

## Salem News 2009 High School Football all-star team

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Football Player of the Year: Chris Splinter, Masconomet

Electrifying.

If there was one perfect word to describe Chris Splinter's four seasons playing football for the Masconomet Chieftains, that would be it.

Technically, Splinter was listed as a quarterback on offense, but he was actually more of a hybrid player capable of lining up wide and catching passes, or taking the football and running like the wind through opposing defenses.

In leading the Chieftains to their fourth consecutive Cape Ann League Large championship and into the Division 2A Super Bowl, Splinter completed 86 of 130 passes for 1,058 yards and 13 touchdowns. The 5-foot-11, 170-pounder also ran for 892 yards and crossed the goal line 16 times himself.

The two-time Cape Ann League Large Player of the Year and three-time All-League selection — who is also an outstanding defensive player — finished his brilliant career with 2,539 rushing yards and 43 touchdowns on the ground in 276 carries. That's an outstanding average of 9.2 yards every time he ran with the ball. He also threw for 2,916 yards, completing 223 of 403 passes and 25 more touchdowns. Just for good measure, Splinter caught 15 passes for another 302 yards and three scores.

A team captain in football, basketball and baseball at Masconomet, Splinter is ranked eighth in his senior class with a grade point average of 4.921 on a 5.3 scale. He is being heavily recruited by Ivy League schools, where he plans on continuing his football career.

**GEORGE ALEXANDROU**

Masconomet Senior

Center/Inside linebacker

Team captain helped lead Chieftains to fourth straight Cape Ann League Large title and a berth in Division 2A Super Bowl ... Two-time CAL All-League selection ... Lists his best games as

North Andover offensively and Malden Catholic on defense ... Hopes to play college football ... Carries 3.2 grade-point average.

MATT BARBUZZI

Swampscott Senior

Quarterback/Kicker

First-year starter under center was named Co-Offensive Player of the Year in NEC Small after throwing for 2,384 yards and 24 touchdowns with only seven INTs ... Set school record for completion percentage at 64.2 percent (167 for 260) ... Scored four rushing TDs with 312 yards via the ground ... Hit 36 of 44 PATs as well as two field goals ... Converted 125 of 148 PATs for his career ... Honor roll student.

EVAN BUNKER

Masconomet Senior

Running back/Outside linebacker

Finished as the area's leading rusher with 1,154 yards and 14 scores on the ground for Chieftains ... Playing on basically one leg in the Division 2A Super Bowl, he rushed for 130 yards and a touchdown while throwing another TD pass ... Threw three TD passes in two playoff games out of the Wildcat formation ... Had 145 yards and three TDs on Thanksgiving vs. North Andover ... Looking at Union, Colgate and Trinity ... Has 3.95 GPA.

ERIC BURGOS

Danvers Senior

Running back/Cornerback

Senior led team in rushing with 723 yards despite playing just five-and-a-half games due to a season ending injury ... Averaged 5.9 yards per carry ... Ran for eight touchdowns, tied for the team lead ... Also caught eight passes for 59 yards ... Had 190 yards and three TDs in season opening win over Manchester Essex ... Finished career with 1,450 yards and 12 TDs ... Hopes to play football in college.

EVAN COMEAU

Marblehead Senior

Tight end/Linebacker

Tremendous blocker on offense and one of the area's top tacklers defensively ... Had a 14-yard rushing touchdown out of fullback spot in playoff win over Rockland ... Caught 18 passes for 253 yards and four TDs ... Had three touchdowns as well as a dozen tackles and caused a safety in win over Pentucket ... Carries 3.5 GPA ... Going to Bryant College on a baseball scholarship.

## MARK D'ADDARIO

Peabody Senior

Running back

Became the first Peabody High running back to surpass 1,000 rushing yards in a season since 1996, finishing with 1,011 ... Had nine touchdowns via the ground ... NEC all-star ... Had 256 yards on a Herculean 34 carries vs. Cambridge ... Finished career with 2,133 rushing yards and 16 TDs ... Going to Siena (N.Y.) College to play Division 1 lacrosse.

## MATT EVANS

Marblehead Senior

Center/Middle linebacker

Anchor of an offensive line that was among the top pass blocking units in the area ... Finished with over 110 tackles this season ... Had 16 tackles in playoff triumph over Rockland ... Broke up two passes ... Had three interceptions ... Two-time Northeastern Conference all-star ... Had 14 tackles in win over Pentucket and nine tackles and a sack in big NEC triumph over Beverly ... Carries 3.4 GPA.

## RANDALL KELLEHER

Swampscott Senior

Wide receiver/Linebacker

Two-year, two-year starter was NEC all-star this fall ... Caught 47 passes for 763 yards and eight TDs ... Had 57 tackles (2 for loss), a fumble recovery, an interception and two sacks ... For his career, caught 55 passes for 899 yards and nine scores while making 117 tackles (5 for loss), with three fumble recoveries, an INT and four sacks ... Hopes to play college football.

## NICK KOZLOWSKI

Beverly Senior

Tackle/Linebacker

Hard-hitting left inside backer was the heart and soul of Beverly's 3-5 defensive scheme ... NEC Small Co-Player of the Year ... Two-time NEC all-star ... Team captain ... Led team in tackles ... Lynchpin of an offensive line that flourished in second year of running the spread offense ... Hopes to play college football at Endicott.

#### JUSTIN MARRS

Beverly Senior

Wide receiver/Cornerback

Glue-fingered receiver led Panthers in catches (33), receiving yardage (617) and touchdowns caught (9) ... Northeastern Conference all-star ... Caught TD pass in Thanksgiving Day win over Salem ... Caught 30-yard TD pass with 15 seconds left in 24-20 victory over Lynn English ... Hopes to study criminal justice in college.

#### JOHN McINNIS

Danvers Senior

Fullback/Linebacker

Was NEC Small Co-Defensive Player of the Year ... Tenacious defender has a true nose for the football ... Finished with almost 90 tackles despite missing two-and-a-half games due to injury ... Had a touchdown run and a dozen tackles in upset home win over Beverly ... Second on the team in rushing yards with 671 and three scores ... Standout hockey player for the Falcons as well.

#### BRENDAN OLIVER

Pingree Junior

Quarterback/Linebacker

Threw an 8-yard touchdown pass with only 40 seconds remaining to give Highlanders a 7-6 win over Brooks to capture Clark/Francis Bowl ... Danvers native threw for 1,255 yards and 11 scores ... Completed 91 of 163 passes ... Also an outstanding defensive player who was among his team's leading tacklers.

#### ANTONIO REYES

Salem Junior

Tight end/Inside linebacker

Was Northeastern Conference North's Defensive Player of the Year ... Averaged better than 16 tackles a game, tops in the area ... Finished with an amazing three 20-plus tackle games this fall

... Had six sacks and five interceptions ... Led Witches in receptions (17), receiving yardage (295), TD receptions (5) and points scored (31) ... Coach Scott Connolly says he has the best instincts of any player he's ever coached.

## HAYES RICHARDSON

Marblehead Senior

Quarterback

Northeastern Conference Small Co-Player of the Year completed 108 of 234 passes for 1,703 yards and 18 touchdowns, leading Marblehead to its first league title in 36 years ... Led team in rushing touchdowns with 18, finishing with 582 yards on the ground ... Passed for 267 yards and a score and ran for two more in a win at Danvers ... Thanks his mentor, Marblehead assistant Mike Giardi, for helping him throw a stronger ball, break down film and read defenses better.

## BRIAN ROGERS

Pingree Junior

Running back/Middle linebacker

Helped lead Highlanders to Evergreen League title and championship in the Clark/Francis Bowl ... Led team in rushing with 511 yards (in 9 games) and seven touchdowns ... Had three interceptions and two fumble recoveries ... Also caught 15 passes for 234 yards ... Had 112 yards and a dozen tackles vs. Kents Hill ... Carries 88 average in classroom.

## GEORGE SESSOMS

St. John's Prep Senior

Running back/Outside linebacker

A monster second half of the season on the ground for the Peabody native enabled him to finish with 1,146 yards rushing and 14 touchdowns ... Had career high five TDs in rout of Malden Catholic and also picked off a pass ... Also snared eight passes for 123 yards and another touchdown ... Has committed to play football at Holy Cross ... Holds 3.61 GPA.

## KYLE SHONIO

Swampscott Senior

Running back/Linebacker

Four-year varsity player had 1,093 yards, 17 TDs and two 2-point conversions ... Caught 24 passes for 206 yards and 3 TDs ... Also completed two passes (in two attempts) for 44 yards ...

Averaged 21 yards per kickoff return ... Finished career with 2,085 yards rushing and 27 TDs on 372 carries, along with 60 receptions for 617 yards and 4 TDs ... Had 36 tackles (5 for loss), a forced fumble, two fumble recoveries and two sacks ... Also punted ... Starter on Big Blue's 2007 Super Bowl title team.

## DAVID ST. PIERRE

North Shore Tech Senior

Quarterback/Safety

Had a monster season as the Bulldogs' signal caller, completing 157 passes in 278 attempts for 2,634 yards ... Fired 28 touchdown passes ... Three-time Commonwealth Athletic Conference all-star ... Beverly native threw four touchdown passes and 377 yards vs. Greater Lawrence ... Ranked third in his senior class with 4.29 GPA ... Looking at Tufts, Maine, Colby, Curry and Endicott.

## HONORABLE MENTION

Beverly — Steve Dubois, Sr. WR/OLB; Theriche Roc, Sr. OG/ILB; George Kallas, Jr. OG/DT; Mark Hannable, QB/S; Ryan Flannery, Sr. K; Mark Theriault, Sr. WR/OLB; Curtis Manuel, Sr. WR/FS.

Danvers — Steve Hennessey, Sr. WR/S; Corey Walker, Sr. WR/CB; Zach Ryan, Jr. TE/DE; Nick Serino, Sr. C/DT; Ben Roy, Sr. OG/DT; Dan Skinner, Sr. WR/OLB.

Salem — Joe King, Sr. NG; Josh Sanchez, Sr. LB; Brad Skeffington, Jr. QB.

Peabody — Jeff Egitto, Sr. OT/DT; Nat Gaye, Soph. LB; Justin Provencher, Sr. LB/K.

Marblehead — Marcell Hardmon, Sr. RB; Kyle Edwards, Sr. RT; Liam Gilliland, Jr. LT; Matt O'Neil, Sr. OLB.

Swampscott — Chris Fagone, Sr. OL/DL; Santino Foresta, Sr. OL/DL; Buddy Nestor, Sr. OL/DL; Jared Richard, Sr. LB; A.J. Baker, Soph. WR; Peter Yasi, Jr. WR/LB.

Masconomet — John Daniels, Sr. TE/DE; Jake Lawrence, Sr. FB/LB; Kurt Hunziker, Soph. TE/LB; Yoshio Yabe, Sr. OL/DL; Collin Burke, Sr. WR.

Ipswich — James Riel, Sr. RB/DB; Nate Bocko, Sr. RB/DB; Eli Natti, Sr. OL/DL.

Hamilton-Wenham — Andy Duval, Sr. QB/S; Paul Littlefield, Sr. OL/DL; Tucker White, Jr. K.

Bishop Fenwick — Chris Renzulli, Sr. QB/RB/DB; Nick Corbett, Sr. FB/LB; Pat Lyons, Sr. TE/DE; Zach Nardone, Jr. OL/DL.

St. John's Prep — Tyler Coppola, Jr. WB/CB; Andrew Dieselman, Sr. OG/DT; Ryan Delisle, Jr. WR/DE; Nate Cyr, Jr. T; Mike Dantona, Sr. FB.

North Shore Tech — Jordan Smith, Jr. WR; Jesse Wilkins, Jr. RB/WR; Pat Wood, Jr. SE.

Pingree — Brandon Parker, Jr. WR/DE; Will Walfield, Jr. RB/LB; Charlie Taft, Sr. OG/DE.

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