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Salem News 2011 Football All-Star team

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2011 Salem News Football Player of the Year

MIKE WALSH

Swampscott Senior

Quarterback/Safety

To put it simply, Mike Walsh was a complete high school football player.

Without question, Swampscott's senior signal caller was the elite quarterback on the North Shore, but in addition to that he was one of the top running backs and safeties too.

Walsh's offensive numbers are truly staggering when examined closely. He was known as a solid passer for two years in head coach Steve Dembowski's spread offense, as his 2,128 passing yards and 25 touchdowns this season can attest to.

He completed 169 of 280 passes (a 60 percent completion rate) and was easily the top passer in the area. But he also ran the ball almost as effectively, carrying the ball 133 times for 924 yards and 13 TDs, good for ninth on the area rushing list and third on the area scoring list with 94 total points.

Walsh's true value can't be measured solely on offensive statistics, however. He made a name for himself as one of the best defensive backs on the North Shore, and he will continue his football career at Brown University next year as a safety.

His overall production led to his being named the Cape Ann League/Northeastern Conference Tier 2 Most Valuable Player.

KENNY PIERCE

Beverly Junior

Running back/Cornerback

Explosive back excelled at getting to the outside and outrunning teams with his speed ... Led Panthers with 831 rushing yards ... Finished with 13 touchdowns and 78 total points ... Had a pair of 5-touchdown games: at Lynn English and at Danvers ... Wants to keep playing football in college ... Uncle Greg Pierce, a former BHS star who now plays football and lacrosse at Bowdoin, has been his biggest influence.

BRENDAN FLAHERTY

Beverly Junior

Running back/Defensive back

Two-time Salem News all-star ran for 733 yards and seven scores on the ground this fall ... Led Beverly in receptions (17), receiving yardage (324) and receiving TDs (5) ... Two TD catches on Thanksgiving at Salem ... Ferocious as a tackler on defense ... Outstanding student carries a 4.0 grade point average ... Hopes to play Division 1 college ball.

MARK GILES

Beverly Senior

Linebacker/Tight End

Two-time Defensive Player of the Year in the league, sharing top honors with Marblehead's Oliver Gregory this fall ... Team's leading tackler despite the fact that most opponents ran away from his side ... Finished with over a dozen tackles vs. Marblehead ... Also a league all-star in lacrosse ... 3.5 GPA ... Would like to play football in college.

TREVOR LYONS

Hamilton-Wenham Junior

Quarterback

Gifted multi-threat quarterback who can escape the pocket for huge amounts of yardage ... Led H-W with 1,408 yards on 160 carries and 19 TDs ... Threw for 610 yards and seven more scores ... Scored four times on four carries vs. Georgetown, gaining 166 rushing yards in the process ... Also had a 9-carry, 285-yard, 5-TD performance this fall ... 3.5 GPA ... Would like to play football and major in business.

MATT PUTUR

Hamilton-Wenham Senior

Cornerback/Wide Receiver

When there was a big catch to be made on offense or a pass to be broken up defensively, the Generals could always count on Putur ... Finished with a team-high seven interceptions ... Had 6 catches for 104 yards and a touchdown in Super Bowl vs. Bourne ... Led H-W in catches (23) and receiving yardage (287) and a pair of scores ... Looking at UNH.

TAYLOR DRINKWATER

Hamilton-Wenham Senior

Left tackle/Defensive end

Stalwart of a veteran Generals' line that opened huge holes for QB Trevor Lyons and RB Elliott Burr to gallop through ... Spearheaded team to its first ever Super Bowl appearance ... Was a monster on defense with 11 sacks ... Averaged nearly five tackles an outing ... Had two sacks and 4 1/2 tackles vs. Pentucket ... 3.46 GPA ... Wants to study engineering, having applied to Clemson, South Carolina, Rhode Island and New Hampshire.

A.J. BAKER

Swampscott Senior

Wide Receiver

One of the most prolific pass catchers in North Shore history graduates as Swampscott's all-time leader with 147 receptions ... Excellent hands helped him lead the area with 11 receiving TDs and 48 catches ... Scored 3 TDs and forced three turnovers against Malden ... Also threw a TD pass in the win over Beverly ... Graduates with 1,756 career receiving yards and 20 TDs.

MICHAEL CONNORS

Danvers Senior

Center/Defensive Line

Falcons' co-captain served as the anchor of an improved front line on both sides of the ball ... Helped pave the way for Danvers to average 220 yards per game on the ground ... The model of consistency helped his team quadruple its 2010 win total ... Solid run stopper goes 6-foot-1, 210 pounds and earned NEC all-star status ... Played nearly mistake free football, said head coach Sean Rogers.

NAT GAYE

Peabody Senior

Running back/Linebacker

Unique blend of power and speed helped him run over and around defenders to the tune of 1,263 yards and 11 TDs ... NEC all-star rushed for over 100 yards in eight of 10 games this fall ... Graduates with 2,475 career yards ... Eclipsed 200 yards in wins over Danvers and Gloucester ... Also a standout tackler ... Has multitude of college options including Holy Cross, Stonehill and Merrimack.

D.J. HENRICK

Peabody Senior

Fullback/Linebacker

Tackling machine shifted from defensive end to linebacker and amassed over 100 stops on the season ... Defensive leader had uncanny strength, ferocious hitting ability and a motor that seldom stalled ... Served as Peabody's punter and led the team in receptions ... Salem News all-star in wrestling and lacrosse considering playing football at Bryant, Merrimack and Maine, among others.

RICHARD SULLIVAN

Swampscott Senior

Wide Receiver

Smart pass catcher used blazing speed to turn short grabs into big gains ... Led the North Shore in receiving yardage with 721 on 40 catches ... NEC all-star hauled in seven TD passes ... Had five catches for 153 yards in a victory over Danvers ... Served as QB Mike Walsh's toughest and speediest target ... Hopes to continue football career and has received interest from the likes of Merrimack and Stonehill.

KURT HUNZIKER

Masconomet Senior

Tide end/Linebacker

Cape Ann League all-star three years running ... Chieftains' co-captain locked down over 100 solo tackles this season ... Four-year starter who was the heart and soul of Masco's defense ... Boasts a 3.78 GPA and will attend UMass Amherst to play Division 1 lacrosse ... Had two TDs in the games against Beverly and Lynn English ... Salem News 2011 Lacrosse Player of the Year.

DYLAN MANN

Masconomet Junior

Running back /Defensive back

Two-way starter the past three seasons for the Chieftains ... Ranked No. 2 in his class with a 4.987 GPA ... Named CAL all-star two years in a row ... Not certain about his college plans but wants to continue playing football ... Was responsible for two interceptions, four fumble recoveries and two forced fumbles ... Finished with 6 TDs on 90 carries and 494 rushing.

JUSTIN LEE

North Shore Tech/Essex Aggie Senior

Offensive guard/Defensive end

Commonwealth Athletic Conference all-star two years running ... Rarely got beat by his man off the line of scrimmage, using superior footwork and positioning to protect his QB and open holes ... Best individual performance came against Chelsea ... Looking to attend a tech school.

LUCAS BAVARO

St. John's Prep Junior

Outside linebacker/Wide receiver

Boxford native was a Catholic Conference all-star ... Among the Eagles' team leaders with 55 tackles ... Caught 16 passes for 235 yards and two touchdowns ... Had his best individual performance against B.C. High ... Terrific 4.1 GPA ... Wants to play college football ... Thanks his father Mark, a former NFL All-Pro with the Giants, for teaching him how to play the game.

KYLE KANEB

St. John's Prep Senior

Defensive Tackle

Manchester native was captain for the Eagles ... Finished the year with five sacks and multiple quarterback pressures ... Came in hard off the edge and beat linemen with his speed ... Two-year starter had most dominating performance against B.C. High ... Will major in sociology in college with a minor in social work ... 3.62 GPA ... Thanks his parents for dedicating their time in order for him to achieve and succeed.

PETER MOUTEVELIS

Ipswich Junior

Running back/Defensive End

Ran for 157 yards with four touchdowns against Amesbury ... Powered the offense with 750 yards rushing on 143 carries this season, including 8 scores ... At 5-foot-11 and 180 pounds, he was elusive

enough to blow by defenders and deceptively powerful in breaking tackles ... Excelled on special teams, with two kickoff returns for TDs.

KENNY ADINKRA

Pingree Senior

Running back/Linebacker

Big-play back finished with 994 rushing yards and 17 touchdowns on just 75 carries ... Team MVP ... Carries an 89 out of 100 GPA and is deciding on a college, where he plans to play competitive football ... Had 234 yards and five scores on just nine carries against Vermont Academy. .. Named to the All-New England team ... Has the speed at outside backer to cover from sideline to sideline ... A dynamic special teams returner.

NICK ANTENUCCI

Pingree Junior

Linebacker/Running back

Combines natural instincts at linebacker with his lightning speed and toughness ... Named team's Outstanding Defensive Player ... Named to the All-New England team ... Had 386 yards on 27 catches and two touchdowns to go with 420 yards and six TDs on the ground ... Not the beefiest backer, but one of the hardest hitters on the North Shore.

WILL QUIGLEY

Marblehead Senior

Running back/Defensive back/Punter

Dynamic two-way player who always seemed to make plays at the perfect time ... Finished as the top scorer on the North Shore with 20 touchdowns and 124 points ... Accumulated 1,237 rushing yards, good for third in the area ... Scored two TDs and ran for 150 yards against Swampscott in the NEC/CAL Tier 2 title-clinching win on Thanksgiving ... Also recorded four interceptions.

OLIVER GREGORY

Marblehead Senior

Linebacker

The center of Marblehead's defense, Gregory was the key cog to a great linebacker crew ... A hard hitter who always had a nose for the football ... Named NEC/CAL Tier 2 Co-Defensive Player of the Year along with Beverly's Mark Giles ... Considers his team's victory over Swampscott on

Thanksgiving Day as his most memorable performance ... Unsure about college plans, but carries a 4.1 GPA.

HONORABLE MENTION

Beverly — Dom Abate, Jr. RB/DB; Mike Dooling, Sr. OL/DL.

Bishop Fenwick — Mike Dainis, Sr., WR/DB; Will Clancy, Sr., OL/LB; Rufus Rushins, Fr., RB/DE; Fran Hannon, Jr., QB/DE.

Danvers — Joe Manson, Jr., OL/DL; Conor Morrison, Jr., OL/DL; Jake Palazola, Sr. FB; Nick Valles, Sr., RB/DB

Hamilton-Wenham — Shane Jenkins, Sr. OL/DE; Kevin Anthony, Sr. OL/LB; Elliott Burr, RB/LB, Luke Wendt, Sr. TE/DE; Ryan Foringer, Sr. OL/LB; Christian Ecker, Soph. SE/FS.

Ipswich — Chris Desmond, Sr., OL/LB; Mike Dillon, Jr., OL/DL; Brenden Gallagher, Sr., RB/LB; Louis Galanis, Sr., R/DB.

Marblehead — John Perry, Sr., LB; Joel Katz, Sr., LB; Tyler Bates, Jr., LB; Jeff Peras, Sr., OL/DL.

Masconomet — Jake Gillespie, Sr., TE/LB; Ben Panunzio, Sr., QB/DB; Eric Anastasio, Sr., LB/RB; Nathan Silveira, Sr. WR/DB.

North Shore Tech — Tyler Skane, Jr. FB/LB; Ryan Fanning, Sr. TE/LB; Nick Brooks, Sr. RB/CB.

Peabody — Nick Hill, Sr., OL/DL; Jason Hiou, Sr., QB/CB; Nick Ingham, Sr., TE/S; Sean Wlasuk, Sr., K/S

Pingree — Vinnie Aguiar, Sr. OL/DE; Jerome Capadonna, Jr. QB; Johnny Spears, Soph. WR/KR/PR; Luis Rodriguez, Sr. WR.

Salem — Fernando Cabrera, Sr., RB; Austin Connolly, So., DB; Christian Dunston, Jr., QB/DB; Ben Kapnis, Sr., WR; Nick Paine, Sr., WR/LB.

St. John's Prep — Jonathan Thomas, Soph. RB.

Swampscott — Sam Gold, Jr., OL/DL; Joe DeSalvo, Sr., LB; Zach Kalapinski, Sr., OL/LB; Nick Meninno, Sr., WR/DB/K; Mark Lausier, Sr., OL/DL.