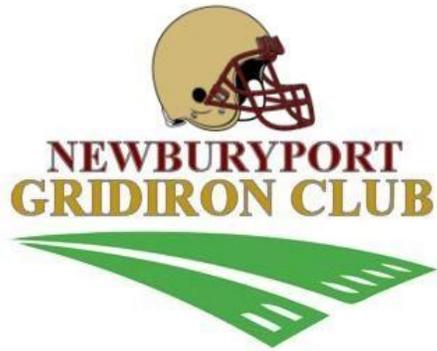

The Newburyport Gridiron Club Newsletter

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President's Note

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

Welcome back to Clipper Football! Once again we welcome a new Head Coach for the 2017 season. This time, it is a familiar name to many of us who have made Newburyport our home. Coach Smolski is a name that has been synonymous with Newburyport Football, at all levels, for many years. Whereas we honored the late Coach Tom Smolski this summer by renaming our golf tournament in his honor, the new Coach Smolski is his youngest son, Benjamin. Personally, I am thrilled to have Ben at the helm of the Clippers and am excited to see what he is able to do with a program that is a very special part of his family. Good luck this season and the many seasons ahead of you.

Onto the business end of our organization. Our 1st Annual Tom Smolski Memorial Golf Tournament was a success this year. We incorporated several new games and prizes which were well received and we raised a good amount of money for the program.

In addition to the golf tournament, we have been trying to incorporate a more convenient way to involved the many Clipper faithful who either do not golf or simply can't make it to an all day event in the middle of the summer. What we have come up with is a chance to win a trip to Miami to see the Patriots take on the Dolphins in December. Sound good? Ok, here are the details.

The trip is purchased. The raffle tickets are ready to go and we are set to launch our very first **A Very Clipper Christmas Raffle**. 2 Tickets in the lower bowl at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, accommodations for 2 for 4 nights in Ft. Lauderdale. All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and stadium as well as round trip airfare for 2 from Boston Logan Airport. Tickets are \$50 apiece and can be purchased from me

by emailing newburyportgridironclub@gmail.com or calling 978-225-3297. Only 300 tickets will be sold. We will also be distributing tickets to several locations around town, so stay tuned for those locations.

One last thought. Everyone knows raising money is hard. That said, it shouldn't be made harder. Our goal is to raise enough money that we don't need to raise money every year. Wouldn't that be nice? Maybe even assist in larger, multi-sport investments that would enhance the experience of all student-athletes. Imagine that?!? So when we're told we can't sell programs that were paid for by local businesses submitting advertisements, I get concerned. When we come up with a raffle that has nothing to do with asking the players or coaches to sell anything and we're told that funds raised by "outside boosters" are not allowed, I get fired up. If our athletics budget was such that all coaches were compensated fairly, all user fees were abolished, all uniforms and game equipment was provided as well as all field maintenance and equipment funded and utilized correctly, there wouldn't be a need for outside boosters. But I live in the real world, and as long as I can remember, from youth through college, programs raise money to support themselves due to the lack of funding provided by the Athletic Department and/or City/Town/Institution. Newburyport is no different, and I challenge anyone to tell me what we do is wrong. It took many dedicated people over 13 years to renovate and install field turf at World War Memorial Stadium. That's embarrassing, and without fiercely loyal supporters, it would have taken even longer or perhaps it never would have been completed. Clipper Football is an integral part of our community. I would hate to see it threatened due to the seemingly misguided judgment of those who discourage us from supporting something we care deeply about.

Onward, Forward!

Steve Lapham

Class of '98

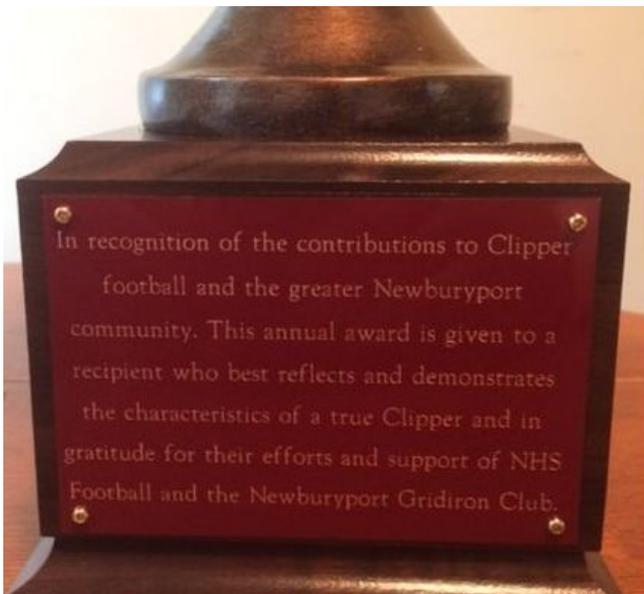
News and Events

New Coach and the 'True Clipper Award'

A new season has begun and new head coach Ben Smolski (NHS '02) has taken the reigns. No stranger to Newburyport Football and a member of the staff on two prior stints, the transition was seamless and the team was focused for the start of the 2017 season.

Coach Smolski was also the inaugural recipient of the Gridiron Club "True Clipper" Award at this year's golf tournament. This trophy is given in recognition of the contributions to Clipper football and the greater Newburyport community. This annual award is given to a recipient who best reflects and demonstrates the characteristics of a true Clipper and in gratitude for their efforts and support of NHS Football and the Newburyport Gridiron Club.

Thanks to Coach for all that he does for the student athletes, the school, the community and The Gridiron Club.



Patriots Raffle



Tickets will be on sale soon, both online and at the Newburyport home games. The Gridiron is sending one winner with two tickets, flight, hotel and transportation to Miami for the Dolphins vs the Patriots, Monday night December 11, 2017. Tickets are \$50.00 and a limited number will be released. Check the website for availability.

Gridiron Golf Tournament

Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors and players for taking part in this years golf tournament. It was another success and the team is already taking advantage of money provided by the Gridiron efforts. The Clippers have purchased a twenty-four foot trampoline chute, teaching body position and correct technique while limiting head collisions with steel pipes (like the old chute system). Thank you again for all of your support!

Parade Float

Another visible place to find the Gridiron Club was at this years Yankee Homecoming Parade. Our first attempt at a float was a success, taking home 3rd place in the float awards and \$125.00 donation towards NHS Football. Thank you to all who helped with the build including former coaches, players and

alumnus. We are already thinking of float ideas for next year, so if interested, we would love the help. Email the Gridiron with any interest.



Team News: The 2017 Clippers

(Right: One of the 2017 Captains. Senior Myles Maloof)

The Clippers are off and running in 2017. A thin team this season with not much depth on either side of the ball. The Clips lost their opener on the road 32-0 against a formidable Lynnfield team. They returned home week two with laser focus and in the rain and fog, took on a scrappy, hard hitting Ipswich squad. The game was back and forth in the first half with both teams making their share of mistakes in the conditions. The second half belonged to the home team, with the Tiger only running 3 plays in the 3rd quarter Newburyport dominated time of possession and beat the Tiger with a 25 yard field goal to take the win 10-7.

This was the first win for new head coach Ben Smolski and a memorable one, coming on the home turf of the Clipper. The team awarded Coach with the game ball and look to get back to work as the schedule ahead is a challenging one.

The next two weeks brought Masconomet and Triton. The Clips were downed by Masco 35-0 but rebounded for a big win over rival Triton 19-13 in the inaugural Border Battle game. The Clippers now control their own destiny headed into playoff time.

The Clippers continue to get production from new editions and familiar faces. Myles Maloof has been a hard nosed grinder, while fellow captain Connor Smith has been a dominant force in the middle. Sophomores Trevor Foley and Walker Bartkiewicz were pressed into action early with injuries to Captain Matt Donlan and Junior DE Jake Lane. Both have responded in extremely productive ways for the Clippers.

Clipper Corner

In each Clipper Corner 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 Border Battle Game

Newburyport vs. Triton

By: John Webber

NHS Class of '00

Sport creates rivalry, and in football some of the greatest rivalries come to life. Tradition, pride, and bragging rights are always on the line. At the collegiate ranks, the rivalry names precede their reputation... The Iron Bowl, The Backyard Brawl, The Red River Rivalry and The Civil War to name a few. These traditional rivalries usually have geographic significance and teams spawn rivalries based on their proximity to one another or for any number of reasons depending on who you ask.

High School football tends to follow suit; with big games, tradition and pride are on the line in rivalry games. In Newburyport, we have traditional “river rivals”, games played against Ipswich and Pentucket, teams flanking Newburyport to the East and West. We have our oldest rivalry, dating back to 1892, played against Amesbury every Thanksgiving morning; With this rivalry comes the fanfare, the homecoming for many and the tradition of the Color Day pep rally and festivities.

One of the most overlooked rivalries, however, and one of the biggest is Triton. The two schools were once one, during the days of the Northeast Conference and a powerhouse NHS program. Once Triton was built in 1971, allegiances were formed and a classic rivalry began. This became the game that pitted family against family, friend against friend and former teammates against one another. To the players, this is one to circle on the calendar. It seems that from year to year, this is the game where emotions run high and teams play as if there's more on the line than just wins and losses.

There are more memories than miles between these two teams. It's a quick ride over the marsh and a simple four miles between the schools. The intangibles that can not be measured however, are the passion and the intensity that goes into a Triton - Newburyport week.

This is the game, second to Thanksgiving in terms of emotion and attendance. We've seen fans rush the field, huge crowds and car horns escorting teams back home from road wins.

Classic battles between the Triton squads of Coach Corcoran and Coach Gaudio's Clippers often held league implications throughout the 80's and 90's. The epic 1995 battle dubbed, 'the fog bowl' ended in a field goal through the mist and is considered by some to be one of the greatest CAL high school games ever played.

Triton names through the ages, from Foley and Corkum, to Bazirgan, Volpone, the Verrier brothers and Emerzian can all bear witness to the passion and the intensity of a Newburyport game under the Friday night lights or on the frozen tundra of a windy October Saturday morning.

Likewise, since the creation of the Cape Ann League in 74'; Clippers such as the Twombly's, Gannon, Bashaws, Ladds, Sullivans, Clancy and Guthro are only a few of the notable names from the hundreds who have felt the glory or victory and the agony of defeat in this rivalry game.

While some sport rivalries seem to come and go depending on records, personnel and time, the battle for superiority and competition between these local schools has endured for over 45 seasons. It's an exciting rivalry that some would love to see as a season opener or a homecoming game. To others, however, it is still that classic border battle game that pitted one brother against the other in the 1970's and a tradition that continues to grow.

Epilougue:

It is our hope to establish a trophy for this rivalry game. The top being a old bronze football and the base having a front plaque which reads "The Border Battle Game" Awarded annually to the winner of the Newburyport - Triton football game. On one side of the trophy, an etching of a Viking Ship matted in blue and on the other, a Clipper Ship matted in Crimson. The winner would display, with their side facing out, in a trophy case until the next year, where the trophy would be displayed and again up for grabs and bragging rights for that year.

*In years past we have had situations that caused the two teams to meet on more than one occasion in a season due to the new playoff format. If this were to occur, the initial meeting would determine the trophy until the following season.

