



# NEWSLETTER

## January 2009 Issue

# NEWSLETTER

**PUBLISHED BY WYOMING AREA FOOTBALL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.**

January, 2009

**Dear Warrior Nation,**

Another year of Wyoming Area Football has come and gone and it hardly seems possible. Paul Marranca stepped down as head coach before the 2008 season. Randy Spencer was voted to be the new head coach unanimously by the Wyoming Area School Board.

Randy is a 1988 graduate of Wyoming Area. He played linebacker while at W.A. , coached mini-football for several years and served as an assistant to Paul Marranca for 16 years (his last two as assistant head coach) before taking over the program this year. Randy is an excellent football coach and well respected by the players, his peers and the community. We managed to post a 4-6 record this year in spite of the fact that we were starting six sophomores and two freshmen (for highlights of the season, see page 7, and for a coach's recap, see page 2).

The golf tournament this past summer was another huge success. We had 20 foursomes as well as 60 hole sponsors. As always, Bill Anzalone served as the major sponsor. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and I hope that you can make it for July 18 of 2009.

Believe it or not, the Ring of Pride induction weekend celebrated its 10th year anniversary. This years inductees included Bob Tambur, Joe Pizano, Gene Chiavacci and Jim Oschal (see highlights page 6). For the second year in a row, the team came to the banquet as guests of the Alumni and I think that everyone enjoyed the experience. Ring of Pride inductees for 2009 include Dr. Gerald Gibbons, Eric Speece and Rich Musinski. Congratulations to Tom Campenni, who has been named the new "membership coordinator" of the Ring of Pride. Tom will be in charge of putting together the ballots and coordinating the election of candidates each year.

Thank you to my 50/50 raffle ticket sales people who help out before and during the football games. Raffle sales help finance Ring of Pride weekend. Loyal raffle ticket folks during 2008 were Mark Liberski, Andy Shumlus, Mike and Jim Liberski, Gini Ciampi, Don Jacobs, Jerry Zezza, Jim Ciampi, Bernice Richards, Frank Yurek and my number one assistant, Louis Alphonse Ciampi. (Louis and I have a tackle football game on the field before every game!)

The annual parent's banquet will be held on Sunday afternoon, February 8th. The guest speaker will be Tony Angeli. This is a great event and I highly recommend that everyone attend. You can give me a call for tickets. Lastly, congratulations to Paul Marranca on his retirement (see page 8 for his coaching accomplishments). What he did for the program and for so many of us extend well beyond win and losses. Thanks, coach, enjoy yourself and relax!

Have a great one!

Sincerely,

*Bikes*

Lou "Bikes" Ciampi Jr., WA '81

Phone (570) 654-4040 Fax (570) 654-9799

E-mail [lou2@independentgraphics.com](mailto:lou2@independentgraphics.com)

**WYOMING AREA WARRIOR FOOTBALL****2008 Schedule**

Friday	8/29	Nanticoke	W
Friday	9/5	Valley View	L
Friday	9/12	Berwick	L
Friday	9/19	Crestwood	W
*Friday	9/26	Dallas	W
Friday	10/3	GAR	L
Saturday	10/10	Coughlin	L
Friday	10/17	Tunkhannock	W
Friday	10/24	WVW	L
Friday	10/31	Pittston Area	L

\*Alumni Weekend

Head Football Coach: Randy Spencer

Asst. Coaches: Charles McDermott, Joe Pizano, Eric Speece, Jason Speece, Mike Fanti, Frank Delaney, Steve Sedon

Volunteer Coach: Paul Marranca

Strength Coach: Mike Laffey

Trainer: Laura Mudlock

Athletic Director: Frank Parra

Team Physician: Gerald Gibbons

# coachescorner news & notes

Our 2008 season presented a great challenge to both our players and our coaching staff to perform to our Warrior Football Program's rich tradition of excellence and build on its "Legacy of Leadership". The 2008 Warriors provided fireworks in convincing wins against Nanticoke, Crestwood and Dallas. They displayed character and perseverance in tough losses to Valley View, Berwick, GAR and Wyoming Valley West. While exciting comeback efforts against Coughlin and Pittston Area fell short, our '08 Warriors showed tremendous heart and against Tunkhannock came back to win the game in the final minutes. With a regular season record of 4-6, the Warriors just missed both the District II and Eastern Conference playoffs. Several of our Warriors received post season honors:

UNICO Selections:	All Conference Selections:
Peter Adonizio	Bobby Kintz
Nate Bowden	
Philip Patchowski	Honorable Mentions:
Ryan Carr	Peter Adonizio
Joe Demark	Nate Bowden
Alternates:	CJ Werner
Ryan Maloney	Julian Campenni
Alex Argenio	Chris Murphy
Matt Delmar	Nick Periguini

Sincerely,

Randy Spencer, Head Football Coach  
Wyoming Area High School

- David Pacchioni enjoyed an outstanding career as an outside linebacker/strong safety at East Stroudsburg University. Dave had 63 tackles, 3 1/2 sacks and 1 interception this year
- David Nocera was a senior offensive lineman at Lycoming University. He was a two year starter.
- Nick Bellanco was a freshman defensive tackle at Lock Haven University this season.
- Ted Lasher was a freshman linebacker/defensive end for Lehigh University this year.
- John Petrucci and Matt Petrosky played for St. Vincent's College this season.

Congratulations to Coach HENZE and Coach Dolhon who led the Dunmore Bucks to a second straight District Championship.

W.A. football lost two great friends of the program. Bob Kowalczyk and Frank Pizano both passed away in December.

Bob was an instrumental in the construction of our weight room.

His son Adam was an outstanding ball player and was one of the first recipients of the Al Ciampi-Ring of Pride Scholarship.

Frank's sons Joe, Jim and Frank were outstanding ball players and Joe and Jim are members of the Ring of Pride. Suffice to say when they built Frank, "they broke the mold".

Bob and Frank, you will be missed.

**WYOMING AREA  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
JULY 18, 2009  
FOUR SEASONS, EXETER PA  
1:00 PM SHOT GUN START  
MORE INFO TO COME

JANUARY 2009

# 2008 Wyoming Area Golf Tournament



4

JANUARY 2009

# Rich Musinski, a Man on the Move



Height: 6'0  
 Weight: 205  
 College: William & Mary  
 High School: Wyoming Area  
 Birth Date: 10/12/80  
 Af2 Experience: R



Rich Musinski, a 1999 Wyoming Area Warrior standout and graduate has been spending time on the roster of the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers. As a part of a highly successful team, Rich came firing on all cylinders right out of the box becoming a top receiving threat in just his 1st season in the AF2. He caught 81 passes for 1152 yards and 28 touchdowns in just 13 games.



Rich has come a long way since his days on the Warrior gridiron beginning with successful four-year stint at The College at William and Mary. While attending W&M, he set school records in every major receiving category. He set the Tribe's all-time marks in receptions (224), receiving yards (4,168), receiving touchdowns (31), 100-yard receiving games (21) and yards per reception (18.6).



Musinski is one of just three players in Division I-AA history to record more than 4,000 receiving yards, joining Jacquay Nunnally and Jerry Rice. He was named an All-American and All-Conference player in his senior year.

In 2004, Rich signed as an undrafted free agent with the Tennessee Titans after his college career. He was released by the Titans during their final round of cuts.

He spent two training camps with the New England Patriots, but fell just short of earning a roster spot both times. Also, he spent some time in the Arena Football League with the Nashville Kats, catching five passes for 64 yards during the 2005 season.

Musinski then spent two seasons with the Berlin Thunder of NFL Europe. During that time, he totaled 44 catches for 569 yards and six touchdowns.

Prior to joining the Pioneers, Rich signed a one-year contract with the San Diego Chargers before being released in 2007.



JANUARY 2009

# Highlights From 2008 Season



# 6

JANUARY 2009

## 2008 Ring of Pride Weekend



JANUARY 2009

## SEASON SYNOPSIS BY JACK SMILES

### WEEK ONE - WA 41 NANTICOKE 0

Wyoming Area began a new era on Friday, August 29 with first-time head coach Randy Spencer taking over a team that lost 22 seniors and was coming off three consecutive trips to the District 2 playoffs and a combined three-year record of 28-8. Led by Aidan Marich's three rushing touchdowns, Wyoming Area (1-0) easily handled Nanticoke Area, 41-0. C.J. Werner got the Warriors on the board first with a 5-yard touchdown run at 7:29 of the first quarter. Peter Adonizio hit Nate Bowden for a 19-yard touchdown pass and a quick 14-0 lead.

Werner led Wyoming Area on the ground with 128 yards.

The defense held Nanticoke Area to 126 rushing yards and zero yards though the air and recovered four Trojan fumbles.

### WEEK TWO - VALLEY VIEW 27-14

Valley View tailback Geno Coccetti rushed for 150 yards and three touchdowns on 15 carries in the first half, as the Cougars built a 20-7 halftime lead. C.J. Werner had a 45-yard touchdown for WA.

In the second half the Warriors made a game of it holding Coccetti to 39 yards Wyoming Area and getting within 27-14 when sophomore quarterback Chris Murphy turned a 15-yard scramble into his first varsity touchdown at 4:15 of the third.

### WEEK THREE - BERWICK 37 WA 0

Berwick quarterback A.J. Mihaly threw for 197 yards and four touchdowns to lead Berwick to a 37-0 rout of Wyoming Area at Crispin Memorial Field in the rain.

It was a forgettable game for the Warriors who made only two first downs and had six fumbles.

### WEEK FOUR -

### WYOMING AREA 28 CRESTWOOD 10

Going into the game it was looking like this might be the season where Crestwood broke its eight-game losing streak to Wyoming Area.

Instead the Comets opened the door for the Warriors with a series of turnovers and mistakes, and the Warriors walked right through to a 28-10 win.

For the Comets, things went south on the first play, when they failed to cover the kickoff and Wyoming Area fell on the ball at the Crestwood 25. The Comets survived that, stopping Wyoming Area on downs right there at the 25, but they didn't survive an interception by Nate Bowden three plays later at the Comets 35.

This time Wyoming Area took advantage and drove the 35 yards on nine plays.

After he made an interception, Bowden caught a pass from quarterback PJ Adonizio for 12 yards and had runs of 11, and then 3 for a score as with the extra point by Katie Scalzo WA made it 7-0 with 4:53 left in the first.

Bowden, who blocked a field goal attempt, caught a 57-yard TD pass and scored on runs of 3 and 28 yards, was a force for the Warriors.

On the TD pass Chris Murphy hit Bowden on a short sideline pattern, as the Crestwood defender slipped down. Bowden turned it up field and ran it in for the score. Another kick by Scalzo made it 14-0 with 11:04 left in the second.

After scoring a field goal, Crestwood recovered the ensuing

kickoff after it bounced off a Wyoming Area up-man and drove to the Warriors 3. But three running plays lost 3 yards and Crestwood set up for another field goal attempt that turned out to be the pivotal play.

Bowden broke through and blocked the kick and Leo Malsky scooped it up at the 27 and took it 73 yards for a TD and a 21-3 lead.

### WEEK FIVE - WA 31 DALLAS 0

Another good game for Bowden as he rushed for two touchdowns. The Warriors defense held Dallas to just 78 yards of total offense and but led only 7-0 at the half before pulling away to a 31-0

Bowden scored on a 5-yard run to cap a 13-play, 70-yard drive to make it 7-0. Katie Scalzo kicked a 27-yard field goal and Chris Werner returned a punt 69 yards and scored on a 9-yard run. Freshman Matt Kintz closed out the scoring on a 26-yard run, finishing with 63 yards on six carries.

### WEEK SIX - GAR 39 WA 0

Another forgettable one. Bowden was the only bright spot for the Warriors, rushing 22 times for 119 yards and catching four passes for 42 more. The rest of the offense netted just 18 more yards.

For GAR Ivanoff rushed for a career-high 73 yards. Tandoh had 54 yards on five carries, including a 25-yard TD run set up by the Blackwell-to-Magda connection and Ryan Womack had a typical night as the WVC's leading rusher gained 99 yards and scored two touchdowns.

### WEEK SEVEN - COUGHLIN 20 WA 14

Pretty good showing on the road against a team which wound up 8-2 and in the District 2 AAA playoffs. The Warriors trailed 20-0 after three quarters and then went to a freshman and the air to mount a near comeback.

Late in the third freshman Kintz carried the ball 10 times on the 15-play, 80-yard scoring drive and scored from the five to cut the Crusader lead to 20-7 with 11:22 left in the game. Kintz also had a crucial fourth-down carry on the Crusader 7-yard-line to keep the drive alive.

On their next drive PJ. Adonizio picked up a 3rd-and-long with a 15-yard pass Nathan Bowden on the Crusader 39. Five plays later, Adonizio heaved a 37-yard bomb on fourth-and-eight to Sam Eramo who sold out with a diving catch for a score that cut the Crusader lead 20-14 with 5:48 to play.

The Warriors got the ball back with 2:00 left, but were stopped by an interception Matt Shimshock

Adonizio was 14-21 for 173 yards and the touchdown to Eramo who caught five for 85 yards.

### WEEK EIGHT WA 25 TUNKHANNOCK 19

Freshman running back Matt Kintz had a break out game in the Warriors 25-19 win over Tunkhannock. Ignited a spark for his team last weekend against Coughlin.

Matt rushed for 144 yards and scored the game-winning touchdown on a 17-yard run with 56 seconds left in the game.

After stopping Tunkhannock by inches on fourth-and-5 with 3:59 remaining and the game tied 19-19, the Warriors took over at their own 16-yard. Two plays later, senior running back C.J. Werner went down with a leg injury. On the next play, senior running back Nate Bowden was injured during a 41-yard run and he left the game.

So with his team on the Tunkhannock 38 and less than two

minutes remaining, Kintz took over.

Handling the pressure like a seasoned veteran, the ninth-grader ran for 3 yards and followed it with a 15-yard run. After being stopped for no gain, Kintz took a pitch from quarterback Chris Murphy, broke to the outside and outraced several defenders to the end zone.

Kintz rushed for his 144 yards on 25 carries. Bowden had 97 yards on 14 carries, and Werner rushed for 46 as the Warriors ran for 290 yards.

### WEEK NINE - VALLEY WEST 42 WA 13

Valley West receiver Ali Muhammad turned two leaping grabs into long touchdowns and quarterback Jack Crossin ran 52 yards give the Spartans a 7-0 lead on their second play from scrimmage.

Muhammad's 46-yard touchdown catch to give Valley West a 35-0 lead before halftime, and put the mercy rule in effect.

Kintz had 107 yards rushing and both WA touchdowns

### WEEK 10 - PA 28 WA 14

For all the Pittston Area Patriots statistical domination of Wyoming Area in their 28-14 win on Halloween on Charley Trippi Stadium as late as 3:30 of the fourth quarter the Patriots had just a 21-14 lead and the Warriors had the ball with decent field possession at the WA 35.

That's when Patriot senior linebacker Matt Kobeski made the play that put the game away. He tipped a pass, caught the ball on the rebound and ran it 33 yards into the end zone to make it a two score game.

Twice Wyoming Area pulled within one score. They cut a 14-0 lead to 14-7, on a tricky 17-yard touchdown pass from Leo Malsky to Nate Bowden. Malsky took a hand off going to his right and threw back the other way to Bowden who stretched for the catch and stumbled into the end zone. The 65-yard drive was the only sustained drive of the game for the Warriors. Bowden made a great twisting catch that picked up 16 on a 3rd-and-10 from the PA 35. Freshman running back Matt Kintz ran seven yards for a first down on a 4th-and-1 play in the drive, one of only two first downs the Warriors got on the ground in the game.

The Warriors were trailing 21-7 when WA sophomore quarterback Chris Murphy looped a pass down the left sideline. Bowden ran under it and away from the defender for a 70-yard touchdown that made it 21-14, with a second PAT by Katie Scalzo, with 5:36 left. That led to a PA three-and-out and the Kobeski interception on the first play after the punt.

PA's tight end Sam Parente caught five passes for 137 yards, a touchdown, two crucial first downs, blocked well and played defense getting one sack and was a well-deserved MVP.

It's not often that Warrior seniors go out with a losing season. It happened this year but they seniors have nothing to hang their head about. Bowden and Adonizio battled to the final horn against PA. Too bad for Werner, he missed his PA senior game with a leg injury.

All the seniors hung in there and were good role models for the underclassmen and they laid the groundwork for future success for kids like Kintz, Murphy, Eramo and Malsky and linemen Timinski, Perugini and Campenni.

# PAUL MARRANCA



Wyoming Area  
Head Football Coach

1976 to 1986  
and  
1992 to 2007

- \* **230 wins, 98 losses, 2 ties**
- \* **.703 Winning Percentage**
- \* **7 Division Titles**
- \* **2 Eastern Conference Championships**
- \* **3 District Titles**
- \* **2 Undefeated Regular Seasons**
- \* **1 Perfect Season**
- \* **Hundreds of grateful, successful football alumni**

**Great job, Coach!**



*Sincerely,  
Warrior Nation*

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
PERMIT NO. 283

1679 River Road  
Pittston, PA 18640

