

NHS Memorial Stadium

X Non-League

CAL NHS Football 1997

NHS	28	X Marblehead	0
	38	No. Reading	14
	29	Wilmington	0
	27	@ Centucket	0
	41	@ Lynnfield	0
	23	Masconomet	7
	14	No. Andover	21
	27	@ Triton	0
	14	Hamm. Wenham	6
	28	Ipswich	7
	42	Amesbury	6
	311		41

Div. 4 Super Bowl

(@ Boston U.)

12	X Matignon	8
323		69

Won 11 Lost 1 Overall

** Super Bowl Champs **

Won 9 Lost 1 CAL

* CAL Champs *

SUPER BOWL PICKS

Matignon over Haverhill. Matignon has beaten teams from Division 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Obviously, the Warriors are ahead of Division 5.

980

Clippers poised to bounce back into contention

An experienced crew returns to lead the way

By KEVIN DOYLE
Daily News Sports Editor

Following a season during which self-inflicted mistakes proved to be its undoing as often as not, the Newburyport High football team hopes to move back into contention in the Cape Ann League this fall.

Is it a realistic goal?

"Our kids feel that way and they're excited about getting started. They want to challenge. What we're preach-

ing as a staff is that we have to take care of business each day in

practice and each weekend, then look around the next week and see where we

stand," said coach Ed Gaudiano (10th year, 59-34-0), who has the luxury of 16 lettermen, including 10 returning starters who accounted for 15 positions a year ago.

To turn around last year's 4-6 campaign, Gaudiano said the senior class must step up and lead a team still made up predominantly of underclassmen.

"I know this — we're better than we were last year. How that translates into wins and losses, and where we fit in, remains to be seen. The key is what kind of year our seniors have," Gaudiano said.

One fact seems indisputable — there will be little or no room for error in a league that boasts at least a half-dozen clubs poised to succeed North Andover as the league champion.

"Usually, you're talking about three or four teams as contenders. This year there are a lot of talented kids in this league and I think more teams will challenge and compete every week with anyone. I look at Ipswich and Masco as the teams to beat, along with North Andover and Wilmington. Lynnfield looks tough and Triton and Amesbury won't

sneak up on anyone this year. It remains to be seen where we fit in," said Gaudiano.

Improvement is a must on both sides of the ball.

Beset by ill-timed penalties and turnovers, the offense scored just one first-period touchdown and averaged a mere 8.9 points per game last year. A fleet of strong, experienced backs should help remedy that lack of production.

Senior captain Steve Lapham (6-1, 185) is the offensive linchpin. He led the team in rushing (674 yards), receiving (12 receptions), scoring (37 points) and all-purpose yardage a year ago and also handled the place-kicking.

Junior Jamie Armstrong (6-4, 185) rushed for 360 yards and a touchdown as a sophomore while sophomore Kevin Hale (6-1, 185) excelled in limited varsity action. Senior scooter John Farrell returns after missing last season with an ankle injury. Juniors Jeff Wecal — pound for pound, the team's strongest player — and Frank Demand provide plenty of depth.

Senior quarterback Ryan McCarthy returns for his second season at the helm of a potentially wide open attack. He completed 41 of 88 passes for 393 yards and two TDs a year ago and adds another running threat.

Junior Jeff Stone (6-0, 105) takes over at tightend while juniors Marc Ouellet and Brian Dugdale and sophomore Pat Foley are the top candidates at wide receiver.

Seniors Tom Welch (6-2, 220), Chris Brule (6-2, 320) and Matt Coffe (6-4, 225) and junior Pat Flynn (6-0, 190) all started at one time or another a year ago on the offensive line. Senior Glenn Coburn (6-0, 185) returns with experience while senior Joe Pirone (6-0, 190) has shifted from tight end to guard. Junior Mike Casey (6-0, 200) and sophomores John Weber (6-0, 220) and Dave Coffe (6-1, 220) figure to have an impact.

"Our backfield is a definite strength. The kids come out of pre-season knowing we can move the ball and knowing that we can play with anyone physically. The key is putting the ball in the end zone. We can't eat up eight minutes on a drive and have nothing to show for it," said Gaudiano, whose club got the better of Whitier, Haverhill and Winthrop in its three scrimmages.

Defensively, the Clippers are trying to re-establish the stingy mentality that back boned the 1995 Super Bowl champs. The top priority is to drastically reduce the number of big plays and long-distance scores allowed in crucial situations last season.

So far, Gaudiano likes what he's seen.

"We've played good defense throughout pre-season. I've been very encouraged by the tackling and the way we've been getting to the football. There has been improvement since day one," said Gaudiano.

The core group of linemen will rotate through the three interior positions. Lapham — a third-year starter and lone holdover from '95 — and Weber will operate as a stand-up defensive ends/linebackers.

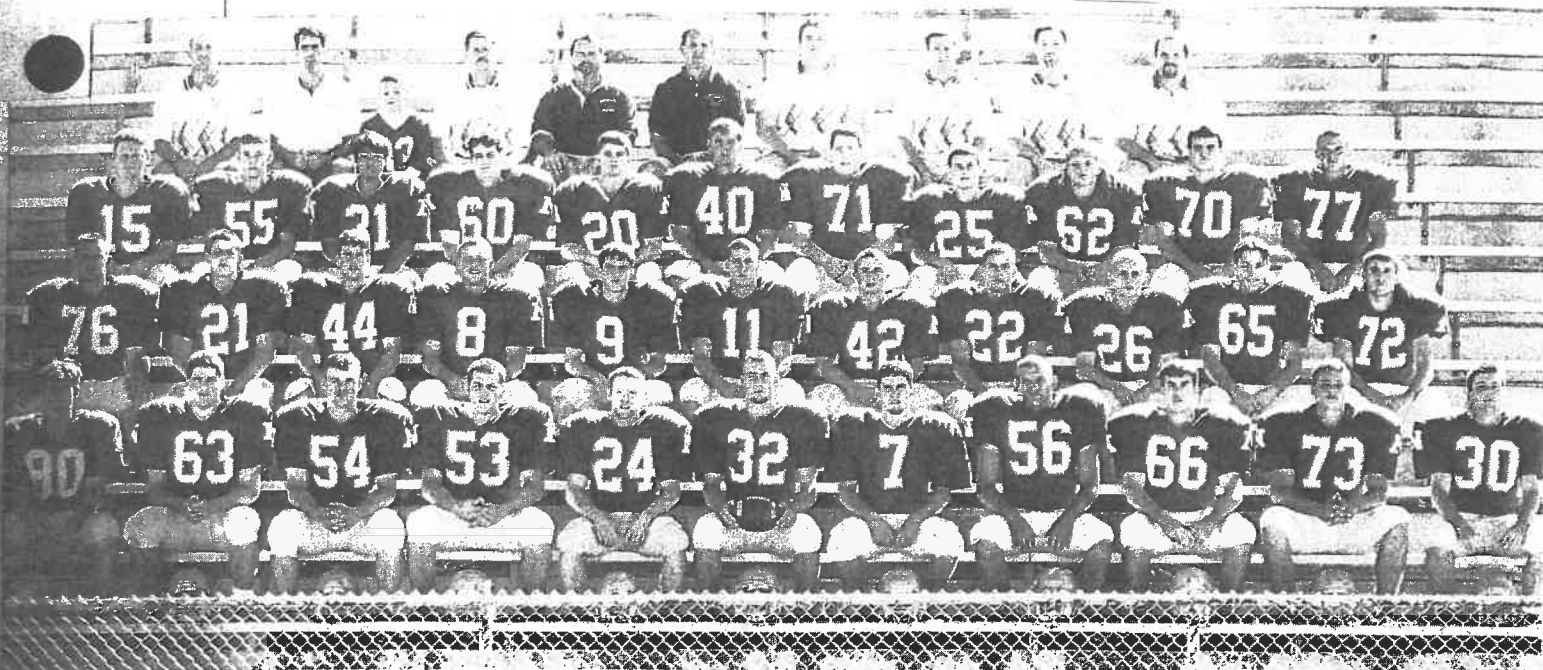
Stone and Hale have nailed down the inside linebacker slots. Junior Mike Smolski and Armstrong return in the secondary and will be joined by Wecal, Ouellet and Demand.

Ultimately, the formula for success is pretty simple.

"If you take care of tackling, then you stop people on defense. If you don't shoot yourself in the foot, then you put points on the board on offense," said Gaudiano.

"In terms of setting goals, our first one was to come out of pre-season with the feeling that we got something accomplished. We did that because the kids did a great job of conditioning and preparing themselves in the off-season, the best I've seen in my 10 years here. We didn't take a single step backwards. We're ready to go," he said.

1997 Newburyport High School Clippers Football Team



No.	NAME	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.
7	Ryan McCarthy	QB	5-9	165	Sr.
8	Jeff Wecal	RB	5-9	175	Jr.
9	Marc Ouellet	E	5-10	170	Jr.
11	Jamie Armstrong	RB	6-1	185	Jr.
15	Pat Foley	E	5-11	155	Soph.
20	Sean Sullivan	QB	5-11	160	Fr.
21	Mike Smolski	QB	5-10	175	Jr.
22	Frank Demand	RB	5-7	155	Jr.
24	John Farrell	RB	5-5	150	Sr.
25	Jared Mitchell	RB	5-4	145	Jr.
26	Tom Coffe	RB	5-9	165	Jr.
30	Rich Armstrong	FB	5-9	160	Sr.
31	Andrew Cramer	FB	5-6	160	Jr.
32	Steve Lapham	FB	6-1	195	Sr.
40	Kevin Hale	RB	6-1	185	Soph.
42	Brian Dugdale	E	5-5	150	Jr.
44	Jeff Stone	TE	6-0	185	Jr.
53	Tom Welch	T	6-1	220	Sr.

54	Chris Brule	T	6-2	220	Sr.
55	Mike Chase	G	5-10	170	Soph.
56	Joe Picone	G	5-10	200	Sr.
60	Jamal Erraies	G	5-9	170	Soph.
62	Jay Karahalidis	G	5-9	210	Jr.
63	Ben Lambert	T	6-5	235	Sr.
65	Pat Flynn	G	6-0	185	Jr.
66	Glenn Coburn	G	6-0	205	Sr.
70	Joe Pelletier	G	5-9	220	Jr.
71	Dave Coffe	T	6-1	230	Soph.
72	Brett Duncan	T	6-0	185	Jr.
73	Matt Coffe	T	6-4	225	Sr.
76	Mike Casey	T	6-1	210	Jr.
77	John Webber	T	5-11	220	Soph.
80	Justin Thomas	TE	6-0	175	Sr.

Coach: Ed Gaudiano (10th year, 59-34-0)

Captain: Steve Lapham



Head Coach Ed Gaudiano and Team Captain Steve Lapham



NHS FOOTBALL CHEERLEADERS



NHS FOOTBALL COACHES

NEWBURYPORT

Head Football Coach: Ed Gaudiano

Assistant Coaches: Thom Connors, Bob Clarke,
Steve Traister, Jason Beauparlant, Bill
Cashman, Sean Dobson, Jay Murphy

* Captain: Steve Lapham

Trainer: Neil Smith

Nickname: Clippers

Colors: Crimson & Old Gold

Stadium: World War Memorial Stadium
(6,000 capacity)

League: Cape Ann



Ed Gaudiano is beginning his 10th year as Newburyport High's head football coach.

• Clippers could feast on home cooking

By KEVIN DOYLE
Daily News Sports Editor

The new banner draped above High Street boldly proclaims that "The Clippers Are Coming!" That only tells part of the story.

What it doesn't say is that the Newburyport High football team isn't going anywhere for most of this season. The Clippers will play eight of their 11 games at World War Memorial Stadium this fall — the most home games in the school's 108 interscholastic seasons. Seven scheduled night games also represent a first.

In the long run, it could be a dramatic advantage for a team touted by many as a contender for its third Cape Ann League championship in the past five years. Games against fellow contenders such as Wilmington, North Andover, Masconomet and Ipswich will all be at home.

"Our kids are very excited. The impact is that you're talking about tradition. We want our kids to be aware of the privilege of playing in a stadium like this. There was a time when I think our kids just took the stadium

for granted but, in the last couple of years, we've been driving home the importance of having a nice stadium and of being able to play at night. We've been stressing that we have to use that to our advantage," said Newburyport coach Ed Gaudiano.

How did this lopsided schedule come about?

When the Clippers finalized a two-year agreement in June for tomorrow's non-league season opener with Marblehead, they had a balanced schedule with six home games and five road games.

Shortly thereafter, word came that ongoing renovations at Hamilton-Wenham would force the Generals onto the road for the entire season, necessitating a switch of the Nov. 8 game scheduled for South Hamilton to Nov. 7 in Newburyport.

Then, two weeks ago, North Reading officials informed Newburyport AD Dave Canan that the installation of a new track — which rings the football field and requires three weeks to set properly — would force the Hornets to give up their Sept. 20 home date against the Clippers.

That game will now be played next Friday night (8:30 kickoff) as the second half of a double-header. The first game pits Amesbury — yet another team without a field — against rival Triton at 6 p.m.

NHS - 1997

Fri, Nth
9/12

NHS 28

X Marblehead 0

Newburyport 28
Marblehead 0

At World War Memorial Stadium

Newburyport 7 14 7 0-28
Marblehead 0 0 0 0-0
N-Ryan McCarthy 1 run (Steve Lapham kick).
N-John Farrell 66 run (Lapham kick).
N-Kevin Hale 24 pass from McCarthy (Lapham kick).
N-Lapham 2 run (Lapham kick).

	Newburyport	Marblehead
First downs	9	9
Plays-total offense	38-270	45-130
Rushes-yards	25-198	30-123
PC-PA-yards	5-9-72	5-10-19
Interceptions by	2	0
Punts-average	1(24.0)	3(37.3)
Fumbles-lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	3-25	2-10

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Marblehead: Mike Taylor, 15-69-4.6; Josh Guthartz, 14-52-3.7; Keith Comeau, 1-2-2.0.

Newburyport: John Farrell, 3-94-31.3; Kevin Hale, 9-53-5.9; Steve Lapham, 10-51-5.1; Jamie Armstrong, 1-3-3.0; Ryan McCarthy, 2-(-3)-(-1.5).

PASSING

Marblehead: Keith Comeau, 5-10-19, 2 INTs
Newburyport: Ryan McCarthy, 5-9-72, TD.

RECEIVING

Marblehead: Josh Guthartz, 2-6-3.0; Mike Taylor, 1-16-16.0; Larry Turner, 1-5-5.0; Andrew Whipple, 1-(-5)-(-5.0).

Newburyport: Kevin Hale, 3-30-10.0; Jeff Wecal, 1-34-34.0; Jamie Armstrong, 1-8-8.0.

The Clippers opened their season with a bang with a resounding 28-0 spanking of the Magicians. The offense clicked on all cylinders racing to a 21-0 lead at half. Meanwhile the defense completely throttled the M attack. A 4th period drive against the Clipper 3rd unit was stopped with Hale's interception.

Sr. John Farrell, out last year with a broken ankle, returned with a sensational broken field scoring run. Sr QB Mc Carthy scored 1 TD & passed for another.

POW - RB John Farrell

LB TE Jeff Stone - in on 11 tackles

Fri, Nth
9/19

NHS 38

No. Reading 14

Newburyport 38
North Reading 14

At World War Memorial Stadium

Newburyport 12 20 0 6-38
North Reading 0 0 0 0-14
N-Jeff Wecal 6 run (kick failed).
N-John Farrell 42 run (rush failed).
N-Steve Lapham 6 run (Lapham kick).
N-Kevin Hale 89 run (kick failed).
N-Ouellet 38 pass from Ryan McCarthy (Lapham kick).
NR-Chris Frithsen 3 run (rush failed).
N-Ouellet 74 kickoff return (kick failed).
NR-Frithsen 3 run (Mike DiGiantomaso pass from Pat Martin).

	Newburyport	North
First downs	10	13
Plays-total offense	40-330	57-213
Rushes-yards	30-258	30-137
PC-PA-yards	4-6-72	5-20-76
Interceptions by	0	1
Punts-average	2(33.5)	4(30.2)
Fumbles-lost	2-0	4-2
Penalties-yards	10-67	2-25

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Newburyport: Hale, 5-128-25.6; Farrell, 3-46-15.3; Lapham, 6-25-4.1; Jamie Armstrong, 2-15-7.5; Wecal, 3-15-5.0.

North Reading: Frithsen, 19-91-4.8; Martin, 3-18-6.0; Joe Dettol, 3-17-5.7.

PASSING

Newburyport: McCarthy, 4-5-72, 1 TD, 1 INT; Wecal, 0-1-0.

North Reading: Martin, 5-20-76.

RECEIVING

Newburyport: Ouellet, 2-63-31.5; Hale 2-9-4.5.
North Reading: DiGiantomaso, 3-35-11.7;

It was a complete rout - 38-0 at halftime - as the Clippers rolled up 5 TD's & 304 yds on just 24 plays & then took the rest of the night off. 5 different backs scored.

* Highlights were an 89 yds TD run by Kevin Hale (#3 longest in NHS history) on a 2nd & 34 situation at the N11, a J. Farrell 42 yds TD jaunt, Marc Ouellet's 2 TD's - a 38 yds TD pass recep. & a 74 yds KO return.

The Clippers were just too big & fast for the plucky but outmanned Hornets.

POW - LB RB Kevin Hale - 12 tackles 89 yds run
WR KR M. Ouellet - 138 all-purpose yds

NHS - 1997

Fri, Nt.

NHS

29

Wilmington

0

9/24

Newburyport
Wilmington

29

0

At World War Memorial Stadium

Newburyport 15 7 0 7-29

Wilmington 0 0 0 0-0

N-Steve Lapham 13 run (Marc Ouellet rush).

N-Ouellet 12 pass from Ryan McCarthy (Lapham kick).

N-Jamie Armstrong 16 run (Lapham kick).

N-Ouellet 5 pass from McCarthy (Lapham kick).

Newburyport Wilmington

First downs 18 2

Plays-total offense 60-305 30-55

Rushes-yards 45-220 18-48

PC-PA-yards 7-11-85 2-8-7

Interceptions by 0 1

Punts-average 1(28.0) 4(33.5)

Fumbles-lost 3-1 1-1

Penalties-yards 3-30 1-5

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Newburyport: Lapham, 14-85-6.1; Armstrong, 11-61-5.6; Jeff Weal, 7-36-5.1; Kevin Hale, 7-22-3.1.

Wilmington: Mike Gennetti, 5-22-4.5; Jamie Campbell, 5-10-2.0; Tim Gillis, 2-8-4.0.

PASSING

Newburyport: McCarthy, 7-11-85, 2 TDs, 1 INT.

Wilmington: Gillis, 2-8-7.

RECEIVING

Newburyport: Ouellet, 3-36-12.0; Hale 3-32-10.7; Lapham, 1-17-17.0.

Wilmington: Campbell, 1-5-5.0; Rory Ballou, 1-2-2.0.

25 sec. to go & a clearly enraged W eleven left the field. The refs then called the game.

POW - RB J. Armstrong - 7 tackles DT T. Welch - 2 TDs, 7 assists

Sat. 10/14

NHS

27

@ Pentucket

0

Newburyport
Pentucket

27

0

At Pentucket Reg. H.S.

Newburyport 7 7 6 7-27

Pentucket 0 0 0 0-0

N-Jamie Armstrong 1 run (Steve Lapham kick).

N-Lapham 8 run (Lapham kick).

N-Marc Ouellet 13 pass from Ryan McCarthy (kick failed).

N-McCarthy 1 run (Lapham kick).

Newburyport Pentucket

First downs 14 4

Plays-total offense 51-292 42-114

Rushes-yards 37-204 27-107

PC-PA-yards 6-11-88 2-10-7

Interceptions by 1 1

Punts-average 2(29.0) 4(36.2)

Fumbles-lost 2-0 2-2

Penalties-yards 5-35 3-20

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Newburyport: Lapham, 11-73-6.6; Hale, 9-42-4.7; McCarthy, 3-35-11.7; Jeff Weal, 3-18-6.0; John Farrell, 5-16-3.2; Armstrong, 3-11-3.7.

Pentucket: Paul Gasbarro, 9-93-10.3; Brendan McElligott, 8-14-1.8; Brad Bridges, 4-15-3.7.

PASSING

Newburyport: McCarthy, 6-11-88.

Pentucket: Eric Schlitt, 2-10-7.

RECEIVING

Newburyport: Ouellet, 3-40-13.3; John Farrell, 1-31-31.0; Jeff Stone, 1-9-9.0; Lapham, 1-8-8.0.

Pentucket: McElligott, 2-7-3.5.

The Clippers made it 4 in a row punning a 27-0 shutout on the sliding Sackems. N rolled up 292 yds. on offense while holding the Sackems to a mere 107 total yds. It was only a 7-0 game until late in the 1st half.

Offensively, all 5 N backs contributed to the outcome - QB McCarthy completed 6/11 passes 88 yds., 1 TD & ran for another score. N's 2nd TD seemed to take a little out of the Sackems as they had played the Clippers tough.

POW - OT Matt Coffe - solid blocking

DT Tom Welch - 5 unass. tackles 2 sacks

985

Sun.

10/12

NHS

41

@ Lynnfield

0

Newburyport
Lynnfield

41
0

At Lynnfield

Newburyport 7 13 14 7-41
Lynnfield 0 0 0 0-0
N-Jeff Stone 83 pass from Ryan McCarthy (Steve Lapham kick).
N-McCarthy 12 run (Lapham kick).
N-Jamie Armstrong 3 run (kick failed).
N-Stone 11 pass from McCarthy (Lapham kick).
N-Brian Dugdale 44 pass from Mike Smolski (Lapham kick).
N-Frank Demand 61 run (Lapham kick).

	Newburyport	Lynnfield
First downs	12	7
Plays-total offense	46-437	47-110
Rushes-yards	33-243	26-92
PC-PA-yards	6-10-194	4-15-25
Interceptions by	1	0
Punts-average	1(30.0)	6(34.5)
Fumbles-lost	2-1	2-0
Penalties-yards	8-55	5-37

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Newburyport: Demand 3-78-26.0; Jeff Wecal 5-40-8.0; Lapham 6-40-6.7.
Lynnfield: Ian Grant 4-28-7.0; Harold Roy 7-20-2.9; Jamie Saccardo 2-13-6.5.

PASSING

Newburyport: McCarthy 5-9-150, 2 TDs; Smolski 1-1-44, TD.
Lynnfield: Kris Borkowski 4-14-25; Lee Jamison 0-1-0.

RECEIVING

Newburyport: Stone 2-94-47.0; Kevin Hale 1-44-44.0; Brian Dugdale 1-44-44.0.
Lynnfield: Saccardo 2-7-3.5; Roy 1-10-10.0; Charlie Shove 1-8-8.0.

The Pioneers had a massive defensive line so the Clippers simply spread the field & turned the game into a track meet with their superior speed. It was a perfect Fall day for Football.

The undefeated Clippers (5-0) rolled up season's best 437 yds. of total offense as 10 different players contributed. The 2nd team came up with 147 yds. & 2 TD's.

QB McCarthy ran for 1 TD & passed for a career high 150 yds. including 2 scores to TE Jeff Stone, including a school record 83 yd. strike.

Defensively, the starting unit remained unscored upon in 15 periods of work.

POW - TE Stone - *School record 83 yd. TD recep.

DE Lapham - 7 tackles, 1 sack 5/6 PAT's

Fri. (mt) 10/17

NHS

23

Masconomet

7

Newburyport
Masconomet

23
7

Newburyport 7 7 3 6-23
Masconomet 0 0 0 7-7
N-Jeff Stone 11 pass from Ryan McCarthy (Steve Lapham kick).
N-Lapham 1 run (Lapham kick).
N-Lapham 29 field goal.
N-Tim Gale 3 run (Kevin Koster kick).
N-Lapham 2 run (kick failed).

	Newburyport	Masconomet
First downs	22	7
Plays-total offense	68-328	32-128
Rushes-yards	56-302	18-90
PC-PA-yards	3-7-29	3-10-38
Interceptions by	1	0
Punts-average	2(29.0)	2(32.0)
Fumbles-lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	3-20	2-15

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Newburyport: Kevin Hale 15-106-7.1; Jamie Armstrong 14-82-6.6; Lapham 13-58-4.5.
Masconomet: Gale 12-62-5.1; Rick Koster 6-28-4.7.

PASSING

Newburyport: McCarthy 3-7-29.
Masconomet: K. Koster 3-10-38.

RECEIVING

Newburyport: Marc Ouellet 1-13-13.0; Stone 1-11-11.0; Lapham 1-5-5.0.
Masconomet: R. Koster 1-17-17.0; Padraic McGarry 1-11-11.0; David Merrill 1-10-10.0.

In a battle of CAL unbeaten the Clippers came up big overwhelming the Chieftains 23-7 before over 8,000 fans - 1 of the largest crowds in years.

The offensive line moved Masco, at will & at 1 remarkable stretch held the ball for more than 14 consecutive minutes while building up a 17-0 lead.

As usual all the Clipper backs had a hand in the awesome offensive display - 302 net yds. rush, piling up 21 1st downs. N got off to a rough start - on the opening

(984)

NHS vs Masco (cont'd)

Kickoff Masco's Tim Gale raced 88 yds. for an apparent TD only to have it wiped out on an illegal block. Masco started out at the N 24 & moved to the N 12. On a 3rd & 4 pass the Clippers NG Joe Bicone interc. at the 4, saving the day.

Later another Masco drive was stopped at the N 25. N led 14-0 at halftime.

Steve Lapham kicked a 29 yd. FG in the 3rd period & a 4th period Clipper TD wrapped things up.

The undefeated Clippers sit on top of the CAL 5-0 (6-0 overall) & things look good at this point.

POW - Offensive & Defensive Lines

Fri. Nth
10/24

NHS

14

No. Andover

21

North Andover
Newburyport

21
14

At World War Memorial Stadium

North Andover	0	0	7	14-21
Newburyport	6	8	0	0-14
N-John Farrell 7 run (kick failed).				
N-Steve Lapham 1 run (Kevin Hale pass from Ryan McCarthy).				
NA-Ryan Donovan 1 run (Pete Roemer kick).				
NA-Pat Sheehan 1 run (Sheehan rush).				
NA-Sheehan 2 run (kick blocked).				

	Newburyport	North
Andover		
First downs	12	14
Plays-total offense	47-248	63-230
Rushes-yards	26-169	51-161
PC-PA-yards	7-17-79	6-9-69
Interceptions by	0	4
Punts-average		2(31.0)
Fumbles-lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	4-30	0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Newburyport: Farrell 7-73-10.4; Jeff Wecal 4-36-9.0; Lapham 7-25-3.6.
North Andover: Sheehan 37-141-3.8; Brian Arkus 11-1.4; Saba 2-6-3.0.

PASSING

Newburyport: McCarthy 7-17-79.
North Andover: Donovan 6-9-69.

RECEIVING

Newburyport: Marc Ouellet 3-43-14.3; Lapham 2-16-8.0; Jeff Stone 1-15-15.0.
North Andover: Tim Pybus 3-35-11.7; Arkus 2-18-9.0; Sheehan 1-16-16.0.

The game was halted for nearly 15 minutes midway through the fourth period when Newburyport junior defensive back Mike Smolski was injured making a tackle and transported by ambulance to Anna Jaques Hospital. Further details were not available at press time.

The fans saw 2 different halves of football last night - the 1st dominated by the Clippers who took a 14-0 lead by halftime.

The 2nd half saw a different Scarlet Knight team emerge - 1 that controlled the ball & did not allow N an offensive play until 5:57 remained in game.

During that period NA scored 2 TD's & took a 15-14 lead on a successful 2 pt. conv. try. 2 huge NA tackles opened big holes for the Knight's outstanding RB Pat Sheehan who ground out 228 all-purpose yds.

The 1st half was all N, piling up 169 yds, rush & 9 1st downs with Farrell & Lapham scoring.

A successful NA onside kick following their 1st score set up their 2nd TD & continued their momentum.

NHS - 1997

NHS vs NA (Cont'd)

The Clippers mounted 1 final threat with 1:33 & no timeouts left but the drive stalled at the NA 14 when McCarthy's pass was intercepted by Sheehan (3int.).

Mike Smolksi suffered a concussion late in the game but is expected back in 2 weeks.

The Clippers loss creates a log jam at the top with 5 teams now having a shot at the title.

POW - RB John Farrell - 7/73 yds, 1 TD rush.

DB Jamie Armstrong - strong on defense

Sun,
11/2

NHS

27

@ Triton

0

Newburyport
Triton

27
0

At Memorial Stadium

Newburyport	7	7	6	7-27
Triton	0	0	0	0-0

N-Ryan McCarthy 5 run (Steve Lapham kick).
N-Jeff Wecal 50 run (Lapham kick).
N-Wedal 60 run (kick failed).
N-Marc Ouellet 13 pass from McCarthy (Lapham kick).

	Triton	Newburyport
First downs	7	17
Plays-total offense	42-154	49-383
Plays-yards	26-104	41-343
PC-PA-yards	4-11-50	4-6-40
Interceptions by	0	0
Punts-average	5(34.6)	1(42.0)
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-0
Penalties-yards	3-25	3-25

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Newburyport: Wecal, 8-177-22.1; John Farrell 7-63-9.1; Lapham 4-45-5.6.
Triton: O'Connell 14-70-5.0; Mike McClellon 2-16-8.0; Jon Vetter 3-15-3.0.

PASSING

Newburyport: McCarthy, 4-6-40.
Triton: Sean O'Malley, 5-11-50.

RECEIVING

Newburyport: Ouellet, 2-27-13.5; Farrell, 1-10-10.0; Kevin Hale, 1-3-3.0.
Triton: Eric Gable, 3-36-12.0; O'Connell, 2-14-7.0.

The heavy rains of Sat. forced a postponement of the game to Sunday. The Clippers bounced back in style from their 1st loss last week to No. Andover & pinned a decisive 27-0 shutout on scrappy but out-manned Triton.

A season's record high of 348 yds. rushing propelled the league-leading Clippers with Jeff Wecal leading the charge with 8/177 yds, 2 TD rush. All 5 N running backs contributed to the awesome attack.

QB Ryan McCarthy had a 5 yds TD run & fired a 13 yds TD strike to Ouellet.

The contest was played in a light rain.

The Vikings were scrappy but the Npt. lines clearly dominated & Tri. never got anything going.

POW - RB Jeff Wecal - led offense, very speedy

NG Dave Coffe - in on 8 tackles

Fri. Nt.

NHS 14

Ham. - Wenham 6

11/7

Newburyport 14 Hamilton-Wenham 6

At World War Memorial Stadium

Newburyport	0	7	0	7-14
Hamilton-Wenham	0	0	0	6-6
N-Ryan McCarthy 1 run (Steve Lapham kick).				
HW-Scott Winfrey 19 run (rush failed).				
N-McCarthy 8 run (Lapham kick).				

	Newburyport	Hamilton
Wenham		
First downs	11	9
Plays-total offense	43-178	41-157
Rushes-yards	38-150	36-150
PC-PA-yards	3-5-28	1-5-7
Interceptions by	1	0
Punts-average	3(29.9)	3(27.7)
Fumbles-lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	3-20	2-15

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Newburyport: John Farrell, 6-59-9.9; Jamie Armstrong 7-40-5.7; Kevin Hale, 10-25-2.5.
Hamilton-Wenham: Scott Winfrey, 11-50-4.6; Mark Winfrey, 12-49-4.1; Judd Funchion, 8-33-4.2.

PASSING

Newburyport: Ryan McCarthy, 3-5-28.
Hamilton-Wenham: Jason Waldron, 1-5-7.

RECEIVING

Newburyport: Jeff Stone, 1-14-14.0; Marc Ouellet, 1-9-9.0; Hale, 1-5-5.0.
Home: Mark Winfrey, 1-7-7.0.

Newburyport senior **Ryan McCarthy** became the 10th quarterback in school history to crack the 1,000-yard barrier for career passing yardage and currently ranks 10th all-time with 1,016 yards . . .

The Clippers survived a big score on a damp, raw Fri. night as they squeezed out a 14-6 win over the fighting Generals. N started and finished well but in between the GAL co-leaders were out-played in the game's middle portions.

After forcing a HW punt to open the game the Clippers clicked off a methodical 14 play 75 yds drive that took 7:13 to execute resulting in a N score by McCarthy.

The Generals unleashed a drive which carried to the N5. The drive ended when Mark Winfrey was knocked out of bounds at the 1 by Ouellet & Armstrong.

S. Winfrey's 19 yds TD run made it a 7-6 game. The Generals decided to go for 2 but QB Waldron was dropped in the backfield by Hale.

The Clippers sewed things up with a 40 yds drive which ate up all but 1:39 of the clock-McCarthy TD.

POW- QB McCarthy - scored both TD's.

LB Hale - huge def. game - 11 unass. tackles

Port Sides — The field was playable thanks to the weekend snow removal efforts of the Clippers' coaching staff and youth football coach Tom Smolski . . . McCarthy's two TD passes were the 12th and 13th of his career, tying him for seventh on the all-time school list with Kevin Stehlin . . . The game was the 980th in 106 years of NHS football, dating back to 1892 . . . Newburyport has won four of the last five meetings between the schools to open a 22-8-0 edge in the all-time rivalry . . . Should the Clippers advance to the Super Bowl, they will become only the fourth team in school history to play as many as 12 games, joining the 1904 (4-7-1), 1903 (7-4-2) and 1896 (10-4-0) squads .

Clippers close in on their third Super Bowl berth in five years

FOOTBALL

N'port 28
Ipswich 7

NEWBURYPORT — As far as the Newburyport High football team was concerned, the wait was certainly worth it.

Once the Clippers (8-1; 9-1) shifted into high gear midway through the second period, they sprinted past Ipswich, 28-7, last night at World War Memorial Stadium to win a share of their third Cape Ann League championship in the past five years and their ninth since joining the CAL in 1973.

989

Tues. Nt. NHS

28

Ipswich

7

11/18

Newburyport
Ipswich

28

- 7

At World War Memorial Stadium

Newburyport 0 13 8 7-28

Ipswich 0 0 7 0-7

N-Ouellet 7 pass from Ryan McCarthy (Steve Lapham kick).

N-Ouellet 7 pass from McCarthy (kick blocked).

N-McCarthy 6 run (Jeff Stone pass from Lapham).

N-Jason Doran 16 run (Aaron Woodworth kick).

N-Lapham 27 run (Lapham kick).

	Newburyport	Ipswich
First downs	14	13
Plays-total offense	43-305	49-181
Rushes-yards	36-246	38-181
PC-PA-yards	5-7-59	3-11-0
Interceptions by	3	1
Points-average	1(27.0)	1(37.0)
Fumbles-lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	4-30	1-7

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Newburyport: Lapham, 7-64-9.1; John Farrell, 7-57-8.1; Jeff Weal, 7-46-6.6; McCarthy, 7-43-6.1;

Kevin Hale, 5-24-4.8; Jamie Armstrong, 3-12-4.0.

Ipswich: Erik Drown, 6-44-7.3; Nick Stevens, 9-34-3.8;

Kyle Doyon, 9-33-3.7; Jason Doran, 3-26-8.7;

Ryan Boutchie, 8-25-3.1; Jim Bodwell, 3-19-6.3.

PASSING

Newburyport: McCarthy, 5-7-59, 2 TDs, 1 INT.

Ipswich: Drown, 2-10-(-4); Brad Eaton, 1-1-4.

RECEIVING

Newburyport: Ouellet, 4-45-11.2; Farrell, 1-14-14.0; Hale, 10 yards.

Ipswich: Boutchie, 2-4-2.0; Eaton, 1-(-4)-(-4.0).

The Clippers finally got to play the Tigers after Friday's snowstorm forced several delays & made it an important occasion with a 28-7 victory on an icy, cold evening. The win insured a tie for the CAL Title & kept them Super Bowl bound. "Npt. has too much outside speed for us" Coach Jackie Welch.

QB Ryan McCarthy triggered another big offensive output by the Clippers - completed 2 passes for TD's to Marc Ouellet & had 7/43 yds. rushing & ran for a TD.

All the N backs as usual ran well spreading the offense around.

The Tigers only score came in the 3rd quarter sparked by the running of Drown & Stevens. Only Ames on T - giving Day stand between the CAL title & the Super Bowl.

POW - OT Mike Casey - best blocker

DE John Webber - 7 tackles 3 for losses

Clippers roll into Super Bowl

Thanks,
11/27

NHS

42

Amesbury

6

Newburyport
Amesbury

42
6

At World War Memorial Stadium

Newburyport	20	14	8	0-42
Amesbury	0	0	0	6-Flt
N-Steve Lapham 17 run (kick failed).				
N-Ryan McCarthy 4 run (McCarthy rush).				
N-Marc Ouellet 12 pass from McCarthy (kick failed).				
N-Jeff Stone 9 pass from McCarthy (Lapham kick).				
N-Ouellet 4 pass from McCarthy (Lapham kick).				
N-Lapham 13 run (Frank Demand pass from McCarthy).				
A-Ken Perry 24 blocked punt return (pass failed).				
A-Ken Perry 24 blocked punt return (pass failed).				
First downs	16	8		
Plays-total offense	56-398	45-138		
Rushes-yards	50-373	29-63		
PC-PA-yards	3-6-25	5-15-76		
Interceptions by	1	1		
Punts-average	0	5(24.2)		
Fumbles-lost	1-0	4-1		
Penalties-yards	9-90	2-22		

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Newburyport: Lapham, 9-109-12.1; John Farrell, 7-77-11.0; Jamie Armstrong, 4-45-11.2; Demand, 6-45-7.5; McCarthy, 6-37-6.1; Brian Dugdale, 2-15-7.5; Jeff Weal, 4-15-3.7; Ouellet, 1-11-11.0; Jared Mitchell, 2-9-4.5; Kevin Hale, 4-8-2.0; Sean Sullivan, 2-2-1.0; Thom Coffe, 2-0-0.0; Andrew Cramer, 1-0-0.0.

Amesbury: Josh Barrett, 7-28-4.0; Matt Bartkiewicz, 3-22-7.3; Brent Bergeron, 5-12-2.4; Peter Motsis, 2-3-1.5; Ryan McKay, 3-0-0.0; Nick Ash, 1-0-0.0; Johnny Hawkes, 1-0-0.0.

PASSING

Newburyport: McCarthy, 3-6-25, 3 TDs, 1 INT.

Amesbury: Jon Hlebica, 4-11-7.5; Bartkiewicz, 1-2-1; Kevin Riggidy, 0-2-0, 1 INT.

RECEIVING

Newburyport: Ouellet, 2-16-8.0; Stone, 1-9-9.0.

Amesbury: Dan Mohr, 5-76-15.2.

The Clippers rolled into a Div. 4 Super Bowl berth on the strength of a 42-6 walloping of ancient rival Amesbury. It was a cold, extremely windy day & the Clippers decided to take the wind to open the game was a big factor in their victory as they built up a 20-0 1st quarter lead.

The big win ended the regular season at 10-1 & the 9th CAL title in 25 yrs. in league.

The Clippers offense was awesome with 373 yds, rushing. As usual everyone had a hand in it - Lapham 9/109 yds, 2 TD rush, Farrell 7/77 yds, rush, Ouellet 2 TD pass catches & QB Mc Carthy - 1 TD rushing

& passing for 3 others.

So now its a Div. 4 Super Bowl appearance against undefeated Matignon.

* Burger King Co - MVP's -

Ryan Mc Carthy & Steve Lapham

Ouellet set a school single-season record and tied the career mark for touchdown receptions with two first-half TD catches, giving him nine for the year.

He finished the day with 132 all-purpose yards, pushing his team-leading total to 701 yards for the season. He shares the team TD lead (10) with Steve Lapham.

Senior quarterback Ryan McCarthy's three TD passes gave him 16 for his career and vaulted him into a fourth-place tie on the all-time school list with Wall of Famer Kevin Sullivan. He also tied Kurt Laakso for fifth place with 93 completions.

McCarthy has now accounted for 22 touchdowns (14 passing, 8 rush-

ing) this fall. Remarkably, he has been sacked once all season while attempting to pass.

"The offensive line gets all the credit for whatever I've been able to do. Without them doing their job, I wouldn't have the stats," said McCarthy.

The Super Bowl appearance will be the sixth for Newburyport, which has a 3-2 record in post-season. Matignon is winless in two previous Bowl appearances (1990 and '94).

In The Notebook: After playing defensive back for much of the season, sophomore **Steve Ladd** of Newburyport (NHS, '96) saw some late-season action at quarterback for Sacred Heart and got the start in the Thanksgiving Day finale against St. John's.

season **A Super end to Super**

Goal-line stand, late drive lift the Clippers to title

By KEVIN DOYLE
Daily News Sports Editor

NEWBURYPORT — Years from now they may be recalled in tandem as "The Play" and "The Drive" when talk turns to the storybook season of the 1997 Newburyport High football team.

"The Play" came with 3.5 seconds remaining and the Clippers clinging to a 12-8 lead against Matignon in the Div. 4 Super Bowl at Nickerson Field.

On 4th-and-goal from the three, the Warriors' senior quarterback Mike Frawley rolled left on a designed pass-run option. His receivers covered, Frawley headed for the end zone and launched himself at the three, stretching the ball towards the goal line and victory.

Newburyport junior defensive back Jeff Wechal would have none of it. He torpedoed Frawley in mid-air, sending him sideways and knocking the ball loose and through the end zone — in the estimation of the referees, a crucial instant before the ball broke the plane of the goal line.

The Clippers (11-1-0) had held. In their frustration, the previously-undefeated Warriors (10-1-0) were slapped with a pair of unsportsmanlike penalties.

All that remained for the Cape Ann League champs to claim their second Super Bowl crown in three years was for senior quarterback Ryan McCarthy to take a knee and start the celebration.

"The Drive" preceded "The Play" by less than two minutes. Trailing, 8-6, and bottled up most of the night by Matignon's defense, the Clippers fashioned a game-winning 10-play, 91-yard march starting with just 4:44 remaining after Jesse Gregory's 50-yard punt had pinned them at their own nine.

Triggered by the calm and focused McCarthy's completions of 19 yards to Marc Ouellet and 25 yards to John Farrell, the Clippers moved steadily to the Matignon 18.

On 3rd-and-4, senior captain Steve Lapham (17 carries, 87 yards, TD) — who earlier in the half missed a 27-yard field goal which would have given the Clippers the lead — slammed over the right side, ran over both his own blocker and a Matignon tackler, cut left through traffic and used Ouellet's downfield block to dance into the end zone for the winning score with 1:28 to play.

"He played in the last Super Bowl win and knows what it takes to win. Thankfully, we got the ball to the right guy in that situation. He runs over his own guys all the time and he wasn't going to be kept out of the end zone," said Newburyport coach Ed Caudiano.

Newburyport Matignon

12
8

At Nickerson Field

Newburyport	6	0	0	6-12
Matignon	0	8	0	0-8
N-Hale 2 run (kick failed)				
M-Mulrey 33 pass from Gregory (Frawley rush).				
N-Lapham 18 run (pass failed).				

	Newburyport	Matignon
First downs	13	9
Plays-total offense	55-258	43-253
Rushes-yards	39-137	33-118
PC-PA-yards	6-16-121	5-10-135
Interceptions by	1	1
Punts-average	4(36.5)	4(37.0)
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	4-34	7-61

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Newburyport: Lapham, 17-87-5.1; Hale, 8-22-2.7; Wechal, 5-12-2.4; R. McCarthy, 4-9-2.2.
Matignon: Janulewicz, 10-48-4.8; Frawley, 10-24-2.4; C. McCarthy, 6-23-3.9; Rivieccio, 4-23-5.7.

PASSING

Newburyport: R. McCarthy, 6-16-121.
Matignon: Frawley, 4-9-102; Gregory, 1-1-33.

RECEIVING

Newburyport: Hale, 3-56-18.7; Farrell, 1-25-25.0; Ouellet, 1-19-19.0; Lapham, 1-11-11.0.
Matignon: Mulrey, 3-68-22.7; McCarthy, 1-50-50.0; Gregory, 1-17-17.0.

A game that featured two offenses which had combined for more than 600 points and in excess of three miles worth of rushing yardage was dominated by defense. Both teams' lightning-quick units nullified the other's offensive speed and kept big plays to a minimum.

Newburyport gobbled up Matignon's Chris McCarthy (20 TDs, 132 points), holding him to 23 net yards. Speed back Jesse Gregory was never a factor and the Warriors' most effective runner proved to be burly fullback R.J. Janulewicz.

Similarly, the Clippers' well-documented offensive speed never came into play. Instead, they relied on straight-ahead power bursts between the tackles and the calm, focused direction of the senior quarterback McCarthy.

The Clippers opened the game on a surprise note with Farrell recovering Lapham's game-opening onside kick at the Matignon 49.

They required 10 plays to cover the distance, fuelled by a 30-yard pass from McCarthy to sophomore Kevin Hale (3 catches, 56 yards) that wiped out a 15-yard penalty for an illegal block and brought the ball to the Matignon 21. Consecutive Hale totes of four and nine yards gave the Clippers a 1st-and-goal at the eight.

From there, it got tough. After Hale was dropped for no gain, Lapham banged over the right side for four and McCarthy kept for two around left end. On 4th-and-goal from the two, Hale wedged through a seam on the right side for the TD. Lapham's PAT failed but the Clippers had a 6-0 lead with 6:17 left in the first quarter.

Jamie Armstrong's interception at his own 11 turned back the Warriors' first threat in the first period. Early in the second period, a promising Matignon march stalled out on downs at the Clippers' 33.

Midway through the period, a low snap forced Newburyport punter Armstrong to scramble on 4th-and-9 and he came up well short of the first down with the Warriors taking possession at the Newburyport 35.

On 3rd-and-8 from the 33, Frawley pitched to Jesse Gregory who lofted a perfectly-placed halfback option pass just over the leap of Wechal and into the arms of Larry Mulrey for the tying TD with 4:44 left in the half — the first points surrendered in the first half by the Clippers all season. Frawley's keeper around the left side produced the two-point conversion that gave the Warriors an 8-6 lead at the break.

Matignon's final shot came courtesy of Frawley's 50-yard heave to an uncovered Chris McCarthy, who was finally forced out at the Newburyport 24. A 17-yard screen pass to Gregory moved the ball to the three with just under a minute left.

Mike Smolski decked Frawley on a first-down keeper, then Jeff Stone shot through for a thundering stop on Frawley's second-down quarterback sneak. Out of timeouts, Frawley drilled the ball into the phony turf to stop the clock.

On the next play, Wechal drilled the Warriors' hopes of a perfect season.

Present links to past glory

NHS football continues to be a successful family affair

By TIM BURTON
Daily News correspondent

NEWBURYPORT — The history of Newburyport High football is a tale of families that have produced generations of players who have worn the Clippers' colors.

The 1997 Super Bowl-bound Clippers are certainly no different from previous teams of the past as three members of this year's squad link themselves directly to previous Super Bowl participants.

Junior Jeff Weecal, sophomore Kevin Hale and freshman Sean Sullivan all have relatives who played and their names conjure up nothing but good memories. Several other players are following in the footsteps of their fathers or older brothers.

Clipper coach Ed Gaudiano, who is prepping his team for its third Super Bowl appearance in five years, thinks the families all have something in common.

"Touch football games and family events help to keep things going," said the 10th-year coach. "You learn a lot from being in a family."

Weecal, a running back and defensive back, has two cousins who played for the 1995 team that knocked off East Bridgewater — Steve Ladd, now at Sacred Heart, and Mike Ladd, who's at Triton.

"Playing against them has made me a little tougher," said Weecal. "I was always the smallest but it made me play a little harder."

Weecal was a freshman in 1995 and dressed for both Thanksgiving Day and the Super Bowl. He played against Amesbury but did not see action in the Super Bowl and is eager to don the pads against Matteson.

"I'm a little nervous but ready to play. It will be a whole different feeling being on the field," said

Weecal, whose freshman cousin Jon Ladd (Mike's brother) will dress and continue the family tradition.

Weecal has been a pillar of consistency for the Clippers on both sides of the ball. In a 27-0 thumping of Triton he earned Player of the Week honors while lugging the ball for 177 yards and scoring on touchdown runs of 50 and 60 yards.

Some insiders think Hale could eventually surpass his brother's success but time will tell. A three-sport athlete, the 6-1, 190-pounder is a two-way starter at running back and linebacker.

Twice during the 1997 campaign Hale has been recognized for his defensive prowess as Daily News Player of the Week. His efforts against Hamilton-Wenham (14-6 win) and North Reading (38-14 win) were typical of the performance that comes from a family with good football instincts.

Kevin's brother Chris (1995) and father Bill (1999) are both former NHS captains. Dad went on to an outstanding career at UMass and, this past season, Chris led Williams College to a 7-1 record and a share of the Little Three title.

Cousin Brian Ladd, a member of the 1993 Super Bowl team that fell to Arlington Catholic, just completed his football career as a starting tight end at Marist College. Cousin Steve Ladd (Brian's brother) was quarterback of the '95 Super Bowl champs and took over as starting quarterback at Sacred Heart late this season. The Ladds' father and Hale's uncle, Ken Ladd, was a standout at NHS in the late '60s and went on to prowess as a defensive back and captain at Boston College.

As Kevin grew up, he took the lion's share of bumps and bruises from his older brother, cousins and their friends but he says it was all worth it.

"It was awesome to play with him (Chris)," Hale said. "I learned a lot from Chris and I feel like I



JIM VAINNORAS PHOTO

Sophomore Kevin Hale follows his brother Chris and father Bill as an NHS standout.

know a lot more about the game."

When Chris's team captured the '95 Super Bowl, Kevin was an eighth-grader with a front row seat in the stands but yearned to get on the field and play. "I envied him playing in the game. It's another world when you know you're going to play in the game," said Kevin. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

Sean Sullivan, a freshman quarterback, wasn't around to see his dad, NHS Wall of Fame quarterback and former UMass standout Kevin Sullivan, engineer the Clippers' first Super Bowl victory over Wayland in 1975 but certainly his day will come. He is a primary candidate to take over at quarterback next season for this year's All-CAL senior signal-caller Ryan McCarthy.

The seasons come and go at the High Street school and new players grace the World War Memorial Stadium turf. You can rest assured that someone will have had a family member who played before them and passed on the tradition.

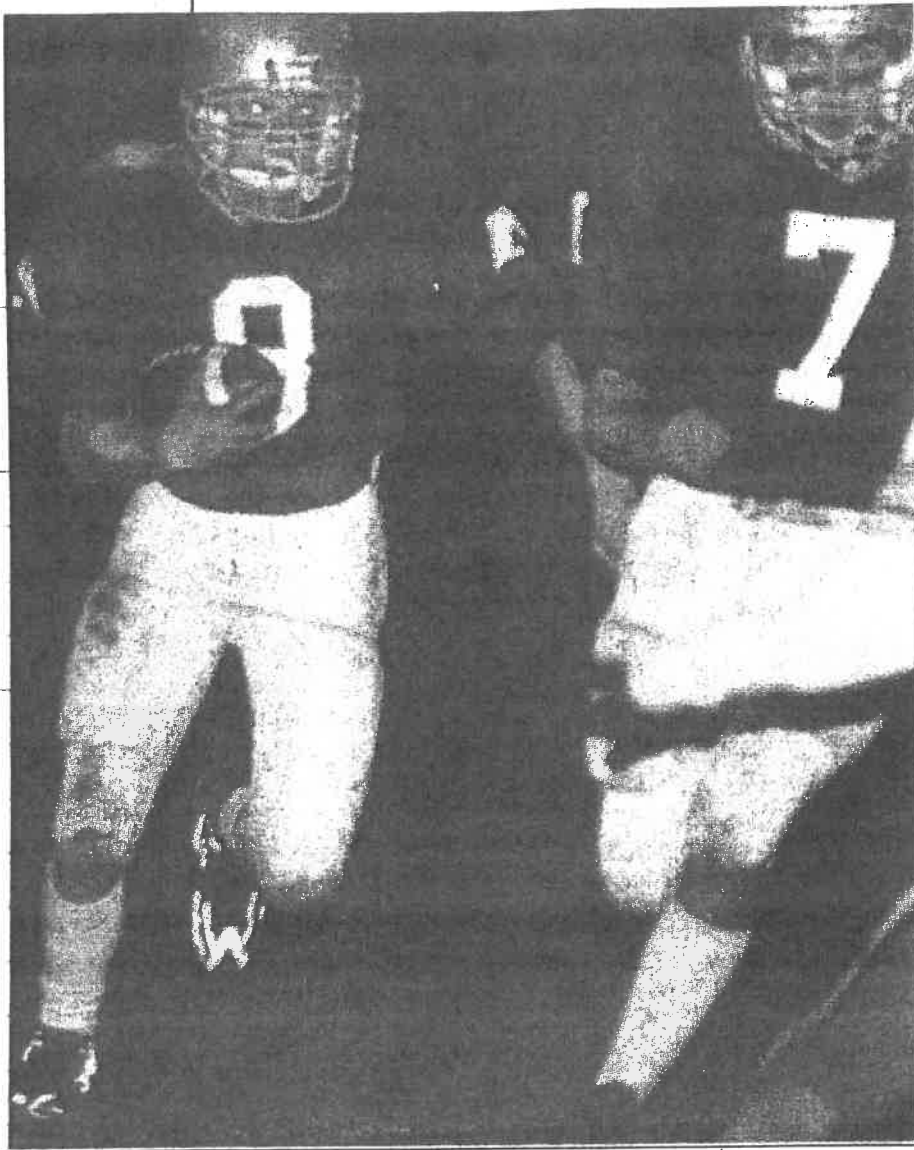


The Newburyport High School football team and its fans celebrate a narrow 12-8 victory against Matignon for its second Super Bown championship in three years.



Newburyport's Steve Lapham picks up a short gain against Matignon during last night's Super Bowl win. The senior captain scored the winning TD with 1:28 to play.

BRYAN EATON PHOTO



JIM VAIKNORAS PHOTO

With quarterback Ryan McCarthy (7) leading the blocking, Newburyport's Jeff Wecal picks up yardage last night.

Super Bowl Results

1996: Div. 4A, Dighton-Rehobeth 22, North Andover 0
 1995: Div. 4B, Newburyport 27, E. Bridgewater 12
 1994: Div. 4A, North Andover 29, E. Bridgewater 13
 1993: Div. 4B, Arlington Catholic 27, Newburyport 20
 1992: Div. 4B, Ipswich 40, Hull 33
 1991: Div. 4B, Ipswich 33, Dom Savio Prep 14
 1986: Div. 3, Lincoln-Sudbury 19, Lynnfield 0
 1979: Div. 3, Canton 28, No. Reading 6
 1977: Div. 3, Ipswich 54, Newburyport 13
 1976: Div. 3, Newburyport 41, South Boston 0
 1975: Div. 3, Newburyport 27, Wayland 13

McCarthy's 83-yard scoring toss to junior tight end **Jeff Stone** for the first score in Sunday's 41-0 rout of Lynnfield eclipsed the 21-year-old school record 81-yard strike from **Denis Stevens** to **Kevin Lat-time** in 1976.

NEWBURYPORT — The Newburyport High School Alumni Association announced that **Jed Beuparlant** is the winner of the 1997 Ryan Cup, given annually to a NHS scholar-athlete.

In College Football

Newburyport's **Chris Hale** (NHS, '96), a star two-way player on the Clippers' 1995 CAL and Div. 4B Super Bowl champions, is a sophomore starting linebacker for Williams. In a recent 36-16 win against Bates, Hale's 29-yard interception return set up one touchdown and his 16-yard run on a fake punt set up another

Three area players — sophomore center **Pat Broderick** of Newburyport (NHS, '96), freshman wide receiver **Adam Atherton** of Newbury (Triton, '97), and freshman running back **Carlton Anderson** of Salisbury (AHS, '97) — are members of the UMass-Lowell football team . . .

In The Notebook: Masconomet Regional High School will officially dedicate and name its football field **Roberts Field** in honor of long-time coach **Walter Roberts** prior to its season opener against Amesbury on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 1:30 p.m. Roberts began coaching at Masco when the school opened in 1959 and remained head coach into the 1970s. A member of both the Massachusetts Football and Baseball Coaches Halls of Fame, Roberts' teams won CAL championships in 1962, '63, '64 and '69 and compiled a 19-game unbeaten streak from 1962-64.



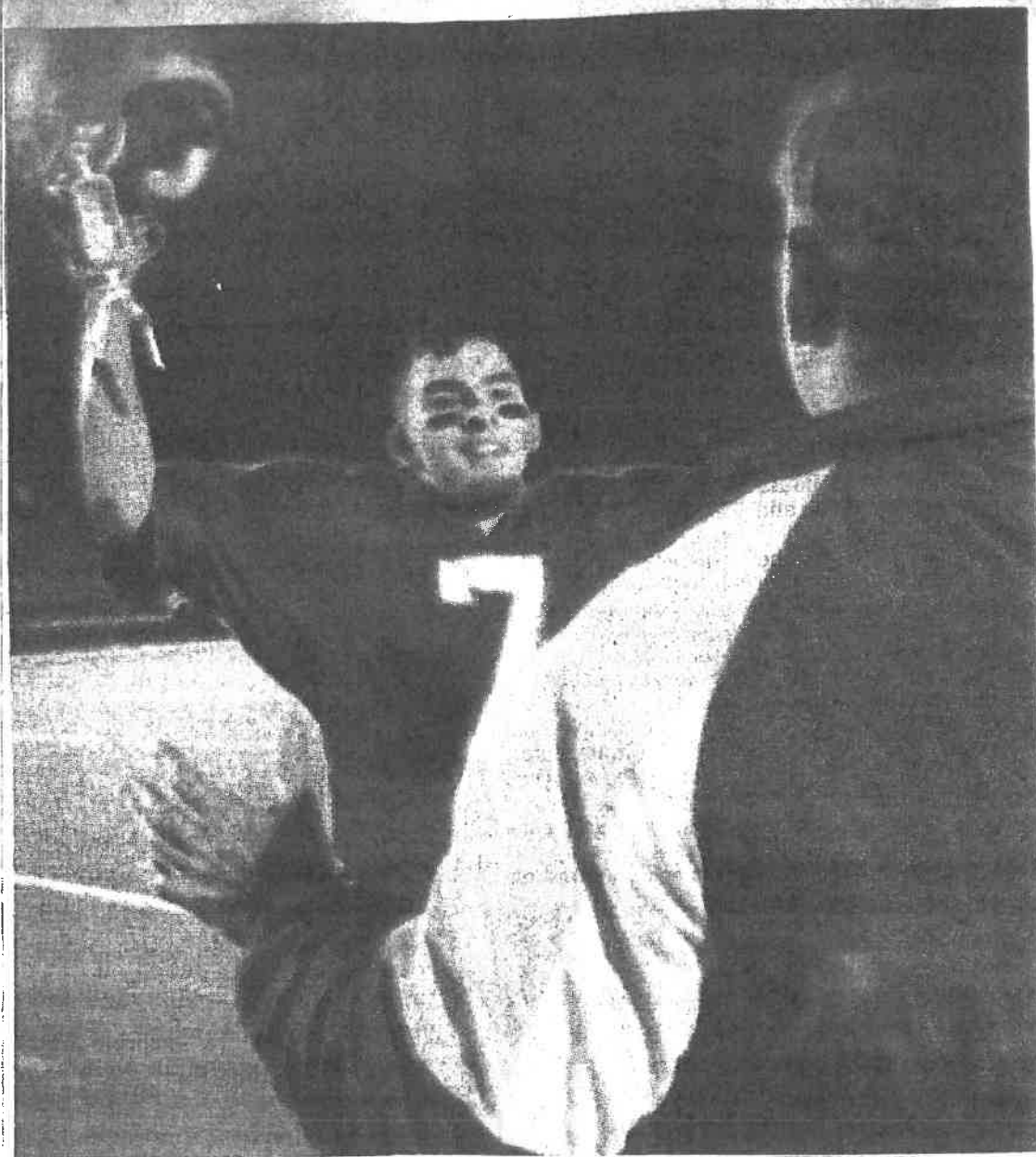
BRYAN EATON PHOTO

Junior wide receiver **Marc Ouellet** (left) and senior quarterback **Ryan McCarthy** have hooked up 20 times for 275 yards and seven touchdowns.



Newburyport High running backs (from left) John Farrell, Kevin Hale, Steve Lapham, Jamie Armstrong and Jeff Wecal have combined to rush for 2,083 yards and 18 touchdowns this season.

BRYAN EATON PHOTO



Newburyport's senior quarterback Ryan McCarthy salutes assistant coach Steve Traister at the conclusion of Friday night's Super Bowl win against Matignon.

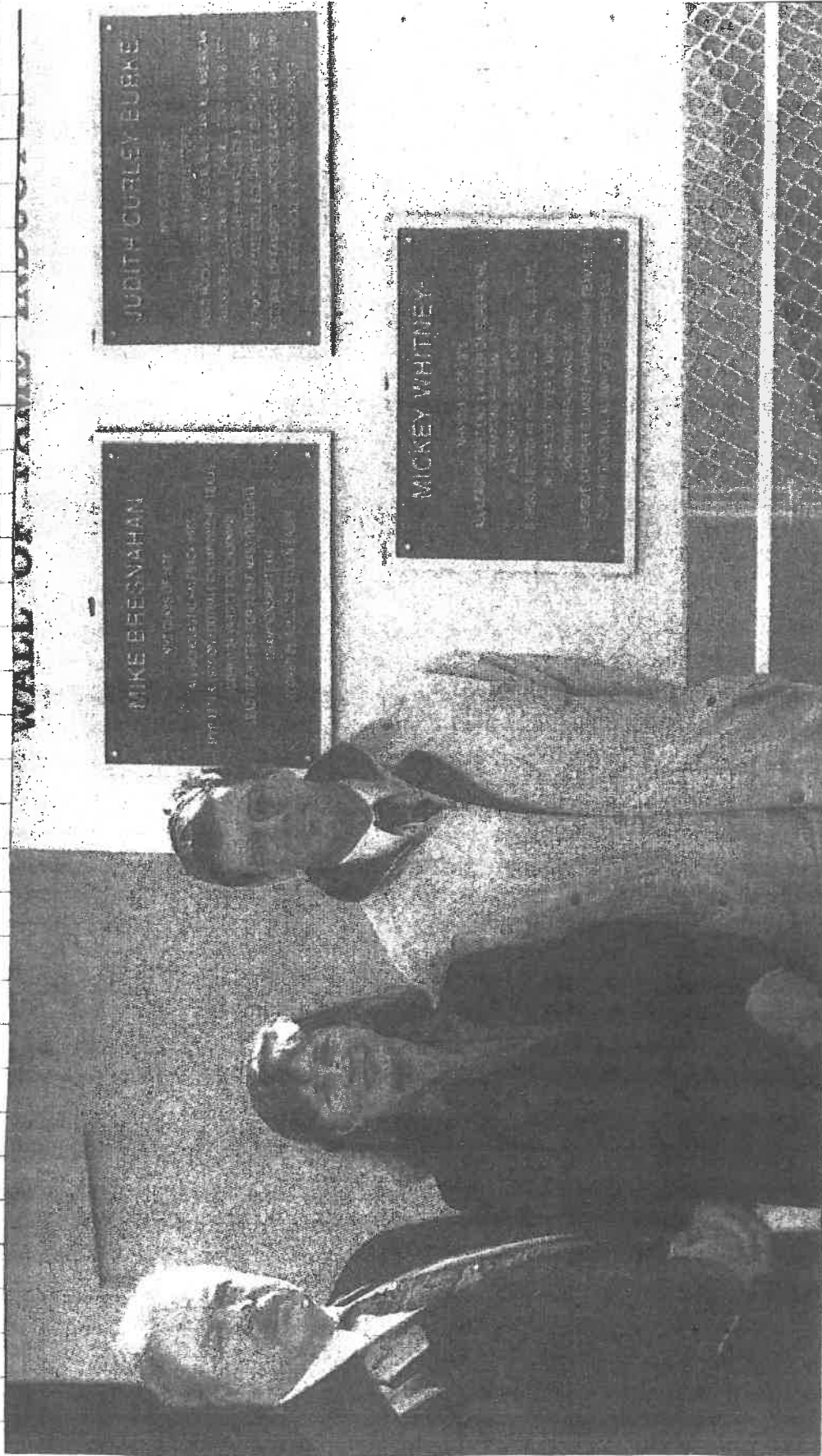


BRYAN EATON PHOTO

Employing a bit of gamesmanship, many members of the Newburyport High football team sported Mohawk haircuts Friday — a post-season tradition started and made famous by Matignon hockey teams.

Port Sides — Lapham's TD pushed him past Greg Twombly into fifth place on the school's all-time scoring list with 152 points — behind Wall of Fame backs Bob McAniff, Mike Bresnahan, Eddie O'Bara and Jack Foley. Lapham's 87 yards rushing moved him past Jim Farrell and Erik Bashaw into seventh place on the all-time rushing list with 1,508 yards... McCarthy passed Wall of Famer Kevin Sullivan, Kurt Laakso and Louie Festo to finish seventh on the all-time passing yardage list with 1,237 yards. He also finished fifth in career completions (99) and fourth in career TD passes (16).

NHS-1997



Newburyport High School's newest Wall of Fame inductees (from left) Mickey Whitney, Judy (Curley) Burke and Mike Bresnahan stand next to their plaques during yesterday's unveiling ceremonies at World War Memorial Stadium.

BRYAN EATON PHOTO

been a long time coming Recognition for Welch has



SPORTS TALK

By Kevin Doyle

Emptying out the notebook:
Newburyport's Jack Welch finally gets his just recognition tomorrow evening.

Welch, 62, is one of six coaches being inducted into the Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame during awards ceremonies at Lantana's Restaurant in Randolph.

Clearly, it is an honor well-deserved.

My question: What took so long?

The dean of Cape Ann League coaches, Welch's record is unmatched in league annals.

Since leaving Newburyport High School — where, not surprisingly, his final act was to coach NHS to the Northeastern Conference baseball title — to succeed Elliot Roundy as Ipswich head coach in 1964, Welch has compiled a 170-103-5 record. In 31 seasons, his teams have captured seven CAL championships, back-to-back Class D crowns (1968, '69) and three Super Bowl titles (1977, '91, '92).

With rare exception, Welch has always been able to

transform less-talented teams into competitive clubs, decent teams into serious challengers and talented squads into champions.

His teams covering the 10-year span from 1968-78 were loaded with exceptional players who would just as soon rip your face off and run you over as look at you. When the Tigers encountered some lean years in the 1980s, Welch simply re-invented the program and with the '90s came renewed success.

One trait that has consistently separated Welch from his peers has been his game-day ability to coach on the fly, adjusting to whatever opponents throw the Tigers' way from series to series and play to play. And Welch would be the first to tell you that much of his success can be attributed to the work of his top assistant of 31 years, Ken Spellman.

Upon further review . . .

Additional research has revealed that this year's NHS squad is *not* the first to play seven games under the lights and that the eight scheduled home games aren't the most in school history.

The 1947 squad, which finished 6-5 under **Tom O'Donnell**, also played seven night games and had 10 of its 11 games at World War Memorial Stadium.

Oddly enough, the Clippers' game against Marblehead that year was switched to Newburyport because of renovations at the old Spanish War Memorial Stadium in Marblehead. Fifty years later, the same set of circumstances prevailed with work at Hopkins Field in Marblehead leading to last Friday's game being played in Newburyport.

Thanks to **Larry Hussey** for that bit of information.

Smolski

NEWBURYPORT — All things considered, the news couldn't have been much better for Mike Smolski, the Newburyport High football team's junior defensive back and back-up quarterback.

Smolski was injured when by a teammate while making a tackle on North Andover back Pat Sheehan with about six and one-half minutes left during Friday night's 21-14 loss to the Scarlet Knights.

Play was halted for nearly 15 minutes while team physician Dr. Rick Mindess, trainer Neil

Smith and EMTs on the scene attended to Smolski and took all the necessary precautions. Eventually, Smolski was placed on a stretcher and transported by ambulance to Anna Jaques Hospital where further evaluation determined he had suffered a grade two concussion. He was allowed to go home late Friday night.

"He's doing good. He's got a concussion and a stiff neck, but he's feeling much better," his dad Tom, a 1971 NHS grad who was a lineman on the Clippers' 1969 and '70 squads, said last night.

"Head injuries are a serious thing and everybody did a great job down on the field. The whole team showed up at the hospital after the game and we really appreciated that. They did

Bashaw brothers at UNH

Newburyport's **Brett Bashaw** (NHS, '96), a red-shirt freshman, is a starting linebacker for the University of New Hampshire football team. He currently ranks fifth on the team with 12 tackles in two games. He banged up his elbow during last weekend's loss to Rhode Island and is listed as

questionable this Saturday when the Wildcats (0-2) take on William and Mary at home.

Meanwhile, older brother **Erik Bashaw** (NHS, '93) — who played one season at Boston University before transferring to a JuCo in California — is also at UNH. According to Sports Information Director **Scott Stapin**, NCAA eligibility rules require Erik to sit out this season but he is expected to play next fall.

Brett (1,839 yards rushing, 90 points) and Erik (1,501 yards rushing, 118 points) rank as one of the most productive brother acts ever to play for the Clippers.

NHS-1997



Newburyport's Jeff Stone has a firm grasp on the ball as he looks for running room against Triton yesterday.

JIM VAIKNORAS PHOTO.



BRYAN EATON PHOTO

NEWBURYPORT'S DEFENSE: (front, from left) John Webber, Jeff Stone, Giuseppe Picone, Steve Lapham, Tom Welch, Dave Coffe, Matt Coffe; (rear, from left) Pat Flynn, Jeff Wecal, Kevin Hale, Marc Ouellet, Jamie Armstrong, Mike Smolski, Frank Demand.

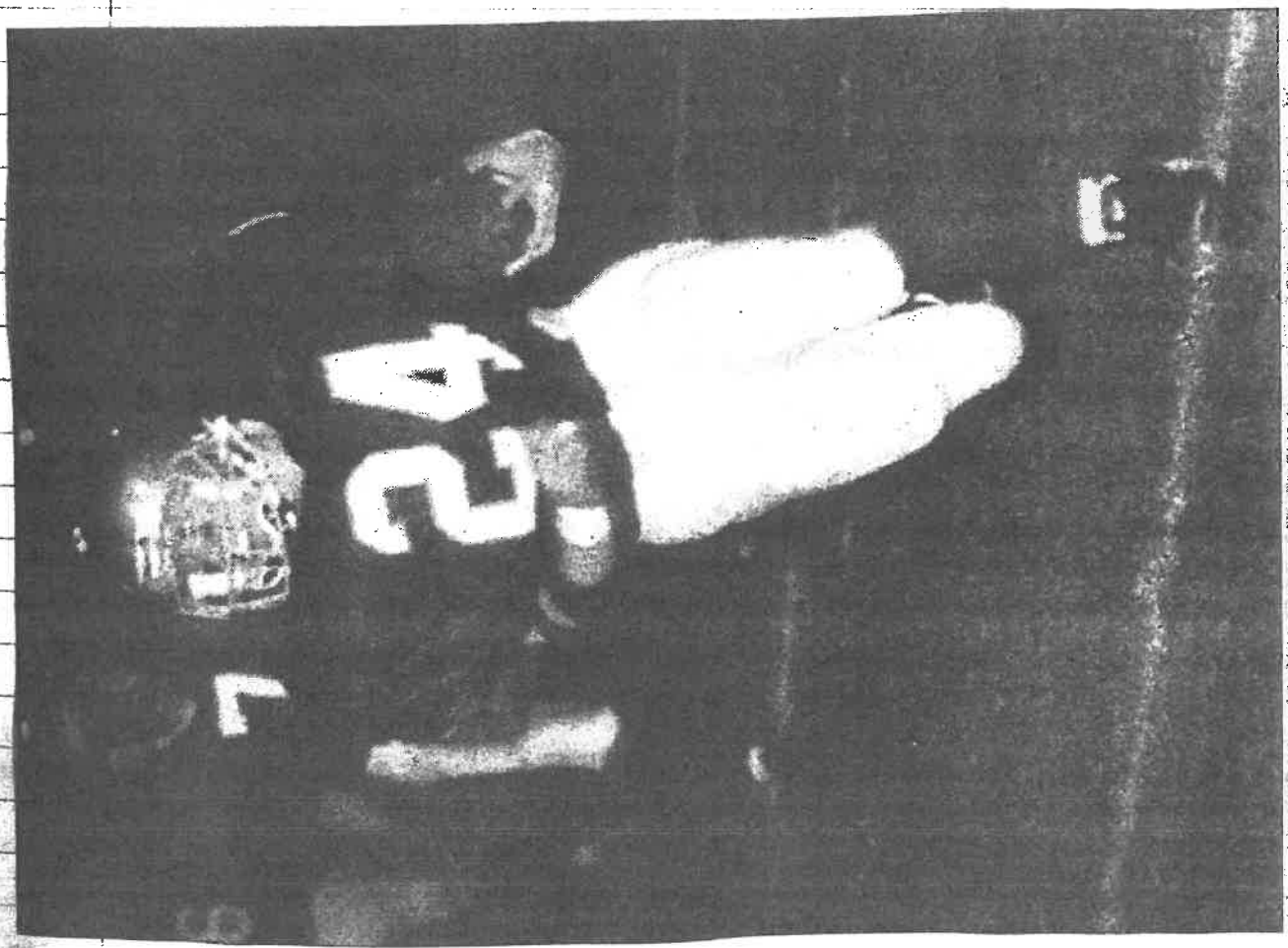


BRYAN EATON PHOTO

NEWBURYPORT'S OFFENSE: (front, from left) Jeff Stone, Mike Casey, Giuseppe Picone, Steve Lapham, Chris Brule, Tom Welch, Matt Coffe, Justin Thomas; (rear, from left) Jeff Wecal, John Farrell, Kevin Hale, Ryan McCarthy, Marc Ouellet, Jamie Armstrong.

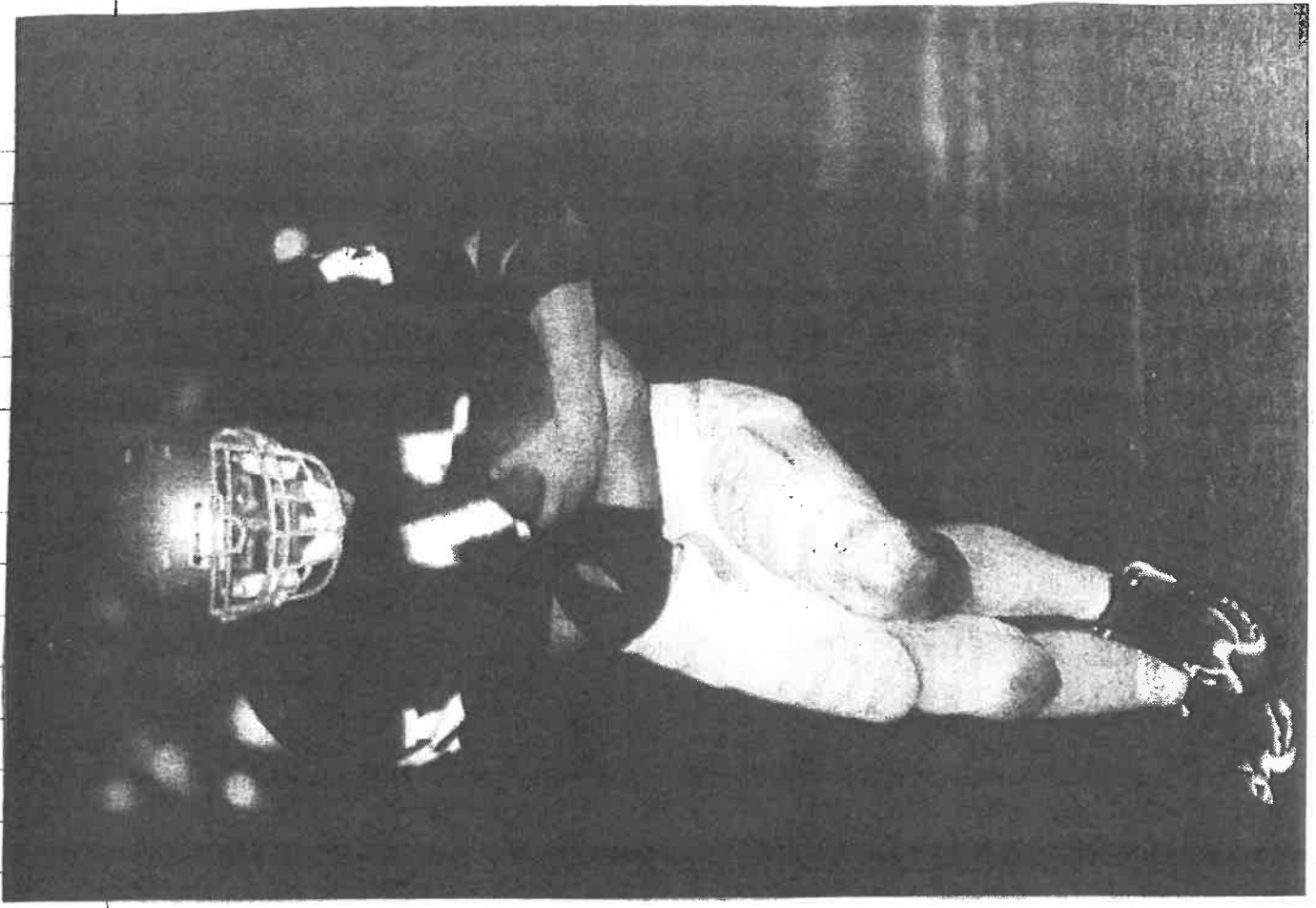
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NHS - 1997



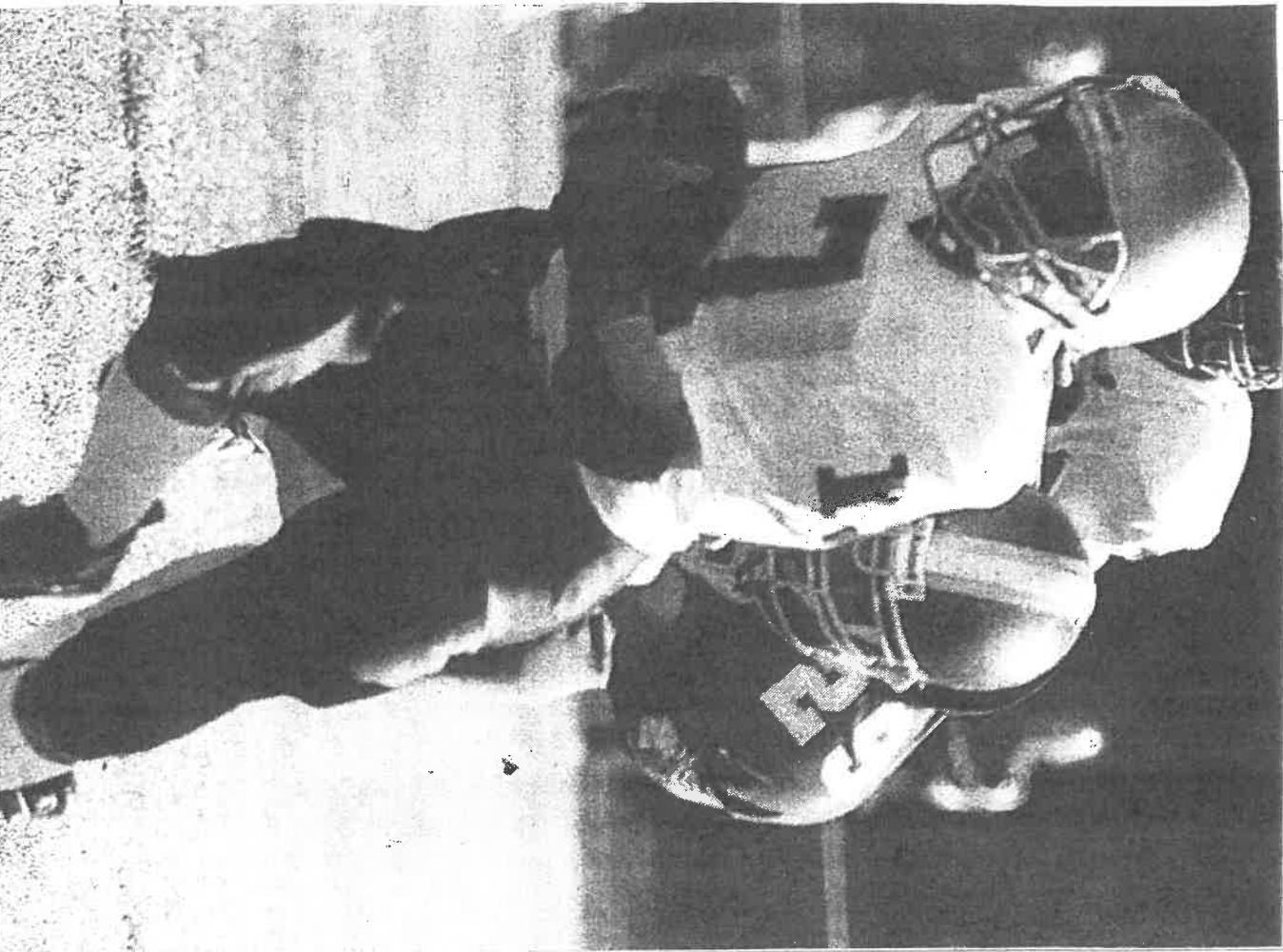
Newburyport's John Farrell starts the left side during the first quarter of last night's loss to North Andover.

JIM VAIKNORAS PHOTO



Junior running back Jamie Armstrong picks up a good chunk of yardage last night.

JIM VAIKNORAS PHOTO



Newburyport's senior quarterback Ryan McCarthy scrambles for yardage during yesterday's rout of Lynnfield. McCarthy passed for two TDs and ran for another.

JIM VAIKORAS PHOTO

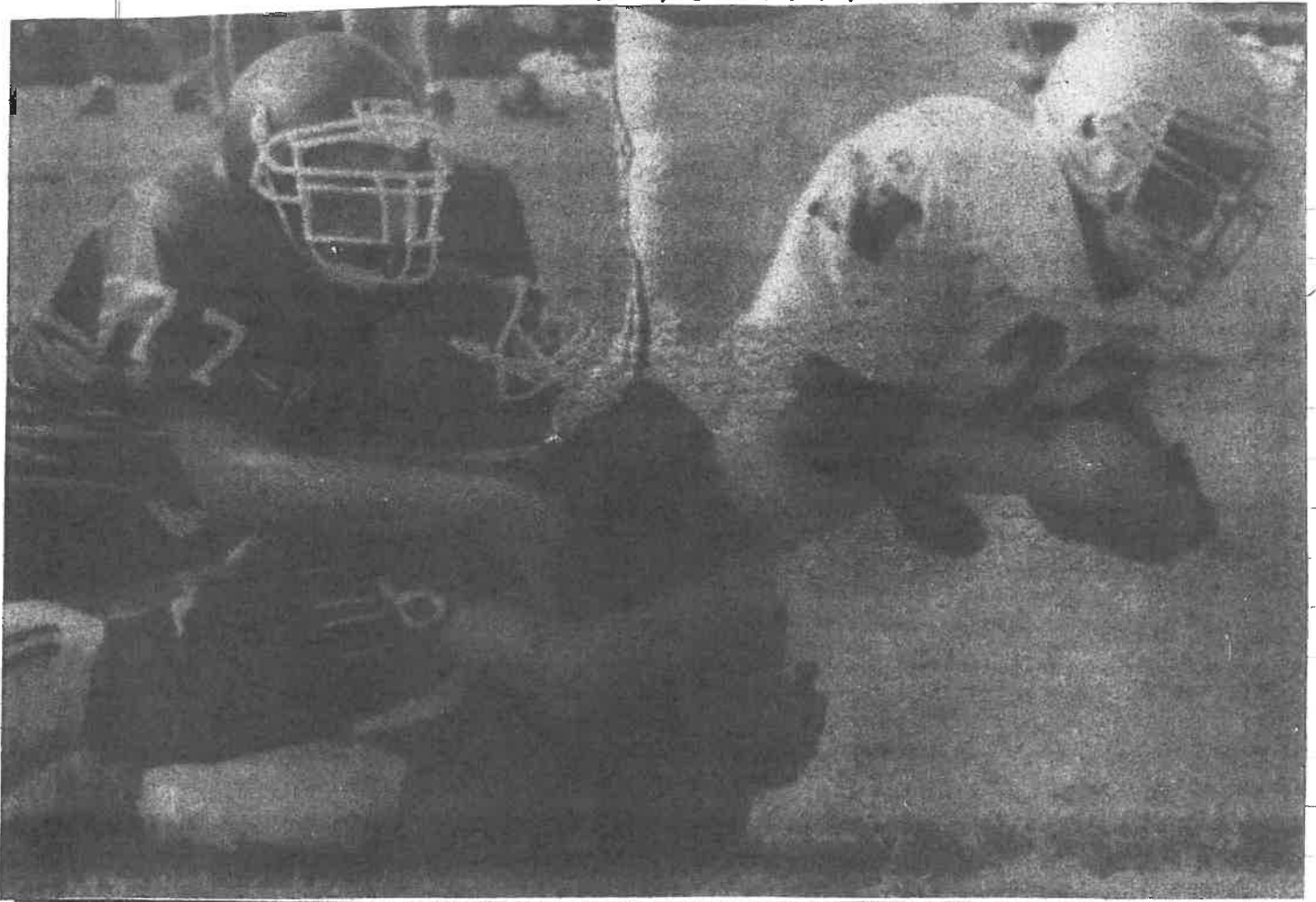


NHS - 1997

Newburyport sophomore back Kevin Hale picks up short yardage Saturday.

JIM VAIKORAS PHOTO

NHS - 1997



PULLED IN: Newburyport's Steve Lapham is brought down by a pair of Pentucket tacklers during Saturday's game in West Newbury.

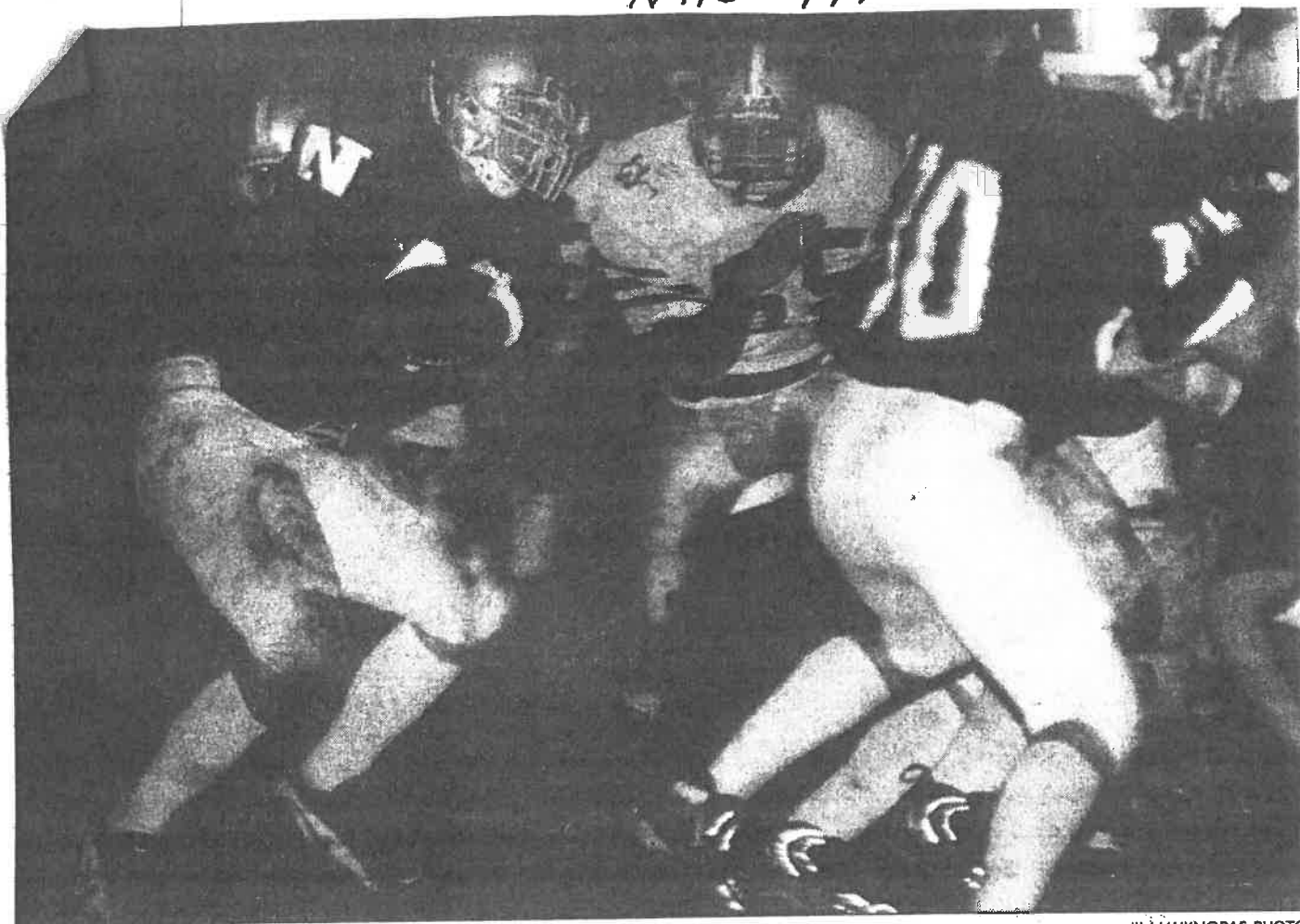


Newburyport quarterback Ryan McCarthy (7) gives instructions in the huddle during last night's win against Ipswich. McCarthy passed for two touchdowns and ran for a third.

JIM VAIKNORAS PHOTO

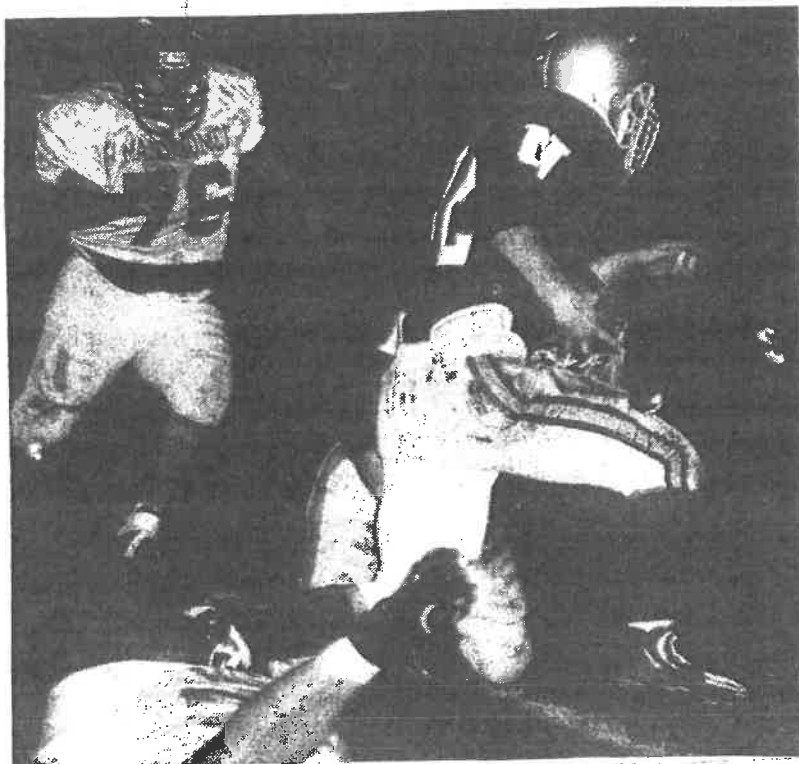
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NHS - 1997



JIM VAIKNORAS PHOTO

Newburyport's Kevin Hale, left, looks for running room behind a block by Justin Thomas, right, during last night's game against Hamilton-Wenham at World War Memorial Stadium. The Clippers won, 14-6.



Newburyport's Steve Lapham, who scored two TDs and kicked a field goal, leaves one Masconomet player down as another closes in.



Newburyport's Steve Lapham breaks loose for a good chunk of yardage last night. The senior scored one TD and kicked four PATs.

1,065

Three stars of the '70s join NHS Wall of Fame

To the wall

Mickey Whitney, '76

Tight end and kicker in football, ranks 12th all-time in scoring with 111 points, including a school record 69 PATs. He kicked four career field goals, including a single-game record of three in a 16-13 win against Ipswich in 1975 when the Clippers finished 11-0. NHS Baseball Alumni of the Year in 1995, president of the Clipper Alumni Baseball Association.

Mike Bresnahan, '76

Two-time MVP and All-Scholastic, holds school single-season records for points and TDs; shares school record of 34 touchdowns, ranks second in career points with 206. Two-year starter in baseball, leadoff hitter on the 1976 State finalist team that finished 23-6 overall. Holds the school single-season and career records for stolen bases.

Judy (Curley) Burke, '77

Two-time tennis MVP and team captain, MVP in field hockey, all-CAL choice, high school All-American in 1976. Two-time all-CAL in basketball, serving as captain of the 1977 squad which was the school's first CAL champion and first State Tournament qualifier.

By KEVIN DOYLE
Daily News Sports Editor

NEWBURYPORT — Family, friendship and tradition were prevalent themes during last night's Newburyport High Wall of Fame induction dinner held at The Crimson Coach House.

The addition of 1976 graduates Mickey Whitney and Mike Bresnahan and 1977 graduate Judy (Curley) Burke brings to 36 the number of former athletes, coaches and administrators recognized since the Wall of Fame was established in 1982.

Yesterday's festivities began with the unveiling of the honorees' plaques during noon-time ceremonies at World War Memorial Stadium.

Burke is the fourth woman to be selected and the first since Title IX legislation in 1972 guaranteed equal athletic programs for girls. During a stellar career, she earned 10 varsity letters in field hockey, basketball and tennis.

One of the premier singles players in school history, Burke was a two-time tennis MVP and team captain. She was team MVP in field hockey and was an all-CAL choice and high school All-American in 1976.

She won four letters and was a two-time all-CAL pick in basketball, serving as captain of the 1977 squad

which was the school's first CAL champion and first State Tournament qualifier.

Now the girls varsity tennis coach, Burke guided NHS to a league championship and the North Sectional semifinal round last spring. She previously coached back-to-back Tennessee Div. 2 State Championship high school teams in 1984-85 and was named that state's Div. 2 Coach of the Year in '85.

Burke was presented by her NHS coach in all three sports, Sandy Tilton.

"Judy was at the beginning of the new wave of women in sports and was a great forerunner. Her leadership, drive and determination and performance as a role model helped pave the way for girls sports at NHS. She was truly an exemplary leader in a new era of women in athletics. She's a fine athlete and a fine person," said Tilton.

Tilton noted that Burke, who went on to star in both field hockey and lacrosse at Plymouth State College, "was the first girl to play varsity basketball as a freshman at NHS and was the first girl to use the whirlpool in the football locker room."

Burke recalled growing up as the youngest of five siblings on Lafayette Street, where there always seemed to be a game of some sort going on in the neighborhood.

"I used to watch my sisters (Kathy, Jane and Joanne) play field hockey at Cashman Park. I remember the football games in the basement with my brother Ed that left me bruised but made me tough and the basketball games with Brian Clancy and Scott Powers," said Burke.

Burke thanked her parents and husband Rich for their unconditional support and stressed the lasting impact of Tilton on her career, in particular, and on NHS women's sports, in general.

"I feel fortunate. There are not many times that you get to express your gratitude to the supportive people you love. The wins and losses are not nearly as important as the friendships," she said. "It means so much to me to have my children (Katie and Rich) be able to look at that plaque and say 'That's my mom'."

Whitney and Bresnahan starred as teammates on championship football and baseball teams from the 1974-76. As seniors, both were key players on the school's first Super Bowl football champion (1975) and the school's lone EMass. baseball champion (1976).

Whitney, a veteran city policeman, was a tight end and kicker in football and ranks 12th all-time in scoring with 111 points, including a school record 69 PATs. He kicked four career field goals, including a single-

Fame, page B3

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FAME: Three standouts of the '70s added to NHS Wall

Continued from page B1

game record of three in a 16-13 win against Ipswich in 1975 when the Clippers finished 11-0.

One of Newburyport baseball's finest defensive catchers, Whitney anchored the Clippers' infield for two seasons. Opposing teams rarely ran on him and he was an offensive force as well, compiling a .325 career batting average. The NHS Baseball Alumni of the Year in 1995, Whitney is president of the Clipper Alumni Baseball Association.

Wall of Fame football coach Jim Stehlin cited his all-around athletic ability and pinpointed key plays throughout his career.

"Everybody thinks of Mickey as a great kicker and he was. But he was also a great tight end and did so many things so well. He had great hands and could run and was just an outstanding athlete. He's also given a lot back to the city, working with youth programs, and he's done a great job with the DARE program," said Stehlin.

"It's a great thrill to receive this award with my friends Mike and Judy," said Whitney. "I'll never forget the experience of wearing maroon and gold and of running out of that tunnel with 5,000 screaming fans in the stadium. We had something special and have memories that will last forever.

Everything we did — from the way we wore our uniforms to the way we came out of the huddle — spoke of Clipper Pride."

Whitney thanked his coaches in each sport individually and cited the support of his mother and sisters and of his wife, Eileen.

"As my sons (Pat and Greg) mature, I hope they understand what this means to me. If there is one regret, it's that my dad isn't here to share this. He was my biggest fan but I know he's here in spirit. This is quite an honor, one I will cherish for a lifetime," he said. Bresnahan joins his father, the late Supt. Francis T. Bresnahan, on the Wall.

One of the premier backs of his era in EMass., the elusive two-time MVP and All-Scholastic holds school single-season records for points (140) and TDs (23), both set in 1975; shares the school record of 34 touchdowns with Wall of Famer Bob McAniff; and ranks second in career points with 206.

An outfielder, Bresnahan was a two-year starter and leadoff hitter on the 1976 State finalist team that finished 23-6 overall. He hit .314 (.500 in the post-season) with 22 stolen bases and 28 runs scored as a senior. He still holds the school single-season (.22) and career (.32) records for stolen bases.

Long-time baseball coach Bill Pettingell presented Bresnahan,

"Michael was as competitive and intense as any athlete I've had the pleasure of coaching. He was and remains humble of his accomplishments. However, there was never any denying his true competitive nature on the fields, proving over and over again that he was simply a winner," said Pettingell.

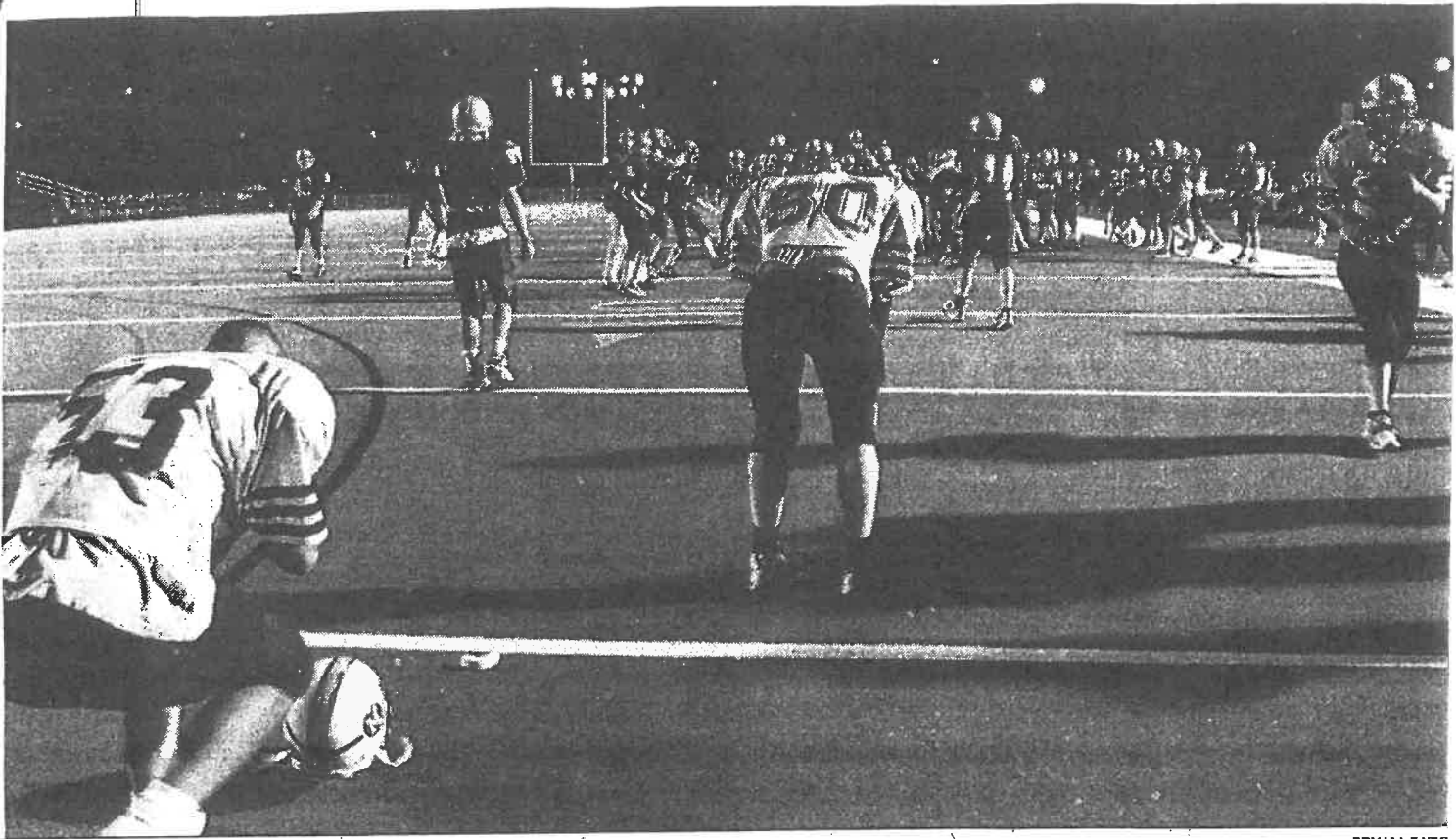
"Your mother and your brothers and sisters are very proud of you. Your coaches, especially Jim Stehlin, Paul Kolman and myself are very proud of you. You teammates are proud and happy for you. But there is no one more proud of you at this very moment than your father. How unique it is to be enshrined on the same Wall of Fame as your dad," said Pettingell. Bresnahan inherited a strong sense of tradition from his father and his success seemed almost pre-ordained.

"I can remember watching games at the stadium from the time I was three or four years old. It was a great time. I grew up in a great neighborhood and with a great group of kids. There was always a game going on in the street," he said.

"To be successful, you have to have talent, coaching and the ability to get along and we had all of

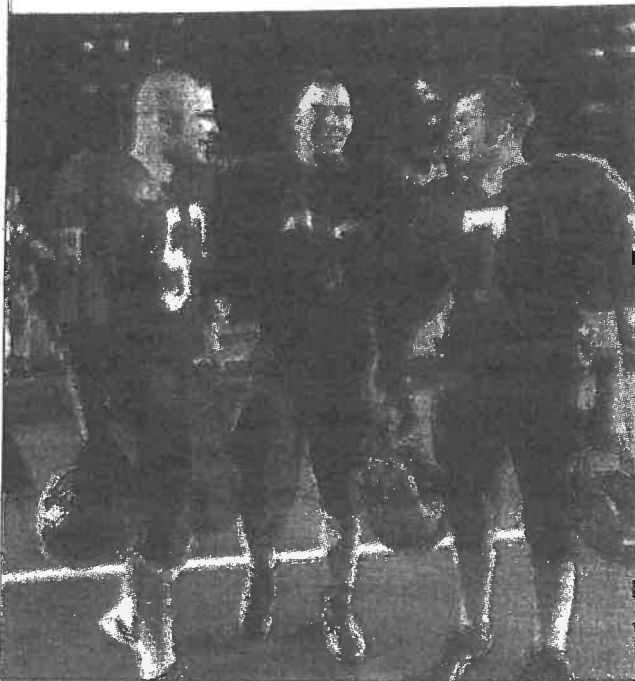
those things. It sounds like a cliché, but it's about friendship," said Bresnahan, who went on to thank coaches Stehlin and Pettingell for their guidance and mentioned each of his teammates in both sports by name.

Banquet Bits — In his opening remarks, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Dulac said: "One of the reasons Newburyport is special is the little things and one of those things is the Wall of Fame. It's such a special thing to honor those who gave a lot, along with their families." ... The final event for this year's recipients will be at the Thanksgiving Day football game against Amesbury when they will be introduced at halftime. ... Wall of Fame President Norm Doyle served as Master of Ceremonies. ... A moment of silence was held in memory of Wall of Fame inductees Howdy Reed and Margaret (Bear) Gould, both of whom died earlier this year. ... State Rep. Kevin Flinnegan and Essex County Sheriff Frank Cousins, both NHS graduates, were in attendance. ... The chain of success continues — Bresnahan's son Michael is a linebacker for the Exeter High football team that will play Bp. Guertin for the New Hampshire Div. 2 State Championship tomorrow.



BRYAN EATON

Matignon players are devastated after their last-ditch shot at victory fell inches short in Friday night's Super Bowl.



BRYAN EATON PHOTO

Newburyport captains Tom Welch (53), Steve Lapham (32) and Ryan McCarthy (7) gather for the post-game awards presentation.

Extra Points — Matignon made an enormous tactical mistake in the final seconds when Frawley spiked the ball to stop the clock on third down even though the Warriors had one timeout remaining . . . The officiating crew was a mixed group from the Cape Ann League and Catholic Central League and was right on top of the action all night . . . Junior Frank Deman, normally a regular in the defensive backfield, was hampered by a sprained ankle but still made contributions on the special teams . . . Welch thinks next year's team has an excellent chance to return to the Bowl. "These guys will be back next year. They're fast and talented and it's a close-knit team. I think it's probably a lot like it was in '75 and '76," he said . . . Armstrong punted a season-high four times for a solid 36.5-yard average . . . Newburyport is now 3-0 in Bowl games at Nickerson Field and 4-2 overall . . . The team was feted at a post-game pizza party held at The Moose Club



EMILY REILLY PHOTO

Boys award winners at Newburyport High's fall sports awards ceremony Sunday night were: (rear, from left) Mark Bailey, Mark Hathaway, Jeff Stone, Marc Ouellet, Tom Welch, Nate Suda, Joe Manning; (front, from left) Matt Solazzo, Ryan McCarthy, Steve Lapham, John Farrell, Matt Coffe, Seth Tardiff, Dan Bryan.

Football — Ryan McCarthy, MVP; Steve Lapham, Coach's Award; Marc Ouellet, Most Versatile Player; Tom Welch, Palumbo-Price Best Lineman; Matt Coffe, Ananian Unsung Hero; John Farrelly, Daily News Good Sportsman-ship.

Captains-elect

Jeff Stone, football; Ashley Karpf, Christina Strauss, field hockey.

Letters, insignias, sweatshirts and certificates were presented to members of all fall teams. Captains presented gifts to the coaches:

Frederick Naumetz, 75

BC and NFL football star in '40s

Frederick Joseph "Boomer" Naumetz, who starred with Boston College and in the National Football League, died Jan. 2 in his home in Thousand Oaks, Calif. He was 75.

Mr. Naumetz was with BC when it played in the 1941 Sugar Bowl and 1942 Orange Bowl. He was NFL Rookie of the Year in 1946 as a center for the Los Angeles Rams, and was named to the Pro Bowl teams in 1948, 1949, and 1950.

A native of Newburyport, he served in the Navy during World War II. He was an FBI agent in Phoenix and Seattle for several years before becoming an executive with the Riverside Cement Co. in Los Angeles for 29 years until his retirement.

He leaves his wife, Yvonne; three daughters, Gaylor Phillips of West Los Angeles, Meredith McMackin of Newport Beach, Calif., and Yvonne Erickson of North Bend, Wash.; two sons, Frederick P. "Fritz" of Phoenix, and Rex of Simi Valley, Calif.; and 10 grandchildren.

A memorial service was held in California.

Cape Ann League

TEAM	W-L-T	PCT.	OVERALL	PF	PA
Newburyport	9-1-0	.900	11-1-0	323	69
Masconomet	8-2-0	.800	8-3-0	297	150
Wilmington	7-2-1	.750	7-3-1	184	109
North Andover	7-3-0	.700	7-4-0	210	168
Triton	6-4-0	.600	6-4-0	190	143
Hamilton-Wenham	6-4-0	.600	6-4-0	192	137
Ipswich	4-5-1	.450	4-5-1	178	141
Lynnfield	3-7-0	.300	3-7-0	106	207
Pentucket	2-8-0	.200	2-8-0	81	265
Amesbury	1-9-0	.100	1-9-0	94	301
North Reading	1-9-0	.100	1-9-0	107	281

CAL selects football stars

The Cape Ann League and Div. 4 Super Bowl champion Newburyport High football team placed four players on the All-League team recently selected by the league's coaches.

In all, eight area players were selected to the 22-player team. North Andover senior running back Pat Sheehan was picked as Player of the Year while Newburyport's Ed Gaudiano was voted as Coach of the Year. Hamilton-Wenham won the team sportsmanship award. Nine of the 11 league schools had at least one player selected. The team:

Offense — Ryan McCarthy, Newburyport, sr., QB; Steve Lapham, Newburyport, sr., RB; Pat Sheehan, North Andover, sr., RB; Tim Gale, Masconomet, jr., RB; Marc Ouellet, Newburyport, jr., E; Dave D'Amato, Wilmington, jr., E; Nick Stevens, Ipswich, sr., OL; Pete Feely, Lynnfield, sr., OL; Brad Kelloway, North Andover, sr., OL; Brian Thresher, Wilmington, sr., OL; Matt Coffe, Newburyport, sr., OL.

Defense — Mike Barth, Triton, sr., DL; Tom DeLuca, Amesbury, sr., DL; A.J. Velante, Ipswich, sr., DL; Rocky Fiore, Masconomet, sr., DL; Jon Verrier, Triton, sr., LB; Ryan Boutchie, Ipswich, sr., LB; Ryan O'Connell, Triton, soph., DB; Scott Winfrey, Hamilton-Wenham, sr., DB; Kevin Koster, Masconomet, jr., DB; Brian Arkus, North Andover, sr., DB.

Everything came together in Clippers' title drive

NEWBURYPORT (11-1-0)

Newburyport 94 117 52 60-333
Opponents 0 8 14 47-69

	Newburyport	Opponents
First downs	168	102
Plays-total offense	600-3,721	547-1,864
Rushes-yards	450-2,842	352-1,375
PC-PA-yards	59-111-882	45-134-509
Interceptions by	11	10
Punts-average	18(31.6)	43(32.8)
Fumbles-lost	15-3	19-7
Penalties-yards	59-461	32-282

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Steve Lapham, sr., 112-675-6.1, 11 TDs
John Farrell, sr., 58-563-9.7, 3 TDs
Kevin Hale, soph., 88-475-5.4, 2 TDs
Jeff Wecal, jr., 56-441-7.9, 3 TDs
Jamie Armstrong, jr., 51-311-6.1, 3 TDs
Ryan McCarthy, sr., 45-160-3.6, 8 TDs
Frank Demand, jr., 12-139-11.6, 1 TD
Andrew Cramer, soph., 8-26-3.2
Brian Dugdale, jr., 2-15-7.5
Jared Mitchell, soph., 5-14-2.8
Sean Sullivan, fr., 2-2-1.0
Mike Smolski, jr., 4-(6)-(1.5)

PASSING

McCarthy, sr., 58-of-109, 838 yards, 52.6 pct., 14 TDs, 10 INTs.

Mike Smolski, jr., 1-of-2, 44 yards, 50.0 pct., 1 TD

RECEIVING

Marc Ouellet, jr., 23-310-13.5, 9 TDs
Kevin Hale, soph., 14-189-13.5, 1 TD
Jeff Stone, jr., 7-152-21.7, 4 TDs
John Farrell, sr., 6-88-14.7
Steve Lapham, sr., 6-57-9.5
Brian Dugdale, jr., 1-44-44.0, 1 TD
Jeff Wecal, jr., 1-34-34.0
Jamie Armstrong, jr., 1-8-8.0

SCORES

Newburyport 28, Marblehead 0
Newburyport 38, North Reading 14
Newburyport 29, Wilmington 0
Newburyport 27, Pentucket 0
Newburyport 41, Lynnfield 0
Newburyport 23, Masconomet 7
Newburyport 14, North Andover 21
Newburyport 27, Triton 0
Newburyport 14, Hamilton-Wenham 6
Newburyport 28, Ipswich 7
Newburyport 42, Amesbury 6
Newburyport 12, Matignon 8 (Div. 4 Super Bowl)

By KEVIN DOYLE
Daily News Sports Editor

The enduring image of the 1997 Newburyport High football team's season will forever be the last-second goal-line stand which secured an EMass. Div. 4 Super Bowl championship.

The 12-8 win against previously-undefeated Catholic Central Small champ Matignon provided a resounding exclamation point to a remarkable season in which the Clippers (11-1-0) tied the school record for wins while annexing the school's ninth Cape Ann League and fourth Super Bowl crowns.

The team's commitment to restoring excellence began immediately following a disastrous 1996 Thanksgiving Day loss to Amesbury which capped a lackluster (4-6-0) season.

Championship talk started among veteran players as early as last spring. When pre-season rolled around in August, coach Ed Gaudiano (10 years, 70-35-0, .667 pct.) and his staff sensed something special developing. By December, they had twin titles for the second time in three years, duplicating the feat of the 1995 club.

The Clippers reversed their fortunes by blending seasoned veterans with exciting newcomers and by meshing a diversified offense (26.9 ppg, 310.1 yards per game) capable of long-range strikes with an absolutely stifling defense (5 shutouts, 5.8 ppg, 155.3 ypg) that rarely gave up a big play.

As the season played out, it became clear Gaudiano and offensive mastermind Thom Connors had more offensive weapons at their disposal than any other two CAL clubs combined.

A running team which also boasted

the CAL's top passer, the Clippers were triggered by all-CAL senior quarterback Ryan McCarthy (22 total TDs) and driven by all-CAL senior fullback and captain Steve Lapham (11 TDs, 97 points). They kept opposing defenses guessing and off balance while becoming the fifth highest-scoring team in school history.

Five backs gained more than 300 yards as the Clippers churned out 2,842 rushing yards and 31 rushing TDs. Power backs Lapham (675 yards, 11 TDs), Kevin Hale (soph., 475 yards, 3 TDs) and Jamie Armstrong (jr., 311 yards, 3 TDs) were supplemented by speedballs John Farrell (sr., 563 yards, 3 TDs) — who missed his entire junior year with a broken ankle — and Jeff Wecal (jr., 441 yards, 3 TDs). McCarthy chipped in with 160 yards and eight TDs on the ground.

Meanwhile, McCarthy completed 52.6 percent of his passes (58-of-109) for 838 yards and 14 TDs (fourth all-time), including a school record 83-yard hook-up with junior tight end Jeff Stone in a 41-0 dismantling of Lynnfield.

The receiving corps featured sure-handed all-CAL junior wideout Marc Ouellet (23 catches, 310 yards), who returned after year off from football to set a school single season mark and tie the career mark with nine TD receptions. Ouellet's sweet feet produced another 435 yards and a touchdown on 30 punt and kickoff returns.

McCarthy's other favorite targets were Hale (14-189, 1 TD), who often lined up at wideout; and Stone (7-152, 4 TDs); Lapham and Farrell combined for another 12 receptions out of the backfield.

The key to the offensive prowess was an athletic line which yielded just one sack all season and cleared the way for

Football, page B3

Continued from page B1

the Clippers to average 6.3 yards per snap.

All-CAL senior tackle Matt Coffe (6-4, 224) emerged as the linchpin and was joined by fellow seniors Tom Welch (6-1, 220), Chris Brule (6-2, 220), Giuseppe Picone (5-10, 200) and Glenn Coburn (6-0, 205); juniors Mike Casey (6-1, 210) and Pat Flynn (6-0, 185); and sophomores Dave Coffe (6-1, 230) and John Webber (5-11, 220).

Meanwhile, coach Bob Clark's defense was, in a word, dominant. Eleven of the 16 regulars were underclassmen but the Clippers didn't yield a first-half point until the second period of the Super Bowl. The starters allowed only 48 total points.

With the exception of CAL Player of the Year Pat Sheehan of North Andover, opponents couldn't run (3.8 yards per attempt) or pass (33.6 percent, 11 interceptions)

with much success. The Clippers contained Masco standout Tim Gale (59 yards) in a key mid-season match-up and completely shut down Matignon's flashy Chris McCarthy (23 yards) in the Super Bowl.

Stone and Hale formed perhaps the CAL's top tandem of linebackers, zeroing in on running backs like a pair of heat-seeking missiles while averaging a dozen tackles per game apiece. In certain situations, Flynn proved effective as a third linebacker.

Lapham and Webber were stalwarts at defensive end while the sophomore Dave Coffe developed into one of the CAL's premier tacklers by season's end. Welch, Brule, Picone, Matt Coffe and Casey all logged quality time along the interior.

They were backed by a hard-hitting secondary made up of the juniors Armstrong (team-high 4

interceptions), Ouellet, Wecal, Mike Smolski and Frank Demand.

The season began with lopsided wins against Marblehead and North Reading before the Clippers sent their first message — a 29-0 whitewash of projected league contender Wilmington.

Shutouts of Pentucket and Lynnfield followed before pre-season favorite Masconomet was dispatched by a 23-7 count.

The lone blemish on the Clippers' season occurred the following week when North Andover, trailing 14-0 at the half, turned to Sheehan and took advantage of four Newburyport turnovers to control the ball for nearly the entire second half while pulling off a 21-14 upset.

The Clippers regrouped to belt Triton (27-0), fight off hard-nosed Hamilton-Wenham (14-6) and hammer Ipswich (28-7) and Amesbury (42-6) before going Bowling

1,010

'Boomer' and the NHS team of '36



NORTH SHORE

By Bill Plante

I am looking at this black-and-white photograph taken 62 years ago at what was then the old high school football stadium off Marlboro Street in Newburyport.

I had dug it out of the archives because I had just learned that Fred Naumetz had died at his home in Thousand Oaks, Calif., aged 75. Fred is the 15-year-old tackle on my right. His older brother Joe, is the center to my left. This is the NHS football team of 1936. Joe is a senior, and captain. I am a junior moved up from the second string because Bob Miller has broken his leg. Fred is a sophomore playing on the first team because he is big, strong, fast and talented.

Fred would go on to Boston College to play center on offense and linebacker on defense with a team of giants assembled by Frank Leahy that would defeat heavily favored Tennessee in the New Orleans Sugar Bowl in 1941. He and Mike Holovak were co-captains and both would go on to the pros along with most of the members of that team.

Fred would join the Navy during World War II, returning to football after the war to win NFL rookie of the year honors with the Los Angeles Rams where he was defensive captain, and to be named All-Pro from '48 through '50 when he retired simply because of broken body parts.

His brother, Joe, would become best man at my wedding to Herself in 1943, and my lifelong friend until his death two years past.

In the photograph, Fred (we called him "Boomer") looks older than 15, and tougher. On the field, there were none who played quite like him. No one played with more intensity. I can remember holding him up in the shower after the Beverly game of 1937, which we lost, if I remember correctly. He was out on his feet from sheer exhaustion. I suspect there are guys my age in Gloucester and Beverly who may remember playing opposite him because it was not the kind of experience to be forgotten. It was comforting to play alongside him.

But Fred was more than a major league football star. He was as pleasant and friendly a fellow as anyone could want to know; self-effacing, good-natured, fun-loving. He took all that with him when he left football and built a successful career, first with the FBI and later in business in the West.

I saw him last in 1982 when he returned to accept honors at B.C. and in Newburyport. Boston College named him to its Hall of Fame, and Newburyport named him as the first member to be inscribed on the NHS Wall of Fame.

The 5-by-7 photograph is of poor quality, grainy and a bit out of focus, probably an enlargement from a Brownie camera of the era. But every face in it is indelible in my mind. Ends Tiger Murphy and Henry Carey are both long dead, as are wingback Ray Hegarty and the Naumetz brothers. I have long since lost track of guard Proctor Houle and fullback Harry Askinas. I see Mickey MacFarlane occasionally, helping out on school days as a crossing guard. Tackle Connie Sullivan and quarterback Art Cahill were in nursing homes the last I heard. That would seem to be all in the past now. But not really.

The photograph is propped up on my bedroom bureau, and there we all are, eager, tough, forever young, frozen in time, the first team of NHS 1936 ready to take on, well, life, I suppose. We had no idea how much it would test us. But then, the young never do.

1,011

1997

Total Scoring

Player	<u>TD</u>		PAT	2 Pt. Conv.	FG	Total Pts.
	<u>Rush.</u>	<u>Pass.</u>				
Steve Lapham	11		28		29 yds	97
Marc Ouellet	KO Return 1	9		1		62
Ryan Mc Carthy	8			1		50
Jeff Stone		4		1		26
Kevin Hale	2	1		1		20
John Farrell	3					18
Jeff Wecal	3					18
Jamie Armstrong	3					18
Frank Demand	1			1		8
Brian Dugdale		1				6
Totals	32	15	28	5	1	323

TD Passes -

Mc Carthy 14

Smolaki 1

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CHANGING THE FACE of the CAL

*Starting next year, divisional play
will be abolished in all sports*

By KEVIN DOYLE
Daily News Sports Editor

For the past two decades or so, realignment has been a way of life in the Cape Ann League. Every few years, the league's Athletic Directors attempt to reinvent and re-package the product.

This time, they may have come up with a keeper.

Starting with a one-year trial basis next fall, the CAL will do away with divisional play and become a single league in all sports. The ADs approved the measure by an 11-3 vote last Monday. The proposal was initially defeated but, after a compromise two-division set-up was also rejected, passed upon reconsideration. Georgetown, Manchester and Ipswich cast dissenting votes.

The set-up will be subject to review following the 1998-99 school year but area ADs say it will be hard to overturn since the league constitution requires a two-thirds majority vote for change.

So it would seem that the days of Cape Ann One, Cape Ann Small, Cape Ann West, Cape Ann this and Cape Ann that; and of as many as three divisional champions within the league are gone, at least for the foreseeable future.

Restructuring calls for a 14-team league in which schools will play each other once, creating a 13-game league schedule and allowing schools to play up to seven non-league games. Realignment will not affect the two-year-old River Rivals competition involving Amesbury, Newburyport, Pentucket and Triton.



DAVE MORSE:
"We now will have a true champion . . . It's going to make it much tougher to hang that banner."

No change in River Rivals competition

The River Rivals competition, now in its second year, will not be disturbed by Cape Ann League realignment next year.

The River Rivals is a sub-division of the Cape Ann League consisting of the four area schools — Amesbury, Newburyport, Pentucket and Triton — bordering the Merrimack River. An annual plaque, sponsored by The Provident Bank, is presented to the school obtaining the most victories in common sports against each other.

According to Amesbury Athletic Director Doug Wood, the current plan is to open each season with a series of non-league games before beginning league competition. Since schools will play each other only once under the new format, The River Rivals have already agreed to face each other once in non-league games as well.

"That keeps the competition intact and also helps us all fill out our non-league schedule," noted Wood.

Newburyport's Dave Canan is excited about the early non-league games among the schools.

"There's the chance of having tournaments, sort of like our own Beanpot with the four schools playing each other early in the season," he said.

Newburyport won the inaugural River Rivals competition last year. Pentucket leads the 1997-98 standings entering the winter season.

— KEVIN DOYLE

There are two exceptions.

Football remains an 11-school league. Georgetown will continue to play in the Div. 6 Commonwealth Conference Small division while the cooperative Manchester/Rockport team will retain Div. 6 Independent status.

Hockey stays at 10 schools. Pentucket (with Georgetown) and North Andover (with Ipswich) retain co-op agreements while Rockport/Manchester will continue to skate as a Div. 3 Independent. Hockey may be the one sport that plays each

opponent twice, thereby creating an 18-game league schedule.

Amesbury AD Doug Wood has been lobbying long and hard for a single league for many years.

"It benefits everyone. The biggest thing is that we will now have a true CAL champion. Everybody will play each other once, which means a 13-game league sched-



FILE PHOTO

RON CORCORAN:
"Not having divisional champions may bother some people, but you can never keep everyone happy. It's worth a shot."

ule in most sports. That gives everyone a chance to get some quality non-league games. The smaller schools will be able to schedule games against those schools that are more in line with them," said Wood.

Area ADs, with the exception of Georgetown's Al Haddad, agreed.

"I think it will make for an exciting league. It provides a lot of flexibility to do things outside league. Plus, I've always been a big believer in having one true champion. The other way was too watered down," said Dave Canan of Newburyport.

"I was ambivalent at first because I didn't mind the three-divisional alignment. But, being a homer, our enrollment was starting to separate us from the other area schools. If we went back to two divisions, we were going to be in Division One and they were probably going to be in Two," said Pentucket AD Dave Morse.

"We didn't want to lose the area rivalries (with Amesbury, Newburyport and Triton), so that helped me make up my mind. Plus, our coaches liked the idea. We now will have a true league champion and I can agree with that concept as opposed to being champion of your area.

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CAL: To drop three-division format next year

Continued from page B1

It's going to make it much tougher to hang that (championship) banner," he said.

Triton's Ron Corcoran wasn't quite as steadfast in his support.

"I was initially against it because there was talk that non-league games were going to be pulled out of a hat. That didn't make any sense to me. As long as the MIAA keeps tournament qualification at 50 percent, it really should have no impact. Not having divisional champions may bother some people but you can never keep everyone happy. It's worth a shot for a year," he said.

"There are a lot of schools that are committed to tournaments, especially in the winter. This allows them to keep the tournaments without scrambling to change the league schedule around," he said.

Haddad, on the other hand, was adamant in his opposition.

"I'm very much opposed. It's bad for Georgetown and it's bad for the smaller schools. And, when I say smaller schools, I think you have to include Newburyport and Amesbury with the way enrollments are going. I don't think you'll find too many leagues anywhere that have 14 teams in one division. I'm honestly amazed at the vote and disappointed it went that way," said Haddad.

Haddad offered the compromise two-division set-up based on enrollment that would have split the league into two seven-team groups. He said he had no problem amending that to an 8/6 split in order to allow Amesbury, Newburyport, Pentucket and Triton to stay in one division.

"I understand the concerns about three divisions. Winning a championship when you had only four or five teams just wasn't very significant. But, I thought two divisions was a good compromise. It would've given the small schools a chance to win a championship, which is going to be very difficult for them to do now," he said.

While the format reduces the number of automatic league berths (champion and runner-up) for post-season play from six to two, the CAL still figures to have its share of teams qualify.

"I bet if we did a study, this change will not have that much of an effect. For the most part, schools that were qualifying were over 50 percent anyway. We had very few 8-12 teams finish second and qualify. I still think we will get six or seven schools from our league per sport. Besides, if you can't win 50 percent of your games, you don't belong in a tournament," said Morse.

"This makes the tournament more meaningful. If you can't win 50 percent, then you don't deserve to go," Canan agreed.

There are some unavoidable drawbacks.

Canan said he will miss the chance for a rematch against an opponent that may have defeated you early in the year. And Morse noted that especially strong programs such as Amesbury softball, Newburyport hockey and Manchester tennis could have trouble filling a 20-game schedule with non-league games.

"Some teams are really going to have to be creative," said Morse.

Some may see this alignment as a scheme to force out the league's smaller schools but, in fact, it was Rockport AD Steve Rowell who brought the plan up for reconsideration after it had initially been defeated.

"Steve was very much in favor of this. There are sports Rockport thinks it can do very well in. Plus, they get to schedule seven non-league games that will be to their advantage," Morse said.

"Manchester is just dominant in tennis and none of those schools are going to suffer in field hockey, for example," observed Canan.

"We are not on the same playing surface, numbers-wise. I just see a lot of negatives and I don't like it at all. I know I will direct my coaches to bring it up for discussion at the (annual) coaches meetings in March," Haddad countered.

Area schools may look into forming new league

By KEVIN DOYLE
Daily News Sports Editor

Many of the Cape Ann League's larger schools have periodically discussed the idea of leaving the league for nearly a decade now. While some talks have been more serious than others, formal plans have never been drawn up.

Now, a majority of area Athletic Directors seem to think it is an idea whose time has come. Several said that Monday's vote to scrap a single league and retain divisional play could provide the necessary impetus to investigate the possibility of organizing a new league.

In order to start a league, schools must petition and win approval from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA). The

earliest a new league could get up and running would be the fall of 1999.

Area ADs expressed frustration that the CAL's smallest schools — and charter members — Rockport, Manchester and Georgetown tend to vote in a block, making it difficult to win the necessary two-thirds majority to implement change.

"Right now, the Cape Ann League does not make sense, geographically or population-wise. You have schools with 1,000 kids and schools with 200 kids and we can't accommodate everyone's needs. I think we need to go out and look for alternatives. Personally, I'd like to see a nice nine- or 10-team league," said Dave Canan of Newburyport.

"At this stage we're trying to do innovative things but

obviously can't meet the needs of all 14 schools. Maybe it is time for a new 10-team league, time for a different league in which schools that offer most sports want to play each other in all of those sports," said Triton's Ron Corcoran.

Amesbury's Doug Wood said any move towards a new league depends entirely on how many schools are genuinely interested.

"I would love see an eight- or 10-team league. In reality what we have now is two leagues within one league anyway, so why not have our own. It makes sense," he said.

Dave Morse noted Pentucket will remain with its River Rivals whether in the CAL or elsewhere.

"We're going to go where the Rivals go. Sooner or later you have to expect something has to give with a league that's as diverse as we are," he said.

Georgetown AD Al Haddad hopes schools considering leaving the CAL exercise caution before making such a move.

"Obviously there has been discussion about some schools forming a new league. It would be a drastic change and would pull the league apart. A lot of needs had to be addressed and I'd like to feel this vote will do more to meet the needs of everyone," he said.

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after considerable discussion, a motion to re-implement divisional play passed by the needed two-thirds majority (10-4), representing a seven-vote swing from last month. Only Pentucket, Newburyport, Amesbury and Triton — The River Rivals — voted to retain a single league.

Morse abstained from the vote to rescind as a way to give the league's smaller schools a chance to voice their concerns.

"It didn't surprise me the small schools would make such a passionate plea to reconsider. Personally, I think anybody should have that opportunity to present their case after thinking about it for a month," he said.

"I abstained strictly as a way to give them a chance to voice their opinion. If we (Pentucket) were a small school, I'd be very frustrated not to have that chance. I think it would have been unfortunate if Al Haddad hadn't had the chance to speak," said Morse, whose school is currently the third largest in the CAL.

Under divisional play, schools will play each other only once, creating a 13-game league schedule and leaving ample opportunity to schedule attractive non-league games and participate in regular-season tournaments. Two champions will be crowned and the league will have four guaranteed post-season tournament slots.

Division One will be made up of Newburyport, Amesbury, Triton, Pentucket, Masconomet, Wilmington, North Andover and Hamilton-Wenham. Division Two consists of Lynnfield, North Reading, Ipswich, Georgetown, Rockport and Manchester.

"I know there are some who want to blame me for abstaining but the larger issue is the number of schools (Masconomet, Wilmington, Hamilton-Wenham, North Andover, North Reading, Rockport and Lynnfield) who changed their vote from last month. Frankly, that surprised me," said Morse.

"I brought the topic up with a clear conscience, in my own mind, that what we had decided last month was not in the best interest of the smaller schools," said Haddad.

"We didn't want to go back to three divisions but there seemed to be a healthy feeling that the league should be two divisions. I think once the ADs went back [after last month's vote] and heard from coaches and administrators, the thinking was that two divisions meets everyone's needs," said Haddad, who amended an initial proposal for a 9/5 set-up that would have separated rivals Lynnfield and North Reading.

Realistically, Haddad didn't think he had much chance of winning a reversal when only seven schools were in favor of rescinding the December vote.

"When the [reconsideration] vote occurred, I thought we were in trouble. Dave Morse felt we deserved the chance to discuss it, but I still wondered how we would get three more votes. The surprise was that Masconomet, Wilmington and North Andover changed from their reconsideration vote. I think it came down to everyone understanding the small school situation," Haddad said.

"And, realistically, when have you ever seen a 14-team league anyway?" he asked.

While Morse and Newburyport AD Dave Canan had advance knowledge from their superintendents that realignment would be brought up for reconsideration, Doug Wood of Amesbury and Ron Corcoran of Triton said they were both thoroughly surprised.

"I walked in blind — no one here had been contacted. We've tried everything but it's become obvious we can't accommodate certain schools," said Wood, who has lobbied long and hard for a single league and felt he had a done deal.

REVERSING #1 THEIR FIELD

CAL Athletic Directors scrap super league in favor of divisional play

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"I certainly feel like a lot of communication was going on among some schools. I know I was never contacted regarding whether we should re-consider the vote. It's embarrassing to us as a league because we look like we can't make up our minds," added Corcoran.

Canan expressed similar discontent

"I'm disappointed. What it comes down to is the small schools feeling that they don't have the legitimate opportunity to win a championship and they want that opportunity. I don't think this was the way to go about it. Maybe we can have 14 one-team leagues and then everyone can be a champion and everyone will feel good about themselves," he said.

With the exception of Haddad, area ADs feel the league continues to experience a severe case of the tail wagging the dog.

"It always seems like the schools with the fewest number of students are controlling the decisions in this league," said Canan.

"We have schools that don't offer some sports and don't play in the league in others making decisions for the entire league. I have no personal animosity towards anyone but there are certain schools that concerned with themselves and not with the league as a whole. It seems that every time we do something of major consequence that we've spent untold amounts of time on certain schools don't want to accept it and it's brought back on the table," Wood said.

Morse, though, seemed resigned to the fact that that's the way it is in the CAL.

"The league constitution, the way it's written, protects the small schools and they are the core [charter] members of the CAL. There is always going to be a certain amount of behind-the-scenes activity that goes on at certain administrative levels that keeps this debate alive," he said.

Remember that decision the Cape Ann League's Athletic Directors made last month to do away with divisional play and become a single league in all sports starting in September?

As Al Pacino's character stated frequently in the film *Donnie Brasco*: "Forget about it!"

In a reversal that caught at least two area ADs by surprise and smacked of behind-the-scenes maneuvering, the board first rescinded its December vote and then approved an 8/6 divisional set-up for all sports except football at its monthly meeting on Monday.

Last month the league voted by an 11-3 margin to abolish divisional play and to try a single 14-school league on a one-year trial basis.

Monday's vote came after Georgetown AD Al Haddad brought up the December decision for further discussion. Lynnfield AD Bill Adams' motion to rescind the December vote required only a simple majority to pass and did so by a 7-6 margin with Pentucket AD Dave Morse abstaining.

Morse later voted against reverting to two divisions. However,



Triton AD Ron
Corcoran

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