team went 10-0-1, won the conference championship and finished third in the NAIA District Tournament. Salois produced countless all-conference football players and helped shape the future of the program.



**Roy Van Ness**

Roy Van Ness may have arguably had the biggest impact in the history of The College of New Jersey athletic program. “Van”, as he was known by coaches and players, was the first full-time athletic director in school history and retired in 1987 with a record unparalleled in the history of NCAA Division III athletics. During Van Ness’ final season, the Lions won three Division III national titles, giving them a nation-best 13 over the previous nine campaigns.

A Roebling native and Bordentown High graduate, Van Ness played football and basketball and competed in track at Trenton State College. He earned a Master’s Degree in Education from Columbia and a doctorate from Rutgers. He became Trenton State’s first full-time AD in 1964 and created a Division III powerhouse by hiring energetic young coaches such as DeVal chapter president Eric Hamilton. Van Ness was instrumental in upgrading the school’s athletic facilities, most notably its astroturf football stadium in 1984. Roy was an active member of the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame and was honored with its Amateurism Award.





**MAHMOUD ALI**  
LAWRENCE

Lawrence head coach Rob Radice couldn't have asked for a better leader than Mahmoud Ali.

Whether it was on the field, in the classroom, or in the community, Ali has made his influence felt as one of the most well-rounded student-athletes the veteran coach has seen.

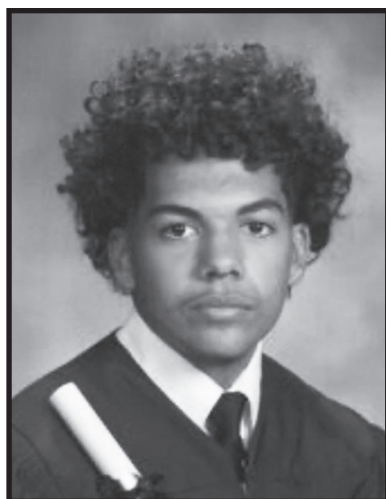
"(Mahmoud) is the type of person you love to coach and love to be associated with," Radice said. "He makes others around him work harder and is a true leader."

A two-way starter at defensive end and tight end, the long snapper on special teams, and a three-year starter, Ali never came off the field during Cardinals games. He's earned the opportunity to continue his academic and athletic career in the fall at Carnegie-Mellon University, one of the nation's premier academic schools.

An AP-level student who is among the best of the best at Lawrence, Ali has also spent time volunteering at a local mosque doing such things as summer camps and children's nights out. He mentors elementary school students by participating in Read Across America days and answering questions they have about middle or high school.

Mahmoud also works as a karate sensei, running classes as a lead instructor for students. He's an avid lifter who trains year-round to prepare and works with a private coach to improve his long-snapping techniques.

"Mahmoud is the type of person you love to coach," Radice said. "He ranks as one of the top student-athletes that I have ever had a chance to coach."



**CARLOS ALMONTE**  
NOTTINGHAM

Carlos Almonte may not measure out as the biggest or the fastest on Nottingham's roster, but head coach Milo McGuire has no doubt why Almonte will excel far beyond the football field.

"Carlos has the heart of a lion," McGuire said. "He has proven to be somewhat of an overachiever in our program. He'll never give up on any task. Carlos is an unselfish teammate and a high-character young person."

This becomes apparent when you look at Almonte's accomplishments. An Honor Roll student and three-time student of the month, Carlos's major community focus is in the school's Key Club chapter. In other words, giving back to others. Pure selflessness.

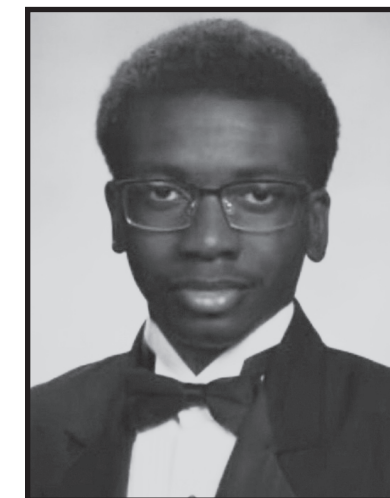
"Students in the Key Club have several community opportunities to help kids in the area for the holidays," McGuire said. "Carlos is a leader on our team and off the field as well. His work ethic and selflessness are the two things that impress me most about Carlos."

A three-year member of the football program at Nottingham, Carlos is indeed a fine student. After high school, he plans on joining the carpentry union and furthering his education within that trade.

To that regard, he has spent the last two years in a carpentry program through the Mercer County Technical Schools. He finished with an A in the first year of the program and impresses everyone there with his work ethic and desire to succeed.

"Carlos has been an integral part of the Nottingham community and will be sorely missed when he graduates," school counselor Carina Foushee said.

**BRANDON BALL**  
EWING



Brandon's return to the football field for his senior season turned into a welcome addition for Ewing head coach Ross Maddalon.

While he may have been lacking in game experience, Brandon more than made up for in what he brought to the gridiron every day.

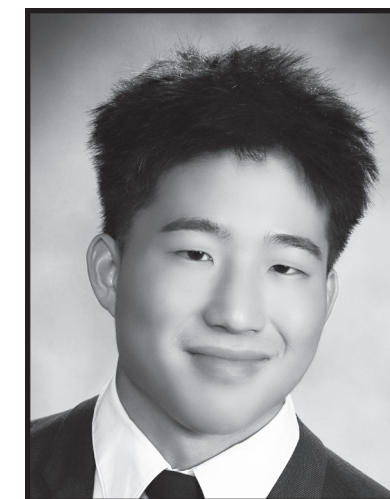
"He is a tremendously hard worker and his work ethic is coupled with an outstanding attitude," said Maddalon, who also taught Brandon in Principles of Marketing. "He earned high grades and his work ethic in the classroom is similar to his work ethic on the football field. He is committed to doing his very best in every venture. Brandon is a perfect example of what a student-athlete should be.

Ball is indeed a well-rounded student and a three-sport varsity athlete at Ewing High, including golf and wrestling. He's earned Academic Honor Roll throughout high school and has participated in piano lessons as well as Muy Thai and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu martial arts.

Brandon also participated in the school's Robotics Club and won an award in the Mighty Monkey Wrenches competition.

"Brandon was a valuable asset to our scout team offense and defense throughout the season," Maddalon said. "He came to practice every day ready to give his best effort to help the team be successful. It has been a pleasure getting to know Brandon (this year) and I believe he is highly deserving of this award."

**ERIC CHO**  
PEDDIE



Eric Cho was already a well-established wide receiver and safety when new head coach Mark Fabish asked him to make the adjustment to running back and middle linebacker for his senior season. Without hesitation or complaint, Cho embraced the challenge. Did it work out? Leading rusher, leading tackler. Let's check that box as a yes.

But beyond the statistics, it shows the type of player and captain that Cho was for the Falcons. "His selflessness and adaptability and team-first attitude ensured that our team could compete at the highest level, and his success in these new roles speaks volumes about his character and determination," Fabish said.

Those characteristics show up every day for Cho, who will continue his academic and athletic career at the prestigious University of Chicago. He's the student body Vice President and has his hand in so many organizations at the school's Hightstown campus – everything from the Gold Key Society to the Citizenship Committee to his own burgeoning sports photography page.

Somehow, Eric finds time to run his own 501(c)3 – First Sports Fund Inc. As founder and president he has raised over \$100,000 in sports equipment for organizations that need it. He's a school prefect, a teacher-nominated role designed to help new boarding students become part of the school's community and a National Strength & Conditioning All-American. "Above all," Fabish said, "Eric Cho is an exceptional person. His integrity, humility and dedication have left an indelible mark on our school and our football program. Eric is the type of student-athlete who elevates those around him and leaves an institution better than he found it."



**MILAN DESAI**  
HOPEWELL VALLEY

Those associated with the Hopewell Valley football program will remember Milan Desai for years to come. One of the all-time great Bulldogs – both on and off the field.

On it is the easy part to measure. Passing for nearly 2,000 yards, rushing for another 460, and accounting for 34 touchdowns in 2024, Desai was a standout QB and leader for a program that won playoff games in back-to-back seasons with an 18-4 record. Desai was the Mercer County Player of the Year and is an all-conference star in both basketball and lacrosse.

“Milan,” head coach Dave Caldwell said, “is a purpose driven student-athlete who always challenges himself in the classroom and on the playing fields.”

And in challenging himself, Milan keeps raising the bar. An Honors/AP level student who is also a classically trained pianist, Desai is part of the National Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the English Honor Society – and he’s earned a seal of biliteracy in Latin.

He’s the Student Council President, a peer tutor, a QB coach and mentor to elementary school students in Trenton, and a member of the Student Movement Against Cancer.

Milan is involved in helping those with special needs as part of the Unified Club, is a multi-time state FBLA qualifier, and attends a spiritual group every week to learn about the Hindu culture.

“Milan is a role model who balances academic rigor, athletic excellence, and service with grace and humility,” Caldwell said. “I am confident that Milan will continue to achieve greatness and inspire those around him at Johns Hopkins University.”



**RYAN EMIGHOLZ**  
ROBBINSVILLE

The seeds for Ryan Emigholz becoming an incredible senior leader were planted during his junior campaign in 2023. What truly makes that unique is that he didn’t play one down as the Ravens advanced to the state playoffs.

Emigholz was sidelined due to an injury that wiped out an entire season. But rather than sulk, Ryan went in the opposite direction for head coach Andrew Patterson – he went from reliable two-way lineman to incredible, trusted student assistant.

“Ryan ran our practice and game-day sideline; he learned the entire offense from a skill-position standpoint, he became our offensive signal caller and relayed every formation, play call, and scheme modification to our all-division senior QB,” Patterson said. Much to Patterson’s delight – Emigholz returned to the field for his senior year, did a tremendous job on the line once again – and maintained his role as mentor to the younger Ravens.

A true unsung hero, who is also a three-sport athlete at Robbinsville, Emigholz is active in numerous clubs and organizations at the school. A top student in the Class of 2025, Ryan is active in the community as well, volunteering with the New Jersey Hunger Project and leading the #WHATSMYNAME Foundation fundraiser at Robbinsville during his junior and senior years.

Patterson best encapsulated what Emigholz’s presence meant to the program after Ryan’s final game with the following excerpt.

“From freshmen to veteran starters to career backups, everyone with whom you have interacted during your time with us has learned how to be a better teammate and person because of you. Everything about you as a teammate exudes selflessness, care, and love.”

**JOHN FERMO**  
PENNINGTON



Focus. Determined. Energetic. No matter where he is, John (Jack) Fermo brings the energy.

“Jack approaches every aspect of his life with the same desire to excel and do the very best with his abilities and talents,” Pennington coach Mike Watkins said.

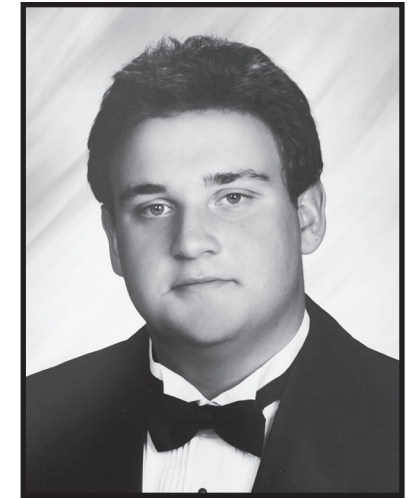
Watkins had a first-hand look at the awesome force of Fermo. The two-year starting offensive lineman who was also selected into the Pennington Peer Leader Program. The outstanding student with a full load of Advanced Placement courses who is active in several community initiatives for Homefront through the Pennington School, as well as a Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation student ambassador.

Jack isn’t just involved in the Pennington community – he’s involved in a much more global one. He has been a contributor to the Better Kitchen Sink project including a patent-pending design for a clean water filter. The project has helped to supply people in Malawi with a water filtration system for use in communities with limited access to clean water.

Simply put, Jack Fermo makes a difference. Wherever he goes. As a head counselor and Lifeguard for Pennington Summer camps or as one of the leaders of the Pennington student section. Whatever it is, Fermo only really knows one way – all in.

“Jack is a role model for any student athlete,” Watkins said. “I personally believe that he can make a difference in a positive manner no matter what he is involved with or doing. He is a quality individual, and his loyal personality makes him a role model to all of us in education and the coaching profession.”

**MICHAEL FOWLER**  
HIGHTSTOWN



Michael Fowler does it all. On the field and off.

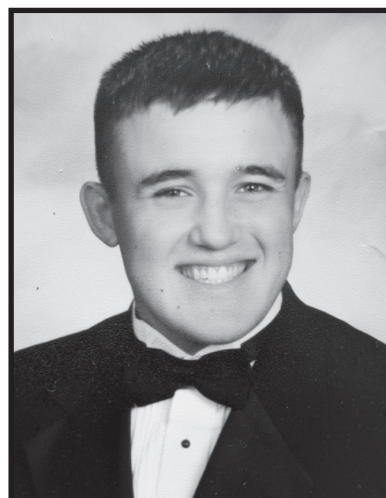
He was even known as a “jack of all trades” on the gridiron by the coaching staff. No doubt the reason would be his time at Hightstown included offensive and defensive line, fullback, punter, and kicker.

“What truly sets Michael apart,” Hightstown coach Ryan Fullen said, “is his unwavering commitment to the team. He consistently prioritized what was best for the program over personal accolades, embodying the essence of a true team player.”

But that’s just the tip of the iceberg for this multi-faceted Hightstown star. Highly interested in media/communication, Michael is a member of the Hightstown Video Club and an Honors Broadcasting student. He is a lead student ambassador at HHS and is co-founder of the school’s Triathlon Club.

A High Honor Roll student, Michael is community focused as well. Since 2019, he has volunteered for the Downtown Hightstown program as well as the Spring Lake Community Holiday Gift Drive. He and his family have raised thousands of dollars while participating in The Walk to End Alzheimer’s, a cause close to their hearts in honor of his grandfather. Fowler is a certified lifeguard, whose quick thinking saved the life of a youngster last summer.

“In every capacity – athlete, scholar, leader and community member – Michael Fowler has proven himself deserving of this nomination,” Fullen said. “His selflessness and dedication to our program set a standard that others on our team should strive to achieve.”



**AIDAN HEALY**  
NEW EGYPT

Aidan Healy is a rare breed – a three-year varsity captain – which is a role he has embraced with quiet determination and grown into with natural leadership.

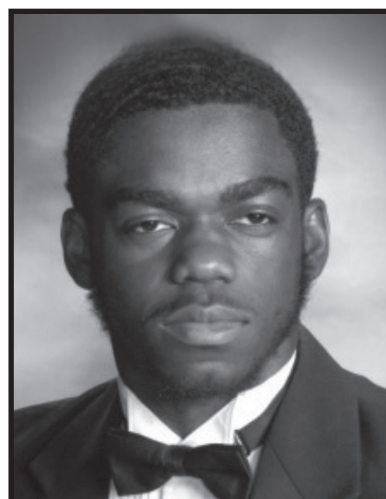
“His ability to inspire others through his actions and words is unparalleled,” said Steven Fence, the head coach at New Egypt.

For that to work, the actions must, in fact, equal the words, both in quality and in spirit. And it is there that Healy delivers. A National Honor Society member and former Class Vice President, Healy got it done on the field as both an undersized offensive lineman, and a ferocious linebacker. A first-team, all-division player and second team all-Ocean linebacker, Healy finished his senior campaign with 10 tackles for loss and an interception.

Aidan is also one of the top students in the New Egypt Class of 2025 and contributes to the school community through his involvement in various clubs and organizations.

“Aidan sets ambitious goals for himself and approaches challenges with creativity, determination, and resilience,” Fence said. “These qualities will undoubtedly contribute to his continued success in the future. While Aidan’s statistical achievements on the field are impressive, it is his coachability, humility, and character that sets him apart. Aidan leads by example and motivates his teammates to strive for excellence while maintaining integrity and selflessness.”

A member of the Fishing and Archery Clubs at New Egypt, Aidan has volunteered for numerous youth football camps. His athletic prowess isn’t limited to football though, as Healy is set to become a four-year varsity starter on the school’s baseball team.



**EDWARD HILL**  
TRENTON

A head coach like Chris Franco, himself a former Delaware Valley chapter Scholar-Leader-Athlete winner, truly understands and appreciates what Edward Hill means to a football program.

Not just the stats, although Hill, a two-year starter at fullback and linebacker for the Tornados, certainly had them. But the impact. The things that don’t show up in pure stats. That don’t show up in the box score.

“Edward could always be counted on to make sure the defense was aligned correctly and make any necessary changes on the field,” Franco said. “Ed was a very resilient, coachable player. He was a player that we could ask to do multiple things outside of what his position was and he would do it for the good of the team without hesitation. He was always present and ready to get to work in every aspect including workouts, conditioning, film, and practice. Through these traits and his commitment to the program, he earned the respect of the coaches and his teammates.”

A strong student with a number of Advanced Placement classes his senior year, Edward has been actively involved in community clean up events with the Trenton United Family Foundation, United Front, and the Trenton Youth Cleaners.

A member of the Black Student Union and volunteer with Special Olympics, Hill is also involved in the school yearbook club, the Senior class committee and the Senior prom committee at TCHS.

“As a person, Edward is quiet, very motivated, and humble,” Franco said. “He continues to work very diligently in the classroom and accomplish the goals he has set for himself.”

**HARRISON KERTES**  
BORDENTOWN



We welcome back Harrison Kertes as one of our chapter honorees tonight and we’re happy to see how he’s continued to do amazing things since he was named the chapter’s Little Scholar award winner four years ago.

Unlike the last time we honored Harrison – virtually, in March of 2021 during the COVID pandemic – this time we can give Kertes his appropriate due as part of the Scholar-Leader-Athlete dinner.

A captain and leader who always goes above and beyond for the team, Harrison willingly moved to wide receiver at the start of the season because that’s what Coach Skip Edwards needed him to do. Harrison’s hard work doesn’t stop on the football field. He’s a top-notch trumpet player who finished fourth in the state’s jazz band competition. A National Honor Society member who is active in the Bordentown community, Harrison is in the top 10 percent of his graduating class. “Players like Harrison make the program better,” Edwards said. “More so than just their role on the team.”

Kertes is part of a very close family – his brother Trotman is also a chapter Scholar-Leader-Athlete winner – and is very interested in business.

While he’s grown quite a bit since the last time we saw him here, there’s one thing that absolutely remains the same – Harrison is the owner and operator of HJK Sports Cards out of Bordentown. He and his father travel the state – and the East Coast – running a business selling sports cards and autographs.

Most telling about Harrison and who he is as a person – the most important priority for him is providing the highest level of customer service each day.

**BENJAMIN LAHLOU**  
LAWRENCEVILLE



Benjamin Lahlou is described by Lawrenceville head coach Napoleon Sykes as a “man built for others,” a servant leader who consistently made a positive impact on the school community.

“We felt his immediate impact right from the minute he stepped on campus,” Sykes said. “His leadership – both on and off the field – has played a crucial role in the team’s recent success.”

A three-year starter for the Big Red, those accolades held true as Lahlou earned first-team, all-Prep honors. Add in a pair of other sports – Ben is a two-year starter at heavyweight for the Lawrenceville wrestling team and a three-year stalwart in track and field – and you see that Lahlou’s influence on the school’s campus was at least as big as his own 6-foot-3, 285-pound frame.

“Ben exemplifies the qualities of a true leader and a high-achieving student-athlete, embodying the spirit of teamwork and making a profound impact on those around him.”

“Ben is the epitome of academic excellence and curiosity,” associate athletic director Kelly Wise said. “He carries a high GPA while carrying a tremendously challenging course load and being a force on the football field. What stands out most about Ben, however, is his constant effort to improve. Ben is a curious soul who is consistently in search of betterment for both himself and those around him. This is a student who has the character to embrace challenges for the sake of being challenged and finding ways to improve his own capacity and it is truly impressive.”





**CHRISTIAN MACALUSO**  
ALLENTOWN

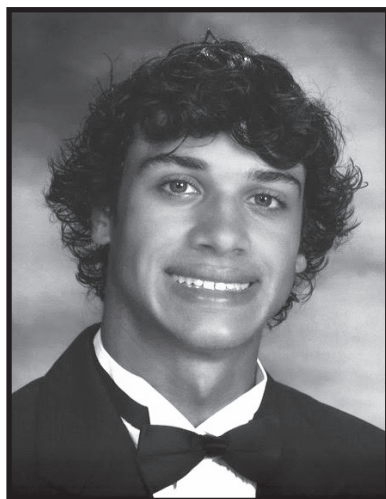
If you believe that the strength of a football team is determined by its strength in the trenches, then you already know that stalwarts like Christian Macaluso led Allentown to a playoff campaign in 2024.

A two-way starter for the Redbirds up front Macaluso led head coach Andrew Lachenmayer’s team to a spot in the state Group 3 playoffs, where Allentown dropped a tough back-and-forth contest to perennial power Ocean City.

During his career, Andrew received first-team, all-division honors on both sides of the football. “Whether leading the team to victory with a decisive play or motivating his teammates during challenging moments,” Lachenmayer said, “Christian’s passion for the sport and his dedication to the team are evident in every game and practice.” That passion transcends the gridiron into Christian’s everyday life. His teachers frequently praise his work ethic, intellectual curiosity, and willingness to assist his peers. He embodies the values of integrity, perseverance, and humility.

“Whether volunteering in community service projects, mentoring younger players, or supporting his classmates, Christian leads by example,” Lachenmayer explained. Christian started the Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter at Allentown, serving as student leader. He’s a National Honor Society Member and President of the Italian Honor Society chapter at AHS. He has taken mission trips to Maine and Guatemala, is on the planning team for the Allentown Presbyterian Church, and a member of the Math Honors Society.

In college, Macaluso intends to earn his Psy.D to become a licensed psychologist and double major in Business Administration, so that he can open up his own practice and help others.



**WYATT MOORE**  
NOTRE DAME

A leader in all areas at Notre Dame and in the local community, Wyatt Moore sets an example for those who follow him at the Lawrenceville campus.

“Wyatt Moore,” said ND football coach Sean Clancy, “is a committed and kind young person who is savagely competitive.”

And that’s competitive in everything he does. On the football field, as a wide receiver, 76 catches and 15 touchdown receptions in 11 games. He led his conference in catches, receiving yards, and touchdowns as a sophomore and a senior – only a broken leg midway through his junior year kept Wyatt from completing the hat track. He’s a starting guard on the school’s basketball team and played varsity baseball as a sophomore for ND’s baseball team. Wyatt has also qualified for the Penn Relays in Track and Field.

In the classroom, Wyatt is a three-year National Honor Society member, who has won school academic awards in English, Accounting, and Calculus, and has a schedule full of AP level classes. Per Clancy, teachers enjoy his love of learning and his total commitment to academics.

Notre Dame has a renowned Community Service program, and it’s no surprise that Wyatt is at the forefront. He’s a leader in the school’s Catholic Athletes for Christ program, which boasts 350 students and has raised \$100,000 for Special Olympics while Wyatt has been on the leadership council.

“Wyatt is a leader in our school and in the broader community,” Clancy said. “I see him maturing and growing daily into an outstanding leader.”



**ISIAH N’DIAYE**  
BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP

Senior leadership like that from Isiah N’Diaye made head coach Stephen Everette’s first season at the helm of the Burlington Township football program a successful one. The Falcons returned to the state playoffs after a rare down year, finishing 8-2 and re-emerging as a Burlington County power.

N’Diaye was a big part of the resurgence as a two-year varsity starter at cornerback and safety. “His ability to read the game, make quick decisions, and execute plays made him an indispensable part of the team,” assistant coach Duane Martin said. “His agility, strength, and determination set him apart, while his work ethic at all times inspired his teammates to push harder.”

No surprise coming from N’Diaye, also a captain of the school’s highly successful basketball team. Isiah also helps coach youth teams in both sports, giving back to the community.

“Isiah is a self-motivator, and you can see the respect given to him by his peers and fellow teammates,” said assistant coach Lacey Walker Jr., who is also the school’s head basketball coach. “Isiah comes from a great family and goes out of his way to help others in need. It isn’t just all sports with Isiah. He’s very intellectual and has a solid understanding and opinion on things outside of sports. It’s refreshing to see.”

N’Diaye was also selected to represent the school as a Scholar-Athlete for football at the Touchdown Club of Southern New Jersey.

“What truly sets Isiah apart is his unwavering character,” Martin said. “He is humble in victory, gracious in defeat, and consistently exemplifies sportsmanship and teamwork.”

**CONOR SATTIRAJU**  
WW-P



Conor Sattiraju won’t be easy for West Windsor-Plainsboro head coach Bill Furlong to replace next year. Not with one person at least.

You’d need to find a star quarterback, a top tackler, AND a coach on the field to do it. Not to mention the experience that comes with being a four-year starter in the WJFL.

On top of that, you’d need to find one of the top students in his class who works constantly on the mental part of his game and understand things so well that his coach considers him a “coach on the field.” Good luck.

Sattiraju played a major role in lifting WWP to the playoffs in 2023 and accumulated over 4,000 yards of total offense during his days on the HS gridiron. He also finished among the area leaders with 90 tackles.

For that he earned the team’s MVP Award. He also won the MVT – Most Valuable Teammate – as well.

“As a leader, I watched him grow from a quiet kid who did everything he was asked and led by example into a strong vocal leader as well. But with all of his accolades and leadership qualities, what stood out most to me was his coachability.”

A four-year starter for the WWP North baseball team, Conor serves as a junior firefighter in the community and lifeguard in the summer. He is a National Honor Society member, part of the WWP North Business Club, and participates in the South Asian American Student Association. He also volunteers with the WWP Uknighted Partnership, teaming with special needs classmates in an intramural basketball league.



**JACOB SMITH**  
HAMILTON

Wherever Jacob Smith has gone, he’s been an impact player. Or impact student. Or just an impact dude. Clearly he’s someone who has left his mark at Hamilton High School.

“Any coach would dream of having a team full of players like Jacob,” Hamilton coach Mike Papero said. “He’s a leader among teammates and classmates on the gridiron and in the classroom. He is someone who dedicated himself to his team and always had the best of the program in mind, willing to work year-round to make himself the best he could be.”

A three-year varsity starter on the offensive line and 2024 Team Captain, Smith was named the team’s Impact Player of the Year in 2023 and has been a prior weekly award winner for the 12th Man TD Club.

One of the top students in the Class of 2025, Jacob is a four-year honor roll member who has excelled at the school. He volunteers at an elementary school level aftercare program as well as the middle school athletics program.

In addition to football, Smith is an outstanding baseball player. He’s been a catcher with the varsity team for two seasons.

“There is not a teacher, administrator, or student in this school who has ever voiced anything but positive comments about him,” Papero said. “I can attest to his commitment to excellence. Over the past four years, I have watched a fine young man emerge as a student-athlete who is committed to hard work and the pursuit of excellence.”



**ROBERT SOBON**  
FLORENCE

Robert Sobon might be better known for his exploits on the baseball diamond, but the Florence senior made his presence known in his one year on the gridiron as well.

An outside linebacker and running back for the Flashes, Sobon was a steady tackler, including three TFLs and a fumble recovery.

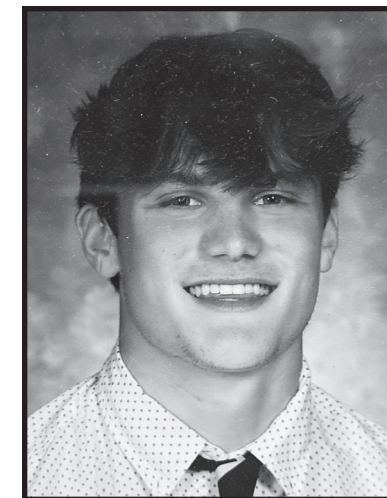
“RJ epitomizes the characteristics we look for in our student athletes,” said Florence coach Joe Frappolli Jr., who took over as head coach following the retirement of his father, Joe Sr., who stepped down after a legendary 50-year career with the Flashes at the end of the 2023 season. “He has demonstrated hard work, sacrifice, attention to detail, respect for others, dependability, perseverance, and sincerity on and off the field.”

A member of the National Honor Society, Robert has earned High Honors every marking period he’s been in high school. He volunteers at the Florence Youth Football camp, he’s an active member of the Holy Assumption Catholic Church, and he volunteers for the St. Francis Carnival in Long Beach Island.

RJ has received greater notoriety on the baseball diamond and this spring will become a four-year varsity player, his third season as a starter in the outfield. Sobon was second-team, all-division as a sophomore, and earned first-team honors in 2024.

“(Robert) is continuously friendly, outgoing, and personable,” Frappolli said. “He just loves to compete. I am proud to be able to write RJ a recommendation for the Delaware Valley Scholar-Athlete Award.”

**LIAM THORPE**  
HUN



Liam Thorpe is in a class of his own – on and off the field.

Thorpe will graduate as the all-time leading receiver for a program that has become, under head coach Todd Smith – the top prep school program in the nation. He averaged nearly 130 yards per game receiving in 2024 as Hun went 9-1 against a national level schedule.

And off the field? Thorpe was a model student and community member, receiving offers from all eight Ivy League schools, before announcing his commitment to attend Stanford University.

“Liam’s toughness, work ethic, and determination have been invaluable to our program” Smith said. “His positive attitude, respect for others, and willingness to serve have left a lasting impact on our program and our community.”

On the field, Thorpe has starred for Hun as not just a wide receiver, but also as a running back, linebacker, safety, kicker, and punter. He is a four-time, first-team, all-league selection on offense and three-time choice on defense.

A 4.0 student throughout his years at Hun, Liam is a volunteer camp counselor, and part of the school’s Spanish and Spikeball club, and an outstanding pianist and trumpet player. He has played in both the school’s band and the school’s percussion band.

“Liam is a truly deserving candidate for the Delaware Valley Football Chapter Scholar Leader Athlete award,” Smith said. “Liam is respected by his peers and teachers alike for his integrity, humility, and willingness to support those around him.”

**JONATHAN WEAVER**  
STEINERT



Jon Weaver shows that the best leadership comes from actions more than words.

“He is consistently looking out for the greater good of the people around him,” Steinert football coach Thaddeus Richards said. “Jon practices a servant leadership style and continues to show his passion for cultivating good people through his continued involvement with our program. I take great pride in being able to say I was able to watch Jon grow in his time here and am immensely impressed with the person he’s become.”

A first-team, all-conference tight end, Weaver was a two-year captain for Richards and the Spartans. Not only one of the top players in Mercer County, Weaver was also involved with guiding younger players into the Steinert culture and making them feel a larger part of the Spartans program.

“(Jon) showed patience and passion in his leadership role and thrived constantly,” Richards said. “I am confident when I say he has left not only our football program but also our school in a much better place.”

A strong student with a rigorous course load, Weaver also serves the community – literally by serving others. Through Trinity Methodist Church, Jon helps to provide meals for local families in need. He also works with the Steinert basketball program to help the special needs program at the local YMCA, teaching and coaching young athletes, and guiding them on the basics of the sport.

“No matter the situation,” Richards said, “you can never question the amount of work and the quality of work that Jon is willing to do.”



**SEAN WILTON**  
PRINCETON

Sean Wilton is best described by Princeton High football coach Charles Gallagher as “a one percenter.” In other words, the best of the best.

“Whether athletically, academically, emotionally, or socially,” Gallagher said, “(Sean) is a role model, a motivator, a confidant, a team leader, and the most well balanced even-keel young man we have had come through our hallways here at Princeton High School in a very long time.”

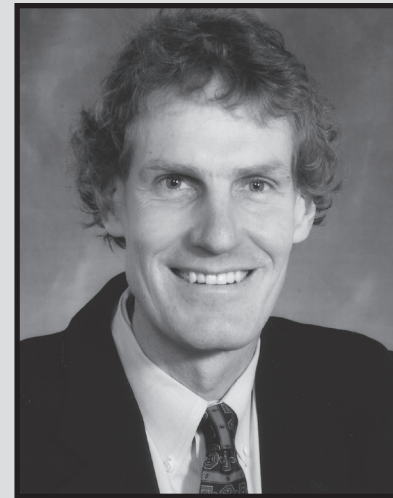
An all-division first-team offensive lineman, Sean excelled not just on the field, but also in building bonds with his teammates before and after practice.

Wilton was a fantastic leader and player for Princeton High. But he has reached a whole different level in Track and Field – Sean won the 2023 Group 4 state championship in the shot put and is headed to Brown University to compete on the track team.

A talented musician, who has played trumpet for nine years, Sean is not only part of the school’s award-winning jazz ensemble, but he also toured with the band to Hawaii and helped fund the creation of a music program at a Hawaiian elementary school.

A member of the National French Honors Society and the school’s Latinos Unidos club, Sean has served a volunteer for the Princeton Mobile Food Pantry, as he maintains an active role in the community.

“Sean’s work ethic and desire to help the team win at any cost drove him to be an outstanding player,” Gallagher said. “He was not in it for the accolades. Sean knew that trying to be the best version of himself would help the team achieve its goals.”



NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION LEGACY AWARD  
**JON BUTLER**

Jon Butler, who led the Pop Warner Little Scholars for the past 33 years, recently retired from his role as Executive Director after making a huge impact on the organizaion.

Founded in 1929 and headquartered in Langhorne, Pa., Pop Warner Little Scholars is the nation’s oldest youth football, cheerleading and dance organization and the only youth sports organization that emphasizes academics as a prerequisite for participation.

Butler's accomplishments included overseeing expansion of the Pop Warner Super Bowl program in Orlando Fla., where regional winners from five different age and weight divisions meet each year to compete for a national title. He enhanced the highly competitive PWLS cheer and dance program with squads from all over the country competing for national championship titles in multiple age groups.

The All-American Little Scholar program grew to recognize youth academic standouts from around the country under Butler’s leadership. He was also a high school football assistant for six years and a long-time member of the American Football Coaches Association.

Jon warmed up for his Pop Warner career by serving as president of Rae Crowther for eight years. Rae Crowther is the leading manufacturer of football blocking sleds and field equipment, and his experience there helped give Butler a background in football and business.

Butler was honored with the National Football Foundation Legacy award at the National Football Foundation & College College Hall of Fame national dinner this past December.

**CHASE GALLAGHER**  
DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER LITTLE SCHOLAR

Chase Gallagher might want to use DJ Khaled as the soundtrack to his young life. All he does is win, win, win on the football field, in the classroom and as a person. An 8th-grader at Princeton Middle School, Chase has enjoyed success in most everything he tries, and is a model citizen at his school.

He is also the second straight Gallagher being recognized by the Delaware Valley Chapter, as his dad, Charlie, was presented the Hank Johns Coaches Award for his efforts at Princeton High last year.

Chase played five seasons with the Lawrence Cardinals in the West Jersey Youth Football League. As a wide receiver and free safety, he helped the Cardinals to the West Jersey Youth Football League championship his sixth-grade season. After moving to the Hopewell Bulldogs in eighth grade, Gallagher brought his winning touch with him as Hopewell reached the WJYFL finals before finishing second.

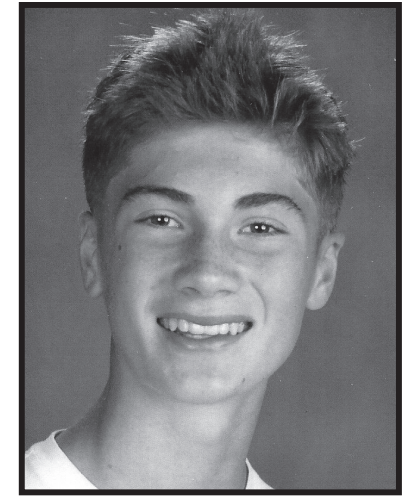
Football is not the only sport that defines Chase. He is also a starting center-midfielder for Princeton Middle School, Lawrence Recreation and nationally ranked Blue Star lacrosse teams. During the winter, Gallagher brings his skills indoors playing basketball for PMS and rec basketball in Lawrence.

Chase also wins in the classroom. He is a consistent honor roll student and is “Exceeding Expectations” on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments. By Exceeding Expectations, Gallagher is achieving the highest performance level on the test and has demonstrated abilities significantly above the standard expectations for his grade level.

In a nod to his popularity, Chase was invited to be an ambassador for the PMS graduation as a rising eighth-grader. He already has a career goal and aspires to be a veterinarian.

Gallagher’s love of fellow students equals his love of animals. Chase is an UPstander at the middle school and will support a classmate or cause and intervene when he sees someone being bullied.

Chase will take his academic, athletic and people skills to Princeton High next year, where he plans to play football for his dad. And keep trying to win, win, win!



EARL H. DEAN SCHOLAR • LEADER • ATHLETE

**JACK CENTRELLI • THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**



Jack Centrelli has two lifetime loves. Football and science.

The College of New Jersey was the perfect place for Jack to pursue both passions and he has done it with zeal. So much zeal, in fact, that Centrelli is the Earl H. Dean Award winner as TCNJ's Scholar-Leader Athlete.

A product of St. Joe's of Montvale's powerhouse program, the Mahwah native was a four-year guard for the Green Knights and lists two of the highlights of his career as traveling to California for the Honor Bowl and winning a state championship as a sophomore.

"Football has given me unforgettable memories, lifelong friendships and a mindset that has carried over into every aspect of my life," Centrelli said. "Football has been a defining part of my life since I first put on pads at five years old."

Jack was coached by his dad throughout his youth career, and he learned valuable life lessons early on, that success is due to hard work, discipline and resilience. Jack's dad taught him how to win with humility and lose with grace, which were, "lessons that have shaped me far beyond the game itself."

Upon arriving at TCNJ, Jack played in eight games as a freshman before starting every game at center as a sophomore and becoming a young mainstay on the Lions offensive line. He started seven games at right guard as a sophomore before his season was ended by injury. But his impact was still felt as he helped the Lions lead the New Jersey Athletic Conference in total offense and passing offense. TCNJ allowed just nine sacks that year.

Centrelli raised his level of play even further as a senior, earning second-team All-NJAC honors. He was also named to the NJAC All-Academic team as a sophomore and junior (this year's team has not been announced).

With his football career completed, Centrelli wants to use the same drive he had for football to pursue scientific research.

"When choosing a college I wanted a place where I could excel academically while continuing to play the sport I love," Jack said. "TCNJ became that perfect fit, not just as a school, but as a second home. The program and coaching staff, especially coach (Eric) Jendryaszek, provided an environment that allowed me to grow both as a player and a scholar."



JUDGE ARTHUR LANE SCHOLAR • LEADER • ATHLETE

**TOMMY MATHESON • PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**



Born and raised in the Chicago Suburb of Gurnee, Ill., Tommy Matheson brought a Midwest toughness with him to Princeton University's football team, but also brought along an Ivy League mind.

Tommy is this year's Judge Arthur Lane recipient as Princeton's Scholar-Leader-Athlete after earning All-Ivy honors at guard as a junior and senior, while also earning CSC Academic All-District in 2024 for maintaining a 3.5 grade point average as an Operations Research and Financial Engineering Major.

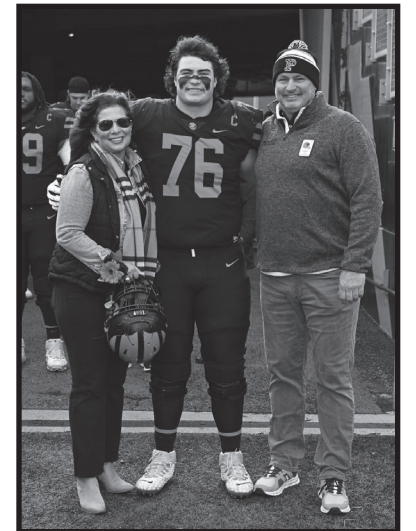
Matheson was a two-year letterman for the Warren Township High School football team, earning All-State honors. He was also a three-year letterman on the lacrosse team and was a US Lacrosse Academic All-American. Tommy earned an Athletic Booster Scholarship after being named Warren's Athlete of the Year. He was one of just 13 male athletes in Illinois to earn IHSA Academic All-State honors, and was a four-time Academic All-Conference player.

Upon arriving at Princeton, Tommy saw his first significant varsity play as a center in 10 games as a sophomore. The following season he became entrenched as a starting left guard and was one of the Tigers most productive players.

When he wasn't on the field or in the classroom, Tommy and teammates Matthew Mahoney and Collin Taylor helped lead the Uplifting Athletes Chapter for Princeton. The UAC is a national organization for which college athletes can use their campus positions to raise money for rare disease research as well as provide unique experiences for local residents struggling with rare disease. The Tigers trio raised over \$25,000 for rare disease research in 2-½ years of fundraising.

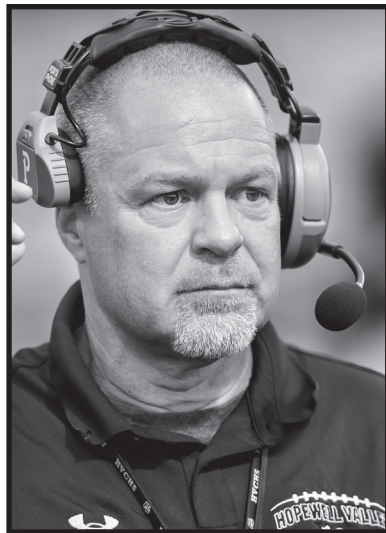
Tommy also serves as House Manager at the Cannon Dial Elm Club, a Princeton eating club. He is responsible for organizing meals and the upkeep of the historic building.

Matheson's career is not yet over as he will play a fifth year of football at Boston College in hopes of pursuing an NFL career. From there he wants to land a job in the finance industry or to get a job in the player scouting and operations side of an NFL team with the ultimate goal of being a general manager.



HANK JOHNS COACHES AWARD

**DAVE CALDWELL • HOPEWELL VALLEY**



When football returned to Hopewell Valley Central High School in 2002, Dave Caldwell was tasked with building the sport from scratch in a soccer hotbed.

Over the past 23 years he has done just that, and the Bulldogs produced one of their greatest seasons to date in 2024 by enjoying an undefeated season and finishing 10-1 to tie a school record for victories. Caldwell never wavered in his commitment to the program, learned more about his craft and has gained a wealth of knowledge that has produced winning football.

For that Dave is this year's co-recipient of the Hank Johns Coaches Award along with Hun's Todd Smith. It is the third such honor for Dave, who also won it in 2013 and 2008. As usual, Caldwell deflected the credit to his players, coaches and others.

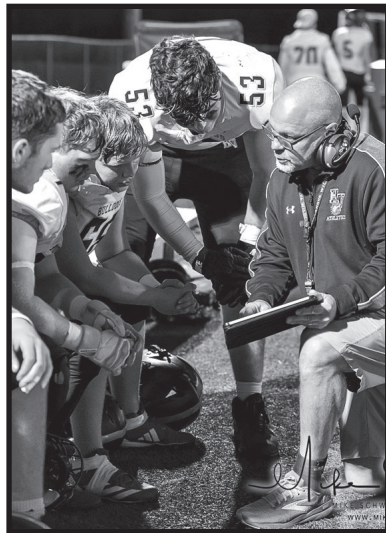
"We had some amazing support from youth parents that wanted football to be strong in this community," he told the Hopewell Express monthly paper. "With their support and the administration's support, we could see there were going to be some very, very good years for Hopewell Valley."

A product of New York's Hudson Valley, Caldwell played football and basketball at Rome Free Academy, and was a linebacker and punter for Marist College. After starting his career in Hawaii, Dave left paradise to take a Special Education teaching job at Montgomery Middle School. He served as an assistant freshman football coach at the high school.

Caldwell moved to HVCHS as a special ed teacher in 2002 and arrived just in time to take over the fledgling football program. After two years of freshman/JV play the Bulldogs became a varsity program in 2004. With Smith as one of his assistants, he guided Hopewell to the 2013 NJSIAA Central Jersey Group III state title.

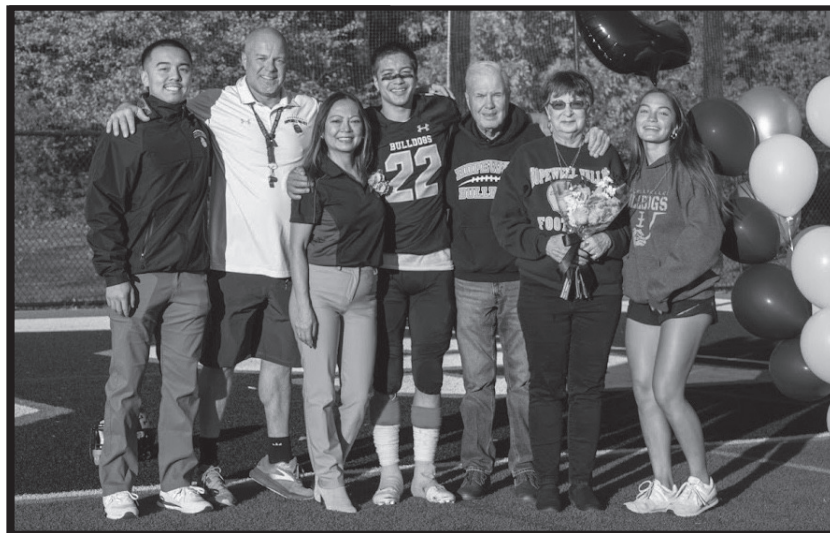
It has taken time, but Dave has turned the Bulldogs into a consistent winning program. Over the past four seasons they went 28-4 with two undefeated regular seasons, scored a program record 426 points last season and outscored opponents by an average of 38-13. Hopewell produced nine All-Division players in 2024.

Since 2013 Hopewell's record is 74-43 (.632 winning percentage) with nine winning seasons, seven playoff appearances, a sectional crown and a berth in the South Jersey Group III title game.



A supporter of youth football, Dave coached in the Hopewell Valley Youth Football and Cheer organization from 2006-21 and is still a board member. He is an executive member of the Phil Simms NJ North-South All-Star game and has been voted into the Rome, NY Sports Hall of Fame.

Dave and his wife Lourdes have three sons – Chris, Mike and Luke – and a daughter Danielle. Chris was a 2016 DeVal Chapter Scholar-Leader-Athlete recipient and graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Mike is a capital investment accountant, Luke is an HVCHS senior and one of the school's greatest all-around athletes, and Danielle is an All-Prep lacrosse player at the Lawrenceville School.



HANK JOHNS COACHES AWARD

**TODD SMITH • HUN**



Todd Smith's 63-22 record from 2005-12 at West Windsor-Plainsboro South looks pretty impressive.

Until you compare it to his 83-10 record since 2014 at the Hun School in Princeton.

Todd has produced some of the greatest talent that Mercer County has ever seen over his years with the Raiders, including 129 college recruits and two NFL players in Caedan Wallace and Ryan Vandemark.

The 2024 season was the most impressive one yet recorded by Smith, which helped make him this year's co-recipient of the Hank Johns Coaches Award along with Hopewell's Dave Caldwell.

This past autumn, Hun played the season as an independent team and went 9-1 against a national caliber schedule. The Raiders defeated such powerhouses as Chicago's Mount Carmel, Georgia's Rabun Gap and Connecticut's St. Thomas More.

Hun scored the most points in school history behind record-setting quarterback Jack Moran, who set New Jersey marks for single-season passing yards (4,513) and single-game passing yards (608), and tied the record for touchdowns in a season (47). The roster included 19 college recruits, including 17 going to Division I schools. Hun finished ranked No. 1 among U.S. Independent Schools by MaxPreps and USA Football.

Much like his Hank Johns co-recipient, Smith shared his glory with others saying at the George Wah dinner media day, "It's more a staff award than an individual award."

It's fitting that Smith and Caldwell share the award as Todd was an assistant on Dave's 2013 NJSIAA Central Jersey championship squad. "It was one of the most fulfilling coaching years of my life," Smith said at media day.

Smith played football for Hunterdon Central and was a three-year starting offensive lineman at The College Of New Jersey.

During his time at WW-P South the Pirates made seven playoff appearances, reached the CJ IV finals one time, won five division and conference championships and sent 30 players to play at the next level. Smith coached NJ Gatorade Player of Year JB Fitzgerald, Mercer County's all-time leading rusher in Brian Schoenauer, and had two DeVal Scholar-Athlete major scholarship winners in Ryan Lupo and Chris Evans.

At Hun, Todd's teams have won eight Mid-Atlantic Championships and New Jersey Prep A Championships and two Northeast Prep School crowns. The Raiders have enjoyed four undefeated seasons and had a 29-game winning streak from 2014-17.

Smith's combined record at WW-PS and Hun is 146-32, a staggering .820 winning percentage.

Hun has established such a strong national reputation that powerhouse IMG Academy in Florida has agreed to a home-and-home series with the Raiders, starting in 2025 with a game in Princeton.

Smith lives in Lawrence with his wife Jennifer, their son Grayson and daughter Sona.



JOHN MCKENNA ASSISTANT COACHES AWARD  
**RICH MCGLYNN • BORDENTOWN**



As the defensive coordinator for Bordentown High School, Rich McGlynn is everything a head coach could want in an assistant. Just ask Scotties head man Skip Edwards, who was good friends with John McKenna and understands the traits someone should have to win this award. “There are so many little things Rich does for the good of the program,” Edwards said. “He is all about making every player he comes in contact with better. No matter who they are and what their level is.”

McGlynn has over 30 years of coaching experience. A three-year letterman at John F. Kennedy High School in Iselin, Rich graduated from Kean University and his passion for football led him into coaching. He began at his alma mater, then went on to Sayreville, Ridge and Highland Park. As defensive coordinator at Ridge he helped the Red Devils to five straight playoff appearances and a 2003 state title. At Highland Park he went from defensive coordinator to head coach and in his 11 years, the Owls made seven playoff appearances, won five division titles and reached the 2009 state finals. Rich was Division Coach of the Year three times.

In 2020, Rich arrived at Bordentown and now assists Edwards with team management, scouting and practice plans. He specializes in Zoom meetings and sets up the daily meetings during the season. When players come on Zoom, they must show their defensive scout sheet set up by McGlynn. The coach will also test players during those meetings to make certain they know their assignments. He also keeps impeccable stat sheets for each player and helps them make highlight tapes.

In Rich’s five years, the Scotties have forged 10 shutouts and allowed just one score in seven other games. Bordentown yielded an average of just 10.2 points per game last fall. McGlynn is also the punt return coach and Bordentown has brought 12 punts back for touchdowns in five years.

Always active beyond his high school, McGlynn has been on the Executive Committee for the Phil Simms North-South All Star Football Classic for 20 years and has coached in the games several times. He was inducted into the New Jersey Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2023.

Over the years nearly 50 of Rich’s pupils played various levels of college football and while at Bordentown, 17 of his players have earned All-Division honors. “I consider Rich to be our assistant head coach,” Edwards said. “He has a commitment to make society a better place for everyone.”

Rich lives in Bordentown with wife Merritt and daughters Charlotte, a BRHS cheerleader, and Caitlyn, an avid soccer and basketball player.



JACK MILLARD OFFICIALS AWARD  
**DONALD ELLISON**



Donnie Ellison has been a Mercer County staple since high school and is still making an impact on the local sports scene as one of the area’s rising football officials.

Ellison has been a certified New Jersey High School Football Official for nine years, working West Jersey Football League games and serving on a 2023 state championship game crew at Rutgers in 2023. He is also still involved in the game he gained fame in, working as a Moody Park Summer Basketball League co-commissioner with Mark Smith in the summers.

Donnie has gained a reputation as a fair and hard-working football official who has improved steadily over the past decade. Before and after the games he can always be seen smiling coming off the field. “I have more fun with Donnie reffing football than anyone,” said Tom Carr, a former Jack Millard award winner. “We have a million laughs, and we make fun of (crew chief) Troy Stevenson. Donnie is a really good ref, and he just started football. I always loved working basketball with him too. He’s always in control and takes no guff.”

Born in Princeton and raised in Trenton, Donnie helped McCorristin High School’s basketball teams to state titles in 1981-82, and he aided Trenton High in a trip to the state finals as a senior. He continued his career at Stockton University and went to the NCAA Division III Final Four title game in 1987. Ellison left Stockton as its all-time leading scorer and rebounder. He was inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame and is also a member of the Mercer County CYO Hall of Fame.

Professionally, Ellison was a state investigator for the NJ Division of Gaming Enforcement and served as a detective for the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office. He was the office’s State PBA delegate, co-chairman of the Mercer County Conference of PBAs and is a Silver Life Card Member of the NJ State Conference of PBAs.

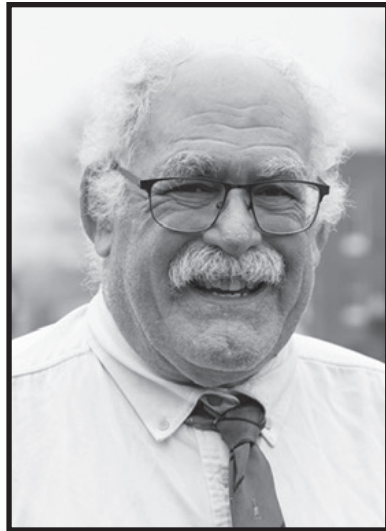
He retired in 2011 after serving as a Mercer County Undersheriff, for which he supervised 150 officers in criminal, civil and K-9 Units.

Long before he became a football official, Donnie refereed basketball. He has been a Certified NJ State Basketball Official with IAABO Board 193 for 38 years and an Executive Board member. He works both boys and girls games and officiated in Trenton’s Prime Time Shootout when players like LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony and Karl-Anthony Towns played at the Cure Arena.

A member of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Trenton, Donnie has served on the trustee ministry there and when it comes to his accomplishments, he says “I give all praise and honor to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whom I serve.”



NICK GUSZ GOOD GUY AWARD  
**BLAIR THOMPSON**



Head coaches have come and gone at The Pennington School, and the one constant who remains after nearly five decades is assistant coach Blair Thompson. Which is a true positive, as he is the kind of guy football needs. Just looking at Blair it's obvious he's a good guy in the image of Nick Gusz.

The Red Hawks aid is always smiling and just happy to be helping young players improve. In a sport with as much pressure as there is in high school, it's always nice to have someone to keep things light and friendly. Thompson has done all that while still doling out his football knowledge working under four head coaches over the past 45 years.

"While I continue to see myself as an English teacher who coaches football, rather than the other way around, many of my greatest joys and best memories have come out of working with the players on the field and reminiscing with them when they return," Blair said. "Pennington has a football tradition unlike any other school and I hope to be a part of it as long as I can or they let me."

A Mercer County guy through and through, Blair began playing in Princeton's Midget Football League at eight 8. He fondly remembers being taught his three-point stance by Princeton University legend Cosmo Iacavazzi. He went on to play at Princeton High for Dick Wood and Jim Beachell, "cementing my love for the game."

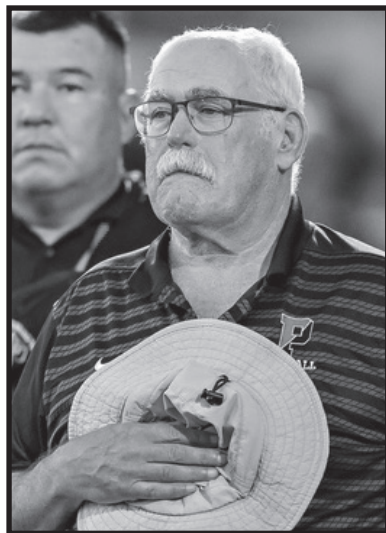
After one year playing for Colgate University's freshman team, Blair opted for academics and was hired by Pennington in 1980 as a teacher, football and wrestling coach and Hall Parent. He has served as an assistant ever since working under Bill Long, Frank Francisco, Jerry Eure and Mike Watkins.

"I have seen what it takes to run a successful program and I am proud to have been a part of the Pennington football tradition," Blair said.

One of Thompson's main duties has been representing Pennington at the 12th Man TD Club dinners. He was a perfect fit for the job as his affable personality always plays well with the crowd.

"(Former Lawrenceville coach) Ken Keuffel made me realize early on that we were not just coaches when we got up to speak," he said. "We were educators, and there was no reason we couldn't be both when we spoke."

Blair and his wife Holly, an AP economics teacher who he met at Pennington, live on the Pennington campus. They have a son, William, currently attending the University of Miami.



TONY PERSICHELLI MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD  
**GREG JOHNSON**



As a Lawrence High graduate, Greg Johnson grew up enjoying and embracing the local sports coverage provided daily by two Trenton newspapers. When he got the opportunity to provide such coverage himself, Greg has made the most of it and Mercer County football is better for it.

Much like his predecessor, the late, great George O'Gorman, Johnson has done an outstanding job as the Trentonian's local high school beat writer, as well as the New York Giants beat man. And much like the guy who his award is named after, Greg provides admirable service to the county gridiron scene.

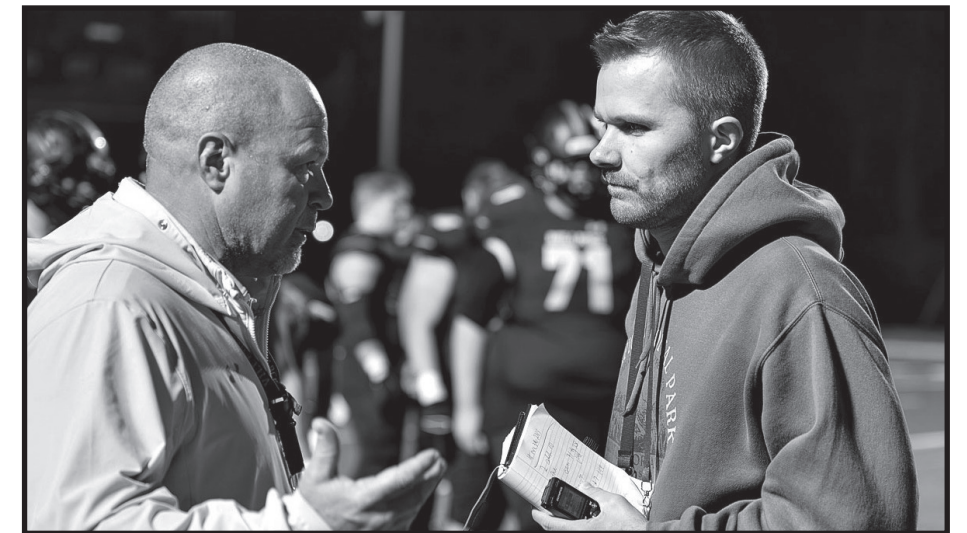
After two years of playing baseball for Lawrence, Greg realized he was better suited for a career in writing about sports rather than participating. He knew about the rabid local following of high school sports and would pour through the newspaper accounts each morning.

At Rutgers University, Greg worked for the school's newspaper, the Daily Targum, covering various Scarlet Knight teams and serving as sports editor in 2014-15. He got valuable experience for his future by covering Rutgers football and men's basketball during the programs' first year as Big Ten Conference members. His work was respected to the point that the New Jersey Press Association awarded him second place for sports writing at four-year colleges.

In 2014, Greg served as a Trentonian intern and the following year became a full-time staff member. In addition to his football beats, Greg covers high school basketball and lacrosse, as well as the New York Yankees minor league affiliate Somerset Patriots and the independent Trenton Thunder. He has been a Heisman Trophy voter since 2015.

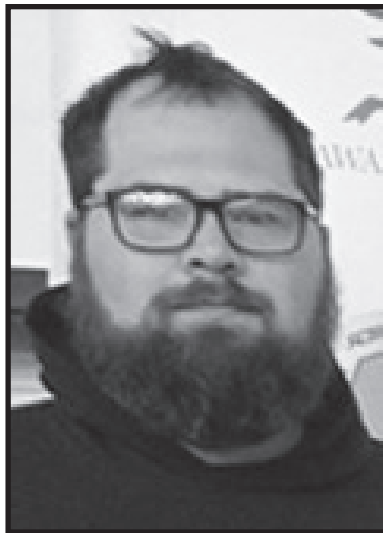
Over the past 10 years, Greg has documented the exploits of numerous Delaware Valley Chapter squads. He followed Allentown to the 2016 Central Jersey Group III championship and wrote extensively about undefeated Hopewell Valley seasons in 2022-24. Aside from game coverage, Greg has provided feature stories on award winners from the 12<sup>th</sup> Man TD Club. "I never imagined when I started reporting on Mercer County football almost 10 years ago that I would become so invested," Greg said. "It's fun to follow the teams from year to year and reflect on some of the great games I've covered and interviews I've done. It's just a great area of athletes and coaches who are classy and work so hard, and they deserve a spotlight."

Greg's passion for highlighting the positive aspects of talented student-athletes and coaches in the area comes through in his writing. And he does it all in a way that would make Tony Persichilli proud.



EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER CHAMPION AWARD

**ZACHARY MACK**



As one of Zachary Mack's football coaches, Anna Bishop can't help but think the honor he is receiving as the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Champion was made specifically for him.

"Zach really embodies the word teamwork and dedication," Bishop said. "He shows unwavering support to his teammates both on and off the field. He constantly is striving to not only be better, but do better, and much of the discipline that allows for that came from football." Sounds like the perfect description of a champion. And a football guy.

A resident of Westville in Gloucester County, Zachary is a graduate of Bankbridge Regional in Sewell, NJ.

He discovered his love for athletics and team sports at an early age and has participated in soccer, volleyball, bowling, softball, basketball and his favorite of them all, football.

Out on the gridiron, Mack has developed most of his meaningful memories and lasting friendships.

"There's just something about the physical aspect and throwing the football," he said.

Zachary has been playing for 13 years and feels his friends have turned into brothers. He thinks much of his life's progress can be attributed to football and the doors it has opened.

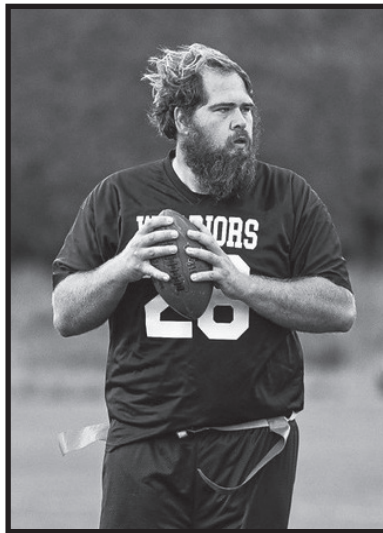
Off the field, Zach is a father and enjoys a career in pool chemical management. He's still looking forward to more Sunday mornings with the pigskin. He also enjoys playing an occasional game under the lights, which was a childhood dream that became a reality.

Something he never dreamed of was being honored.

"This means a lot," Zach said. "I'm excited for it, and a little nervous. I've never been called out for an award, so this is really cool."

The Delaware Valley Chapter's recognition of Zach is due to the fact he is constantly striving in all he does.

"Zach shows up ready to break through any ceiling that has been placed above him," Bishop said. "He's constantly exceeding any goal that was set for him. He really is an inspiration to all those around him, reminding everyone to always give all they have towards something, and regardless of the outcome as long as you did your best you did all you could do."



**PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Year	Winner	High School	College	Award	Year	Winner	High School	College	Award	Year	Winner	High School	College	Award	Year	Winner	High School	College	Award	
2023	Jack Rice	Lawrenceville Swarthmore		\$5,000	2009	Bradford Bormann	Hunterdon Central	Lafayette	\$5,000	1996	Buck Adams	Hightstown West Point		\$5,000	1982	Nathan Thompson	Lawrence William & Mary		\$800	
	John Paul Dunphy	Florence West Virginia		\$4,000		Douglas Bryant	Princeton University of Michigan		\$2,500		Brett Martz	North Burlington Pennsylvania		\$3,500		Mike Druckman	WWP Harvard		\$400	
	Luke Wiedau	Allentown Carnegie Mellon		\$3,000		Sean Eccles	Allentown Ramapo		\$2,500		Don Povia	Nottingham Monmouth		\$2,500		Richard Guinness	Steinert Rider		\$400	
	John Beacham	Notre Dame Union College		\$2,000	2008	Anthony Russ	Lawrence Harvard		\$5,000	1995	Joe Andolina	WWP Princeton		\$5,000						
	Ryan Beske	WW-P Michigan		\$1,500		Brian Reilly	Peddie Harvard		\$2,500		Hank Johns, Jr.	Pennsbury Georgetown		\$3,500						
2022	Michael Poinsett	Bordentown Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University		\$5,000		Jeffrey Riemann	WWP-South Williams		\$2,500		Greg Gorla	Steinert Johns Hopkins		\$2,500						
	Dante Barone	Hun School University of Pennsylvania		\$2,500	2007	Daniel Fitzsimmons	Hunterdon Central	Princeton	\$5,000	1994	Anthony Apicelli	Ewing Princeton		\$5,000						
	Declan MacCabe	Notre Dame Franklin & Marshall College		\$2,000		Andrew Bourassa	Delaware Valley Cornell		\$2,500		Brian Vannozi	Notre Dame Johns Hopkins		\$3,500	1980	Albert Yunkus	Peddie Bob McClellan			
	Luke Skinner	Florence Ursinus College		\$1,500		Douglas Borchert	Princeton Lafayette		\$2,000		Rick Dittman	Pennsbury Brown		\$1,500	1979	L. Hunninghake	Princeton Jim Beachell			
2021	Daniel Wersching	Hightstown University of South Carolina		\$5,000		Eldred Richards	WWP-South Albany		\$2,000	1993	Matt Rader	Pennsbury Duke		\$5,000	1978	Roncalli-Amici	Peddie Duke Oxford			
	Nick Surdo	New Egypt The College of New Jersey		\$2,500	2006	Ryan Lupo	WWP-South Williams		\$5,000		Ian Halpern	Princeton Day Brown		\$2,500		Jeffrey Guzy	WWP Rex Walker			
	Jaden Wedderburn	Peddie Princeton University		\$1,500		Joshua Scassero	Florence Stockton		\$2,500		Dan Schramek	Council Rock Penn State		\$1,500	1977	Donald Gips	Princeton Day Bob Hoffman			
2020	Austin McHugh	North Hunterdon Florida St. University		\$5,000		Nick Lezynski	Notre Dame Notre Dame		\$2,500	1992	Ricky Durst	Pennington Middlebury		\$5,000		Joe Garefino	South Hunterdon Sam Jeffris			
	Kyle Madden	Hightstown Rowan University		\$2,500	2005	Imaniborn Etukeren	Lawrenceville Arizona State		\$5,000		Noah Harlan	Princeton Williams		\$2,500	1976	Darren Ford	Pennington Bill Long			
	Deklin Smith	Steinert Yale University		\$1,500		David Blitzer	Princeton Day Williams		\$2,500		Gus Burmeister	Florence Lafayette		\$1,500		James Annett	Council Rock Walt Snyder			
2019	Ian Franzoni	Hun Brown University		\$5,000		Gabriel C. Plumer	Delaware Valley Johns Hopkins		\$2,500	1991	Rob Beetel	North Burlington Trenton State		\$5,000	1975	Mark Blaxhill	Princeton Day John Boneparth			
	Jayson Emery	Florence Long Island University		\$2,500	2004	Andrew Riexinger	Notre Dame TCNJ		\$5,000		Greg Coleman	Steinert Trenton State		\$2,500		Rick Hagen	Hamilton Bill McEvoy			
	Dylan Farina	North Hunterdon Not Reported		\$1,500		Vincent G. Giacalone	Princeton Carnegie Mellon		\$2,500		William Warrick	Lawrenceville North Carolina		\$1,500	1974	Wayne Buder	Pennsbury Chuck Kane			
2018	Nick Campbell	Allentown Navy		\$5,000		Matthew Ordog	Florence Muhlenberg		\$2,500	1990	Todd Luyber	Florence Rutgers		\$5,000		W. Ellsworth	Princeton Day John Boneparth			
	Michael Quigg	Hightstown Monmouth University		\$2,500	2003	Brian Raike	Ewing Pennsylvania		\$5,000		Terrance Stokes	Trenton Pennsylvania		\$2,500	1973	Brian Bestwick	Delhaas Bob Hart			
	John Woolston	Florence Rowan University		\$1,500		David Mosteller	Princeton Wesleyan		\$3,500		Ron Duld	Council Rock Pennsylvania		\$2,500		David Ballard	Lawrenceville Ken Keuffel			
2017	Erik Dehkes	North Hunterdon Carnegie Mellon		\$5,000		Brian Waller	Hightstown Coast Guard		\$2,500	1989	William Buffaloe	Bishop Egan Yale		\$5,000	1972	Harold Brown	Lawrence Ed Shirk			
	Mark Pacini	Florence TCNJ		\$2,500	2002	Robert Toresco	Hunterdon Central Princeton		\$5,000		Adam Warcholak	Lawrence Franklin & Marshall		\$2,500		Stuart Gordon	Lawrenceville Ken Keuffel			
	Patrick Holly	Hun Harvard		\$1,500		Stephen Ordog	Florence Ursinus		\$3,500	1988	Scott Schienvar	Hightstown Washington		\$5,000	1971	Andrew Varga	Morrisville Ray Feldman			
2016	Richard Mottram	Allentown Bucknell		\$5,000		Jay Graber	Notre Dame Hofstra		\$1,250		Russell Player	Burlington Twp. Holy Cross		\$2,500		Alan Chalifoux	Hun David Leete			
	Isaiah Wingfield	Lawrenceville Harvard		\$2,500	2001	Alexander Brun	Hamilton Rutgers		\$5,000		Tom Falkowski	Allentown Bucknell		\$2,500	1970	Richard Ziegler	Hun David Leete			
	Taylor Twamley	Robbinsville Penn State		\$1,500		Charles Nagy	Bordentown Wagner		\$3,500	1987	Paul Evans	Hamilton Pennsylvania		\$5,000		Jerome Varcallo	Woodrow Wilson Lou Sorrentino			
	Thomier Richardson	Trenton Gettysburg		\$1,500		Jonathon Johnston	Peddie US Naval Academy		\$2,500	1969	Levis Bowers	Princeton Day Dan Barren				James Boyle	Bishop Egan Dick Bedesem			
2015	CJ Markisz	WWP-North Bowdoin		\$5,000	2000	Jason Vida	Pennsbury William & Mary		\$5,000	1986	John Kleinman	WWP Lehigh		\$4,000	1968	Edward Hryn	Hamilton Dave Bryan			
	Frank Lucchesi	Steinert Muhlenberg		\$2,500		Joe Crupi	Hamilton US Marine Corps		\$3,500		Scott Miller	Princeton Day Brown		\$2,000		Paul Dahlman	Pennsbury Ernie Baugher			
	Xavier Lezynski	Notre Dame Notre Dame		\$1,500		John Brodowski	Bordentown Muhlenberg		\$2,500	1985	Jesse Klingbiel	Princeton Bucknell		\$2,000	1967	Tom Butterfoss	Princeton Dick Wood			
2014	Michael Curry	Allentown Johns Hopkins		\$5,000	1999	Brian Lyons	Hamilton Post Grad		\$5,000		Todd Ortmann	Pennsbury Princeton		\$2,000		Mike Drulis	Notre Dame Walt Porter			
	Brady Hudik	Bordentown Wagner		\$2,500		Isaac Bethea	Trenton Pennsylvania		\$3,500		CJ Cunningham	Council Rock Pennsylvania		\$1,000		Robert Krugler	Peddie Edmund Paul			
	Micheal Whittington	Trenton Georgetown		\$1,500		Adam Allen	Nottingham Lafayette		\$2,500	1984	Galen Beske	WWP Lafayette		\$1,500	1966	Sylvester Micir	Bishop Egan Dick Bedesem			
	Matt Semple	Hopewell Elon		\$1,500		Alex Wade	Council Rock Duke		\$5,000		Eric Hovanec	Princeton Day Princeton		\$750		Stephan Kessler	Pennington Howard Poore			
2013	Nicholas DeMarie	Nottingham Pennsylvania		\$5,000	1998	Jamal Lundy	Florence Lehigh		\$3,500		David Nitti	Ewing Villanova		\$750	1965	James Colbert	Neshaminy John Petercuskie			
	Sam Follansbee	North Hunterdon Pennsylvania		\$2,500		Adrian Wall	Lawrenceville Harvard		\$2,500	1997	Mike Azzara	Lawrenceville Middlebury		\$5,000		Warren McManus	Peddie Edmund Paul			
	Kurt Frimel	New Egypt Cornell		\$2,500		Brian White	Hamilton Villanova		\$3,500		Mike Schnoering	Nottingham NJ Tech		\$650	1964	Mark Savidge	Hun Hawley Water			
2012	Brian Schoenauer	WWP-South Pennsylvania		\$5,000		Dave Czehut	North Burlington Princeton		\$2,500	2010	Ross Scheuerman	Allentown Lafayette		\$5,000	1963	Will Dickey	Lawrenceville Jack Reydel			
	Jadaen Bernstein	Voorhees Naval Academy Prep		\$2,500		Matt Berry	North Hunterdon Johns Hopkins		\$2,500		Matt Berry	North Hunterdon Johns Hopkins		\$2,500	1962	Pat Ryan	Notre Dame Walt Porter			



## PAST AWARD WINNERS

### Distinguished American

Year	Recipient
2023	Ron Anello
2022	Brian Hughes
2021	Ron Dilatush
2020	Tom McCarthy
2019	Wayne DeAngelo
2018	Angelo J. Onofri
2017	Michael J. Renna
2016	Richard Freeman
2015	Bernard M. Flynn
2014	Jeff Perlman
2013	Jesse Armstead
2012	Frank J. Lucchesi
2011	Eric Hamilton
2010	Richard P. Lisk
2009	Glenn K. Rieth
2008	Kelly Myers
2007	Chris Vernon
2006	Marc Edenzon
2005	Cathy DiCostanzo
2004	Christy Stephenson
2003	Sen. Peter Inverso
2002	Patrick L. Ryan
2001	Maurice Perilli
2000	Jay Destrubats
1999	William Faherty
1998	Thomas Bracken
1997	Win Headley
1996	Tim Losch
1995	Bob Prunetti
1994	Bill Granville
1993	Cosmo Iacavazzi
1992	George Chandler
1991	Alfred Bridges
1990	Eugene A. Renna
1989	Len Rivers
1988	Capt. Harry Masterson
1987	Lawrence Tiihoonen
1986	Albert DiMartin
1985	Robert Casciola
1984	Roy Schleicher
1983	Jake McCandless
1982	Earl H. Dean
1981	William Pierce
1980	Nicholas Gusz
1979	William McGuire
1978	Richard Landis
1977	Francis McManimon
1976	Royce Flippin
1975	Crosby Copeland
1974	Al Neuschafer
1973	Dr. Joseph Zawadsky
1972	R. Kenneth Fairman
1971	Sen. Richard Coffee
1970	Bert Gulick, Jr.
1969	Robert Cox
1968	James Kerney, Jr., Fred Schluter
1967	Don Ehret

### George O'Gorman Contribution to Amateur Football

Year	Recipient
2023	GridIron Social Group
2022	Bordentown Military Institute
2021	Steve Tuckerson
2020	Rick Mantz
2019	Heather Andersen
2018	Charles R. Thompson
2017	Dan Klim
2016	Ken Fisher
2015	Dr. William Gomez
2014	John Law
2013	Rob Radice
2012	Rich Fisher
2011	Paul "Bones" Vichroski
2010	John D. McKenna
2009	Steven J. Timko
2008	Tom Murray
2007	Jim Fisher
2006	Jim Griffin
2005	John Curtis
2004	Steve Gazdek
2003	Vince Reed
2002	Scott Brunner
2001	Sam Jefferis
2000	Troy Vincent
1999	Wes Kirkpatrick
1998	David "Poppy" Sanderson
1997	Ron Rick, Jr.
1996	The Santuzza Oilers
1995	Tony Persichilli
1994	Harley Gaskill/Fred Stives
1993	Bob Jaroni
1992	Edward Naylor
1991	Roger Hendler
1990	George Sperling
1989	Ed Farley
1988	Burtis "Bunker" Hill
1987	Joseph Fruscione
1986	John Morris
1985	Eric Hamilton
1984	Jack Rafferty
1983	Ron Rick
1982	Harold "Bus" Saidt
1981	Ken Kueffel
1980	George O'Gorman
1979	Ed Cook
1978	Jack Stephan
1977	Steve Muench
1976	Dr. Paul Checbro
1975	Jack Petrone
1974	Fred Holmes
1973	Roy Van Ness
1972	John Gorman
1971	Robert Sinkler
1970	Pete Morgan
1969	Fred Schluter
1968	Ed Zanfrini

### Delaware Valley/ Pop Warner Little Scholars

Year	Recipient/Club
2023	Connor Peters, Bordentown Bulldogs
2022	Cooper Briehler, Hopewell Valley/Robbinsville Pop Warner
2021	Dominic Cuniglio III, Hamilton PAL
2020	Harrison Kertes, Bordentown Bulldogs
2019	Kole Briehler, Hopewell Valley Pop Warner
2018	Jack Rice, West Windsor Wildcats
2017	Jayson Jenkins, West Jersey Youth Football League
2016	Alfred Woods, Florence Flashes
2015	Kyle Dowgin, Bordentown Bulldogs
2014	Joseph Brown, Warrior PAL
2013	Nick Kloutis, Hamilton PAL
2012	Will James, Hamilton PAL
2011	Kyle Liedtka, Hamilton Pop Warner
2010	Carson Vey, Hopewell Valley Pop Warner
2009	Harvey E. Butler III, WW-P Pop Warner
2008	Brian Schoenauer, WW-P Pop Warner
2007	David Dudeck III, Burlington County Pop Warner
2006	Connor McElwee, West Windsor Wildcats
2005	Michael Garofola, Hamilton Pop Warner
2004	Ryan McDermott, Hamilton Pop Warner
2003	James Bea, Hillsborough Dukes
2002	Marc Zamarin, Hillsborough Dukes
2001	Daniel Clark, Hillsborough Dukes
2000	Bassil Salmon, East Windsor PAL
1999	Robert Damiano, Hamilton Pop Warner
1998	Ryan Biolsi, Flemington Pop Warner
1997	Jason Auletta, Hamilton Pop Warner
1996	Michael Taylor, Hamilton Pop Warner

### Hank Johns Coaches Award

Year	Recipient/School
2023	Charlie Gallagher, Princeton
2022	Kevin Kley, N Hunterdon
2021	Skip Edwards, Bordentown
2020	Andrew Patterson, Robbinsville
2019	Sean Clancy, Notre Dame
2018	Joe Frappolli, Florence
2017	Jared Mazzetta, N Hunterdon
2016	Drew Besler, Ewing
2015	Todd Smith, Hun
2014	Jay Graber, Allentown
2013	Dave Caldwell, Hopewell Valley
2012	Jon Adams, Nottingham Joe Frappolli, Florence
2011	Dan Caruso, Steinert
2010	Luke Sinkhorn, New Egypt
2009	Chappy Moore, Notre Dame
2008	Dave Caldwell, Hopewell Valley
2007	Matthew Perotti, Hunterdon
2006	Tom Hoglen, Hamilton West
2005	Todd Smith, WWP South
2004	Ken Mills, Lawrenceville
2003	Joe Frappolli, Florence
2002	Kevin Kelly, Conwell Egan
2001	Frank deLaurentis, Peddie
2000	Frank Gatto, Steinert
1999	Jon Adams, Nottingham
1998	Jim Meert, Hunterdon
1997	Len Weister, Lawrence
1996	Keith Hartbauer, Hamilton
1995	Charlie Pirrello, N Burlington
1994	Jerry Eure, Pennington
1993	Ken Keuffel, Lawrenceville
1992	Keith Wadsworth, Princeton
1991	Joe Frappolli, Florence
1990	Harold Beatty, Trenton
1989	Tim Hadden, Burlington Twp.
1988	John Mackay, Peddie
1987	Tom Stuart, WWP
1986	Kurt Vollherbst, Princeton
1985	Bill Long, Pennington
1984	Mike Ortman, Morrisville
1983	Chappy Moore, Notre Dame
1982	Pete Quinn, Trenton
1981	Bruce Martz, Ewing
1980	Jim Walker, Princeton Day
1979	Bruce Martz, Ewing
1978	Bill Long, Princeton
1977	Bob Hart, Bensalem
1976	Chappy Moore, Notre Dame
1975	Sam Jefferis, S Hunterdon

### John McKenna Assistant Coaches Award

Year	Nominee/School
2023	Bob "Zig" Ziegler, Steinert/Hun

### Princeton University Scholar • Leader Athletes

Year	Recipient/Coach
2023	Jalen Travis/Bob Surace
2022	Carter Christopher/Bob Surace
2021	David Hoffman & Reily Radosevich/Bob Surace
2019	Andrew Griffin/Bob Surace
2018	Tom Johnson/Bob Surace
2017	Richard Bush/Bob Surace
2016	Scott Carpenter/Bob Surace
2015	Matt Arends/Bob Surace
2014	Mike Zeuli/Bob Surace
2013	Phil Bhaya/Bob Surace
2012	Andrew Starks/Bob Surace
2011	Ivan Charbonneau/Bob Surace
2010	Matt Zimmerman/Bob Surace
2009	Daniel Kopolovich/Roger Hughes
2008	Ryan Coyle/Roger Hughes
2007	Rob Toresco/Roger Hughes
2006	Colin McDonough/Roger Hughes
2005	Andrew Wilson/Roger Hughes
2004	Jon Veach/Roger Hughes
2003	Time Kirby/Roger Hughes
2002	Cameron Atkinson/Roger Hughes
2001	Robert Ferrell/Roger Hughes
2000	Mike Higgins/Roger Hughes
1999	David Ferrara/Steve Tosches
1998	Alex Sierk/Steve Tosches
1997	Tim Greene/Steve Tosches
1996	Mark Washington/Steve Tosches
1995	Carter Westfall/Steve Tosches
1994	Mark Berkowitz/Steve Tosches
1993	Keith Elias/Steve Tosches
1992	Steve Tuffillaro/Steve Tosches
1991	Jonas Sheehan/Steve Tosches
1990	Marin Graja/Steve Tosches
1989	Steve Hillgeist/Steve Tosches
1988	Greg DiFelice/Steve Tosches
1987	David Wilson/Steve Tosches
1986	Rob DiGiacomo/Ron Rogerson
1985	James Petrucci/Ron Rogerson
1984	Mark Berggren/Frank Navarro
1983	Kevin Guthrie/Frank Navarro
1982	Brent Woods/Frank Navarro
1981	Scott Oostdyk/Frank Navarro
1980	Mark Bailey/Frank Navarro
1979	Ted Soti/Frank Navarro
1978	Andy Stephens/Frank Navarro
1977	Dave Powers/Bob Casciola
1976	Kevin Fox/Bob Casciola
1975	Robert Beible/Bob Casciola
1974	Dale Spiegel/Bob Casciola
1973	William Cronin/Bob Casciola
1972	John Bartges/Jake McCandless
1971	Paul Ondraski/Jake McCandless
1970	Kirk Liddell/Jake McCandless
1969	Keith Mauney/Jake McCandless
1968	Richard Sandler/Dick Coleman
1967	Robert Weber/Dick Coleman
1966	John Bowers/Dick Coleman
1965	Richard Rogers/Dick Coleman

## PAST AWARD WINNERS (CONTINUED)

### Trenton State/ The College of New Jersey Scholar • Leader Athletes

Year	Recipient/Coach
2023	Jacob Maurice /Casey Goff
2022	Joey Bellamy/Casey Goff
2020	Andrew Donoghue/Casey Goff
2019	Erik Graham/Casey Goff
2018	Max Busca/Casey Goff
2017	Trevor Osler/Casey Goff
2016	Tom Cilla/Wayne Dickens
2015	Andrew Lachawiec/Wayne Dickens
2014	Joe Urciuoli & Jake Weiss/ Wayne Dickens
2013	Chris McLaughlin/Wayne Dickens
2012	Greg Burns/Eric Hamilton
2011	Jay Donoghue/Eric Hamilton
2010	Andrew Mason/Eric Hamilton
2009	Colin Weber/Eric Hamilton
2008	Marc Fabiano/Eric Hamilton
2007	Dan Dornacker & Andy Larkin/ Eric Hamilton
2006	Ryan Ross/Eric Hamilton
2005	Leeaire Brown/Eric Hamilton
2004	Jim Dabrowski/Eric Hamilton
2003	Scott Paterson/Eric Hamilton
2002	Tim Kosuda/Eric Hamilton
2001	Mike Wendell/Eric Hamilton
2000	Curt Monday/Eric Hamilton
1999	Richard Falletta/Eric Hamilton
1998	Michael Feeny/Eric Hamilton
1997	Joe Sciarone/Eric Hamilton
1996	Joe Scaravaglione/Eric Hamilton
1995	Steve Guidette/Eric Hamilton
1994	Scott Dickson & John Reising/ Eric Hamilton
1993	Tom Maxwell/Eric Hamilton
1992	Corey Landing/Eric Hamilton
1991	Chris Shaw/Eric Hamilton
1990	Mike Tierney/Eric Hamilton
1989	Bob McGinty/Eric Hamilton
1988	Mike Wargo/Eric Hamilton
1987	Joe Clifton/Eric Hamilton
1986	Ernie Liberati/Eric Hamilton
1985	John Papa/Eric Hamilton
1984	Jim Ball/Eric Hamilton
1983	Bruce Peditto/Eric Hamilton
1982	Sam Miserendino/Eric Hamilton
1981	James Carvalho/Eric Hamilton
1980	Ron Anello/Eric Hamilton
1979	Steve Butfilowski/Eric Hamilton
1978	Tom Hendricks/Eric Hamilton
1977	Tom Thompson/Eric Hamilton
1976	Keith Waters/Carmen Piccone
1975	Doug Prefach/Carmen Piccone
1974	Eric Hamilton/Dick Curl
1973	William Paskewich/ Pete Carmichael
1967	Robert Taylor/Bob Salois
1966	Robert Smallwood/Bob Salois
1965	George Strattman/Bob Salois

### Jack Millard Officials

Year	Recipient
2022	Peter Vaspor
2021	Terrance Stokes
2020	Justin Johnson
2019	Eugene P. Ferguson, Jr
2018	Abraham Johnson
2017	Sabrina Isom
2016	Hank Johns, Jr.
2014	Scott Heiser
2013	Tom Carr
2012	Greg Bellotti
2011	George Wah
2010	James S. Moscarell
2009	Joe Shaw
2008	Raymond F. Stupienski III
2007	Jim Wilno, Jr.
2006	Ed Harris
2005	Karl "Tinker" Johnston
2004	John Welling III
2003	Troy Stephenson
2002	Al Verdel
2001	Vince Boccanfuso
2000	Tim Teel
1999	Jim Cleary
1998	Tom McCreesh
1997	Merkle Cherry
1996	Larry Gunnell
1995	Barry Cicale
1994	Tom Considine
1993	Jim Wilno, Sr.
1992	Angelo Giambelluna
1991	John Terry
1990	John Sheets
1989	Byron Crammer
1988	Ernie Coluccio
1987	Ron Hoehn
1986	Jim Wilno, Jr.
1985	Jack Watro
1984	Paul Chopko
1983	John Zorzi
1982	Al Fullman
1981	Vince Boccanfuso
1980	Jack Millard
1979	George Wah
1978	Norm Van Arsdalen
1977	Chuck Schroeder
1976	Jake Bartolino
1975	Sam Cortina
1974	Tony Mascherin

### Contribution to Youth Football

Year	Recipient
2022	Mike Rowan
2019	Brian Caloiaro
2018	George Kloutis
2017	Eric Updegraff
2016	Mike Smith
2015	Fred Dunphy
2014	Scott Stanton
2013	Jim O'Rourke
2012	Terrance Stokes
2011	Jon Butler
2010	Andrew Aromando
2009	Fiore Masci
2008	Charles "Chuck" Moon
2007	Mike Brodock
2006	Dennis Todd
2005	Karl "Tinker" Johnston
2004	John Knapp
2003	Paul Fletcher
2002	Mark Clements
2001	Greg Neiderman
2000	Cindy Allen
1999	Bud Ralston
1998	Ferguson Reaves
1997	Henry Cole

### Nick Gusz Good Guy

Year	Recipient
2022	Bill Quirk
2021	Mary Ellen Cassidy
2019	Brian DeAngelo
2018	Sharon Grady
2017	Constance Denicola Embley
2016	Jim Kovalsky
2015	David S. McWilliam

### Tony Persichilli Meritorious Service

Year	Recipient
2023	Joe O'Gorman
2022	Sean Miller
2021	Merkle Cherry
2019	Michael Holcombe
2018	Santuzza Oilers
2017	Bob Nuse
2016	Bill Rednor
2015	George O'Gorman

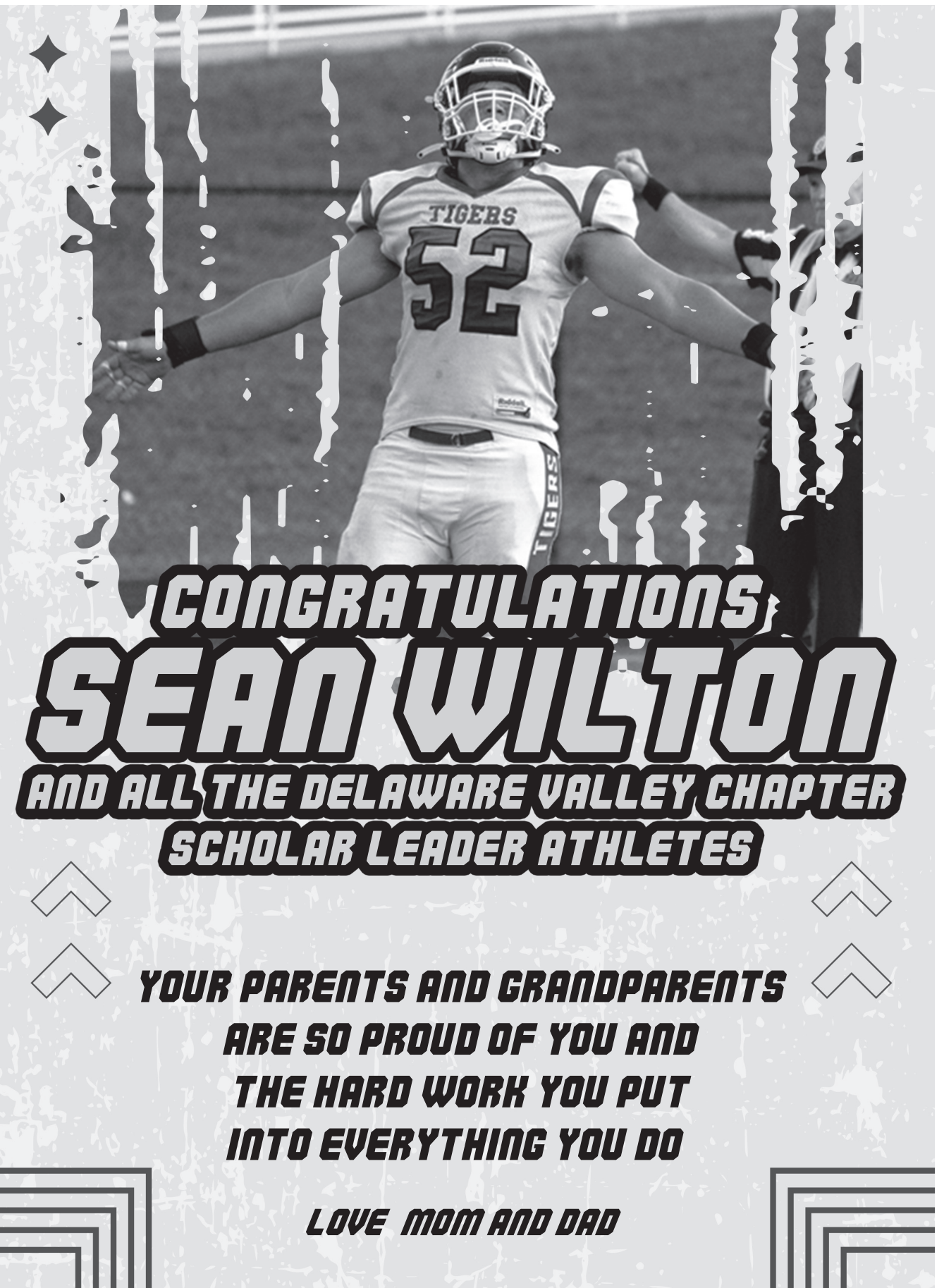
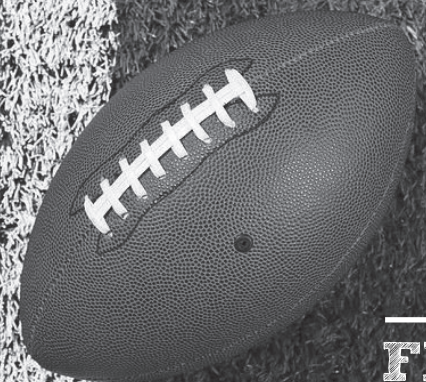
### Eunice Kennedy Shriver Champion

Year	Recipient
2023	Devin DeFrance
2022	Fernando Santana
2021	Michele Asher-Coddington
2020	David Wardell
2019	Casey Mann
2018	Brian Pitts
2017	Chris McCormac
2016	Kevin McCormac
2015	Steve Rodenbeck

**Congratulations to  
the Delaware Valley  
Chapter  
Scholar-Leader-Athletes  
From the Pride  
of Hightstown!**

**The  
Gunnell  
Family**

**Florine Gunnell Askew  
David Gunnell Sr.  
William Gunnell  
Robert Gunnell Jr.  
Gerald Gunnell  
Richard Gunnell  
Yvonne Gunnell Hand  
Carole Gunnell Day  
Larry Gunnell  
Victoria Gunnell**



**CONGRATULATIONS  
SEAN WILTON  
AND ALL THE DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER  
SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETES**

**YOUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS  
ARE SO PROUD OF YOU AND  
THE HARD WORK YOU PUT  
INTO EVERYTHING YOU DO**

**LOVE MOM AND DAD**



~ IN HONOR OF ~  
**COACH ROBERT E. SALOIS**  
**AND JOSEPH HERZSTEIN**  
 TSC/TCNJ FOOTBALL AND HPE FACULTY

~ Lions GridIron Social Group ~

**"THE STRENGTH OF THE PRIDE IS IN THE LION,  
 THE STRENGTH OF THE LION IS IN THE PRIDE"**

# "Thank You Mr. Van"

~ Lions GridIron Social Group ~

## Roy W. VanNess

- First full-time Athletic Director TSC/TCNJ (1964-1987)
- 8-time letterwinner as TSC student-athlete, graduate (1943)
- Fulbright Scholar
- Coached track and field, football, and basketball
- Faculty member TSC Health and Physical Education Dept
- Led TSC to become one of the top NCAA Division III athletic programs
- Developed the blueprint bringing top athletic facilities to TSC/TCNJ campus
- Member and Past President, Delaware Valley Chapter, National Football Foundation
- Inducted into TSC/TCNJ Athletic Hall of Fame (founding member)
- Inducted into Bordentown High School Athletic Hall of Fame



## GridIron Social Group Remembers

### STANLEY HARRIS

Hamilton High School Athletic  
 Hall of Fame  
 Trenton State College/  
 TCNJ Athletic Hall of Fame

### JIM PUHALSKI

Saint Anthony's 1973-1976  
 Trenton State College  
 1977-1980

### William J. McEvoy

Trenton State College, HPE,  
 Football/Hamilton West  
 High School Teacher/  
 Football Coach



Congratulations to this year's  
**Student Leader Athlete**

**Award Winners**

— From Greg and Lisa Bellotti —

St. Peter's Prep '88 / Florence Township Memorial '88

The College of New Jersey '92



**WE REMEMBER  
 1957 UNDEFEATED BORDENTOWN SCOTTIES  
 AND  
 ALL COUNTY END EDWARD "RED" KOLWICZ**



**PHOTO ABOVE, FIRST ROW:** John Mortz, Bob Sweeney, Jimmie Reeder, Francis Pearson, Carl Eldridge, Richard Wright, James Newman, Gus Alexander, Louis Miller, John Slocum, Manager. **SECOND ROW:** Larry Russell, Manager; Randy Bertrand, Tom Antozzeski, Steve Soltes, Richard Collum, David Lebak, Larry Christian, Tom Conrey, Al Muscianese, Eddie Foster, Amos Cannon, Jim Utley, Donald Evand, Manager. **THIRD ROW:** Mr. Wilson, Coach; Steve Ivenz, Bob Kersey, Bob Stewart, Gerry Colby, Ed Koenig, James Marinnie, Ralph Hendrickson, Ed Kolwicz, Allan Rooney, Dick Ganges, John Morton, Mr. Olson, Coach. *Missing From Picture: Larry Reed*



EDWARD "RED" KOLWICZ



**CONGRATULATIONS  
 SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETES  
 AND BORDENTOWN SCOTTIE HARRISON KERTES  
 GO SCOTTIES!**

*"RATHER BE THAN SEEM"*



**REMEMBERING  
BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE  
~ AND ~  
COACH ROBERT G. "DOC" HOEHN**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETES**



***MOVE FREELY  
TRUST FULLY***



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Delaware Valley Chapter Scholar Leader Athletes

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**JB Autism Consulting**

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*President/CEO*

**Helping people affected by autism reach their fullest potential...  
One teachable moment at a time...**

**Private Consultations to Organizations, Schools, & Families:**

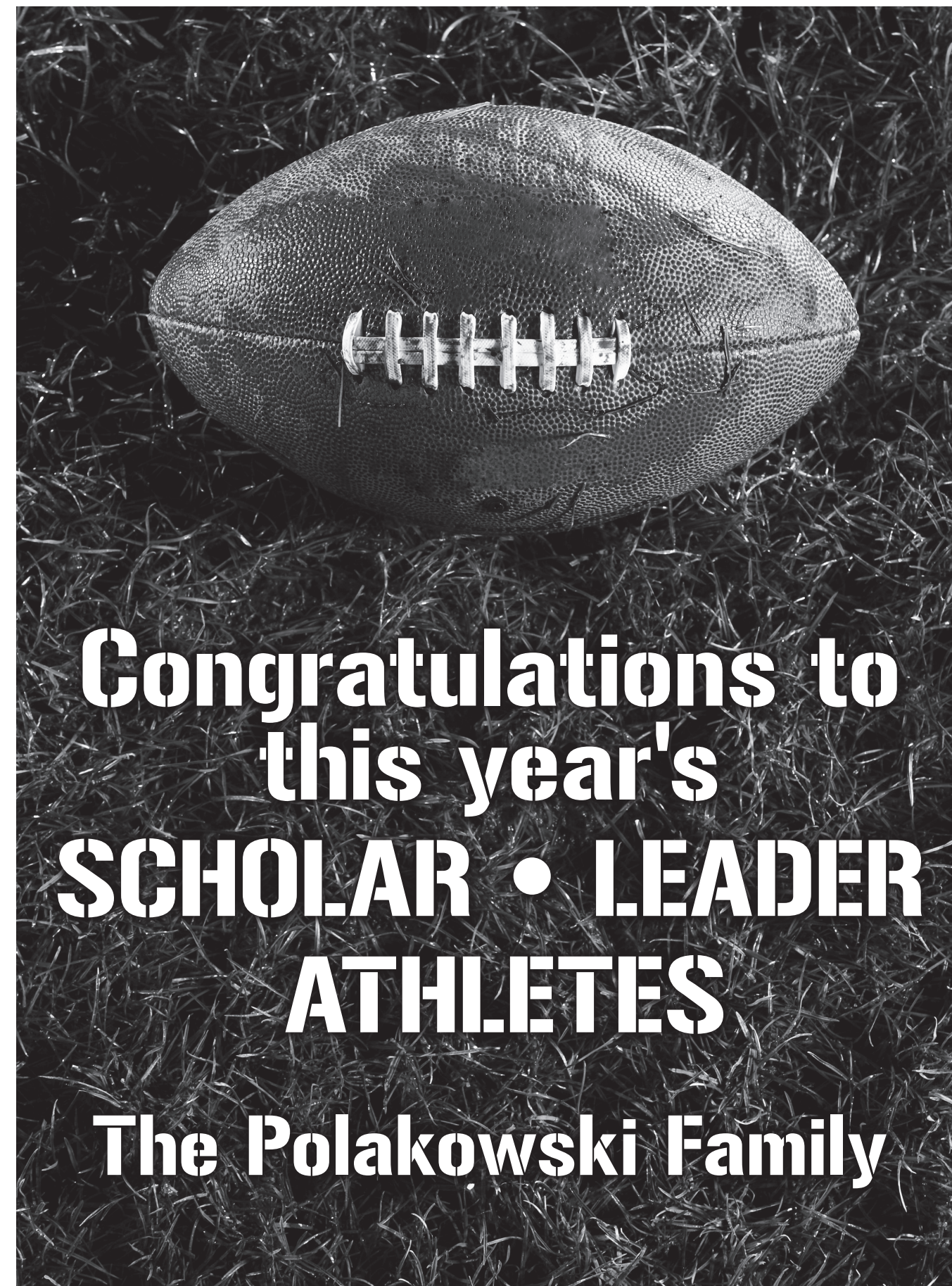
- Behavior Management
- Classroom Management/Design/Support
- Clinical Case Management
- Curriculum Development
- Expert Testimony
- Functional Behavior Assessment
- Staff Training
- Social Skills
- Parent Training
- IEP Development
- Home Support

**Working with all those affected by autism and developmental conditions.**

*JB Autism Consulting ~ 239 Timber Oaks Drive  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588 ~ Phone: 609-235-6444*

[jbautismconsult@aol.com](mailto:jbautismconsult@aol.com)

*Dr. Jim is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst - Doctorate who has worked in the field of Special Education and Autism for 40 plus years. He is the Immediate Past Chairman of the Autism Society of America's National Board of Directors and is a past appointed Community Member of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee.*



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

## MERKLE CHERRY

1997 JACK MILLARD OFFICIALS AWARD

2021 TONY PERSICILLI MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD



This isn't just  
insurance.  
It's NJM.

For over a century, NJM has helped protect the things worth remembering by delivering service you won't forget.

NJM Insurance Group  
congratulates the scholar-leader-athlete honorees of the

### **Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation's George Wah Scholar-Athlete Award**

and applauds this year's chapter award winners.

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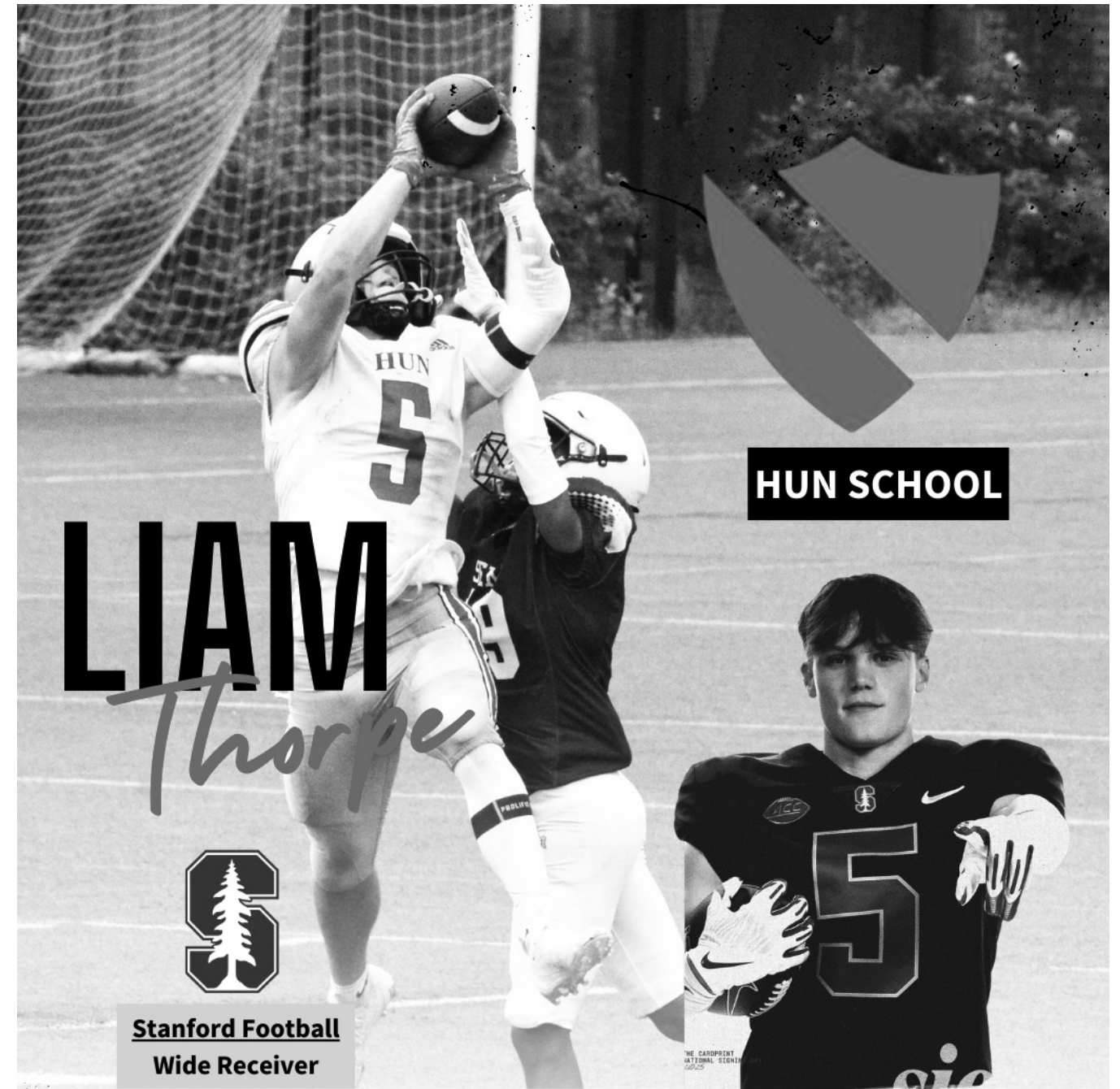
EST. 1913

# CONGRATULATIONS CONOR SATTIRAJU

WWP High School  
2025 National Football  
Foundation Delaware  
Valley Chapter  
Scholar Leader Athlete



**WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!**  
**LOVE,**  
**MOM, DAD, ANNA,**  
**KIERAN & MAYA**



**LIAM**  
*Thorpe*

**HUN SCHOOL**

**Stanford Football**  
Wide Receiver

**Congratulations to Liam Thorpe**

and to each of the National Football Foundation Delaware Valley Chapter Scholar Leader Athletes

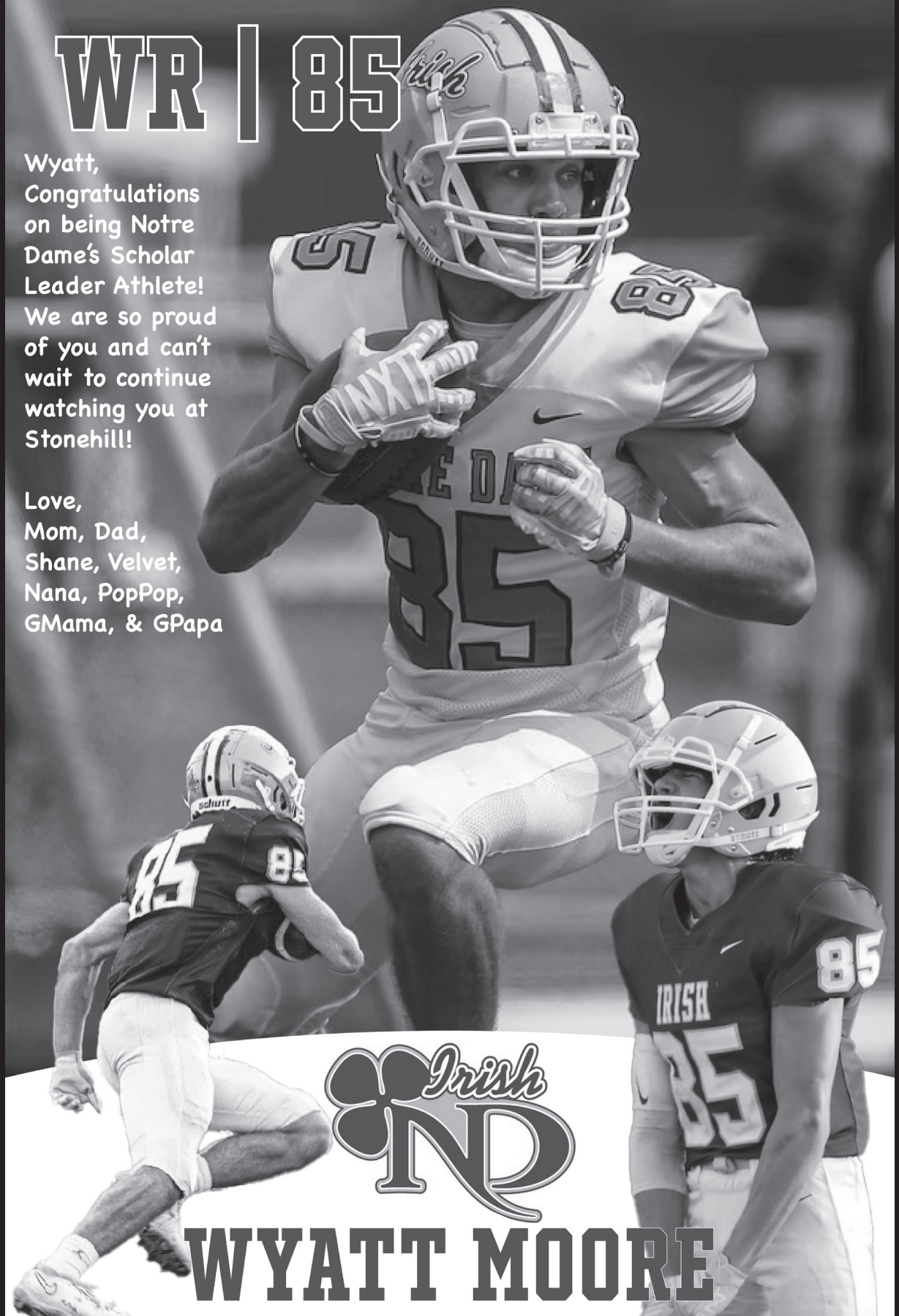
**LOVE, MOM, DAD, CORMAC, ALEXANDER, & RILEY**



**WR | 85**

Wyatt,  
Congratulations  
on being Notre  
Dame's Scholar  
Leader Athlete!  
We are so proud  
of you and can't  
wait to continue  
watching you at  
Stonehill!

Love,  
Mom, Dad,  
Shane, Velvet,  
Nana, PopPop,  
GMama, & GPapa



**WYATT MOORE**

# CONGRATULATIONS JOE CAMILLONE

**“Thank You For All You Did For Us”  
GRIDIRON GROUP**

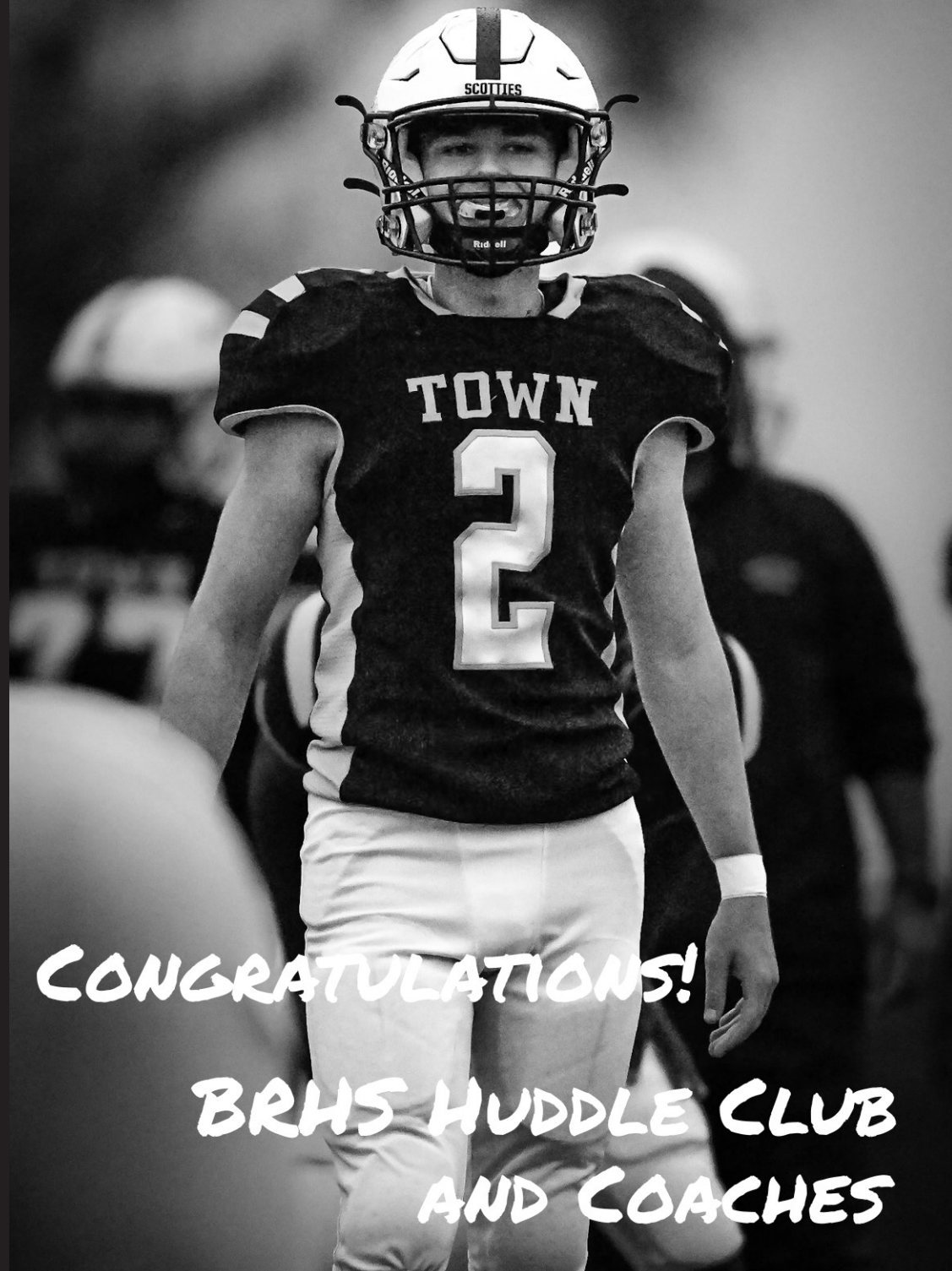
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**HOLD THE DATE  
GIG Golf Outing  
July 23, 2025 • Hopewell CC**

**HARRISON KERTES**

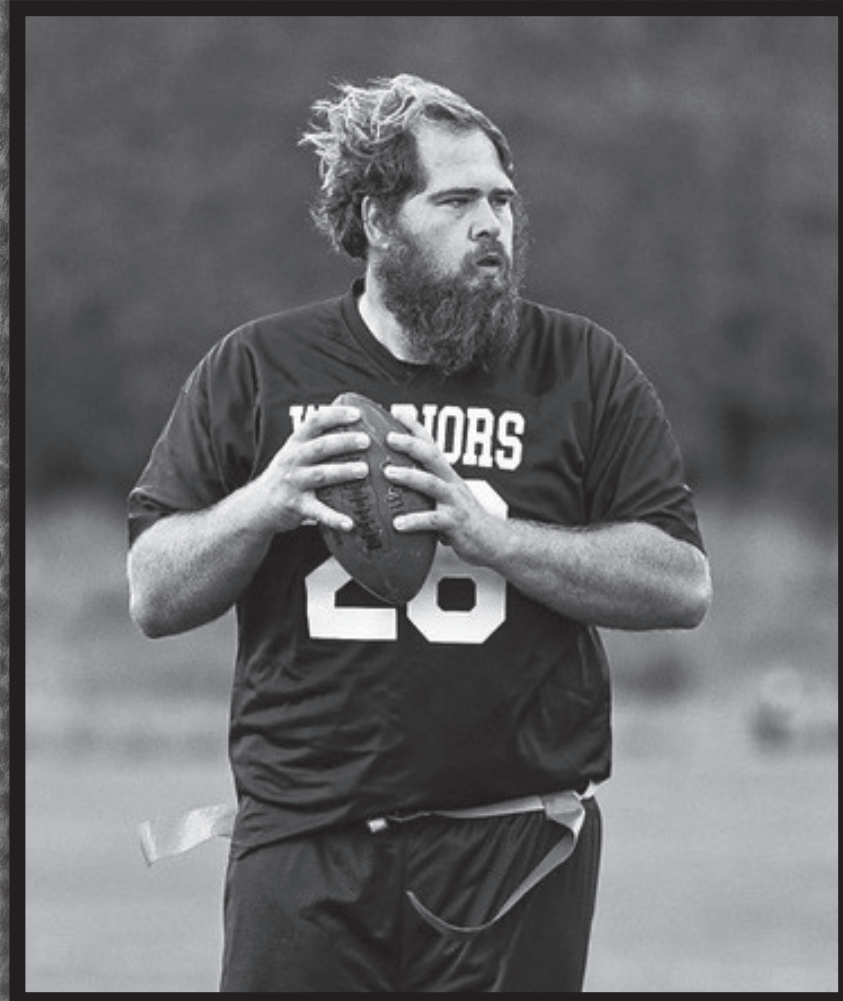


**CONGRATULATIONS!  
BRHS HUDDLE CLUB  
AND COACHES**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
COACH RICH MCGLYNN**



**BRHS HUDDLE CLUB  
AND COACHES**



# Congratulations

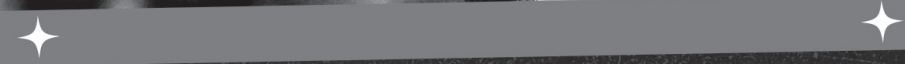
**Zachary Mack**

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver Champion*



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Phone: (609) 896 - 8000 • [www.sonj.org](http://www.sonj.org)

CONGRATULATIONS  
**HARRISON KERTES**  
BORDENTOWN HIGH SCHOOL



WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOUR HARD WORK, DEDICATION,  
COMMITMENT TO OTHERS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS  
BOTH ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM.



BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS  
AS YOU PURSUE YOUR PASSIONS.



*LOVE DAD, MOM, AND TROTMAN*

# MILAN DESAI

HOPEWELL VALLEY  
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



## HONORS

- 2023 TRENTON TIMES ALL AREA QB
- 2023 HV LUNCH PAIL RECIPIENT
- 2024 1ST TEAM ALL DIVISION QB
- 2024 HV BULLDOG AWARD RECIPIENT
- 2024 NJFCA SUPER 100 ALL STAR TEAM
- 2024 TRENTON TIMES OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
- 2024 FRANK "MAMMY" PISCOPPO MEMORIAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD
- 2024 JERSEY SPORTS ZONE ALL ZONE QB
- THREE SPORT ATHLETE
- TEAM CAPTAIN IN ALL THREE SPORTS

## CAREER STATS

- 3,380 YDS PASSING & 38 TOUCHDOWNS
- 697 YDS RUSHING & 22 TOUCHDOWNS
- CAREER RECORD 18-3
- 769 TEAM POINTS SCORED



THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING  
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE BOTH ON AND  
OFF THE FIELD.

**HARD WORK...FAMILY**

# ROBERT CASCIOLA

2025 DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT



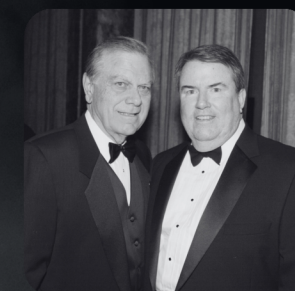
## PLAYER. COACH. LEADER.

The National Football Foundation salutes a respected ambassador and tireless advocate for the game of football.

**Thank you, Bob.** Your legacy lives on.



NFF PRESIDENT  
1991-2005



CONGRATULATIONS

*Wyatt Moore '25*



NOTRE DAME IS PROUD TO JOIN THE DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION AND COLLEGE HALL OF FAME IN HONORING OUR SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

*Spring Open House*

MAY 7, 2025  
5:00 - 7:00 PM

601 LAWRENCE ROAD, LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ 08648 | [NDNJ.ORG](http://NDNJ.ORG)



Notre Dame  
HIGH SCHOOL

~ IN HONOR OF ~

TSC COACH  
**ROBERT E. SALOIS**

~ AND ~

**STANLEY HARRIS**

**BILL McEVROY**

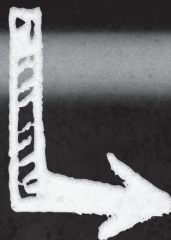
**JIM PUHALSKI**

**ROY W. VANNESS**

"THE STRENGTH OF THE PRIDE IS IN THE LION,  
THE STRENGTH OF THE LION IS IN THE PRIDE"

Rich McGlynn

*John McKenna  
Assistant Coach  
of the Year*



**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
FROM BORDENTOWN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Harrison Kertes

*Delaware Valley  
Scholar Leader Athlete*



# 2024 Jack Millard Officials Award Winner



**DON ELLISON**

**Congrats to our Teammate from your Crew!!!**

**Troy Stevenson • Will Mansfield • Jeff Sumners**

**Shark Michaud • Pete Vaspory • Assignor Jim Wilno**



Jonathan Weaver

We are so proud of all of  
your accomplishments!

Congratulations Jon!  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

Thank you Steinert Coaches!



# Congratulations

#9  
Conor Sattiraju

West Windsor-  
Plainsboro



# Jack Centrelli TCNJ

2025 Delaware Valley Chapter  
Scholar Leader Athlete

We are so proud of you  
for all your hard work  
and dedication.

Love,  
Dad, Mom & Family



Hightstown High School

*Congratulations*

**MICHAEL FOWLER**

And the 2024 National Football Foundation  
Delaware Valley Chapter Scholar Athlete Recipients




*We are so proud of you. Your achievements are a  
testament to your talent and perseverance.  
Love, Dad, Mom, and Bella*

Special Thanks to Hightstown High  
Head Coach Ryan Fullen

# #1 RJ SOBON

CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING NAMED A DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE AWARD HONOREE! WE WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS!

THE FLORENCE TWP. MEMORIAL  
HIGH SCHOOL PARENT PIT CLUB, COACHES & TEAM

## CONGRATULATIONS RYAN EMIGHOLZ

ON BEING NAMED THE ROBBINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL DVC SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE!  
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU  
AND ALL OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!  
*LOVE, MOM, DAD, ALEX AND ERIN*

BIG THANKS TO COACH PATTERSON AND THE RHS COACHING STAFF FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE!

## Congratulations to JACK FERMO | #54

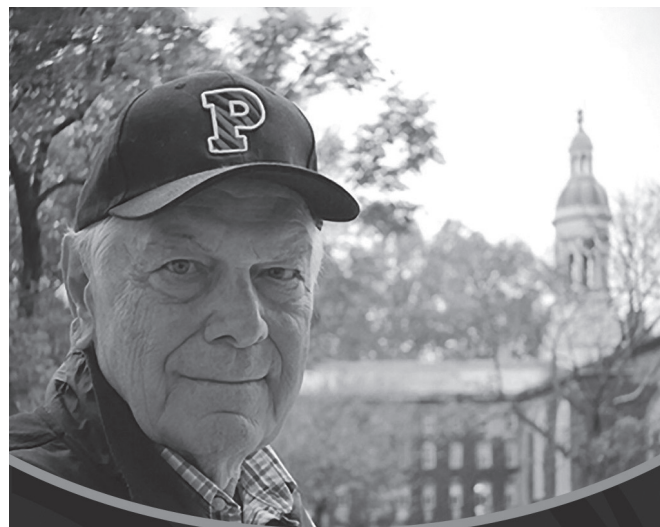



WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, Ellie & Anna




### GIOVANNI MENSWEAR


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## PRINCETON FOOTBALL CONGRATULATES

NFF GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT,  
the late Robert F. Casciola '58

AND ALL OTHER SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE HONOREES



## ERIC CHO

*PEDDIE SCHOOL*  
2025 DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE

### CONGRATULATIONS!

## 2024-2025 DVC Board Members

Eric Hamilton, President	Frank Lucchesi	Scott Heiser
Kelly Myers, Vice President	Michael Smith	Mike Olshin
Dr. Jim Ball, Secretary/Treasurer	Merkle Cherry	Larry Gunnell
Steve Tuckerson, Dinner Chair	Greg Bellotti	Dr. William Gomez
Ken Fisher, Dinner Journal	Abe Johnson	Dan Caruso
Ron Hoehn, Media Day	Jim Wilno	Joe Frappolli
	Troy Stevenson	







## 67TH NFF ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER PRESENTED BY LAS VEGAS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 | BELLAGIO HOTEL & CASINO

The premier event where the college football community connects, the NFF Annual Awards Dinner celebrates the induction of the NFF College Football Hall of Fame Class, the recognition of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class presented by Fidelity Investments, and the announcement of the NFF William V. Campbell Trophy® recipient.

### NFF COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Inducts the greatest players and coaches in the history of college football.

### NFF WILLIAM V. CAMPBELL TROPHY® AND NATIONAL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE PROGRAM

Bestows the William V. Campbell Trophy® to college football's top scholar-athlete and honors the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class presented by Fidelity Investments. Awards postgraduate scholarship and recognizes faculty athletics representatives.

### NFF FUTURE FOR FOOTBALL®

Celebrates the positive impact the game has made on millions of players, coaches, administrators, volunteers and fans nationwide.

### NFF I PLAYED

A campaign to foster camaraderie among former players by encouraging them to share their personal stories and experiences on NFF platforms.

### NFF CHAPTER NETWORK

Distributes \$1 million in scholarships annually, holding local events to promote amateur football through 120 chapters in 47 states.

### NFF NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS AND HATCHELL CUP

Recognizes the nation's top high school football programs via the National High School Academic Excellence Awards, presented by Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation, and the Hatchell Cup, presented by Bob's Steak & Chop House, which is awarded to the best team in the nation.



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