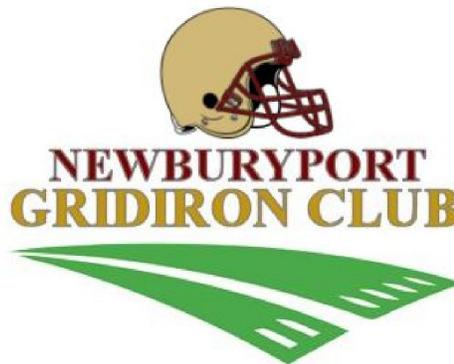

The Newburyport Gridiron Club Newsletter

Follow us online at www.newburyportgridironclub.org

Or on Twitter: [@portclippers](https://twitter.com/portclippers)



President's Note

By: Steve Lapham; Gridiron Club President (NHS Class of '98')

Greetings Clipper Football Faithful!

Fall has officially descended upon us and the Clippers have taken the field for the first full season at James T Stehlin Field at World War Memorial Stadium. It is certainly an exciting time for the Clippers. New Head Coach Mike Levine has taken the helm and proven to be full of enthusiasm and excitement in his first season. We have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure the boys and staff have when they need to be successful. Due to the continued support of the Clipper faithful, we have been able to provide some great new gear for both the players and the coaches alike. A new wireless PA system was purchased and immediately put into use to pump music into daily practice. Compression shirts were bought for all of the players and the biggest item of the year was the replacement of the 20+ year old coaching communication system. Funding through the school is at an all time low and thanks to your support, we are able to provide the much needed upgrades to equipment necessary to run a successful program. On behalf of all of us at the Newburyport Gridiron Club, I thank you for your continued support and look forward to keeping you updated with regards to the improvements we are able to provide the program. Good luck to the Clippers this season!

Onward, Forward!

Steve Lapham
Class of '98

News and Events



The Gridiron Club Snack Shack Renovation Project

August-September 2016

In conjunction with the NHS All-Sports Boosters Club, the snack shack received a much needed renovation this summer / fall. A special thanks to Gridiron members, football alumni and volunteers; especially Nick Notorgiacomo (NHS Class of 07'), Dave Fournier (NHS Class of 78'), Tim Sheehan, Chris Sheehan (NHS Class of 00'), Pat Sheehan (NHS Class of 07'), Ryan Clancy, Eric Grelle, Port Paint and Paper, Timberline, Young's Woodworking and Richard's Maytag. Please join a small Gridiron Group during the Triton Game (October 7th) as we will view some of the work and then share some stories post-game at the Park Lunch.

Team News: The 2016 Clippers



The 2016 season began as a roller coaster of highs and lows. Knocking off Lynnfield in the home opener came as a shock to some and a sign of things to come for others. Following a week two loss and a bit of a letdown at Ipswich, the Clippers returned home to face Masconomet (1-1); and in rainy conditions, managed to knock off the Chieftains 19-13 in the final minutes of the game to bring their record to 2-1. Consistent play from veteran leaders continue to guide the Clippers and give hope for a successful campaign the rest of the way.

The Clipper Corner

Every issue we will highlight a part of NHS Football history; some recent, others much older. If you have any ideas, or would be interested in being a contributor, please email us through the contact us page on the Gridiron website.



The 1976 Clippers: A 40th anniversary look back

By: John Webber (NHS Class of 00')

The 1976 NHS Clippers still remain one of, if not the most, dominate teams in school history. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the 76' run to the Superbowl. In this first issue of the Gridiron Newsletter, we take a look back to this classic Clipper team.

A statistical look at the 76' Clippers is still to this day, nothing shy of incredible. There was no Superbowl hangover, or drop in production after the 75' championship run; the Clippers scored 405 points in eleven games in 1976 and allowed only 47, both still school records and top ten state wide. The exclamation point was the 41-0 rout of South Boston at Nickerson Field in the Superbowl, with Newburyport claiming back to back championships and cementing their legacy during one of the most consistent and dominant eras in Newburyport history.

The Defense was and still is the key to a team's success. In this era of the "Koleman Krushers", named for long time Defensive Coordinator, head coach and educator Paul Koleman, the 76' Clippers recorded five shutouts and only oneteam, (Masconomet) was able to reach a double digit score (13).

1973 marked the first year that the Clippers entered the Cape Ann League from the Northeast Conference, and in 1976 there was great parody in the league.

Another high powered team throughout the 1970's was Ipswich. Led by star running back Bernie Adell (78') and with over six thousand fans in attendance, the 76' Clippers brought a twenty-two game win streak into World War Memorial Stadium to oppose this future Notre Dame star who rushed for nearly 6,000 yards in his career as a Tiger. However, even this high powered Ipswich team was no match for Newburyport. Adell only mustered 23 total yards against the reputable "Seawall Defense". (Final Score: Newburyport 25 Ipswich 6)

The season culminated with a trip to Nickerson Field to take on South Boston on December 4th in the Division 3 Superbowl. Legendary local and avid sports fan, the late Burt Spofford gives an account of the game.

throw. Gang of twenty inebriated South Boston fans roamed up and down the sidelines picking fights and terrorizing the fans. Only six Boston University security guards were there – one was assaulted by the mob. After a conference between coaches and officials it was decided to end the game. The game itself was a joke! NHS scored at will and score could have been one hundred if Port staff hadn't put in reserves as early as the second quarter. Twenty-seven, first quarter points put the game out of reach early. Clippers scored first four times they had the ball and the defense completely throttled Southie (6 yards rushing, 6 passing and only one first down for the game). A mismatch if there ever was one!"

As we remember the 1976 season on its 40th anniversary, it is important to note that the many generations of Clipper football coaches and players have prided themselves on Defense. The reputation of the Seawall Defense was forever embedded into the memories of loyal fans in the fall of 1976 and has served as a benchmark goal for all Clippers since.