

(This writeup was our 2017 program dedication)

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This past April, Newburyport lost a giant in the community and a legend in the local football family with the passing of Coach Tom Smolski. All of us have been disheartened with the loss and remember Tom with great fondness.

Tom dedicated years of service to Newburyport through his career with the Water Department and by volunteering thousands of hours to the Pioneer League, Senior League Baseball, Newburyport Youth Football, The NHS Boosters Club and NHS Athletics. He instilled Clipper values in every player he coached and taught us all about passion, pride and commitment.

This season there will be two additions honoring Coach Smolski's service. All Football players will have a custom helmet sticker reading "Coach Smolski", in remembrance of Tom. He will be in the hearts of us all as we take the field each week and button up the helmets for each practice.

In addition, there is a plaque just outside of the football locker room. On the top is a half-hull of an older style Clipper helmet, below is a quote, given by Coach at his Wall of Fame induction back in 2015. The plaque reads:

In memory of Coach Tom Smolski

"It meant a lot to me to coach the kids and to be in Newburyport. I used to tell the kids, be proud! You wear the Crimson and Olde Gold. When you play Newburyport, you know you played a game because we would hit people, and when you left the stadium, you knew you played Newburyport"

*-Coach Tom Smolski
WOF Induction Speech. 2015*

This plaque will stand in his memory and his words will continue to inspire future players before they take the field.

Coach, we know that you are up there with the Clippers of old, watching over us and rooting against Amesbury. Through those you inspired and taught, your legacy will continue on for years to come and the Clipper values you impressed upon us will be instilled on generations of Clippers to follow.

Thank you for everything Coach, we miss you.